

Seraphina Study Guide

Seraphina by Rachel Hartman

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Plot Summary

Seraphina by Rachel Hartman is a fantasy novel about a young woman torn between keeping a lifelong secret and protecting her kingdom and those she loves. When Seraphina begins to suspect a plot against the Ardmagar Comonot, she must lie to warn Prince Lucian of the dangers without revealing the secrets of her parentage, but her lies begin to unravel as her secrets play a large role in her suspicions. Seraphina offers an intriguing narrative that will keep readers captivated.

Seraphina is secretly a half dragon who is mentally connected to seventeen other half dragons through her mental garden, and she also has access to some of her dead mother's memories. After she sings at the funeral of Prince Rufus, who the people suspect was killed by a dragon, Seraphina worries more than ever about her secret being discovered. Orma, her dragon teacher and uncle, receives a coin that belongs to his father, Imlann, and he suspects that Imlann is plotting against the Ardmagar Comonot. Thomas Broadwick nearly kills Seraphina for being a quig lover when he finds her in possession of a quig-made lizard figurine. During the preparations to celebrate Treaty Eve, Seraphina is excited to encounter three of the people from her mental garden in reality.

When two exiled knights report seeing a rogue dragon, Seraphina and Prince Lucian visit the knights' cave where Sir James confirms that the rogue dragon is Imlann. On the way home, Imlann appears and threatens Lucian and Seraphina, causing her to summon Orma using his earring, and, furious at Seraphina's lies, Lucian arrests both of them. Queen Lavonda pardons Seraphina, but Comonot orders Orma to have his emotions excised. Due to a rumor that Seraphina is a dragon, Lady Corongi and Princess Dionne attack and bleed her.

Later, Seraphina is bombarded by her mother's memory, learning that Imlann and a cabal of generals plot against Comonot, but as she tries to convince Comonot that he is in danger, a priest she saw talking to Josef stabs her, causing her to suspect that Josef is actually Imlann in disguise. Since she tells Lucian and Glisselda of her suspicions, they agree to keep a close watch on Comonot throughout the Treaty Eve festivities. Realizing that no one knows where Princess Dionne is, Lucian, Seraphina and Comonot rush to her room to find she has been poisoned by wine given to her by Josef. They search for the rest of the royal family and find Lady Corongi, Princess Glisselda and Queen Lavonda toasting the new year with Josef who insists that he received the wine from Lady Corongi. After Seraphina's lizard figurine calls Lady Corongi an imposter, she turns into Imlann and carries Glisselda away. With the help of her grotesques, Seraphina is able to retrieve Glisselda while Orma battles Imlann in the air. Orma is injured, but a group of dragons kill Imlann.

Seraphina confesses that she is a half dragon, a fact that Glisselda accepts but Lucian struggles with. When the cabal of generals sends a note to Goredd demanding Comonot be returned so they can try him for his crimes against dragons, Glisselda, acting in the place of Queen Lavonda who is still ill from the wine, refuses to relinquish



Comonot, deciding to go to war in order to continue the peace. Seraphina admits to Lucian that she loves him, and though he returns her feelings, they must wait until the war ends and Glisselda is settled in her new role as queen. Seraphina is content because she is no longer alone.



Section 1: Prologue, Chapters 1 & 2

Section 1: Prologue, Chapters 1 & 2 Summary

In the Prologue, Seraphina notes that she remembers being born, but her mother, who died in childbirth, left her a complicated inheritance. Papa hid the details from everyone, including Seraphina, resuming his legal practice and inventing a more acceptable dead wife. At church, the priest objects to the heretic when the psalter opens to St. Yirtrudis, and instead, he insists that St. Capiti will be Seraphina's saint. In Chapter 1, Prince Rufus's body lays shrouded in the cathedral. He was decapitated, and his head has not been found. Though she promised Papa that she would not play in public, Seraphina, as assistant to the court composer Viridius, has to play since both her soloist and her backup are sick. Leaving her designed anonymity, Seraphina plays to comfort the royal family, and the performance is exhausting. Noticing that Orma is waiting for her, Seraphina finds the dragon's smile heartwarming.

In Chapter 2, Orma praises Seraphina's performance, but few know that he is a dragon. A beggar child gives Orma a gold coin, the token serving as a message, but Orma refuses to explain its meaning to Seraphina. A commotion breaks out on the bridge as six Sons of Ogdo surround and mock a dragon in its human form, so Orma activates his earring to summon help. Seraphina follows Orma into the fray, fearing his identity will be revealed, and they help the dragon as the Sons of Ogdo flee at the approach of the palace guards. Orma insists on staying with the dragon as Prince Lucian Kiggs arrives. Prince Lucian questions the dragon, Basind, and Seraphina is surprised that he knows her name and that Orma is a dragon. Finally alone with Orma, Seraphina asks about the coin, and Orma mocks her for assuming there is something to tell before disappearing.

Section 1: Prologue, Chapters 1 & 2 Analysis

The Prologue serves to set up the importance of the secrecy surrounding Seraphina's heritage as well as foreshadowing the difficulties that arise in her life as a result of this secrecy. It also foreshadows her love of music. Listening to the monks singing, Seraphina feels she can fly to the ceiling, but Papa grabs her when she attempts it, promising to find a way for them to be a family. She feels like she belongs as he kisses her head. Seraphina's love for music takes her from the safety of Papa's house to court, but "I did not understand that I carried loneliness before me on a plate, and that music would be the light illuminating me from behind" (page 5).

Chapter 1 provides background information on this narrative and creates an atmosphere of dracophobia following Prince Rufus's death. This chapter also emphasizes Seraphina's loneliness and introduces Orma, beginning to explain his importance to her. During the funeral, she notices that the dragon embassy does not bow their heads during prayer, but piety is not expected from the soulless creatures,



again showing the attitude toward dragons. After she finishes her performance, Guntard, her assistant, praises her talent before telling her that a man is here to offer a troupe of pygegyrian dancers to perform at the funeral, but Seraphina has Guntard send the man away. She avoids Guntard's touch because she is not normal and cannot risk being touched. Though she barely knew Rufus, his missing head suggests he was killed by a dragon. This is unfortunate timing if true because there are only two weeks until the anniversary of Goredd's treaty with the dragons.

