

# **Sapphique Study Guide**

**Sapphique by Catherine Fisher**

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## Plot Summary

Sapphique is one of the novels in the Incarceron series by author Catherine Fisher. The story follows the characters that are living in two separate worlds - one set of characters in the realm and the other in Incarceron. The characters and the two worlds are separated by a door, which is the portal. Only one of the characters, Jared, knows how to find the portal and how to open it so that the characters can transition from one world to the next.

When the novel opens, the reader is not aware that Attia and Rix are stuck in the world that is known as Incarecon. Incarceron is the world where a prison with the name of Incarceron is in control of everything that happens in that world. Attia is a young woman that is involved with Finn, who is a former prisoner at Incarecon. Somehow, but unbeknownst to the characters in the book, Finn was able to escape Incarceron and he now lives in the other world, which is the realm. Finn is the future king as Prince Giles. He is engaged to be married to Claudia, who is also the daughter of the warden of Incarceron, and the future queen.

Back in Incarceron, Attia is traveling with a magician and illusionist, by the name of Rix. Rix claims to possess a magical glove, which was the creation of a famous prisoner of Incarceron, who goes by the name of Sapphique. Attia is trying to find Finn, who disappeared without coming back and Attia doesn't know where he has gone.

Back in the realm, a boy has showed up saying that he is the real Prince Giles. This leads to investigation into both of the proclaimed princes. Claudia continues to try to find the portal to Incaerceron with her tutor Jared because her father is stuck in Incarceron. Eventually, it is determined that Finn is the real Prince Giles. When the portal is opened, the realm turns out to be an illusion, where what everyone sees is not actually how the world is. While Claudia does temporarily reunite with her father in Incarceron, she ends up returning to the realm to rebuild the land with Finn.



# Chapter 1

## Chapter 1 Summary

Attia is a small young woman. She is making her way through the crowd that is assembled in front of a platform, where a magician, the Enchanter, is hosting a show. The platform is set up in front of the prison. When Attia arrives at the front of the stage, she sees that the Enchanter is wearing the glove of Sapphique and like the character Sapphique, the Enchanter is missing his pointer finger on one of his hands.

The Enchanter chooses three volunteers from the audience. One of the volunteers he chooses is Attia. He predicts Attia is waiting for someone by the name of Finn who has gone away to return. He says that Finn promised to return but that he hasn't. then, he plunges a sword into Attia, to take her to death.

At the end of the chapter, Attia meets the Enchanter backstage and the reader finds out that the whole show was a set up.

## Chapter 1 Analysis

It's ironic that the Enchanter knows things about Attia that she hasn't told him. For example, the story about Finn going away and not returning is true. The other ironic part is that when Attia pretended to die, she actually did see a vision of Finn, so she doesn't know what that means. The chapter also suggests that Sapphique is someone who has special powers, but has died or gone missing, so nobody knows where he is now or how the Enchanter would have come into possession of his glove.



## Chapter 2

### Chapter 2 Summary

Finn is living in a castle with his step-mother who is a queen. He was in prison prior to this, but someone freed him because he is supposedly Prince Giles. Prince Giles is in line to take over the throne as King. Prince Giles is also betrothed to Claudia. As Claudia and Finn are rowing together in a boat, they notice the servants are setting up tables, linens and dishes for the Queen's luncheon. Prince Giles has a step-brother, Caspar, who seems to be a drunk and jealous of the fact that Giles is in line for the throne.

### Chapter 2 Analysis

Finn went away and never returned to Attia because he has some sort of amnesia. Someone has convinced him that he is Prince Giles, but he and Claudia don't really know if this is true. Finn also talks about "spells" that he has. This sounds as if he has seizures where he blacks out and doesn't remember what happens. It also somewhat foreshadows that someone cast a spell on Finn to make him forget his past and live the life of a prince.



# Chapter 3

## Chapter 3 Summary

Attia is talking to the Enchanter. He tries to get her to guess his real name. She overhears some call the Enchanter by his real name so she finds out his name is Rix. Attia starts to wonder if Rix is sane or insane. Attia also wonders if Sapphique's glove is real or just a stage prop. She also thinks about how to get her hands on the glove. Attia tries to convince Rix to teach her his tricks.

Rix says he has a password. When he hears someone speak it one day, he'll know that's his apprentice. When that happens, Rix plans to train his apprentice—teaching him or her all his tricks and passing on his stage props too. Rix tells Attia a story about how he got Sapphique's glove from an old woman he ran into when he was in the tunnels of madness at the prison.

Attia confirms that she was a slave. She asks Rix how he knew about her loving Finn and being betrayed by him. Rix tells Attia he read her mind. Attia thinks about how she waited three days in her cell for Finn to return before Attia left. She believes that Claudia must have put a spell on Finn to keep him from returning to Attia.

As the show people are trying to cross into a new town, they come across a gang that guards the road. Rix offers them gold, silver or other forms of payment to get across the road. The man that steps out the darkness is half a man and half a skull—a Winglord. When the Winglord finds the magician's props, the Winglord wants to look at them. Rix begs him to take anything but their props. The Winglord says he's heard about Rix's glove, finds the glove in the prop box and slides it on to his hand.

## Chapter 3 Analysis

There is an inference that Attia was once a princess or of higher status, but she fallen into poverty for some reason. It could be because Finn and Attia ran away together, but then Finn was imprisoned and left her to her own devices. Attia and Rix speak of Incarceron, which is the prison, as if it is a living being. They talk about how the building is watching them and seeing them. Attia sees the small red eyes of Incarceron staring down at her. Attia treats Incarceron as if it has a mind, spirit and soul. The Winglord sliding what Attia believes is Sapphique's glove on to his hand could give the Winglord powers because, if the glove is really Sapphique's, it possesses special powers that standard humans do not possess. If the power gets into the wrong hands, then it foreshadows problems for the rest of the world.



# Chapter 4

## Chapter 4 Summary

Claudia burst into Jared's room, who is her tutor. She finds the room empty, but finds a letter for Jared on the Queen's letterhead. The letter mentions Jared's work in trying to open the portal. When Claudia finds Jared, Jared is picking up hundreds of blue feathers off the floor in one of the rooms in the Queen's home.

In Claudia's head, she confirms that the portal is the way into Incarceron. She also thinks how her father is the only one that knows the secrets of Incarceron, but those secrets died with her father. Jared confirms to Claudia that he was experimenting with the portal when he ended up turning a feather into the multiple feathers that are flittering around the room. Claudia insinuates in her conversation with Jared that Incarceron is run by some sort of machine, which must be part of the portal. Claudia says she's going to learn her father's ways so she can run Incarceron.

Jared says the Queen has sent for him to meet with her. Claudia says he must meet with her so they can know what the Queen is up to. Jared leaves to meet with the Queen. Claudia goes into the room of the castle where the noble birds are kept. A man's voice comes out of the shadows. When he steps out, Claudia sees it's her father's secretary. Claudia sees a steel wolf, which she seems to know what it represents but doesn't yet share the meaning with the reader.

## Chapter 4 Analysis

The Queen's mention of the portal suggests it is some kind of door that allows for time travel. It foreshadows the revealing that Finn came through the portal, which is why he doesn't remember his former life. It infers that the portal in fact duplicated Finn into Prince Giles. It seems as if Claudia intentionally brought Finn through the portal so she would not have to marry Caspar.

Claudia says Jared is one of her oldest friends. It seems as if she might love him, however, with the way she looks at him and the fact that she confides everything in Jared.





