

Secret Admirer Study Guide

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Plot Summary

Selena Goodrich is a popular high school senior who is the darling of the drama club. She is chosen for every play and hopes to receive a college scholarship for her acting skills. Selena begins to receive threatening notes from the Sun, a person who wants Selena to quit the school play. The Sun's threats get progressively worse until someone ends up murdered. At first, Selena doesn't want to believe she is being stalked. She is convinced the notes and dead flowers she has been sent are a bad practical joke, but when her friend ends up dead she has to face the truth. She is in danger.

Selena's best friends, Katy and Jake, try to convince her to tell their teacher, Mr. Riordan, about the notes. Selena is encouraged by her new boyfriend, Eddy, a college student and the drama club intern, to go to the police. However, she is convinced that no one will believe her and decides to uncover her stalker alone.

Selena goes to the high school auditorium after finding a threatening note about the death of another friend. Jake is already dead and she doesn't want Katy or Eddy to be next. When she arrives, Selena finds Danny, her ex and the person she thought was her stalker, beaten and tied by ropes. She realizes too late that Katy is the Sun. Katy doesn't want their friendship to end and wanted Selena to quit the play so that they could spend time together. Katy has gone over the edge and now plans to kill both Selena and Danny.

The girls are in the middle of a life and death struggle on the auditorium's catwalk when Eddy finds them. He tries to help, but is left at the mercy of Katy as she tries to throw him off of the catwalk. Selena finds the courage to rush Katy and save Eddy. Eddy unties Danny and ties up Katy. Selena kisses him and they become a permanent couple.



Chapters 1 - 4.

Chapters 1 - 4. Summary

In Chapter 1, Selena finishes performing her scene on the stage and returns backstage to congratulate everyone on a job well done. She and her friends are excited that the play's run is over and talk about who is going to the cast party that night. Selena notices that her childhood friend, Jake, looks tired, but she doesn't have a chance to ask him if anything is wrong. Mr. Riordan, the drama club teacher, announces that the spring play will be Romeo and Juliet. Selena's ex-boyfriend, Danny, tells her she is sure to get the part. Her friend Katy, a member of the set crew, agrees. Mr. Riordan tells them a scout from the drama department at Northwestern University will be there. Selena is excited. She needs a scholarship in order to attend college, but she doesn't have her hopes up. Katy and Selena notice a blue striped bouquet has been left for Selena. She picks up the package and is horrified.

In Chapter 2, Selena is horrified to find that the bouquet is made up of dead flowers. The note included with them is written by a secret admirer. The note informs Selena that she won't be doing drama any longer; she will be giving up the stage to be with her admirer - forever. There is an orange sticker shaped like the sun on the note. Katy is a little worried about the note and flowers, but Selena isn't. She thinks Jake is playing one of his usual pranks. Katy disagrees and asks Selena if she noticed the rings under Jake's eyes. The girls agree that Jake has been acting strangely lately. Katy drives the girls to Selena's house and they go inside. Katy talks about how Selena lost weight once she started drama club and about how Selena became popular. She tells Selena she hopes they will stay friends. Selena tells Katy that she can lose weight too and they will always be friends. There is thunder outside and Selena hears a noise. She notices that someone is watching them through her bedroom window.

In Chapter 3, Katy is freaked out by the idea that someone was watching them. Selena is also freaked at the thought of someone watching her change. The girls leave the house for the party and notice a ladder on the ground under Selena's window. Katy laughs off the noise and says that it was just the wind knocking the ladder to the ground. Selena decides her mother must have been working on the ladder. The girls go to move the ladder into the garage when Selena notices an orange sun sticker on the last rung.

In Chapter 4, the girls get in the car and begin the drive to Mr. Riordan's house for the cast party. Katy is convinced that Selena has a stalker and she is worried whoever it is might be dangerous. Selena thinks Katy is being crazy and is convinced the stickers are just someone's idea of a joke. She figures it must be someone she knows and then decides it might be Danny trying to get her to go back out with him. Katy jokes that she would take Danny off Selena's hands if he would give her the time of day. She tells Selena he will only date skinny girls like her. Selena tells Katy to stop putting herself down. Katy is about to say something when she turns the car sharply. There is a car following them and it is trying to run them off of the road.



Chapters 1 - 4. Analysis

Chapter 1 introduces the main character, Selena, and jumps right into the action. A senior in high school with college aspirations. Selena is an excellent actress and has many friends in the drama club. She is modest about her talents. She dislikes her ex-boyfriend whom she dated for 6 months and doesn't understand why all the other girls at school think he is so great. The first chapter introduces a host of characters and some possible motives for threatening Selena. Professional and romantic jealousy being chief among them.

In Chapter 2, Selena and Katy are best friends and are supportive of each other. Katy is self-conscious about her weight and is afraid Selena will stop hanging out with her because she is becoming more popular. Selena encourages her friend to lose weight. She used to be overweight, but lost weight when she discovered her love for drama. She knew she could never get a good part if she were overweight. Selena thinks about how everything in her life is run down. Her home is run down and creaks. Her mother works nights and they are short on money since the death of Selena's father.

In Chapter 3, Katy seems to be easier to frighten than Selena is. Katy tries to find reasonable explanations for the ladder and the noise, but doubts them. She thinks someone was watching them. Selena is the opposite. She thinks there are reasonable explanations for everything that has happened, until she sees the sun sticker.

In Chapter 4, the author uses cliffhangers to set the pacing of the story. Chapters 1-4 all conclude with a cliffhanger meant to pull the reader into the next chapter.



Chapters 5 - 8.