Chapter 2 introduces Prince Lucian, foreshadowing his relationship with Seraphina. It also foreshadows how important Orma is to her, and the coin that Orma receives foreshadows his fear that Imlann is in Goredd and is involved in the death of Prince Rufus. The attack on Basind emphasizes the attitude toward dragons in Goredd. Dragon Undersecretary Eskar arrives and chides Lucian for his inadequate security, claiming that she believes the Sons of Ogdo are taking advantage of people's fears by spreading rumors that Rufus was killed by a dragon. She suggests the Ardmagar Comonot may cancel his visit when he receives her report. She collects Basind and talks to Orma, inhibiting Seraphina from questioning him about the coin. Excusing herself from the prince's praise of her performance, Seraphina joins Orma who introduces her to Eskar, correcting Eskar for referring to Seraphina as "it." When Seraphina chides Orma for telling Eskar about her, he insists that Eskar has always known because she used to be part of the Censors, a dragon agency. Seraphina barely notices her loneliness because it is her normal condition by necessity. Sometimes Orma is a good friend, but he is not at other times; still, he is all she has. Seraphina goes home, thinking of all she feels that must remain unsaid and every debt she owes Orma that can never be repaid.



Section 2: Chapters 3 & 4

Section 2: Chapters 3 & 4 Summary

In Chapter 3, Seraphina recounts how Orma saved her life three times. First, he saved her when she was eight years old as her dragon tutor held her over the edge of the tower. When Seraphina was older, Papa was furious when she taught herself music despite his prohibitions. After he broke her mother's flute and locked her in her room, she sneaked out and was nearly trampled by a dragon procession until Orma rescued her, bringing to life the memories that her mother, Linn, left her to be released at the sight of Orma in his dragon form. Bedridden for a week with visions, Seraphina's skin turned into flakes on her arm, causing her to question who she is and forcing Papa to tell her the truth about Linn's heritage. Papa finally agreed to allow Orma to teach her music, thus Orma saved her life for the third time.

In Chapter 4, Orma helps Seraphina turn her visions of seventeen individuals into a mental garden of grotesques, preventing the visions from disturbing her at inconvenient times as long as she keeps them calm. Her headache after the funeral indicates that her grotesques have grown agitated so she tends to them. At work the next morning, Viridius reminds Seraphina and their musicians that the Queen's hospitality to Ardmagar Comonot will be judged based on the quality of their performances, but music is the one thing that humans do better than dragons. After practice ends, Viridius tells Seraphina that he wants her to meet Lars, his protege. He chides her for never attending Princess Glisselda's soirees, claiming she will get nowhere by isolating herself. Unable to explain that she has to tend her garden, Seraphina insists she has plans tonight but agrees to come tomorrow. In the hallway, she overhears Princess Glisselda and Millie, her lady-in-waiting, talking about how prickly Seraphina is, and when she joins them, Glisselda insists on playing a piece by Tertius for the concert. As they practice, Seraphina is alarmed by the princess's derogatory remarks about dragons as she repeats what her governess, Lady Corongi, has taught her. Feeling that the future queen needs to know the truth of affairs, Seraphina shares the true history of man stealing the dragons' hunting grounds but making a truce with the humans because they fought back and were interesting; "our survival depends not on being superior but on being sufficiently interesting" (page 72). When Glisselda asks how she knows so much about dragons, Seraphina claims her father is the legal expert on Comonot's Treaty, retreating hastily since her own survival requires her to balance being interesting with invisibility.

Section 2: Chapters 3 & 4 Analysis

Chapter 3 serves to explain Seraphina's intense loyalty to Orma because he saved her life three times. When she was eight, her dragon tutor, Zeyd, held her over the edge of the tower to teach her about gravity, but Orma rescued her. Since Papa forbid her tutors to teach music, he was furious when Seraphina found her mother's flute and taught herself because he had neutralized Linn so only her brother and her music could harm



them. Papa locked Seraphina in her room, but she climbed out a window and went to St. Loola's Square where men were complaining about the twelve dragons in the procession, and when a fight ensued, she was knocked down and trampled until a dragon helped her up. He was shocked that she understood Mootya, the language of the dragons, and she was stunned he knew her name. As he noted that she thought she would be able to leave at least one memory, Seraphina's vision blacked, leaving her pregnant in bed as she told Orma that she wanted her child to know him. She was leaving her some memories though a mind-pearl, despite the fact that Orma objected to keeping in touch with her husband after her death. The memories would be released by the sight of Orma in his true form, and Linn apologized mentally for leaving pain with the memory since there was no time to separate it. Maurizio carried her home as Orma fought a human, and when Seraphina awoke, Orma was next to her bedside, explaining that Linn was a dragon; he and Papa never intended for Seraphina to find out, but Orma could not allow her to be trampled by the crowd. Seraphina was then seized by visions of a young boy, an old woman cooking, and a highlander playing bagpipes. During the week that she was bedridden with visions, Seraphina's skin hardened and flaked to reveal scales. Papa struggled with what to do since there was no longer a chance of marrying her off. Seraphina now knew nothing about herself, including whether she had a soul, and Papa explained that he did not know about Linn until she died and bled silver. Papa and Seraphina would have both been exiled or executed, so he kept the secret. Seraphina cried at the loss of her human mother, her own humanity, and any chance of leaving Papa's house. Orma offered to teach her, and Papa agreed when Seraphina begged, asking that she would not let him hear her music. Two days later, a spinet was delivered to their house, allowing Orma's voice to tell her that they had much to do and it was time to begin; thus, he saved her life for a third time.

In Chapter 4, Orma is Seraphina's teacher and only friend for the next five years. Though he does not understand human emotions because he is a dragon, he believes he can cure her visions from striking her unconscious. Seraphina's visions show the same seventeen people, and she turns the visions into a mental garden, finding that they do not disturb her at inconvenient times if she keeps them calm. Although she has not had unwanted visions in four years, Seraphina's headache after the funeral indicates that her grotesques are agitated, so she rushes to her suite at Castle Orison and tends her garden, solving the problem though she never understands what it is. This chapter describes and explains Seraphina's garden of grotesques which play a large role in this narrative. It also introduces Princess Glisselda and begins to develop her relationship with Seraphina. Additionally, Glisselda's attitude toward dragons indicates that attitude of fear amongst the humans, and Seraphina's lesson about dragons foreshadows her involvement with teaching Glisselda about the true nature of dragons and their relationships with humans.