# Chapter 5

## Chapter 5 Summary

As the Winglord stretches his fingers into the glove, Attia realizes that Rix wanted the Winglord to pull on the glove. Suddenly, the Winglord starts yelling that the glove is burning his hand and he begs for Rix to get it off. The glove seems to have a mind of its own as it forces the Winglord to paint Attia's name. Suddenly, the stars open in the sky and it starts raining blue feathers—identical feathers. Rix says the prison is doing it.

Rix confirms that the glove is not Sapphique's glove. Rix says he put acid in the glove, but the only reason the Winglord couldn't take the glove off is because Rix used magic so that he couldn't. Rix denies knowing anything about writing Attia's name.

Rix leaves Attia behind, so that nobody in the new village sees her with them. Rix tells her that he'll see at the act tonight. Walls of ice start to grow higher on either side of Attia as she walks further into the village. Attia thinks about how only Sapphique and Finn have ever been able to escape Incarceron.

Attia comes across an old woman knitting. The woman confiscates Attia's weapons. The old woman tells Attia where she can get a room. Attia turns to ask the woman if she gets her knife back when she leaves, but the woman is gone and only the knitting needles are clacking in the air with a trail of blood coming from them. Attia hears the old woman's voice tell her that no one leaves.

## Chapter 5 Analysis

The feathers raining down on Attia are the same feathers that Hared created with the portal. It seems as if Attia is on one side of the portal and Claudia is on the other side of the portal. The two worlds, however, are crossing over each other. It seems as if Attia might have some powers of her own, but Attia believes it is Finn's way of trying to speak to her. Ironically, the Winglord is illiterate, so he couldn't write Attia's name with paint without some kind of force writing the name for him.



# Chapter 6

## Chapter 6 Summary

The secretary tells Claudia that he is a member of the clan of the steel wolves. He tells Claudia that they want to find the warden, just like Claudia does. He tells Claudia that he has information that the Queen intends to install a new warden of Incarceron and it won't be Claudia. The secretary tells Claudia that he is not her father's daughter.

When Claudia looks up, it's Finn standing in the doorway. He says he's been looking for her. When she says she went to see Jared, Finn asks if Jared has found the portal. Claudia yells at Finn that he'll never find the prisoners in Incarceron, such as Attia, because the portal is so small that they can't find it. As Finn's world starts to grow black, the cobblestones turn into a forest as he passes out.

Jared enters the royal apartment to see the Queen. When the Queen enters, she asks about Jared's progress. Jared says the portal is badly damaged and doesn't think it can be repaired. He's lying. Jared does tell the Queen about replicating the feather.

The Queen tells Jared that the portal must be thought to be impossible and that Claudia shouldn't know.

## Chapter 6 Analysis

It's ironic that Claudia won't be her father's predecessor. Claudia thinks that the clan of the wolves is plotting against Finn because he is in line for the throne. The eagle screeching is a warning that someone is coming so that nobody sees Claudia speaking to her father's secretary. Finn's blackouts are some type of coping mechanism, but could be a seizure or side effect from coming through the portal. Apparently the portal is the door into and out of Incarceron. While Jared seems to control what happens on his side of the portal, he doesn't know if it is causing a reaction on the other side of the portal. Jared doesn't know it but his actions are affecting the other side of the portal, such as the raining of blue feathers on to Attia. The Queen hints that Jared has some kind of condition that will eventually kill him. She also suggests that Jared go and stay at the academy, insinuating that he shouldn't return or something might happen to him to kill him faster.



# Chapter 7

## Chapter 7 Summary

That night at the show, Attia notices a difference in the audience members. The members of the audience seem to be young and kids. There don't seem to be any old people. The crowd doesn't huddle together. When a woman faints in the crowd, the rest step away from her rather than to see if she is okay. The audience members also seem to be unaffected by Rix's act.

Rix prepares to take Attia to the door of death and bring her back, which is all part of their fake act. Nobody in the audience is applauding.

A slave owner approaches the stage and throws a slave on the stage for Rix to bring back. The slave owner slits the throat of the slave so Rix can bring him back and prove that Sapphique's glove really works. Suddenly, a trap door gives way and Rix, Attia and the rest of the show people fall through so they can run away. Rix runs away but leaves Attia behind.

She ducks into a side alley and goes into a large, dark building to hide. She sees the eye of Incarceron staring at her from the distance. At the foot of Incarceron is a stack of coffins. Attia realizes that the plague is running through this town. Then she sees Rix stumbling toward her saying there isn't a way out. She tells him it is a plague village. A horseman comes out of the darkness and demands the glove from Rix, who insists it's just a stage prop. Attia betrays Rix—telling the horseman where Rix keeps the real glove. Rix threatens revenge on Attia.

## Chapter 7 Analysis

Rix's warning that they might have to leave quickly indicates that he expects an adverse reaction from this particular audience. People believe Sapphique's glove hold special powers that can bring people back from the dead. Rix will curse Attia and come up in the future to make her life difficult, especially in her journey to find Finn.



# Chapter 8

## Chapter 8 Summary

Finn is awakened by a voice that he thinks is his brother, Keiro. It's Jared, however, with Claudia. Claudia dismisses the servants. Jared confirms that Finn had a seizure and then Claudia had Finn transported to the room they're in now. The proclamation ceremony is in an hour. Jared asks if it's true that the prison is so small that they can't find it. Jared confirms it is true.

Finn says he remembered something. Finn says he is a star seer. Finn isn't sure if what he saw is a real memory or a vision of some sort.

After Finn leaves, Jared says Finn is accustomed to telling lies from being in prison. Claudia thinks it's a memory of Prince Giles. Jared tells Claudia about his meeting with the Queen. Claudia confirms that the Queen won't let her go to the academy. Jared tells Claudia the Queen wants Jared to search for the way in alone, but Claudia thinks it's a plot to get Jared out of the way. Finn comes back dressed for the proclamation ceremony. Claudia and Finn walk to the proclamation ceremony.

Claudia senses that something is wrong and that they have something planned to harm Finn. A boy in the crowd objects. The boy resembles Finn. He proclaims to be the real Giles.

## Chapter 8 Analysis

Claudia believes Finn really is Prince Giles. This is because Claudia believes that prince Giles is all of their savior. Jared, however, is not convinced that Finn is indeed Prince Giles and the answer to their needs. As Claudia and Finn walk through the crowds, Claudia thinks the cheers are muted, which indicates that Finn isn't popular enough among the people. This indicates that Finn might in fact not be their savior. It seems as if Finn is walking into his assassination instead of his proclamation.



# Chapter 9

## Chapter 9 Summary

It's Keiro that picked up Attia on the horse and is now riding away with Attia. Keiro tells Attia that she did well and that Finn would be proud of her. Attia remembers how Finn had once saved her life. They ride for hours and then stop under an archway of ice to rest. Attia tells Keiro how a few odd things happened when she was with Rix and how she thinks it was because of the glove. Attia thinks about the single metal fingernail beneath Keiro's glove that indicates he is not entirely human.

Keiro takes out Sapphique's glove to inspect it. Keiro removes his own glove to try Sapphique's glove on. Attia urges Keiro not to try it on, but Keiro says he's been waiting a lifetime to try it on. Before he can put the glove on, they hear a chink of armor in the distance and they hide. Keiro tells Attia to get on the horse.

The boy steps up to Claudia. Finn confronts the boy saying that he is the real Giles. The boy accuses Finn of being an escaped prisoner and imposter. The Queen beckons everyone to have the discussion in private.

Behind closed doors, the boy recounts memories of growing up. Each one in attendance confirms what the boy says is true. The boy says he disappeared to make the Clan of the Steel Wolves believe he was already dead. The boy presents documents to support everything he says. Finally, he shows a tattoo on his wrist of the family crest.