Chapters 5 - 8. Summary

In Chapter 5, Katy drives like a crazy woman trying to get away from the car behind them. Selena tells her to calm down and instructs her to drive fast to Mr. Riordan's house. Whoever it is would never follow them into the house. Katy is scared that the person riding their bumper is Selena's stalker. Selena tells her to stop talking about stalkers and hurry to their teacher's house. When they pull into Mr. Riordan's circular driveway the other car parks behind them. A man gets out and walks toward them, it is Danny.

In Chapter 6, Selena is furious that Danny would try to scare them the way he did. He tries to tell her something, but she is too upset to listen and tells him to find her later. The girls enter the party and go for some food. Mr. Riordan announces that they will have an intern from the local junior college for the rest of the semester and introduces them all to Eddy Martin, a drama major. Katy and Selena think Eddy is cute and Katy goes to talk with him and Mr. Riordan. Selena is about to get more food when Eddy sits next to her. He tells her he has been watching her perform for the past two years. Selena thinks it is odd that he knows so much about her. When Eddy leaves she goes to speak with Jake. Jake is in a horrible mood and is being grouchy. She asks him about the flowers and tells him about the ladder. Jake thinks that if it is a joke it is a sick one and suggests she talk to Mr. Riordan. Selena is about to tell the teacher about her stalker when the door bursts open and Danny comes in. He is caked in mud and blood. He calls for Selena and then falls to the ground.

In Chapter 7, Danny tells Selena he did it for her. Selena screams and thinks he somehow hurt himself because she wouldn't get back together with him. Danny sits up and wipes the fake blood from his face. He tells everyone he pulled the stunt to prove he could be Romeo in the next play. No one is amused and Selena is embarrassed. She goes outside and is approached by Eddy who knows she used to date Danny. He tells her he must have heard that they dated from other kids. She is saved from having to talk to him when he is called inside by Mr. Riordan. Selena tells Katy she is ready to leave and goes outside to wait for Katy to grab her keys. Danny approaches Selena and offers her a ride home. Selena tells him no, she is angry from the stunt he pulled earlier. Danny won't take no for an answer and grabs Selena by the arm. Jake comes outside and finds Selena struggling against Danny. He tells Danny that Selena is his friend and he will drive her home. The boys begin to fight, Jake falls to the ground and hits his head on the pavement.

In Chapter 8, the boys continue to fight until Selena pulls Jake off of Danny. Jake's face is cut and Danny's nose is bleeding. Katy comes outside and wants to know what is going on. Selena tells the guys she is riding with Katy and wouldn't take a ride from either of them. She gets into Katy's car. Jake tells her Danny is a jerk and he would rather kill Danny than let him be Romeo. Selena is shocked, she questions Jake about



his words but the boy walks away. Selena's phone rings at dawn. It is her secret admirer. The voice tells her they were together the night before and will be together forever soon. Selena demands to know who is on the phone, but the person hangs up.

Chapters 5 - 8. Analysis

In Chapter 5, Selena is convinced that the person tailgating them is just someone pulling a joke on them. She thinks Katy has scared herself with all of her talk about stalkers. Selena is proven right when they discover that Danny is the driver of the other car.

In Chapter 6, Selena is curious about Eddy and slightly suspicious of him at the same time. She thinks it is unusual that he knows about her, but she is also flattered. Eddy may prove to be a love interest, or he may prove to be her stalker. However, Selena is still not convinced she is in any danger. She only decides to tell Mr. Riordan about her stalker because Jake wants her to tell an adult. Something is wrong with Jake, but what is not clear yet.

In Chapter 7, Selena is embarrassed by Danny's trick. He made her look like an egomaniac when she thought he hurt himself over her. When Jake decides to fight Danny over her she decides that all the guys she knows have gone nuts.

In Chapter 8, Selena is confused by Jake's behavior and worries when he says he wants to see Danny dead. She doesn't know why either of the boys would go so crazy. She becomes scared when she receives a phone call from her admirer.



Chapters 9 - 12.

Chapters 9 - 12. Summary

In Chapter 9, Selena runs into school a little nervously. She sees Katy and tells her she is getting a little paranoid and that she heard from the admirer again. Katy tells her to call the police, but Selena is convinced it is just Danny being a joker. She sees Danny at her locker and approaches him. He is trying to put a note into her locker. Selena accuses him of leaving her threatening notes and leaving her the dead flowers. He tells her she is crazy, that this is the first note he has ever tried to leave. It is an apology to her for what happened at the party, but now that she is being crazy he isn't going to give it to her. After Danny leaves, Selena wonders if she should believe him or if his not contained a sticker of the sun.

Selena discovers that Jake will also be auditioning for the part of Romeo. He is in a bitter mood and his eyes have even darker rings than they did the other night. Jake tells her he and Danny want the same role in the play and they also want other things they can't have too. Selena is confused by his comments. She goes to her normal bench to practice her lines, but finds Alison already there. Alison volunteers to give Selena her seat back, but Selena tells her it is ok. She goes outside to practice when she hears a crash and a scream.

In Chapter 10, Selena runs inside to find students crowded around something on the stage. She finally sees that a heavy cabinet has fallen over on top of Alison, crushing her. Danny calls 911 while Mr. Riordan moves the cabinet off of Alison. The girl stirs and he tells her to lie still. Katy comes into the auditorium asking what happened. Jake tells her and suggests the cabinet falling was not an accident. He thinks it was meant for Selena. Selena is in shock. The police tell Mr. Riordan that the cabinet fell because it was overloaded, but Selena isn't convinced. She goes to the cabinet and finds a sticker of the sun on it.