Section 3: Chapters 5-7

Section 3: Chapters 5-7 Summary

In Chapter 5, Seraphina heads to meet Orma, but on her way, she runs into a begging quigutl who convinces her to trade coins for a lizard figurine. As the small dragon rushes away when humans approach, Seraphina is knocked unconscious by a vision. She revives as she is being tended by an older woman and two brothers. One of the men, Thomas, escorts Seraphina to the palace, but on the way, he notes that he saw a quig idol in her purse and chides her for being a quig-lover. As Seraphina tends her garden in Chapter 6, she notices colorful snow which transports her into one of her mother's memories when she catches it on her tongue. She stores the snow in a box, but when she tastes one memory of her parents singing together, the memory does not cause her to empathize with Linn's love for Claude, so she suppresses her negative emotions. When she tells Orma about the visions, he suggests that they can visit her grotesques in reality someday. Seraphina dreams about visiting her grotesques and getting some answers finally.

In Chapter 7, Seraphina arrives at the Blue Salon early, hoping to meet Viridius's protege and leave soon, but few are there yet. Noticing Josef, Earl of Cepsig, she looks away and is shocked to see Miss Fusspots, one of her grotesques. As she works her way in that direction, Prince Lucian and Princess Glisselda arrive, distracting her. Josef discusses Rufus's death and his belief that a dragon killed Rufus. Lucian agrees with Seraphina that the Sons of Ogdo are likely trying to stir up dracophobia with the rumors. The reappearance of Miss Fusspots draws Seraphina's attention, but then Queen Lavonda arrives with dragon guests, chiding her granddaughter for not inviting them to the soiree. When Glisselda jokes that Seraphina is her dragon tutor, Seraphina suggests that she should dance with a dragon or invite them to sit with her. She watches as Lucian gathers his dignity and asks Eskar to dance, giving her faith that peace can be achieved with the willingness to do it. Silently thanking Lucian for his determination, Seraphina eagerly quits the salon and nearly runs headfirst into Lady Corongi.

Section 3: Chapters 5-7 Analysis

In Chapter 5, Seraphina is relieved to retire to her rooms for the evening, and using the spinet to signal a need to talk to Orma, she arranges to meet him in an hour since he is busy now. On her way to meet Orma, Seraphina runs into a quigutl, a small dragon, begging. Warning that the streets are not safe, she refuses to give it coin because she only trades metal for metal (as she has heard Orma say). The quigutl offers two objects. Quickly trading for the lizard figurine for fear the quig will be punished by approaching men for being out after dark, Seraphina thanks the men for chasing it off, unable to explain that it meant no harm. A vision approaches and knocks her unconscious. In her dream, she visits an inn where Fruit Bat oddly seems to see her. Waking, an older



woman and her two brothers tend to Seraphina. Glad she collapsed near people willing to help, she asks to be taken to the palace. At the palace, Thomas, one of the brothers, stops Seraphina because he had seen the quig idol in her purse and warns her to repent for being a quig-lover since he nearly killed her when he saw the object. Wondering if the figure has a deeper meaning than she is unaware of, Seraphina waves off help, hoping she can reach her rooms before another vision. This question foreshadows the figurine's importance while this chapter foreshadows Thomas's continued enmity. This chapter also serves to show how Seraphina's visions affect her life.

In Chapter 6, Seraphina must deal with Fruit Bat, though she is exhausted. Envisioning his grove, she chides him for pulling her into a vision, explaining the dangers. He objects to her threat of kicking him out of the garden. Noticing colorful snow, Seraphina catches a flake on her tongue and is transported to another of Linn's visions. The flakes turn to parchment as they hit the ground, and Seraphina stores them in a box. Finding the title of a song her mother wrote, she cannot resist placing it on her tongue. She recalls a conversation between Linn and Claude, her father, about him wanting her help to write a song. Linn sings it, finding the emotions maddening. Though she does not understand this thing between them as she takes his hand, it hurt when she said she could not see him again, and she feels like she understands everything as she kisses him. Waking from the kiss, Seraphina feels woozy and disgusted, but though the memory increases her knowledge of Linn since she is Linn in the memories, she does not feel empathy as she expects; she squashes the negative emotions so she feels nothing at all. Though it is past midnight, she contacts Orma and tells him about the visions. He does not know why Fruit Bat suddenly seems aware of Seraphina, but he suggests the boy may be a resource if he complies with her requests. He suggests that maybe he and Seraphina can visit Fruit Bat in Porphyry someday. Seraphina cannot sleep that night as she imagines visiting her grotesques in the real world and finally getting some answers. This fantasy foreshadows Seraphina meeting her grotesques in reality.

In Chapter 7, Viridius orders Seraphina to nap so she will be at full capacity for the evening's soiree. Seraphina's reaction to Josef foreshadows her suspicions of his involvement with the plots against Comonot. Foreshadowing regarding her grotesques is fulfilled when Seraphina sees Miss Fusspots at the soiree. Seraphina's draconian tutelage for Glisselda continues as Queen Lavonda is furious that her granddaughter did not invite the dragons to her party. Everyone applauds as Glisselda greets Eskar with kisses on each cheek. However, they avoid the dragons as the soiree continues, as does Seraphina who fears they will smell her and recognize her draconian heritage. Irritated as she hears two men joking about dragon women, she decides to leave, but Viridius arrives and insists she pay her respects to the princess and prince. As Glisselda panics at the thought of interacting with the dragons, Lucian offers to go first, and Seraphina is shocked that Glisselda calls her fiance a bastard; though his eyes show that it bothers him, he seems to feel that he has no right to express his discontent. Seraphina understands how that feels.



Section 4: Chapters 8 & 9

Section 4: Chapters 8 & 9 Summary

In Chapter 8, Lady Corongi's sneer crows Seraphina from her intent to discuss Glisselda's draconian education. Lady Corongi asks why Seraphina fills her student's head with nonsense about dragons. Ignoring Seraphina's claim that she has some insight due to her dragon tutor, the governess insists that she is trying to give Princess Glisselda confidence in her people and their victory over dragons. Furthermore, she hopes that Goredd will finish the conflict how they should have, instead of as cowards, once Glisselda is queen. While tending her garden, Seraphina reaches out to Miss Fusspots and is astonished to notice the woman has scales, meaning that she is also a half dragon. Miss Fusspots appears at Seraphina's door, furious that she was spied on until Seraphina reveals her own scales. After Seraphina promises not to spy on her again, the older woman introduces herself as Dame Okra Carmine, and once she leaves, Seraphina thinks about bringing all of her grotesques together.