## Chapter 9 Analysis

Attia infers that Incarceron created at least some of Keiro, which is why he is not wholly human. Ironically, Finn wants to reunite with his brother because he misses Keiro. Keiro, on the other hand, wants to find Finn to seek revenge for leaving Keiro behind. Keiro and Attia can sense the danger out in the shadows. Keiro seems to know who the monster is that is lurking in the shadows.



# Chapter 10

## Chapter 10 Summary

The chain gang comes closer to Keiro and Attia. The chain gang demands food from Attia and Keiro. The chain gang attacks Keiro. Keiro demands for Attia to shoot him. Attia fires.

Jared brings Finn into a room he believes isn't bugged. Jared tells Claudia that she has always believed that Finn is Giles. Finn asks Jared if he believes what the boy claims. When Claudia enters the room, she tells them that the Queen is allowing the boy to stay in court. Finn shows the same tattoo the boy showed, but Finn's is faded.

Claudia sees a vision of her father looking down on her. Her father speaks to Jared saying that he thought he damaged the portal enough, but he underestimated Jared's prowess. The warden warns Jared not to send anything living through the portal. Jared realizes that the feathers made it to Incarceron when the warden returns them to Jared.

The warden reveals where Keiro is—fighting the chain gang, and how Finn isn't there to have his back. The warden reveals that he no longer has the keys to the portal and therefore he is a prisoner now too.

## Chapter 10 Analysis

It seems as if Finn is acting as if he is Giles. Jared, however, doubts that Finn is in fact Giles. Claudia receiving her inheritance hinges on the fact that Finn is Giles. The portal might have kept a younger Giles in the form of the boy but sent forth an older version of Giles, which is Finn.



# Chapter 11

## Chapter 11 Summary

Incarceron is talking to Attia and Keiro. The prison says something about Sapphique being his son. The new Giles talks to Claudia, trying to convince her that he is the real Giles. The queen announces that the investigation of the two Giles will begin tomorrow. The one found to be the imposter will be tortured, humiliated and killed. On the way out, Finn tries to get the new Giles to fight him for the throne but the queen forbids it. Claudia begins to question whether either of the men are the real Giles.

## Chapter 11 Analysis

It appears as if the men that build the prison gave it the power to create others. The prison is responsible for creating Sapphique and giving him the powers he has by giving him the glove. This also foreshadows that the prison is the one that has the power to take Sapphique down, which is probably what happened to Sapphique. The new Giles represents the light side or good side of the Giles, while Finn represents the dark or more evil side of Giles. It seems as if the world within Incarceron is one way and the world outside of it is different. Since Finn came from Incarceron, it's as if Incarceron is the dark side and the new Giles is from outside of Incarceron and is therefore the good side.



# Chapter 12

## Chapter 12 Summary

Attia and Keiro continue to ride their horse for hours. Keiro believes he has made a deal with Incarceron to keep them from getting lost and to turn over the glove to the prison. They stop again in the forest to rest. Attia sees a building in the distance, at the edge of the forest, she tells Keiro its' like Rix's story of the princess in the castle. When Keiro asks who wins the battle, Attia says the princess does and that she eats the dragon. A voice from behind the door of the building asks, "Who is there?"

## Chapter 12 Analysis

It's as if the prison is a creation that someone controls. In this case, they believe it is the warden, which is Claudia's father, that controls Incarceron. Buildings in the novel come to life, so they have characteristics and personalities as if the buildings are alive and breathing.





# Chapter 13

## Chapter 13 Summary

Claudia goes to Jared's room looking for Finn in the middle of the night. Jared tells her he's leaving for the academy tomorrow. Jared says he's homesick. Claudia says they'll both go home as soon as Finn is on the throne. Claudia sees that the portal and the systems of the prison are all live and humming. Jared gives Claudia a silver cube on a chain. The silver cube on a chain is Incarceron.

Finn is lying in the grass. He thinks of how Claudia will marry the new Giles and become queen because that is what she is meant to do. He plans to find Incarceron and release all of the people in it when he becomes king.

When Keiro and Attia enter the room of the house, there is a pile of furniture and other items stacked up against the door. Attia notices it's all toys. The toys range from miniature ones to gigantic ones. Keiro and Attia hear voices inside of the music box.

Claudia questions Jared as to how he knows it's Incarceron. Jared tells Claudia that her father told him. Claudia questions in her mind whether this is really Incarceron. Jared is fiddling with the screen. In the distance, they hear music, which is the tinkle of a music box. It is the music box that Keiro is holding inside of Incarceron.

Attia tells Jared that it's her. Jared says he can hear her and Claudia can hear her too. Attia asks for Finn and so does Keiro. Claudia tells them Finn isn't there and Claudia moves closer to the screen where she can see Keiro. Claudia realizes Keiro can see Claudia too. Claudia asks for her father. Claudia says her father is inside and he took both keys with him. Keiro says he knows that the prison wants to build a body. Jared tells them that the warden sabotaged the portal. Jared tells them to find the warden to help them.

Suddenly Finn is speaking to Attia. Then Finn asks for Keiro.

## Chapter 13 Analysis

It appears as if the world that Jared and Claudia now live in is outside of the Incarceron. At one time, however, they both lived inside of Incarceron. It appears that since Incarceron is small enough to fit in a cube on a chain that the objects inside of Incarceron are miniature too—explaining the miniature toys Keiro and Attia find. In the real world, or the world outside of Incarceron, are normal size, which explains the gigantic size items. Finn speaking to Attia and Keiro through the portal and through the music box foreshadows an argument between Finn and Keiro. It will also reveal additional information on how Finn wound up outside of Incarceron but Keiro got stuck inside of it with Attia.



# Chapter 14

## Chapter 14 Summary

Attia asks Finn what happened to his plan to get them out of Incarceron. Jared asks if they are close to a system because some strange signals are coming through. Attia starts to say it must be the glove, but Keiro tells her to shut up. Attia starts to scream about puppets and then static comes through on Jared, Claudia and Finn's end. A lifesize puppet comes to life and tells them that he told them not to betray him. Keiro promises that they haven't betrayed the prison and that they are still bringing it the glove.

Claudia and Finn escort Jared to the stable so Jared can ride off to the academy. Claudia resents Finn for coming along so that she can't say goodbye to Jared alone. Jared asks Finn what Attia was talking about when she mentioned the blood. Finn says Sapphique made a bet with the prison. When the prison lost and vanished, Sapphique took the skin and made a glove out of it. He says the glove holds power.

They reach the road that goes on to the academy. Jared tells Claudia and Finn to turn back and that he'll make the rest of the journey alone. It starts to rain as Claudia and Finn return. Finn's horse collapses with Finn on it. Suddenly, Claudia realizes that it's a hail of arrows that are striking her and Finn.

## Chapter 14 Analysis

The inference is that Finn escaped Incarceron as part of the plan to free them all from Incarceron. The prison is taking on the form of the puppet in order to communicate with Attia and Keiro. Incarceron was supposed to be a paradise but that something or someone caused it to turn evil. Claudia's resentment of Finn's presence indicates that she has romantic feelings for Jared. Jared is acting as if the separation from Claudia is more than just going on to the academy. It's as if he is returning to Incarceron without Claudia. Claudia and Finn are both under attack - an attack that it seems Jared set them up to come under.