In Chapter 11, the next day after school Selena is going over her lines in her bedroom when the phone rings. It's Danny. He wants to take her to eat and talk. Selena gets upset and tells him she wants nothing to do with him. He tells her she was nicer when she was fat. Selena yells at him and tells him she is sick of his jokes and stickers. Danny tells her he hasn't been playing jokes and he doesn't have any stickers. Selena tells Danny she is feeling crazy and hangs up the phone. She goes back to her lines and the phone rings again. It is Eddy. He asks her out and congratulates her on getting the part of Juliet. He asks her out to a Chinese movie on Friday and asks her not to tell anyone they are going on a date. She promises not to tell. He also tells her she is so different than who she was a few years ago, wearing baggy clothes and acting shy. Selena thinks it is weird he knows how she was two years ago. Eddy tells her he must have seen her in a picture. They hang up and Selena checks the windows to make sure they are closed and locked. In a lightning flash Selena sees a package on the porch in the rain. She opens the package and screams.



In Chapter 12, Selena fights back nausea when she sees what is inside the package. It is a half decayed dead rat with a chewed head. The rat has a note with it and a sticker of the sun. The note tells Selena that there was a mistake and the wrong girl was crushed. It tells Selena to leave the play and not be a rat. Selena calls Katy and tells her what happened. Katy tells her to talk to Mr. Riordan and wonders if Selena should quit the play. Selena doesn't want to quit, this play could be her ticket to Northwestern. Katy tells Selena that her life is more important than a play. Selena agrees to talk to the teacher. Katy asks if they are still on for a sleepover on Friday. Selena tells her she has a date with Eddy and they reschedule for Saturday. She brushes off Katy's concerns that Eddy is too old for her. Selena is paranoid for the rest of the night. She hears someone enter the house and hides behind her bedroom door as they climb the stairs.

Chapters 9 - 12. Analysis

In Chapter 9, something is going on with Jake, but he doesn't want to talk about it. His comments are cryptic and he is bitter. Selena is annoyed that Katy has been telling Jake the things that the girls have talked about. She is also nervous about auditioning in front of Eddy.

In Chapter 10, Selena is in shock and might be sick. She can't believe that someone would intentionally push the cabinet over onto Alison, but she can't deny it wasn't an accident when she finds the sticker.

In Chapter 11, Selena wants the Sun - as she refers to her stalker - to be Danny. It is easier and less threatening if it is her ex-boyfriend. She doesn't seem to think anything is wrong with Eddy wanting to date a high school girl or telling her to keep their date a secret. Selena is becoming worried about the Sun, but she doesn't want to admit whoever it is is getting to her.

In Chapter 12, Selena doesn't want to tell about her stalker because she is afraid it will get in the way of her chance at a college scholarship. She feels bad that Alison is injured and didn't get to try out for the play. She is also scared because she now knows the falling cabinet was meant for her. She agrees to tell Mr. Riordan about the Sun. At this point there are a few people in Selena's life who are acting suspicious, but there is no one person who could be the Sun.



Chapters 13 - 16.

Chapters 13 - 16. Summary

In Chapter 13, the person in the house comes up stairs and it turns out to be Selena's mother. She had to come home because the power went out at the restaurant. Selena is relieved. The two have hot chocolate, light a fire and talk about Selena's life. She considers telling her mother about the stalker, but decides not to stress her mother out.

Selena literally bumps into Jake the next day at school. He is angry that Danny got the part of Romeo. He tells Selena she is Juliet. Jake rages about Danny always getting what he wants and swears that this time Danny won't get what he wants. Selena tells him to stop talking that way, it scares her. She tells Jake she thought he only wanted character parts, this upsets Jake.

Katy and Selena talk after school. Katy tells Selena that Jake has been moody because his parents are splitting up. Selena is upset by the news. Katy pushes Selena to tell Mr. Riordan about the stalker.

Everyone gathers for rehearsal in the auditorium with Mr. Riordan. Jake is nowhere to be found, and enters from off stage. They run through lines and Jake disappears again to get a drink of water. Katy begins to scream when Selena begins her lines. She tackles Selena to the ground as a light falls onto the place where Selena stood.

In Chapter 14, Selena thinks initially that she and Katy are dead, then sound comes back to her ears and she realizes she is uninjured because of Katy's quick thinking. Katy is lying on the ground while a horrified Eddy tends to her. Her arm is bruised. Mr. Riordan sends Jake for ice and Selena thinks about what has happened. Katy is the second person to be injured in an accident meant for her. She pulls Mr. Riordan aside to tell him about the stalker. Eddy watches her intensely.

In Chapter 15, the Sun leaves Selena a letter. He tells her they were together again today and they are together even when she doesn't see anyone. The note threatens her by telling her if she is in the play it will be the last thing she does. It is signed, The Sun.

In Chapter 16, Selena and Eddy really enjoy their date. They leave the movie theater in his red Honda Civic and listen to jazz as they drive. Eddy takes Selena to a small hamburger place known for its good food. He tells her he will coach her in acting and she tells him she about her hopes for college. Eddy tells her he wants to spend more time together and mentions her father. Selena is unnerved by how much he knows about her that she didn't tell him. He asks if she thinks he is too old for her and if she has a boyfriend. Selena tells him about her stalker. Eddy wonders if she should go to the police. She tells him that Mr. Riordan thought the lights and cabinet were an accident and it is just someone playing a joke on her. Selena is afraid the police will tell



her the same thing. Eddy goes to pay the check and she sees Danny standing at the door glaring at her.

Chapters 13 - 16. Analysis

In Chapter 13, Selena and her mother miss her father. He has been gone for three years and never got to see her perform. Her mother has to be away from home a lot in order to pay the bills. Selena doesn't want to scare her mother by telling her about the stalker, she will tell Mr. Riordan instead. But Selena isn't really motivated to tell her teacher, she is afraid he will cancel the play and she will lose her opportunity for a college scholarship. Jake's behavior is explained by his parents' break up, but it is clear that he didn't feel he could tell Selena. He is also missing during critical times during rehearsal and it is possible he may have tampered with the lights while offstage. Danny wants Selena to give him a break, he would like for them to get along if they have to work together. Selena considers this. She is preoccupied by Eddy and the intensity with which he watches her. She is excited for their upcoming date.