In Chapter 9, Seraphina works hard preparing for the Treaty Eve entertainments, but she takes a break three days before Comonot arrives to visit Orma. As she heads toward St. Ida's Conservatory, she sees Thomas Broadwick who pursues her through the crowd until he gets distracted by the Sons of St. Ogdo. Orma is too distracted to pay attention to her tale, and he explains that the coin he received belongs to his father, Imlann; as such, Orma suspects that Imlann has been plotting against the Ardmagar Comonot for the past sixteen years that he has been missing. Because he does not trust his reaction to the father he hates, Orma leaves the coin with Seraphina to do with as she sees fit, so she plans to give it to Lucian. Orma warns Seraphina that Imlann will be disguised as someone who would never be suspected and that Imlann will kill her without a second thought. Their conversation ends abruptly when Basind arrives with a letter from Eskar, asking Orma to teach him remedial human behavior lessons. Orma sends Seraphina away to observe the new megaharmonium at St. Gobnait's cathedral.

Section 4: Chapters 8 & 9 Analysis

In Chapter 8, Lady Corongi expresses her opinion about dragons, obviously disdainful of the creatures, and basically tells Seraphina to mind her own business. Lady Corongi's strong opinions foreshadow her true role in this narrative. Her hope that Glisselda will finish the conflict as they should have foreshadows her intent to destroy the peace treaty. Agitated by the encounter, Seraphina returns to her room and tends her garden, recalling Miss Fusspots. Mentally seeking the woman, Seraphina finds that she is getting ready for bed. Seraphina is shocked when Lady Fusspots asks who is there and threatens to find her. The shock of seeing the woman's scales, so similar to her own, throws Seraphina from the vision since she is excited and horrified to realize that she is not the only half dragon. As she wonders if her other grotesques are also half dragons, a pounding at the door reveals Miss Fusspots who hits Seraphina in the face and



demands to know why she was being spied on. Entering Seraphina's room, the woman recognizes Seraphina because she knows Papa. Though she trusts Seraphina's discretion, she asks if sorcery was used to spy on her. Unable to speak, Seraphina rolls her sleeve up, revealing her scales. Miss Fusspots is stunned because she thought she was the only one; however, she hostilely mocks Seraphina's difficulties since the younger woman does not have a tail, and the scales still do not explain the spying. Seraphina tells the woman about her visions, promising not to do it again and explaining that she cannot read thoughts so she does not know the woman's name. Miss Fusspots introduces herself as Dame Okra Carmine, Ninysh ambassador to Goredd and apologizes for her poor reaction to the surprise. Seraphina is unable to sleep after Dame Okra leaves, thinking that she and her grotesques are in this together and wondering how she can bring them all together and foreshadowing her introduction to several more of her grotesques in reality.

In Chapter 9, Seraphina cannot run off in search of the other grotesques because she has a demanding job, and she works hard to finalize the programs for General Comonot's welcoming concert and the Treaty Eve entertainments, plus she needs to find time to meet Lars, Viridius's protege. She trashes the petition for the troupe of pygegyrian dancers to perform on the program. Three days before Comonot's arrival, Seraphina takes a day off and sets out for St. Ida's Conservatory, and she is uncomfortable with her decreased anonymity since playing at the funeral. She feels guilty when she sees Thomas Broadwick since the lizard figurine is still in her purse. As she tries to disappear into the crowd, Broadwick follows until he is distracted by the Sons of St. Ogdo preaching on a soapbox. Using the opportunity to slip away, Seraphina goes to Orma's office at St. Ida's and tells him about being chased. Looking upset, Orma hands Seraphina the coin that he was given on the day of the funeral, explaining it is from his father's hoard. Imlann's hoard was confiscated when Linn disgraced the family, but Imlann fled before his trial; the coin indicates that he is in Goredd and serves as a sign for Orma to remember his family and not shame them. Orma knows that it is a message for him to stay out of Imlann's way. Though Imlann does not know that Seraphina exists, Orma worries that his father is plotting against Comonot and has been for the past sixteen years. Orma does not trust himself to make an unemotional decision about telling Prince Lucian because he hates his father and wants him dead, regardless of his guilt. Imlann and Orma fought about denouncing Linn, and though Orma eventually conceded, it was for naught as his mother killed herself, his father was banished and Orma was not freed from the Censors' scrutiny. Orma gives the coin to Seraphina, asking her to do what is right with it. She plans to turn it over to Prince Lucian, so Orma warns that Imlann will be someone whom no one would suspect. He also warns Seraphina against searching for her grandfather since Imlann does not need to know her identity to kill her. Basind's arrival foreshadows Orma's role as his dragon teacher.



Section 5: Chapters 10-12

Section 5: Chapters 10-12 Summary

In Chapter 10, Seraphina is amazed by the megaharmonium, and when she finally meets Lars, Viridius's protege, she is stunned to recognize Loud Lad, one of her grotesques, who explains that he followed her here because he heard her play music in his dreams. As they talk, Josef approaches and begins yelling at Lars until his horse kicks Lars into the river. While Lars dresses in dry clothes, Seraphina sings to create a distraction after glimpsing Lars' scales and realizing that he is also a half dragon. Lucian arrives, but Lars refuses to press charges against Josef before leaving dejectedly.

On the way back to Castle Orison in Chapter 11, Lucian notes that Seraphina's knowledge of dragons is not explained by her father's work with Comonot's Treaty. He suspects her information comes from her dragon teacher, Orma. Praising her musical talent, Lucian asks about Seraphina's mother, a topic that Seraphina refuses to discuss. When he asks how it feels to be so talented, she asks what it is like to be a bastard, causing him to storm off. In Chapter 12, Glisselda tells Seraphina that two exiled dragons have come to the castle after seeing a rogue dragon. She chides Seraphina for alienating those who appreciate her intelligence, an obvious allusion to Lucian. Seraphina wonders if the rogue dragon could be Imlann, so she goes to the dungeons, and claiming that Lucian gave her permission, she speaks to the knights who suggest that Sir James can identify the rogue. Planning to talk to Orma, Seraphina leaves on the pretense of searching for Lucian, but her heart drops when Lucian arrives.