# Chapter 15

## Chapter 15 Summary

Finn yells at Claudia to get down and asks if she is hurt. Neither are hurt. They make an inventory of their weapons. Claudia says it's the steel wolves that are ambushing them, but Finn says that it isn't them because they could have killed him the previous night when he found a steel wolf's head by his head when he was lying in the grass. Claudia and Finn wave down peasants they see walking alongside their wagon. The peasants tell Finn and Claudia to follow them. Finn lies to the peasants saying they are a maiden and stable boy. The peasants lead them back to their cottage, so Claudia realizes what it's like to live as a poor person outside of the royal court. Claudia asks about a figurine in the corner of the cottage. The peasant says it's the nine-fingered one. Claudia says his other name is Sapphique and the peasant confirms it. Finn thinks how he talks to Sapphique in his visions. The old man says Sapphique turned himself into a swan and flew away. The man says he'll return some day. When Finn asks the peasant about the Steel Wolves, the man says he doesn't know anything of them or talk of them because they plan revolutions. Finn and Claudia mount their horses and ride back to the royal court. Finn points out a plume of smoke in the forest. It's the palace that is on fire. It's the area of the palace where the portal is that's on fire.

## Chapter 15 Analysis

The peasants are there as illusions of the realm to lure them into danger or another attack. Claudia realizes how convincingly Finn can be when he is lying. This indicates that Finn might not be the real Giles. Finn seems to be much more mature and more experienced than Claudia, who seems to have lived a sheltered life. With the portal set aflame, it keeps Finn and Claudia outside of Incarceron and everyone in Incarceron inside.



# Chapters 16

## Chapters 16 Summary

Attia and Keiro come to a hole in the floor. Suddenly, a gang of women surrounds them. They take away Keiro and the glove. When the gang removes their mask back at their den, they tell Attia that they are the swans.

## Chapters 16 Analysis

The swam is what Sapphique turned himself into to get away from the prison. Hence, the gang of girls must be his followers and representatives. The gang capturing Keiro as a slave and caring for Attia foreshadows them leading Attia straight to Sapphique.



# Chapter 17

## Chapter 17 Summary

Claudia talks with her father's secretary. She asks if her father ever told him where the prison is. He says no. the secretary tells her that when the imposter is killed, Claudia will be killed too. He says the queen isn't breaking any laws because Claudia is an escaped prisoner. The secretary says the queen denies knowing which boy is her true stepson.

Jared is in the library at the academy. He's trying to break into the system and figures out that Sapphique is the password. A messenger delivers a letter from Claudia telling him about the fire. When Jared runs a special light over the letter, Claudia tells him they are going to kill her along with the imposter. The note has code, which indicates that there is another entrance to the portal in the warden's house. The queen tells Claudia that she wishes she could institute Claudia as the new warden. She even teases Caspar about marrying Claudia for double the dowry. Then they two Giles enter the room to start the investigation.

## Chapter 17 Analysis

Jared and Claudia will meet again at the other door to the portal. They will work together to open the portal and free the prisoners of Incarceron, including Claudia's father. The queen is behind bringing in the imposter, trapping Claudia's father, sending Jared away and holding Claudia captive in the court.



# Chapter 18

## Chapter 18 Summary

Keiro tells Attia that they have to get the glove back from the girl gang. Meanwhile, the inquisition of the two Giles begins back at court. During his questioning, Finn accuses the warden and the queen of knowing about him becoming a prisoner. Back with the girl gang, the leader, Rho, is leading Attia to where they Unspaiet tells the girl gang what he needs. The earth shakes and when Attia arrives in the room of feathers, she calls out for the warden.

During the impostors questioning, the new Giles puts the questioner on the defensive by asking him if he's accusing the queen of hiring the impostor. The queen smirks. The council asks the impostor to recite some text in the foreign tongues that he should know.

## Chapter 18 Analysis

The queen smirking indicates that she did hire the impostor. It also indicates that she knows she's safe from getting in trouble because nobody would accuse the queen of treachery.



# Chapter 19

## Chapter 19 Summary

The warden speaks to Attia, asking if Attia is the one that told Claudia that he is not her father. The walls ripple and then she can see the warden. The warden asks for Sapphique's glove, but Attia says he'll have to ask her captors where the glove is. Rho says Attia can leave anytime she wants. Rho leaves and returns with Sapphique's glove. Attia refuses to give the warden the glove until he releases Keiro. The warden suddenly disappears.

Claudia is waiting in the corridor and thinks she sees something. Claudia asks the two guards if they saw something but they deny it. The council member says they are retiring to make their decision. The impostor comes into the hall and tries to convince Claudia to marry him once again. Finn walks into the corridor. He tells Claudia that the impostor had witnesses and even has the tattoo. As Finn and Claudia are talking the room changes. Claudia says it's reality. Keiro works out of the chains that the girls have him tied up with. Jared returns to his room with the information he took from the library. He finds a picture of the crystal key. The document reveals where the door in the warden's chambers can be found in the case when the key is missing or lost. The code name for the door is Sapphique.

## Chapter 19 Analysis

Everything that is happening is blurring the lines between the realm and what is reality. It foreshadows Keiro overtaking the girls and getting Sapphique's glove back. The crystal key is the key Jared needs to open the portal.



# Chapter 20

## Chapter 20 Summary

Keiro breaks free and starts fighting the girls. Suddenly, Attia sees beetles crawling over the place. Keiro starts to fight with the oversize beetles. Rho tries to get Attia to run away with the girls, but Attia stays with Keiro because she wants to see Finn again. Rho predicts Sapphique will open the door to Attia. Keiro shakes the glove at the prison saying that it has to save them if the prison wants the glove back. Keiro jumps off the bridge holding Attia.

The messenger knocks on Jared's door. He enters and Jared asks if he is his executioner. The messenger confirms that he is. The messenger tells Jared he is going to force him to commit suicide, but Jared puts up a fight and overtakes the messenger. Jared escapes and gives himself his medicine in the stables where the horses are.

In the room with Finn and Claudia, her father's portrait comes to life. He tells Claudia it's the last time he'll speak to her. Claudia's father says Keiro has Sapphique's glove. He also says Incarceron realizes it doesn't need a warden anymore. Her father says they have to kill anything that tries to come through from Incarceron.

## Chapter 20 Analysis

The prison is releasing its own weapons of beetles. Sapphique opening the door to Attia means that Attia will be able to escape Incarceron and live in reality. Ironically, Claudia's father created Incarceron and now the prison is turning on him.





# Chapter 21

## Chapter 21 Summary

On the way to the queen's ball, Claudia and Finn get in an argument because Claudia says she would kill Keiro to save Incarceron and her father. The impostor comes to Claudia and escorts her to the ball. The council members come into the ball and confirm they have made a decision. Finn and Giles meet in the courtyard with two pistols to fight. Claudia is looking everywhere for Finn. She runs in Caspar and she asks if he's seen Finn. Caspar confirms that his mother brought in the impostor so that when they kill him then Caspar can take over the throne. Attia and Keiro run into Rix. Rix puts them both into a magic sleep. Finn and Giles begin a firefight with the guns. Claudia keeps Finn from shooting the impostor and then the men run into the courtyard to say the queen has made her decision.

## Chapter 21 Analysis

It's as if Claudia is under some spell, which is taking her away from Finn and pulling her toward the impostor Giles. The queen is behind the entire scheme to keep the two worlds from becoming one again. It's all so that her son Caspar can take over as king.



# Chapter 22

## Chapter 22 Summary

Jared is walking his horse after making an escape from the academy. A storm is coming. He unrolls the syringe from its pack and gives himself a dose of medicine. He stops to rest and close his eyes afraid he might die in the forest. Jared runs into a man that beckons him to come into the fire.

Attia tries to wake up but she can't. Her hands are tied behind her and connected to Keiro who is back to back with Attia. Rix claims he's seen the outside—meaning outside of the world where Incarceron is. Rix tells them a fairytale. Claudia tells Finn that the Queen paid off Jared. Finn convinces Claudia to give him Incarceron.

Jared sees that the forefinger of the man's right hand is missing. When Jared asks if he is Sapphique, the man confirms that he took that name when he was in prison.