In Chapter 14, Selena is finally scared enough to tell an adult what is going on. She isn't so worried about her own safety, but she is horrified that two other people have been hurt because of her. She isn't sure how to tell Mr. Riordan about her stalker, but she is ready to try. Selena feels uncomfortable when she sees Eddy watching her with a cold look in his eyes. She wonders why he is watching her so closely.

In Chapter 15, the Sun's letter makes it clear that Selena will be hurt if she continues in the play. The Sun also confesses to watching Selena, saying she is never alone.

In Chapter 16, Selena really likes Eddy, but she is finding it hard to trust anyone. She is convinced the Sun is in the drama club and she isn't sure who she can trust anymore. She finds herself confiding everything in Eddy and he tells her he wants to try and help her. When she sees Danny in the door she becomes panicked. Selena wonders why he is there and if he has been following her.



Chapters 17 - 20.

Chapters 17 - 20. Summary

In Chapter 17, Selena confronts Danny and asks why he is following her. Danny is confused and then sneers at her. He is on a date with a girl named Susie. Selena is embarrassed and goes outside to meet Eddy. Eddy mentions that seeing Danny was a close call because Danny would tell Mr. Riordan they were on a date. He tells Selena he has had a crush on her since she he was a senior and she joined the drama club. Suddenly a Taurus comes toward them with the lights out. Eddy grabs her by the shoulders and pushes her in the car's way.

In Chapter 18, Selena hits the wall on the other side of the tunnel they are walking in. Eddy pushed her hard enough to send her out of the car's way. He hit his elbow but is fine. He tells her they were walking on the wrong side of the tunnel and he can't believe they were almost hit by a car. Selena wonders why they were in the middle of the tunnel if Eddy knew there wasn't room for cars to pass.

Selena awakens the next morning to another bouquet on her porch. At first she thinks it is from the Sun, but sees a red rose inside and assumes they are from Eddy. She shows them to her mother and her mother tells her to get away from the flowers, the greenery is poison ivy.

In Chapter 19, whoever sent Selena the poison ivy knew she was sensitive to it. Her face swells and she develops a high temperature. A week later she is still itching and has a rash. Selena, Katy and Jake are in the library studying. Jake tells her he thinks Danny is behind things and he has an idea, but he has to do more checking. Jake and Katy both encourage her to quit the play which is still two weeks away.

Selena decides to go backstage and do some snooping around. She hopes she will find some clue as to the identity of the Sun. Katy offers her a ride home and Selena thinks to tell her friend what she is going to do, but then decides not to tell. She goes into the lockers and finds a white hair scrunchie she lost earlier. She looks at the locker list and decides to open locker 111, Danny's locker. Inside she finds a half used sheet of sun stickers. Selena knows her stalker is Danny, but then realizes his locker is really 112. This locker belongs to Jake.

In Chapter 20, Selena takes the stickers and walks home. She can't believe Jake is the stalker. Was he jealous of her dating Danny? Why didn't he just ask her out if he wanted to? She realizes she needs to confront Jake about the stickers.

Katy calls and Selena tells her about the stickers in Jake's locker. Katy sounds frightened and encourages Selena to tell someone, but Selena is convinced that she will get Jake kicked out of school if she does. She thinks Jake was playing a joke and he didn't mean for anyone to get hurt. Katy thinks Jake may be mentally ill and if Selena



tells she can get him help. Jake calls and Selena clicks over to call waiting. He knows the identity of the stalker and wants her to meet him at the school. She tells him about the stickers and he says he can explain. He tells her to meet him in the auditorium and hangs up. Selena asks Katy to go with her, but Katy's mom has the car so she can't go. Selena tells her she will take the bus and promises to call when she gets home.

Selena shows up at the auditorium and turns on the lights. She calls for Jake, but he doesn't answer. She sees his script and figures he left it earlier. She is about to leave when she sees a pile of clothes on the stage. She goes closer and realizes the crumpled form is Jake.

Chapters 17 - 20. Analysis

In Chapter 17, Danny makes Selena feel really dumb after she accuses him of following her. She was sure Danny was her stalker and is a little dazed to find out he might not be. She thinks about Eddy and how much she likes him and feels safe with him.

In Chapter 18, Selena is beginning to feel suspicious about Eddy and his motives. She can't decide if she believes he was trying to protect her, or if she thinks he pushed her in front of the car. Selena is confused and not sure what to think anymore or who to trust.

In Chapter 19, Selena doesn't understand why Jake hates Danny so much. She is convinced Jake wants Danny to be the stalker, but Selena isn't so sure he is. She is shocked to find the stickers in Jake's locker and thinks Jake is her stalker.

In Chapter 20, the tension in the book is beginning to build. Selena is scared and she is crushed that Jake would do this to her. He is her oldest friend. She is convinced it is a joke gone wrong and that he didn't mean for anyone to actually get hurt. She doesn't tell an adult because she doesn't want to get him into trouble. Jake is desperate when he calls her and wants to show her something at the school. Selena knows she shouldn't go, but she heads to school because she trusts that Jake is just playing a joke and she isn't in any real danger from him. He is one of her oldest friends. Katy is convinced Jake is mentally ill and suffering some sort of breakdown because of his parents.



Chapters 21 - 24.

Chapters 21 - 24. Summary

In Chapter 21, Selena is on the phone telling Katy that Jake is dead. The police said he fell off of the catwalk. No one will ever know now, and no one will know why he was stalking Selena. Katy offers to come over, but Selena tells her she wants to be alone. She will tell her mother what happened when she comes home from work.