Section 5: Chapters 10-12 Analysis

Visiting the cathedral in Chapter 10, Seraphina is amazed by the clock counting down to Comonot's arrival, and it makes her curious about Lars who created the clock. Feeling the megaharmonium before she hears it, she is awed when she enters the cathedral and sees the instrument played by a large man who is sad when a monk tells him he cannot play it during the service. Intending to greet the man who must be Lars, Seraphina is stunned when he turns and she recognizes Loud Lad, one of her grotesques. Lars is eager to speak to Seraphina since he heard her play at the funeral. He has heard her before, in his dreams, and he followed her music here to escape persecution because he is a Daanite. As they discuss the megaharmonium, Josef approaches, cursing, and Lars pales. Since no one offers to help, Seraphina taps Josef on the shoulder, but as Josef says it is not her affair, his horse kicks Lars into the icy river. As people finally help Lars, removing his wet clothes, Seraphina sees his scales and bursts into song as a form of distraction, though he barely has anything to hide. As she finishes, Prince Lucian arrives and learns about the situation. Refusing to pursue justice, Lars explains that he was raised on the earl's estates but has been away for over a year and is legally free. Seraphina wonders if Josef's animosity is related to Lars being half dragon but cannot question him in front of the prince. She wants to hug him



since they share a secret, though he does not know it yet. After objecting to Lucian's intention to question Josef, Lars climbs the steps to the bridge with his shoulders sagged as if he carries the weight of the world. Lars is introduced in this chapter, and Seraphina is shocked to encounter one of her grotesques in reality. She is even more stunned to learn that he is also a half dragon. Lars' conflict with Josef foreshadows her suspicions that Josef is actually Imlann in disguise because she feels a kinship with Lars since they are both half dragons.

In Chapter 11, Prince Lucian recalls Seraphina's attention, inviting her to call him Kiggs. Walking toward Castle Orison, she cannot imagine what he wants to talk to her about, and recalling the lizard figurine in her purse, she wonders how Lucian would react. Thanking Seraphina for intervening with the dragons the other night, Lucian notes that Seraphina's knowledge of dragons raises questions since the treaty would teach her wariness, not comfort. When he suggests her knowledge is related to her dragon teacher, Seraphina's anxiety eases as she agrees that Orma is like family and has taught her much. Before she can mention Orma's concerns about Imlann, Lucian questions her about her psalter saint, guessing St. Capiti because she is curious and intelligent. Cold at his observation, Seraphina reminds herself to be careful. Noting that her mother must have been musical, Lucian says he had been curious about Seraphina's singing and Papa's embarrassment as she sang, so he had assumed she was illegitimate but has discovered she is not. Shocked and horrified by Lucian's thorough investigation of her family, Seraphina refuses to discuss her mother, and when Lucian notes she left her a wonderful legacy and asks how it feels to be so talented, Seraphina responds by asking what it is like to be a bastard. Shutting down and pulling away, Lucian says it is like this most of the time before storming off, leaving Seraphina irritated that she forgot to address Orma's concerns. The interactions between Seraphina and Lucian in this chapter foreshadow their love for one another while Lucian's observant nature foreshadows his discovery of Seraphina's secret.

In Chapter 12, Seraphina tends her garden, finding that the grotesques she has met are now more detailed. In the morning, she fears Glisselda's lesson, certain Lucian has told the princess about her rudeness, and when she receives a note cancelling the lesson, she is sure that is the cause. This shows that Seraphina fears conflict with Glisselda as a result of her rudeness to Lucian. As she avoids Papa, Seraphina is surprised that Princess Glisselda joins her and is friendly. Glisselda is excited because two exiled knights had come to the castle to report seeing a rogue dragon flying in its natural shape. Though Queen Lavonda dislikes the notion that a dragon is responsible for Rufus's death, the council is considering the possibility. Seraphina is shocked to learn that Glisselda shared her analogy of how dragons view humans like humans view cockroaches. Glisselda informs her that she does herself no favors by alienating people who appreciate her intelligence, obviously referring to Lucian. On the way to dinner, Seraphina wonders if the rogue dragon could be Imlann, the thought sickening her. At dinner, the musicians discuss dragons, eyeing each other suspiciously at the idea that a dragon could sit amongst them, unrecognized. Learning that the knights are in the dungeon, Seraphina thinks they may be able to describe the dragon in enough detail for Orma to recognize Imlann. Maybe then she can muster the courage to discuss the matter with Lucian to whom she owes an apology. Going to the dungeons, she



convinces the guards to let her talk to the knights, claiming that she has Lucian's permission. She is amused by the knights' flirtation, and they assure her that they saw a dragon. When asked to describe it, they mention a distinguishing mark on its wing. Shocked that Seraphina suspects Imlann, they tell her that Sir James is expert at dragon identification. Eager to talk to Orma, Seraphina claims she is going to find Lucian, but her heart plummets when he appears before her. Seraphina's loyalty to Goredd is evident as she risks Lucian's anger to confirm her suspicions that her grandfather is the rogue dragon, but things go downhill when Lucian catches her in the lie.



Section 6: Chapters 13 & 14

Section 6: Chapters 13 & 14 Summary

In Chapter 13, Lucian is furious at Seraphina's lies, but after she explains her suspicion that Imlann is the rogue dragon, he agrees to work together. He brushes off her apology for calling him a bastard, insisting that he understands the truth of what she said: "Everyone gawks at you for something you can't help and did nothing to deserve" (page 174). Seraphina squashes her feelings, reminding herself that she will always be a monster. Lucian plans to talk to Eskar about the coin that Orma received.

In Chapter 14, Seraphina has an encounter with Josef during the dress rehearsal and fears that he recognizes her draconian scent. When she meets Orma at the Mallet & Mullet, the owner refuses service because Basind, a dragon, accompanies them. They go instead to St. Bert's in Quighole where Seraphina enjoys seeing both of her peoples together. As some of the quigs distract Basind, Seraphina tells Orma about the rogue dragon, but when she asks him to describe Imlann, he suggests seeking an image from Linn's memories. Unwilling to do that, Seraphina plans to search for Sir James instead. Orma gives her one of his earrings which will summon him if she is in danger because he fears that trouble may find her, despite her promise not to search for Imlann.