## Chapter 22 Analysis

The storm coming is the two worlds that have been kept separate now coming together once again. Rix is trying to take back Sapphique's glove so he can continue to have the magic that the glove holds. The fairytale ending is that Rix has to kill Attia and Keiro for betraying him. The man that saves Jared is Sapphique.



# Chapter 23

## Chapter 23 Summary

The man that rescues Jared from the forest gives Jared water and builds a fire. The man talks about building a coat of wings out of the feathers that Jared sent through the portal. Jared asks the man if he is Sapphique. The man says it is the name he took on at the prison. The man also talks about finding the emergency door in the center of Incarceron where he was able to escape. Jared asks if any prisoner can find the door and Sapphique says that they all have to find it for themselves. Sapphique goes on to say that the prison is the universe for its prisoners.

Attia plots to get the glove back from Rix before Keiro can. Rix points out the seven narrow arches. One of them he says leads to the center of the prison.

Finn and Claudia escape through the countryside, heading toward the wardenry. They stop to rest in a barn. Claudia dreams of Jared whispering in her ear. Finn admits to remembering everything. His memories confirm that he is the true Giles. He can't remember what happened in the forest up until the day he woke up in the prison cell, however. They continue to ride until they come to a manor house, which is the wardenry. Claudia says she hasn't been to the wardenry since the day she left it for her wedding.

## Chapter 23 Analysis

Sapphique saving Jared foreshadows Sapphique helping Jared to find the emergency exit door in Incarceron. Rix too is searching for the exit door to escape from Incarceron. Now that Finn has his memory back, he is seeing the world clearer and crisper than before. Claudia returning to the wardenry represents her coming full circle in life. She has returned from the point that she left.



# Chapter 24

## Chapter 24 Summary

Rix points at the third tunnel from the left. While they walk toward it, Rix tries to teach Keiro a coin trick. When they enter the tunnel, they come across a dead man. Rix says the systems are breaking down because the prison is preoccupied, so the body has been picked up and recycled. The further they get into the tunnel the more debris there is. A flock of birds fly out of the tunnel and a big ball of metal is coming from behind the birds.

Claudia and Finn are eating inside of the wardenry. Claudia tells the head servant to assemble the other servants and she gives a speech to them about the situation of the two candidates of the throne. Claudia introduces the future king Prince Giles—the candidate Claudia supports. She tells them the queen supports the other candidate and that there will have to be a civil war. When Finn realizes Claudia is not winning over the crowd, he gives a speech to try to gain their support. The queen's army arrives.

## Chapter 24 Analysis

Keiro is trying to win Rix over so that Keiro can steal the glove back from Rix. Claudia is preparing for the war against the queen, the army and the impostor acting as if he is Giles.



# Chapter 25

## Chapter 25 Summary

Rix, Attia and Keiro continue to travel through the tunnel, sloshing through the dirty water beneath their feet. Rix pulls out the glove and says he's going to put it on. Keiro tells Attia he's going to kill Rix. At the end of the tunnel is a gargoyle spilling water out of its mouth-blocking them from going any further.

When Jared wakes up there is no stable. He only sees a scorched circle where a fire might have been at one time. Jared thinks he is delirious from his illness, so he doesn't know reality from illusion. He injects his medicine into his vein and takes his pulse. Jared rides his horse for a long time, heading toward the wardenry. He stops at a farmhouse to rest, but the farmer warns him that trouble is brewing because of Claudia and Finn claiming he is the prince. As Jared continues on, he sees the queen's army rolling into the area surrounding the wardenry.

From inside the wardenry, Claudia has one of the men looking through a telescope to evaluate the queen's army and their weapons.

Attia tries to convince Rix to give her the glove so that Keiro won't steal it and give it to the prison. Rix says that Incarceron is his father and that it won't betray him. They continue to hear the heartbeat of the prison beating. Attia climbs up the ladder to get out of the tunnel. Someone steps out of the darkness saying it's nice to see her again.

## Chapter 25 Analysis

Rix is talking more nonsense than usual. This foreshadows that the prison is controlling Rix and causing him to lose his mind. A civil war is about to break out at the wardenry. This puts Claudia, Finn and Jared at risk of being killed. If Claudia can find the portal, however, she might be able to save them before the queen's army advances.



# Chapter 26

## Chapter 26 Summary

Claudia is trying to open the door of the portal. The portal is in the room that Giles came to know in the palace. Claudia says Incarceron and a drawer opens. Claudia says it's where she stole the key from. They find Jared's books, papers and documents and start reading them to figure out how to open the portal door.

It's the warden that has welcomed Attia to Incarceron. Keiro stands hostage in the red room behind the warden. The warden searches Attia for the glove. Attia calls Rix up. The warden demands the glove from Rix but Rix says he'll only give the glove to Incarceron itself. When they search Rix, they don't find the glove. Rix asks Incarceron to speak to it face to face as Sapphique did. The prison laughs at Rix. Incarceron says the warden will bring Rix to see it face to face, but that he'll destroy Rix after it finds out where the glove is. Attia yanks up the invisible string Rix has string the glove to but the warden catches her.

Caspar comes up behind Jared. Caspar is dressed for the war and surprised to see Jared is still alive. The queen rides up in her war gear. In talks with the queen, Claudia refuses to leave the wardenry until her father returns.

As Caspar tries to lead Jared back, but Jared feigns illness. Jared uses the opportunity to overtake Caspar, but Caspar's bodyguard raises his ax to strike Jared. In the process, the Steel Wolves arrive and stop the bodyguard from killing Jared.

## Chapter 26 Analysis

Claudia is talking to the queen to stall the army from attacking. She is trying to buy herself and Finn time to figure out how to open the door of the portal. The Steel Wolves arriving foreshadows them attacking and killing Finn.



# Chapter 27

## Chapter 27 Summary

The warden leads the trio into his room, which is comfortable and beautifully decorated. Attia still has the glove hidden in her shirt. Rix, Attia and Keiro eat. The warden warns Keiro that he cannot leave Incarceron because Keiro is made of parts of Incarceron. The warden admits he stole Claudia from Incarceron as a baby because he needed an heir.

Medlicote is one of the Steel Wolves. They plan to kill Caspar because he has seen who they are. The Steel Wolves don't believe that Finn is the real Giles. Medlicote says the warden would have told them if he was planning to put Finn in as Giles. Jared bargains with Medlicote to save Caspar's life—telling Medlicote that Jared knows a secret way into the wardenry. The Steel Wolves agree if Jared agrees to bring the warden out from Incarceron.

Finn confronts Claudia, saying that she doesn't believe that he remembers and that he is really Giles. Claudia tells Finn about a secret way out of the wardenry so he can get away and still become king.

## Chapter 27 Analysis

The ironic part is that the warden is just as much of a prisoner of Incarceron as Attia, Rix and Keiro. Even though the groups are on different sides of the portal, they are all working toward the same goal - to get everyone out of Incarceron. Ironically, Finn wants to return to Incarceron because he feels as if he betrayed Keiro and he wants to make it right now. Claudia misses her father and Finn misses Keiro.



# Chapter 28

## Chapter 28 Summary

Rix points out that the heartbeat of the prison has changed and that it's faster now. The warden comes into the room to lead them to Incarceron. The warden opens a door with darkness, steam and heat pouring out from behind it.

Claudia is frustrated going through Jared's papers trying to figure out where the hidden door of the portal is. She says the portal has sounds coming out of it. Claudia's father's pocket watch chimes in Finn's pocket, which is something it's never done before.

When Attia walks through the door, the world is tilted. They find themselves outside without walls or a roof. The heartbeat stops as soon as they pass the door. Rix thinks he sees the prison's face and it is the face of Sapphique.