Selena returns to school a week later and feels uncomfortable during rehearsal. Everyone seems to be in a somber mood. Mr. Riordan addresses them all about Jake and tells them the show must go on. Selena just can't get into practice. She sees Jake everywhere. She wanders backstage and talks to Katy. She tells Katy she thinks that Jake was trying to tell her not to take the play so seriously. Selena hasn't seen Eddy today and she has only spoken to him once since Jake's death. She tells Katy she has made a big decision.

In Chapter 22, Selena approaches Mr. Riordan to tell him she is quitting the play. Mr. Riordan has to leave and tells her they will speak later. Katy wants to know if Selena quit yet, and tells her it is a good idea. Katy feels Selena is too upset about Jake to stay in the play. Selena tells Danny, at Katy's urging, and he is furious. He tells her she is selfish and she has changed. He tells her to think about all of the other people involved in the play who will lose their parts if she quits. He tells her that Alison is the only other person who can take her part and she is injured. Katy tells Danny to stop yelling, but he doesn't. Selena didn't think about anyone else. She decides not to quit the play after all. Katy is concerned, but Selena tells her she can finish the play, it won't kill her to do it.

Selena wakes up at three in the morning and goes downstairs for a drink of water. She finds another note from the Sun.

In Chapter 23, the note warns Selena that she will meet the same fate as Jake and Juliet. It also tells her that she will be being watched during dress rehearsal. Selena looks into the woods behind her house and wonders if she is being watched. She thinks about Jake's last words to her and decides to finish the play and find out who the Sun is.

Mr. Riordan has invited other staff to watch dress rehearsal. Selena looks over the audience and wonders how she will find the Sun. Alison has come to help and offers to help Selena with her hair, but she is already dressed and ready for rehearsal. Katy is excited by so many people at the rehearsal. Eddy comes to tell Selena good luck, but he can't stay because he has a class. Everyone is ready and the curtain goes up.

The rehearsal went well and Selena forgot about the Sun. Danny tries to hold her hand for longer than necessary and she yells at him. She is running for the bus and remembers her backpack is in her locker at the front of the building. Katy tries to catch up with her, but Selena is too worried about missing the bus home. She gets her stuff



out of her locker and a ton of it falls on the floor. She shoves her books and papers back in and takes off.

Selena dumps her backpack on her bed at home and notices a note from the Sun. The note tells her that someone else has been killed. The Sun tells her it is her fault for still going on stage after being warned. Selena wonders who has been killed.

In Chapter 24, Selena realizes the note in her backpack wasn't supposed to be found until tomorrow morning. That means the killer hasn't killed anyone yet. The Sun has threatened to kill another person she is close to, Selena realizes that means Katy. She calls Katy, but can't reach her. Selena decides to go to school, the place the Sun said they would kill again. Eddy calls as she is leaving and wants to meet her later. She tells him she can't and gets off the phone.

Selena pulls up to school and no one is there. She doesn't see Katy's car in the parking lot. Selena tries to be quiet as she enters the auditorium; she turns on her flashlight and calls to Katy. She hears a scream and calls out to Katy.

Chapters 21 - 24. Analysis

In Chapter 21, Selena is depressed over Jake's death. She can't believe he was her stalker and wishes she could have asked him why he did it. Now she will never know. She can't get her head into the play and sees Jake in Romeo's role when she looks at Danny. Everyone is being nice to her, including Danny. Selena starts to second guess all of the time she has spent working on the play. She thinks that maybe Jake wasn't stalking her; he was trying to get her to understand she needed more in her life than just the play.

In Chapter 22, Selena wants to quit the play. She is overwhelmed and wants to honor Jake. But she didn't think about how it would affect others. There is some truth to Danny's anger toward her. She doesn't try to be selfish, but she isn't thinking about others when she decides to quit the play. When Selena finds the note from the Sun she realizes Jake wasn't the stalker.

In Chapter 23, the pacing is really picking up. This chapter has more sections than previous chapters and more action in a small amount of time. Selena is ready to catch the Sun so that Jake didn't die in vain. She is becoming more brave when it comes to her stalker. When she finds the note in her backpack she can't believe someone else has been killed.

In Chapter 24, Selena wants to stop the killer before anyone else can get hurt. She doesn't confide in Eddy because she doesn't know if she can trust him and doesn't want him to get hurt if the Sun strikes again. She is in a panic when she hears a muffled scream in the auditorium.



Chapters 25 - 28.

Chapters 25 - 28. Summary

In Chapter 25, Selena creeps down the darkened auditorium aisles and calls for Katy, but no one answers. She hears another moan and realizes it is coming from overhead. She sees a pool of something that looks like blood and a faint voice asking for help.

In Chapter 26, Selena forces herself to climb the ladder to the room at the top of the catwalk over the stage. She feels dizzy and sick from the heights and almost stops, but she knows she must keep going. She pulls herself into the room and takes a deep breath. She calls for Katy again, but no answer. She hears another moan and finds herself face-to-face with Danny.

In Chapter 27, Selena can't believe she let Danny lure her up to a place where she was trapped. She shines her flashlight on him and sees that he is tied up and his forehead is injured. Danny tells her he is there because she asked him to meet her there. He doesn't know who hurt him or tied him up. Selena realizes he isn't the Sun and she was able to stop the Sun from killing Danny. She looks for cutters to untie him, but they are missing. There are footsteps approaching and she can hear them moving up the ladder. The door opens and the stalker appears.