Section 6: Chapters 13 & 14 Analysis

In Chapter 13, Lucian asks Seraphina to wait upstairs while he chides his guards for allowing her to question the knights. Joining her, he demands to know who she is working for, insisting she is caught and irritated that she invoked his name under false pretenses. Seraphina tells Lucian about Orma's concerns about the rogue dragon and his suspicions that it is Imlann. Lucian is interested in the possibility, and now that he knows they are working toward a common purpose, he suggests that they can help one another. Though Lucian is furious at Seraphina's lies, he forgives her after she explains her suspicions. Seraphina apologizes for her rudeness the previous day, but Lucian has already forgiven her after a long talk with Glisselda, who eloquently defended her music teacher. Seraphina is prickly, but Lucian realizes she dislikes personal questions, and he also accepts the truth of her rude statement, showing that he understands the truth of things. Seraphina is shocked that Lucian perceives the truth and that he believes she is good. It is a foolish feeling because she knows that she is, and always will be, a monster. She is amazed by Lucian's beauty as he discusses philosophy with her. Promising to ask Eskar's opinion of the coin tomorrow, Lucian ascends the steps to his tower office. Seraphina is startled from her curiosity about what he does up there by a musician asking if she is alright, so she hurries to her rooms. Lucian's plan to question Eskar about the coin shows that he believes Seraphina and is willing to help her.

In Chapter 14, Seraphina is busy with rehearsals on the day before Comonot's arrival. However, she needs to talk to Orma so she arranges to meet him at the Mallet & Mullet



around 7 P.M. Rushing to Castle Orison, she learns that Viridius has left everything in her capable hands while he deals with Lars' crisis. Josef sneers at the mention of Lars, warning Seraphina to avoid him because he is barely human. When he wraps his arm around her waist and kisses her ear, he jerks away, commenting on her odd perfume and causing her to fear that he recognized her dragon scent. After an excellent dress rehearsal, Seraphina heads to the Mallet & Mullet, but since the owner refuses to serve Basind, they leave, showing one example of the racism evident throughout this novel against dragons. Orma insists there are other places they can eat, but Seraphina is concerned because such places exist only in one part of town. They go to Quighole, a place that Seraphina has been only once before since it is not a place for respectable girls. Orma leads the party to St. Bert's where dragons teach a few humans, and Seraphina is overcome by the sight of both of her peoples together. Basind comments on the illegalities of the establishment, so Orma distracts him by telling the quigs that Basind has a hoard of coins at home. Seraphina tells Orma about the rogue dragon and asks for Imlann's description. Orma suggests that she can find Imlann in her own mind from Linn's memories, but Seraphina would prefer to avoid that so she plans to talk to Sir James, the specialist on dragon identification. Orma gives Seraphina one of his earrings so she can summon him if she encounters trouble; though she promised not to search for Imlann, Orma fears that trouble may find her. After Orma and Basind leave, a young man invites Seraphina to join his table,. Though she wishes she could, she has much to do, so she tells them that she expects to join them if she ever returns, laughing at the notion that, apparently, she is the new sweetheart of Goredd.



Section 7: Chapters 15-17

Section 7: Chapters 15-17 Summary

In Chapter 15, the Ardmagar Comonot finally arrives, but during his speeches, Seraphina is bombarded with Linn's memories of Comonot's lessons against human emotions. Trying to fight her emotions, she returns home to rid herself of her feelings, but "one cannot fly in two directions at once. I cannot perch among those who think that I am broken... Love is not a disease" (page 202). Lucian is concerned as Seraphina revives, but he tells her that his search for information on the rogue dragon was fruitless. Since she hates how normal she feels with Lucian, Seraphina considers showing him her scales to eliminate the fear of him discovering her secret.

In Chapter 16, the performances go well until it is Lars' turn. When Seraphina searches for him, she finds him arguing with Josef whom she removes from the program. Lars plays the Samsamese war pipes loudly, and when Seraphina mentally yells at him to be quiet, he yells aloud that he likes it loud. After his performance, Lars asks how Seraphina talked to him mentally, and she shows him her scales, causing him to hug her and call her little sister.

In Chapter 17, Lucian joins Seraphina during the ball and expresses his belief that she is in love with someone. They discuss Josef and his sudden appearance at court as well. Lucian offers to accompany Seraphina on her search for Sir James, assuring her that her beloved does not seem like the jealous type. Seraphina feels reckless as she looks into Lucian's eyes, even as she wonders whom he believes she is in love with.

Section 7: Chapters 15-17 Analysis

In Chapter 15, since it is late and she fears that she smells of quig, Seraphina writes a note to Prince Lucian that Orma could not identify the rogue dragon, but she believes they should talk to Sir James. The next morning, Goredd's citizens line the streets, unwilling to miss the chance to meet the Ardmagar Comonot in his human form, as the dignitaries arrive. After traversing the city on foot, Comonot dances a jig with Queen Lavonda in the cathedral. Seraphina chides her musicians for their disrespectful comments about dragons, but she and her musicians freeze when Comonot enters; Seraphina is unable to do her job with Linn's feelings about Comonot leaking through. The musicians play as Comonot greets Queen Lavonda and gives a speech about dragons, peace and the treaty. Seraphina's headache turns into a full ambush of Linn's memory in which Comonot teaches her to learn from humanity but not to forget her dragon nature because emotions are addictive. Prince Lucian stands over Seraphina in concern as she regains consciousness, and the musicians blame Viridius for laying too much responsibility on her. Prince Lucian had received Seraphina's note, but his day had been equally fruitless since Eskar had been unavailable. Queen Lavonda does not believe that a dragon would violate the treaty. Telling Seraphina to save him the fourth



dance, Lucian leaves for lunch with Comonot. Seraphina finds it cruel how normal he makes her feel and wonders if she should show him her scales instead of living in fear that he will discover her secret. She does not know why Linn's memory bombarded her, but she realizes that her mother was not broken; Seraphina is and her mother made her this way. The box of memories twitches in her head. This chapter serves to introduce the Ardmagar Comonot. During his first appearance, Seraphina is bombarded by one of Linn's memories of Comonot lecturing on the detriments of human emotion. Lucian's concern for Seraphina foreshadows his romantic interest in her.