Keiro, Rix, and Attia hear Incarceron speak, "My body," at the same time Finn and Claudia hear it in Jared's room. As the room tilts and noises come from the portal, Claudia disappears. Rix starts to put on Sapphique's glove. Attia begs for the warden to stop him, but the warden says there is nothing he can do. Incarceron demands for Rix to give it the glove and to free it. Keiro gets the glove away from Rix and tries to bargain with Incarceron. As Keiro puts his metal fingernail to the glove's opening, Keiro disappears.

Finn sees a figure heading towards him, but it's not Claudia. Finn finds himself face to face with Keiro. Jared bursts into the room. When Caspar asks Keiro who he is, Keiro tells him his worst nightmare.

## Chapter 28 Analysis

The two worlds are starting to open up to one another. This is why both worlds can hear the same things. It's also why Finn and Claudia's world has flickering lights and Attia and Keiro's world has earthquakes.





# Chapter 29

## Chapter 29 Summary

Keiro takes in the room, seeing "outside" of Incarceron for the first time. Finn suggests that Claudia and Keiro changed places. Keiro suggests the warden urged him to put the glove on to get it away from Incarceron. The queen's army opens fire on the wardenry. Finn finds the discarded glove from Keiro in his hand.

Claudia finds herself face to face with her father. Lightning continues to flash and the floor continues to rumble. They all begin to run from wires acting as if they are snakes coming out of the floor. The temperature continues to drop.

Keiro tries to leave the wardenry.

## Chapter 29 Analysis

Ironically, Finn is not happy to see Keiro because he has had to sacrifice Claudia to reunite with Keiro. Her father is surprised to see her. Ironically, he is trying to keep the prison from being in control, but he has had to sacrifice his daughter's safety to get the glove away from Incarceron. The lightning and tilting of the floor is Incarceron releasing its anger. Claudia has come full circle because she was born from Incarceron and has now returned to Incarceron.



# Chapter 30

## Chapter 30 Summary

Attia and the rest are shivering at the foot of the winged Sapphique statue. The warden says it's just an illusion created by Incarceron to get them to give it the glove. The warden states that Claudia loves only Jared, but that she became involved with Giles because her father wanted her to become queen. Rix makes a reference to another story. Rix voice changes to Sapphique's voice for just a moment. The temperature continues to drop, causing icicles to form on the Sapphique statue. They suddenly hear a riot break out from the prisoners.

Jared says the portal is working but the screen shows that it's snowing in the prison. Finn hands the small cube on a chain to Keiro and tells him it is Incarceron. Keiro laughs and doesn't believe Finn. Two soldiers burst into the room with one of the servants as hostage. They've come to free Caspar and leave the wardenry through the front door.

When Caspar tries to take Sapphique's glove, Jared tells him that he shouldn't touch it because it's the power to get back to the prison. One of the soldiers shoots and a bullet hits Keiro instead of Finn. Keiro is delighted that the shot hurts because it is real. As Finn orders the tunnel be cut off, the room and the outside world changes.

## Chapter 30 Analysis

While Claudia sees what her father did as betrayal, he feels his sending Claudia out of Incarceron was to save her. Ironically, the warden has lost his power over the others and they are all prisoners to Incarceron now—even the warden who is supposed to be in charge is being overrun by the prison itself. Finn starts to realize that Keiro is only in it for his own needs and doesn't care about what happens to Finn, or even to Claudia. Jared tells Keiro that this world is not real. This suggests that the realm is another illusion created by the prison. Jared telling Caspar and the soldiers where the secret door into the wardenry is located is a trap set up by Jared.



# Chapter 31

## Chapter 31 Summary

The world transforms. The house is starting to fall apart. The sun goes away. The bees stop buzzing. The fine velvet hangings turn to rags. Everything is falling apart and aging. Jared confirms that everything in the realm was an illusion.

Figures that are the impostor and the queen knock on the door and request to be let in. Finn says to lower the drawbridge and take them to the great chamber.

Claudia tells Attia that Finn has his memory back. She also tells her Finn thinks of Keiro all the time, but doesn't say that he thinks of Attia. The warden talks into a device to find out what the situation is in the realm. He tells whoever is on the other end to destroy the glove before it is too late.

One of the servants in the realm says this is the end of one world and the beginning of another. The queen confirms that her war is over. The queen continues to deteriorate before their eyes.

## Chapter 31 Analysis

Changing the occupants of Incarceron and the fact that the glove is in the realm is causing a shift in the worlds. Even though Jared knew how to separate the illusion from reality, he too starts to struggle with what is real and what is an illusion.



# Chapter 32

## Chapter 32 Summary

Finn gets the impostor to admit that the queen hired him to pretend he was Giles. A riot breaks out at the prison.

## Chapter 32 Analysis

Incarceron is trying to take revenge against Keiro and Attia for stealing the glove from it.



## Chapter 33

### Chapter 33 Summary

Finn asks where Caspar is and they say he is with his mother. they say he's having a hard time dealing with her reality. Jared starts to feel dizzy so he tries to give himself medicine, to find that his needle is smashed and the medicine has aged along with the rest of reality. Rix puts on a glove and Attia wonders if he gave Keiro the wrong glove, but then she realizes that it's a stage prop. As the wardenry comes under attack by the big black swan sent by Incarceron, Jared admits that the portal is not inside the house.

### Chapter 33 Analysis

If Jared dies before they can open the portal, then Claudia and the rest might be stuck in Incarceron forever. Jared is the only one that knows where the portal truly is. He is also the only chance that Finn and the others have of opening the portal.



## Chapter 34

### Chapter 34 Summary

Rix admits to Incarceron that Rix is now Sapphique. The Silver Wolves show up outside of the wardenry. Finn tells Medicote that Jared, Claudia and the warden are inside of Incarceron. Medicote attacks Finn and they start to fight and struggle. Finn wins. Jared can feel the blood rushing over him as the life drains out of him. Jared asks Incarceron if he is dead, and then Jared realizes he is the prison. Only Jared knows the answer to the riddle of the door that leads them all out of Incarceron.

### Chapter 34 Analysis

Jared has entered Incarceron to try to save Claudia, her father and the others. In the meantime, however, Jared might lose his own life. The body Sapphique has found to live in is Jared's.



# Chapter 35

## Chapter 35 Summary

Claudia finds Jared wearing the glove inside of Incarceron. Jared admits to Claudia that he is Sapphique. The Warden confirms that his old friend has found a body after all. The portal door presents itself and Jared confirms that everyone is together—inside and outside. Jared walks toward the crowd of the prisoners and they reach out to touch Sapphique. Rix takes out a piece of chalk to draw them a magic door. Rix tells Jared that they all think Jared is Sapphique, but that Rix knows Jared is not Sapphique. Jared reaches to open the door Rix has drawn on the floor. The warden tells Claudia to go through the door, but that he is going to stay at the prison. Claudia asks if Finn is the real Giles. He declines to answer, sends Claudia away and tells her to rebuild the realm as the queen. Finn helps Claudia through the portal. Rix tells Attia to go, but Attia says Rix cannot lose both of his apprentices—she and Keiro. Finn beckons for Attia to come, but Jared comes and leads Attia down into a dungeon of darkness. Keiro's hand stops Attia and brings her back up toward the portal. Claudia returns to the realm with Finn and they vow to rebuild the realm.

## Chapter 35 Analysis

Ironically, the world that the prisoners can escape to in the realm is not any better now than Incarceron itself. Nobody knows what is a reality and what is an illusion anymore. There is a blurred line separating the two.