In Chapter 28, Katy walks into the room. She asks why Selena is there and why Danny is with her. She tells Selena she forgot her math book. Selena tells Katy they are in danger and asks for help untying Danny. Katy tells her it is better if he is tied up, then she hits him over the head with her flashlight, knocking him unconscious. Katy tells Selena that Danny won't be a problem anymore. She tells Selena they can be together now as best friends and that they need to talk. Selena can't believe that Katy is the stalker and sees that her friend is holding a sheet of sun stickers.

Chapters 25 - 28. Analysis

Chapter 25 is a very short chapter. Selena doesn't seem to be afraid of finding the Sun; she is focused on finding Katy.

In Chapter 26, Selena is afraid of heights but finds the courage to climb up to the catwalk to help Katy. However, she finds Danny instead.

In Chapter 27, Selena realizes she was able to stop the Sun from killing, but the Sun may still be in the building. She knows they are in danger and wants to get Danny up and moving. Selena understands he was lured to the auditorium by the Sun.

In Chapter 28, Selena is confused by Katy's behavior and doesn't want to believe that her best friend is her stalker.



Chapters 29 - 32.

Chapters 29 - 32. Summary

In Chapter 29, Selena doesn't want to believe Katy is the stalker. Katy tells Selena that it was easy to make her believe she had a stalker. She tells Selena she is conceited and thinks all guys want her. Selena says that isn't true. Katy tells Selena it has been hard to watch Selena over the past two years. Katy says she couldn't stand to watch Selena become thin and popular. She tells Selena she would have known if she was a good friend. Katy tells Selena she didn't mean to hurt anyone, just to scare Selena out of the play. She didn't want her to get a scholarship and leave. Selena asks her about Jake and Katy turns cold. She tells Selena Jake was snooping and found the stickers in her locker. She had to get rid of him. Katy plans to kill Danny and Selena and make it look like the deaths of Romeo and Juliet. She raises her flashlight and runs toward Selena.

In Chapter 30, Selena scrambles to get away from Katy who is swinging her heavy flashlight at Selena. She hits Selena on the arm as she backs away. Selena opens a door in the back of the room, but discovers too late that it leads to the catwalk. She pleads with Katy to let her back into the room. Katy laughs at Selena's fear of heights and says that her death will be perfect. It will look like her fear of heights caused her to fall. Selena tries to move away and goes over the railing. She feels herself falling to her death.

In Chapter 31, Selena is able to grab the railing before plunging to the ground. She pulls herself back onto the catwalk and backs up until she hits the end of the catwalk. She falls again, this time landing on her stomach. Katy comes toward her again and Selena begs her not to push her off of the catwalk. Katy puts down the flashlight and tries to pry Selena's hands off the metal, which would cause her to fall to her death. When she can't get Selena's hands off of the catwalk she brings up her flashlight to knock Selena unconscious.

In Chapter 32, Katy stops when she sees Eddy on the ladder. He quietly tells her to put the flashlight down and he come onto the catwalk, standing just feet from Katy. Katy shoves him and he almost falls off of the catwalk. Eddy falls and is holding onto the catwalk bars to keep from falling. Katy smashes his hands and is about to do it again when Selena rushes her. The girls fall to the catwalk and Eddy grabs Katy, tying her up in the prop room at the top of the ladder. Selena comes in and kisses Eddy.

Chapters 29 - 32. Analysis

In Chapter 29, Selena can't believe her best friend hates her so much. She didn't mean to leave Katy behind and she tells her so. Selena wanted them to stay friends, but it is obvious Katy doesn't believe that. Katy is jealous of Selena's life and of her future. She



wants them to stay together so she isn't left behind in life. Katy has no remorse for killing Jake.

In Chapter 30, Katy uses Selena's fear of heights against her. When Selena goes out on the catwalk it is perfect for Katy, she will just push her off.

In Chapter 31, Selena has nowhere to go but down. She is clinging onto the railing for dear life. This is the climax of their struggle.

In Chapter 32, Selena knows that she and Eddy will both die if she doesn't overcome her fear of heights and do something to save them. After Eddy takes Katy off of the catwalk Selena is suddenly cured of her fear, things are less scary now that Katy is gone and she is safe. Eddy is surprised when she kisses him. He hopes it is just Act One of their relationship.



Characters

Selena Goodrich.

Selena Goodrich is a high school senior who lives with her mother. Selena's father passed away three years earlier, leaving Selena and her mother alone. Selena is a popular girl who is the star of the school's drama club. She is a talented actress and a kind person. Selena used to date Danny. Her best friends are Katy and Jake. Selena's mother can't afford to send her to college. It is Selena's dream to attend Northwestern University and hopes to receive a drama scholarship. Selena is being stalked by an unknown person called the Sun.

The Sun.

The Sun is the name of Selena's stalker. The Sun arranges accidents which nearly miss Selena. The Sun begins by sending threatening letters and ends up committing murder. The Sun's goal is to get Selena to quit the school play. The Sun's letters begin by telling Selena that they will be together, but become more threatening as the story goes on.

Katy Jensen.

Katy Jensen is Selena's best friend. Katy is a stagehand for the drama club. She works up on the catwalk directing the lighting sequences for the plays. Katy is slightly overweight and is envious of how her friend has lost weight and become more popular. Katy wishes she had the nerve to try out for the plays like Selena does. She is very supportive of her friend and slightly nervous. Katy is the Sun.

Jake Jacoby.

Jake Jacoby is Selena's other best friend. Jake's behavior has changed lately because his parents are going through a divorce. Jake hates Danny and tries to start problems with the other boy when he has the opportunity. Jake is a loyal best friend who encourages Selena to talk to an adult about her stalker. Jake is killed when he tries to discover the identity of the Sun. The Sun pushes Jake off of the catwalk and he falls to his death.

Alison Pearson.