In Chapter 16, Seraphina prepares for the ball, not wearing Orma's earring for fear the dragons will recognize it. Everything goes well until she realizes Lars is scheduled to perform next, but she has not seen him. Then she hears Lars and Josef arguing about people learning what they are. When she pulls the curtain back, Josef pins her to the wall, insisting Lars is dangerous. Pointing out that Josef is the one who attacked her, Seraphina removes him from the program as Lars rushes to the stage and loudly plays the Samsamese war pipes. She mentally yells at Loud Lad to lower his volume, but Lars pauses to say he likes it loud before continuing. Seraphina is scared and excited that she talked to Lars mentally. After his performance, when Lars asks about hearing her voice in his head, she shows him her scales; understanding, Lars hugs her and calls her little sister. Seraphina is angered by the conflict between Josef and Lars, and she decides to share her secret which leads Lars to accept her as family.

In Chapter 17, Lars refuses to talk to Seraphina about Josef before storming off. With work done, it is time to dance, and finding herself next to Comonot, Seraphina worries that he will smell her scales. She is luckily rescued by Princess Dionne who asks Comonot to dance. During the break after the third song, Seraphina overhears Princess Dionne and Lady Corongi talking about physical relations with dragons, and as she moves away, Lucian tells her that she looks nice. She objects when he calls Lars "her" piper, but Lucian suspects that she is in love with someone else. When Seraphina questions Lucian about Josef, he tells her that he suspects Lars is Josef's illegitimate half-brother, but Seraphina feels it is more complicated. Lucian admits that the queen does not think there is anything to be discovered in the country, but he and Glisselda believe she is wrong and want Seraphina to continue with her plan to search for Sir James; however, Lucian insists that she cannot go alone and offers to visit the knights with her in the morning. Seraphina feels reckless and breathless as she looks into his eyes. Lucian assures her that it is not improper, plus he does not believe that her beau seems like the jealous type, causing her to wonder to whom he is referring. Telling her to meet him outside the queen's study at dawn, Lucian lets her go and walks away, leaving her waist cold where his arm was. Seraphina begins to suspect that Josef is Imlann in disguise in this chapter while Lucian shares his suspicion that Seraphina is in love with someone. Still, he offers to join her on her visit to Sir James, foreshadowing their trip together.



Section 8: Chapter 18 & 19

Section 8: Chapter 18 & 19 Summary

The next morning, in Chapter 18, Lucian is abnormally cheerful as they set out through the tunnels and out a cave into the Valley of Mews River, taking the path that Rufus used to go hunting since following his path seems like a good idea. Talking about Rufus's fatal hunting trip, they realize that there had been no sign of struggle where the body was found. It, therefore, seems likely that he was killed elsewhere and dropped here, perhaps after accidentally stumbling across the rogue dragon. Lucian had been convinced that the Sons of St. Ogdo are responsible, but he does not know what to think since the knights' arrival. Noticing a flock of rooks, Seraphina suggests they may be attracted to carrion left by the dragon. Since she doubts the dragon is near because the birds are calm, Lucian descends to the rookery, finding dragon dung. Seraphina grasps Orma's earring as Lucian climbs down the rock wall, forcing herself to calm when he returns with two horse medals, one belonging to Rufus's patron and the other depicting the seal of the royal family.

As they press on harder to make up for lost time in Chapter 19, Lucian tells Seraphina that though it is not his place, as a friend, he must warn her against falling in love with a dragon; he suspects that she is in love with Orma, and she plays along so he will not discover her real secret. When they find the knights, Sir James identifies the rogue dragon as Imlann, and after Seraphina and Lucian leave, Lucian tells her about his parental background and the loss of his parents at a young age. Feeling that Seraphina will understand, Lucian admits that he loves his mother, but he is angry with her at times for leaving him so young and for falling in love so recklessly. Seraphina agrees, but Lucian continues, "I didn't understand. I judged her, but I didn't understand" (page 259). Still, he is on guard against the same impulsiveness in love. Closing her eyes as they ride, Seraphina is sure that no one can see them through the snow, yet someone does. Smelling sulphur, she opens her eyes to see her reptilian grandfather standing on the road in front of them.

Section 8: Chapter 18 & 19 Analysis

In Chapter 18, Seraphina is too restless to sleep after tending her garden, and instead, she rubs her scales, thinking of all the things that she cannot have in this world. When she closes her eyes, a mental door opens as Fruit Bat looks for her. After she explains that she is too tired of all of it to tend the garden, he hugs her as she weeps herself to sleep. In the morning, Lucian arrives with Lars who gives Seraphina a parchment he designed last night to thank her. The parchment shows schematics for a machine which Lucian suggests is a ballista, a catapult that flings spears. Wearing Orma's earring around her neck, Seraphina follows Lucian through the tunnels and out a cave into the Valley of Mews River. They meet up with an ostler who saddles their horses, and Seraphina acts nonchalant though she has never ridden before. The interactions



between Lucian and Seraphina in this chapter further foreshadow the love between them. Finding Prince Rufus's horse medals indicates the likelihood that a dragon was responsible for his death.

In Chapter 19, Lucian finally tells Seraphina whom he suspects her of loving. He knows that Orma taught her about dragons and that she is fond and protective of him. He also knows that she went to Quighole with Orma because it seemed prudent to learn about Orma and his family due to the concerns regarding Imlann. Amused, Seraphina plays along, lest Lucian learn her real secret. When they reach the cave where sixteen exiled knights and two squires have been holed up for twenty years, Sir James tells them that the rogue dragon set a barn near them on fire. Violating the treaty, it tried to goad them into action; however, the knights did not react because they obey the law. Looking through his books, Sir James's best guess to identify the rogue dragon is General Imlann. While this confirms Seraphina's suspicions, she has no clue what to do next. As she considers their course of action, Lucian comments that she fears nothing, noting that she had never ridden a horse before today. Seraphina wants to show him her scales and explain that she is afraid of everything. She imagines him not reacting with disgust and even kissing her, though she is not allowed to want that. Before they leave, the knights insist that they watch a demonstration of Dracomachia, once a formidable martial art to fight dragons. As they demonstrate, Seraphina pulls out the parchment from Lars, noting it is a self-igniting apparatus. As Lucian and Seraphina ride out, the snow worsens, so they decide to stop for the night soon.

In the meantime, Lucian has more thoughts on being a bastard because he is unable to stop thinking about the question no one else has ever asked. He tells Seraphina of his tragic parentage. His mother, Queen Lavonda's youngest daughter, married a Samsamese admiral. They both perished at sea when Lucian was five years old and he was sent to Goredd. At first, his family disliked him, but with Rufus's help, they got used to him. Lucian's comments about not understanding his mother's love for his father before now foreshadows his confession that he loves Seraphina. The sight of Imlann in dragon form foreshadows Seraphina and Lucian's encounter with Imlann.