# Characters

## Attia

Attia is a young woman. She is small in stature. The novel never reveals how old Attia is, but it seems as if she is a teenager. When the novel begins, Attia is looking for her friend, Finn, who has left her, promising to return, but has never come back for her. Attia is making her way toward a stage that is set up in front of the prison, which is Incarceron.

When Attia reaches the front stage, she becomes part of the stage show. It turns out Attia is working with the magician, Rix, to create an illusion for the audience. Attia teams up with Keiro, which is Finn's oathbrother from prison. Attia works with Keior throughout the novel trying to find Finn.

Attia and Claudia in competition with one another for Finn's affection. While Attia is Finn's friend, she is really in love with him. When Claudia and Attia finally meet when Claudia comes to Incarceron, the two women do not get along.

## Rix

Rix is a magician that lives and works in the world of Incarceron. He enlists Attia to help him pull off his magic tricks to convince the audience that he has magic powers. Rix also has a collection of gloves that he keeps on hand. One of the gloves Rix owns is the real glove of Sapphique, so it is a glove that has magical powers.

At certain points in the novel, it seems as if Rix is convinced that he really is Sapphique. Rix also seems quite unstable. There are times during the novel when Attia is not sure if Rix really is crazy or if he is just acting as if he is crazy.

Rix insists on being able to speak to Incarceron face-to-face. Incarceron indulges Rix. While Attia, Keiro and the warden are trying to open the portal to find Finn and reunite the warden with Claudia, Rix is being selfish, so all he cares about is himself and whether or not he can stare Incarceron in its eyes.

## Finn

Finn is a former prisoner of Incarceron. He is now living in the realm. Finn has lost his memory so he doesn't know how he escaped Incarceron. He is thought to be Prince Giles, the stepson of the queen and the next in line to take the throne as king.

Finn is engaged to be married to Claudia. He is also Attia's best friend. When an impostor boy comes to the castle stating he is the real Prince Giles, Finn challenges him to a duel. Finn regains his memory and recalls that he in fact the real Prince Giles. At





the end of the novel, Finn rescues Caludia from Incarceron, plans to wed her and rebuild the realm as the king.

## Claudia

Claudia is engaged to be married to Prince Giles. This also puts Claudia in line to be the next queen. She was offered the option to marry the queen's other stepson, Caspar, but instead works to help Finn regain his memory and prove he is the real Prince Giles.

Claudia's father is the warden of Incarceron. Claudia finds out that she was born in Incarceron and that her father stole her from the prison, which means he is not her real father. Claudia seems to struggle with her love for her tutor Jared and her love for Finn. In the end, Claudia makes it to Incarecron to try to free her father. Once Finn regains his memory, he saves Claudia from Incareceron and she and Finn vow to wed and rebuild the realm together.

## Queen Sia

Queen Sia is the stepmother to Prince Giles and Caspar. She rules the world that is known as the realm. When the illusion of the realm is sabotaged, the queen is no longer beautiful and in control. She is old and decrepit instead.

Throughout the novel, the queen tries to prove that Finn is the real Prince Giles. Ultimately, though, this is a guise because she is really trying to create a situation where Caspar becomes King instead of Finn. The queen hires an impostor to claim he is the real Prince Giles. The queen also pays Jared to leave the kingdom, so he doesn't tell Claudia and Finn about her plan.

## Caspar

Caspar is Prince Giles's stepbrother and the stepson of Queen Sia. Caspar does whatever the queen tells him to do. Caspar is in love with Claudia and tries to get her to marry him. Claudia shuns Caspar's advances.

When the illusion of th realm disappears, Caspar is heartbroken. He cannot believe that is stepmother is really old and decrepit. Caspar cares for the queen as she passes away.

## Keiro

Keiro is a former prisoner of Incarceron. He was in the prison with Finn. Finn and Keiro became oathbrothers, so they vowed to also help and protect each other. Keiro teams up with Attia to find Finn. When Keiro trades places with Claudia, putting Keiro in the



realm and Claudia in Incarceron, Keiro becomes very greedy to possess the clothing, food, and other things he sees in the realm.

## **Medlicote**

Medlicote is the leader of the Silver Wolves. He believes that Finn is not the real Prince Giles, so he and the other members of the Silver Wolves are trying to discredit and kill Finn. Medlicote is also a good friend of the warden who is trying to free his friend from Incarecon throughout the novel.

## **Warden**

The warden is in charge of Incarceron. He is also Claudia's father. The warden chooses to stay at Incarceron even though Claudia urges him to come through the portal so he can live in the realm.

## **Jared**

Jared is Claudia's tutor. Jared has an illness that is killing him. Throughout the novel, Jared injects himself with some type of medication. Jared is the only one that knows where the portal is and how to open the portal that allows transition from the world of the realm to Incarceron and so forth.



# Objects/Places

## Incarceron

Incarceron is the name of the prison. It also represents that world that exists outside of the realm and the other side of the portal. The way the author portrays Incarceron in the novel, it is not only a building. Incarceron also seems to have its own spirit, soul and voice. The world outside of Incarceron is filled with poverty and disease. If the realm is the world of good, then Incarceron represents the dark and evil side of the world.

## Sapphique's Glove

Sapphique's glove is made of a material that is believed to be a dragon's skin. The glove has magical powers. Rix, Attia, Keiro, and the others that believe in Sapphique believe that he threw the glove back to Incarceron when Sapphique escaped. Rix possesses the glove. Keiro takes the glove from Rix and Incarceron is continuously trying to get the glove back throughout the novel.

## Keiro's Nail

Keiro has one fingernail that is made of metal. The nail is a symbol if the fact that Keiro is half-man and half-machine made by Incarceron.

## Realm

The realm is the name of the world in which the queen, Claudia and Finn live. In reality, the realm is all made of illusions. It looks as if the realm is beautiful, possesses beautiful objects, items and food. In reality, everything is old, decrepit, worn out, and dying.

## Portal

The portal is the door or time warp between the two worlds. Throughout the novel, Claudia, Jared, Finn and the others are searching for the portal. Those in Incarceron want to find the portal to escape the prison. Those in the realm are looking for the portal to get to the people that are stuck in Incarceron. Ultimately, Jared is able to open the portal, which allows some transitions between the two worlds.



## Jared's Room

Jared's room is where the tutor keeps all of his studies, papers, and documents. Since Jared is the only one that knows where the portal is and how to open the portal, Claudia and Finn search Jared's room for answers.

## Wardenry

The wardenry is the house and estate where the warden lived with Caludia. It is the place where Claudia returns to try to find the portal. Claudia is trying to find the portal because she is trying to reunite with her father. While at the Wardenry, the queen and her army arrive to fight with Finn, Claudia and the others inside of the wardenry.

## Warden's Office

The warden's office is inside of Incarceron. While the world that sits outside of the prison is decrepit, old, and rotting, the warden's office is the direct opposite. The office has ornate furnishing and decorations. It's also a warm and cozy place.

## Sapphique Statue

A huge statue of Sapphique sits outside of the prison. It's as if Sapphique is guarding the prison and looking down on the people of Incarceron. It is under the statue that Attia and the others seeks shelter from the cold temperatures that the prison is sending their way in an attempt to freeze them to death.

## Steel Wolf Head

The steel wolf head is a symbol of the group that is trying to take down Finn. The steel wolf head is part of Medicote's walking stick. It's also a piece that someone, presumably Medicote, leaves near Finn when he falls asleep in the courtyard, revealing that the group is after him and watching his every move.



# Themes

## Good versus Evil

The primary plot throughout the entire novel is that of good versus evil. Biblical symbolism can be found throughout the book such as Rix telling biblical stories with his own twist. Finn has an inner struggle with good versus evil and so do each of the characters that are involved in the story.