Alison Pearson is the second best actress in the drama club. Alison and Selena are almost always up for the same parts. Alison also plans to try out for the part of Juliet in the school's new production of Romeo and Juliet. Alison is rehearsing her lines for



auditions in Selena's usual spot when the Sun pushes a cabinet over on her. Alison is taken to the hospital and is injured.

Eddy Martin.

Eddy Martin is a cute boy who is a second year drama student at Waynesbridge Junior College. He is interning with Mr. Riordan and the drama club for a semester. Eddy has had a crush on Selena since he was a senior in high school. He knows a lot about Selena and, for a short time, she thinks he may be her stalker. Eddy knows he shouldn't date a student and wishes for Selena to keep their relationship a secret. Eddy decides to check on Selena in the auditorium and finds her struggling with Katy. He helps her to capture the Sun.

Mr. Riordan.

Mr. Riordan is the teacher in charge of the drama club. Mr. Riordan is very involved with his students and they trust him. He throws a cast party at his home which all of the students attend. Selena goes to Mr. Riordan when she becomes nervous about the Sun. The teacher assures her that the Sun is just someone playing a joke. He also feels that the accidents happening on the set are just coincidence.

Danny Morris.

Danny Morris is a senior in high school. He is handsome and popular and he is Selena's ex-boyfriend. Danny wants to get back together with Selena and can be fairly aggressive in his attempts to get her attention. Selena is certain Danny is her stalker. Danny tends to become upset with Selena easily. He feels that she can be selfish and egotistical.

Mrs. Goodrich.

Mrs. Goodrich is Selena's mother. Mrs. Goodrich works in the evenings in order to make ends meet since the death of her husband. She is a loving mother who misses spending time with her daughter. Selena doesn't tell her mother about the Sun because she doesn't want to worry her.

Mr. Goodrich.

Mr. Goodrich is Selena's deceased father. He passed away three years before the story begins. Mr. Goodrich is not featured in the book, but he is often discussed by his wife and daughter.



Objects/Places

Shadyside High.

Shadyside High is the high school where Selena Goodrich goes to school. Shadyside is an average high school, and it has a popular drama club. Shadyside High is the the setting for the majority of the story.

Blue Striped Bouquet.

The Blue Striped Bouquet is the first "gift" left for Selena by the Sun. The bouquet contains dead flowers and a threatening note for Selena. Selena is not scared when she receives this first "gift" from the Sun.

The Ladder.

The ladder is found underneath Selena's window shortly after she finds the bouquet of dead flowers. Selena doesn't think the ladder is being used by the Sun, but realizes she is wrong when she finds a sun sticker on one of the ladder's rungs.

The Cast Party.

The cast party is held at Mr. Riordan's home. Everyone attends the cast party and Selena goes with Katy. The girls are being followed on the way to the party, but their follower ends up being Danny. Danny bursts into the party with blood on his face, but it ends up being a joke. Selena meets Eddy for the first time at the cast party. She tells Jake about the Sun at the party, but decides not to tell Mr. Riordan about the Sun at the party.

Romeo and Juliet.

Romeo and Juliet is the next play to be performed by the drama club. Selena and Alison are both planning to try out for the part of Juliet. Danny and Jake are both planning to try out for Romeo. This play is the last play of the year for all of the seniors. Mr. Riordan tells the students there will be a scout from Northwestern attending. Selena hopes this play will help her to receive a college scholarship.

Sam's.

Sam's is a local hang out where kids from the junior college like to eat. Eddy takes Selena to Sam's on their first date. Selena loves Sam's and the restaurant serves good



food. Selena sees Danny at Sam's and assumes he is following her. Eddy and Selena are almost run over by a Ford Taurus while walking back to Eddy's car from Sam's.

The Catwalk.

The Catwalk runs above the stage in the high school auditorium. Katy works on the catwalk where she directs the lighting for the stage. There is a ladder leading up to the catwalk and a small room at the top of the ladder where supplies are kept. The Sun pushes Jake to his death from the catwalk. Selena is afraid of heights and so doesn't want to go up to the catwalk, but does when she thinks she can save her friend. Katy and Selena fight on the catwalk when Selena discovers Katy is the Sun.

Backstage Lockers.

Each of the drama club participants has a locker in the backstage area. The lockers are not locked. Selena finds a sheet of stickers in Jake's locker and assumes he is the Sun.

The Tunnel.

The tunnel leads from Sam's restaurant. Eddy and Selena are walking back to his car, via the tunnel, when they are almost hit by a car. In the tunnel, Selena begins to wonder if Eddy is her stalker.

Jake and Danny's Fight.

Jake and Danny get into a fight when they are leaving Mr. Riordan's cast party. Jake is tired of Danny always trying to bother Selena. Danny is angry and ready to fight. The boys come to blows and are stopped by Selena. The fight highlights Jake's recent changes in behavior.



Themes

It Is Difficult When Relationships Change.

One of the main themes which runs through this story is the fact that changes in relationships are difficult. This type of change effects almost every character in the story.

1) Katy and Selena are in the midst of a changing relationship. Selena has lost weight and become more popular due to her role in the drama club. She dated Danny and is in the process of getting to know Eddy better. Katy feels left behind by her friend. Katy is overweight and shy. She worries that, without Selena, she will have no friends. Katy worries she will be alone if Selena leaves for college. It is this fear that drives Katy to become the Sun.

2) Jake's parents are in the middle of a separation. Although they are not shown in the story, Jake's attitude has changed due to the turmoil in his home. He is easier to anger and is becoming more distant in his friendships. These attitude changes lead Selena to consider that Jake could be the Sun.

3) Danny and Selena used to date, but Selena can barely stand him now. The change in their relationship causes Danny to harass Selena in his attempt to get her to date him again. Selena is suspicious that Danny may be the Sun because he is always around her. Danny wants to be with Selena and is willing to come to the auditorium to meet her when he receives a not from the Sun, which he thinks is from Selena.

4) The relationship between Selena and her mother has changed over the past three years. After Selena's father passed away her mother had to pick up more work in order to keep their home. Although Selena and her mother are close, they are unable to spend the quality time together that they would like to have.

Jealousy.

Many of the characters in Secret Admirer are jealous of others. Their jealousies reflect those of most teenagers as they navigate their high school experience.

1) Katy is jealous of Selena's weight loss and her popularity. She is also jealous of Selena's relationship with Danny. Katy doesn't necessarily wish to date Danny; she is jealous of the time Selena spends with her boyfriends instead of with her friend, Katy.

2) Alison is jealous of Selena's successes in the drama club. She wishes to be the lead in the next play, Romeo and Juliet.

3) Danny is jealous of Selena's popularity with other boys. He wants Selena to date him again and goes out of his way to get her attention. Danny and Jake's fight at the cast party is more about jealousy than rivalry.



4) It is possible that Jake is jealous of Selena's relationship with Danny. It seems, but is not confirmed, that Jake has a crush on Selena. It is one of the reasons he becomes so upset when Danny is bothering her.

Depending On One's Own Judgment.

Selena's character arc is that of a girl who must learn to depend on herself and on her own judgement. Throughout the story, Selena is uncertain about her feelings on the Sun. She doesn't believe the Sun is a danger to her and is convinced the Sun is merely a prankster. Selena waits until things turn dangerous before discussing her problems with a teacher. Selena doesn't want to worry her mother and is determined to take care of the Sun herself. She tries to handle the situation in the best way that she can and is victorious in the end. Although Eddy comes to help Selena fight Katy on the catwalk, it is Selena who defeats Katy and saves Eddy.

Style

Point of View

Secret Admirer is recounted in the third-person and limited perspective. Selena is the main character and the reader is privy to all of her thoughts and conversations. The story follows Selena and her interactions with her friends and her environment. Secondary characters are only focused on when they are in the scene with Selena. The thoughts of other characters are hidden from the reader.

Setting

The majority of the story takes place in the auditorium of Shadyside High School near Fear Street (the title of the book series). Small scenes take place in Selena's home and one scene at Sam's, a local hang out. Shadyside High School is open at all times and available for student use. The auditorium provides for the dangers needed for the scene's climax on the catwalk. The darkness of the auditorium sets an appropriate mood during tense scenes.

Language and Meaning

The language used in Secret Admirer is that of regular American teenagers. However, as the book was published in the 1990s, some of the slang and word choices are dated. Eddy's use of cassette tapes and a tape deck in his car are examples of dated language. There are times when some characters speak more like adults than teenagers, but on the whole language does not get in the way of the reader's suspension of disbelief.

Structure

Secret Admirer is made up of a prologue and thirty-two untitled chapters. Chapters are short and some contain letters written by the Sun. Each chapter ends with a cliffhanger which is resolved in the opening paragraphs of the next chapter. This speeds the pacing and helps to pull the reader through the story.

Quotes

"Yeah, well, there's no guarantee the sun will rise tomorrow" (Chapter 1, p. 7).

"Eddy had been watching her two whole years ago" (Chapter 5, p. 26).

"He's so intense, but I like him anyway" (Chapter 7, p. 32).

"She didn't mean to say that. She didn't want to say that" (Chapter 11, p. 50).

"Eddy the intern? But he goes to college. Isn't he a little old for you" (Chapter 12, p. 58).

"The car reminded her of Eddy - warm and comfortable" (Chapter 16, p. 74).

"He must have known there wasn't enough room to walk in the tunnel" (Chapter 18, p. 84).

"A body like a fallen marionette" (Chapter 20, p. 101).

"I'm too angry to be scared" (Chapter 23, p. 112).

"No way he hit himself over the head and tied himself up" (Chapter 27, p. 128).

"In the doorway, nearly lost in the darkness, stood a large figure" (Chapter 27, p. 129).

"Do you have any idea how I've felt for the past two years, Selena" (Chapter 29, p. 134).

"This may only be Act One" (Chapter 32, p. 145).

Topics for Discussion

Eddy has had a crush on Selena for the past few years. He makes it clear that he has been watching her during this time and knows a lot about her, and her life, which she didn't share with him. Why might Selena be suspicious of Eddy? At what point does she begin to think Eddy may be the Sun? What story clues lead the reader to suspect Eddy may be the stalker?

It is clear that Danny is angry with Selena. Although he still likes her, he says some unkind things to her. Mostly, Danny accuses Selena of being selfish and conceited.

- 1) When does Danny accuse Selena of these things?
- 2) Is Selena selfish and conceited? Why do you feel the way you do?
- 3) Why might Danny be inclined to think bad things about Selena?

Many times during the story Eddy asks Selena not to tell anyone about their relationship. Why is this? What is inappropriate about Eddy asking Selena on a date? Why does Eddy not want Mr. Riordan to know they are dating? Is Eddy being unethical?

Katy and Selena have been friends for a very long time. They know a great deal about each other. How does Katy use her intimate knowledge about Selena to her advantage? What does the Sun know about Selena that others might not know?

Jake calls Selena and asks her to meet him at the auditorium. When Selena arrives she finds Jake has fallen from the catwalk to his death. Why did Jake want Selena to meet him? What does Selena think about the meeting? Why does Selena think Jake is the Sun? What has Jake found? Why was he killed by the Sun?

Is Jake in love with Selena? Why do you feel the way you do? What clues from the text help support your answer?

Why is the play *Romeo and Juliet* so important to Selena? What does she hope will happen when the scout from Northwestern comes? Why is a scholarship so important for her? Why does the idea of Selena going to college send Katy over the edge? What is she afraid of?