The two worlds that exist in the novel are symbols of the sides of good and evil. Incarceron represents the evilness in the world. The realm symbolizes the good in the world. Even Claudia and Attia are symbols of good and evil. Attia is forced to use deception and her street smarts to survive and find Finn. Claudia leaves a good and sheltered life. She too resorts to some forms of evil, however, to win out against the queen and to stand up for Finn.

The warden struggles in choosing between good and evil as well. He knows that his role is in Incarceron. Once the portal is open again, however, the warden knows he can move between the two worlds and rebuild a relationship with his daughter again.

In the end, it seems as if good will win out over evil now that the portal is open. Finn and Claudia have a plan to marry and to rebuild the realm, which was an illusion but which they plan on making a reality.

## Coming of Age

One of the primary themes that run throughout the novel is growing up and coming of age, even against adversity such as having to fight battles in a war or fight off the evil world of a prison to get to a good world. Finn struggles with the fact that his coming of age requires him to act as a prince and king in line for the throne should act. Claudia struggles with choosing true love from what is expected of her so that she can become queen.

During her coming of age, Attia struggles and fights to find her friend that has left her behind. Even Incarceron transforms and changes as it has complete control to being at a loss of power when it can gain back Sapphique's glove. The warden too comes of age when he realizes that he too is a prisoner in Incarceron, even though he is the only human being that is truly in charge of the other people at the prison.

## Friendship/Relationships

Friendships and relationships are a third major theme that runs throughout the novel. First, there is the line that separates the classes of the people that live in the realm



versus those that live in Incarceron. Second, it is even the class of relationships that exist among the people of each world.

Claudia has two loves, Finn and Jared. She knows however that she cannot be with Jared. Claudia knows that she has to be with Finn and she has to take the throne as queen. Attia is in love with Finn, but Finn sees Attia as just a friend. It's Attia's friendship and love for Finn that drives her to continue to search for Finn.

It's even Claudia's love for her father that hurtles her into Incarceron. She is able to confront her father on the fact that he is not her natural father. They are able to rekindle their father-daughter relationship and build a new foundation for a new kind of relationship.



# Style

## Point of View

The novel is written in the third-person point of view, from the perspective of the author and narrator. The novel swings back and forth between the present and the past. The present represents the time when Finn and Sapphique have left Incarceron. The past represents the time in history when Finn and Sapphique were still prisoners of Incarceron.

The point of view of this novel is intimate, allowing a reader to connect closely with several of the characters. The book written in this manner allows the reader to get inside the heads, thoughts and inner struggles of the characters. The reader cares what happens to the characters even though most of them struggle between good and evil. The point of view also allows the author to inject her own opinions into the narration and to expand on the events taking place around the other characters and the occurrences taking place.

## Setting

The novel has two primary settings. One setting is in the world of Incarceron. The other is in the world of the realm. The setting is a combination of what we think of as reality and fantasy. The main characters are trapped in the worlds in which they live and are unable to get to their loved ones that are trapped in the separate world. They are all hunting for the portal, which is the door that allows them to move between these two worlds.

The setting of this novel works well with the plot. At first, the reader is not aware that the characters are operating in two different worlds. However, as events unfold, the two worlds and the hunt for the portal is a constant part of the plot, the lives of the characters and even the outcome of the novel.

## Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is complex and hard to understand at times. The author interjects many foreign and made up words. The language is descriptive enough that it helps to explain the situations, but is not always detailed enough for the reader to truly understand what is happening in the story.

## Structure

The novel is divided into 35 chapters. The length of each chapter ranges from two pages to 20 pages long. The chapters tell the story primarily in exposition and some

dialogue. The narrator injects her own voice and thoughts throughout the book, providing her opinions and feelings of the events unfolding in the novel.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot is the struggle of choosing between good and evil. One subplot is the coming of age of each of the characters. Another subplot is the relationships that the characters form amongst each other.





## Quotes

"An excellent performance" Chapter 1, p. 21).

"Look, Claudia, I don't who I am" (Chapter 2, p. 29).

"So, Sapphique's glove" (Chapter 3, p. 48).

"It must have worked. Because there was a flash and a...shiver. But the feather did not disappear, nor did it miniaturize. It multiplied. They're all perfectly identical" (Chapter 4, p. 53).

"No one leaves" (Chapter 5, p. 73).

"He seems to brood on those he has left behind in Incarceron" (Chapter 6, p. 77).

"This is a plague village. We have to get out of here" (Chapter 7, p. 94).

"I am the real Giles" (Chapter 8, p. 112).

"I have many such memories" (Chapter 9, p. 124).

"What about me? Am I Giles? Did you put me in the Prison? Tell me" (Chapter 10, p. 141).

"There will be no duel, gentlemen. And the investigation will begin tomorrow. I will not be disobeyed" (Chapter 11, p. 153).

"Keiro, you can't make deals with Incarceron! It will never let you Escape, and if we bring it the Glove" (Chapter 12, p. 156).

"It's Incarceron" (Chapter 13, p. 170).

"It must be the Glove. The prison wants" (Chapter 14, p. 181).



"This is the Steel Wolves" (Chapter 15, p. 196).

"The prison is shutting down. Is that it" (Chapter 16, p. 216).

"Excellent. Let's begin. Close the doors" (Chapter 17, p. 230).

"Bring in the witnesses" (Chapter 18, p. 244).

"I think that was reality, Finn" (Chapter 19, p. 253).

"You'll not get past me" (Chapter 20, p. 269).

"Believe it. Because I am the Dark Enchanter, and now I enchant you both into magic sleep" (Chapter 21, p. 284).

"Medlicote told me the queen had bribed Jared" (Chapter 22, p. 296).

"You are Sapphique" (Chapter 23, p. 303).

"I hear the heartbeat of the prison" (Chapter 24, p. 314).

"I am the Dark Enchanter, Attia. I am unknowable" (Chapter 25, p. 339).

"We're the Steel Wolves, lord. As you already know" (Chapter 26, p. 353).

"Don't talk to me about Keiro" (Chapter 27, p. 364).

"Perhaps to tell us there's only an hour left till the deadline" (Chapter 28, p. 372).

"Tell me that's not cannon fire" (Chapter 29, p. 386).

"We'll freeze here. And god knows what is happening elsewhere" (Chapter 30, p. 397).

"So much for Era" (Chapter 31, p. 408).

"I will kill anyone who comes closer" (Chapter 32, p. 427).

"The Portal isn't even in this house" (Chapter 33, p. 440).

"I've taught you never to be afraid" (Chapter 34, p. 452).

"Escape to what? To the ruin of the Realm" (Chapter 35, p. 455).

## Topics for Discussion

Who is the true Attia? Why does she choose to work with Rix to deceive the audience members? Do you believe Attia wants to find Finn because they are friends or because she loves him? What do you think happens to Attia now?

Who is the true Finn? Why did he choose to escape Incarceron? Do you think Finn is Prince Giles? Does Finn really get his memory back or does he just tell Claudia and the others that he does?

Discuss the relationship between Finn and Keiro. Are they friends, colleagues or do they have a competitive relationship? Is there true competition in their relationship? How does Keiron feel about Finn? How does Finn feel about Keiro? How do Finn's feelings change after Keiro arrives in the realm? What does Finn do about it? What happens to Finn and Keiro?

Who is Incarceron? Is he a real person or something else? Why do you think the prison wants Sapphique's glove back so badly? What do you think happens to Incarceron now that the portal is open?

Why does the portal close? What do you think will happen now that the door is open once again? What do you think each of the characters do in their own worlds now?

Discuss the attacks on the people of Incarceron. What impact do the attacks have on the characters of the novel? How does it motivate them and how does it derail their lives? Who ultimately is responsible for the attacks?

What do you think happens to the queen? What happens to Caspar?