Section 9: Chapters 20-22

Section 9: Chapters 20-22 Summary

As Lucian draws his sword in Chapter 20, Seraphina activates Orma's earring as they face Imlann. When Imlann comments that she smells of saar and threatens to kill both of them, she lies about a draconian device in her tooth that will explode if he kills her. Noting that his plans will unfurl in due time, Imlann promises to meet again before flying away. In response to Lucian's reminder that it is illegal for humans to possess draconian devices, Seraphina claims she bluffed Imlann. Just then, Orma and Basind appear to answer her call for aid.

In Chapter 21, Seraphina tries to clarify that she lied about the draconian device to Imlann and simply forgot to tell Lucian that she possessed a different one. Lucian, tired of her lies, arrests Seraphina, Orma and Basind, treating her coldly as they begin their journey back to Castle Orison. Seraphina tells Lucian that she suspects Josef of being Imlann in disguise, and she also tries to explain that she is loyal to Orma because he saved her life; however, Lucian does not know how much of her story is true. While being held captive that night, Seraphina asks to use the restroom to escape Lucian's averted eye, and alone, she admits to herself that she loves him.

When Queen Lavonda and Ardmagar Comonot awake in Chapter 22, they listen to Seraphina and Orma's account of the night's events. Seraphina is pardoned, provided she returns Orma's earring. When Comonot suggests that Orma should consent to a voluntary excision of emotions, Seraphina mistakenly mentions her mother, causing Comonot to realize Orma lied about Linn bearing a child. As such, he revokes Orma's scholar visa and orders him to be excised. Once Comonot leaves, Orma informs Seraphina that he will not allow anyone to erase his memories of her and Linn, so he returns his earring to her because he values her continued existence, and then he leaves, planning to hide for a potentially long time.

Section 9: Chapters 20-22 Analysis

In Chapter 20, Seraphina's horse unseats her as Lucian jumps from his horse with his sword drawn and helps her up as they face Imlann together. Surprised to recognize Imlann from Linn's memory, Seraphina reaches for Orma's earring as Lucian informs Imlann that he is in violation of Comonot's Treaty. As she activates the earring, Imlann notes that she smells of saar and asks if she has been spying on him. Seraphina cannot respond because Lucian will believe she is a dragon if he hears her speak Mootya, but when Imlann threatens to kill Lucian and send her to the Censors, she informs him that the Censors should be after him and she has already contacted the embassy. Imlann asks why he should not kill her now, so Seraphina lies that there is an explosive device in her tooth that will go off if he kills her. When she asks where he has been hiding, Imlann says his plans are unfurling in their proper time and they will meet again before



flying away. Surprised that Seraphina knows Mootya, Lucian accuses her of being a dragon and notes that it is illegal for a human to possess a draconian device, but she insists that she bluffed Imlann because he would have killed Lucian otherwise. Hugging Lucian, Seraphina claims that life is too short. Orma crests the hill with Basind, both in dragon form, offering proof that she lied to Lucian about the device. The confrontation with Imlann fulfills the foreshadowing concerning this event.

When Prince Lucian draws his sword in Chapter 21, Seraphina assures him that there is no danger. She admits that she called Orma, prevaricating that she did not use the device she lied to Imlann about and simply forgot to tell Lucian about the earring. Asking if Orma gave her the device and came running because he feels nothing, Lucian cannot figure it out and is sick of guessing, so he announces that they are all under arrest, Orma and Basind for unauthorized transformation and Seraphina for using a draconian device. Orma yells at Seraphina, asking if she is in love with Lucian and yelling at her for going after Imlann. Lucian will not look at Seraphina as they mount and begin their return to Castle Orison, and he reacts coldly when she addresses him to mention her suspicion that Imlann knew of their plans. Only Queen Lavonda and Princess Glisselda had been told about their intended journey to visit the knights, but Seraphina suggests that Glisselda may have mentioned it to Josef. Lucian reminds her that Josef hates dragons, and she points out that such a stance would be perfect if he was disguised at court and asks Lucian to at least inquire about whether Josef was seen today. She also explains how Orma saved her life from Zeyd before she knew he was a dragon; she needs Lucian to understand why she helps Orma, and this is as close as she can get to the truth. Wondering why her father did not prosecute Zeyd, Lucian wishes he knew how much of the story was true before riding ahead. After the dragons transform at the stables, Orma asks about the encounter with Imlann. Seraphina recounts it, suggesting that the truth never crossed Imlann's mind; Lucian snorts at the mention of truth before announcing that he will turn the three of them over to Queen Lavonda and the Ardmagar Comonot who will decide if they should be imprisoned. Since they are still asleep, Lucian guards his captives through the night, avoiding looking at Seraphina though she stares at him. Needing to get away, she asks to use the bathroom and is escorted by guards. Taking refuge in the lavatory, Seraphina sourly realizes that she loves Prince Lucian, crying because she is scaly and that will never change. She should rejoice that she has chased him away with her lies, but she knows that he loved her too for a moment which is more than she believed herself worthy to receive. Stabbing her arm in self-hatred as the desire to extinguish the fire inside her swells, Seraphina cuts off a scale, screaming at the pain, and wishes she could keep her emotions under control. Knocking at the door, the guards inform her that the queen and Comonot are waiting. She hates the fear she instills, even in human form, as she tells the guards that she was doing female things. The fire inside her continues to blaze. Seraphina's admission that she loves Prince Lucian fulfills the foreshadowing regarding this love.

In Chapter 22, Lucian has retired by the time Seraphina returns. She feels his absence acutely and is furthermore relieved that no one had contacted Papa. Orma requests that Basind be excused and his guilt allotted to Orma, and the Ardmagar Comonot agrees and dismisses Basind. After Seraphina recounts her and Lucian's encounter with Imlann, Comonot seems touched that they tried to measure the threat. Queen Lavonda



decides that Seraphina has not violated the treaty, offering forgiveness for possessing a draconian device if she returns Orma's earring. Comonot also waives Orma's penalties because of Orma's desire to protect Comonot, but he will have to discuss the breach of treaty with Queen Lavonda. Asking to talk privately to Comonot, Orma holds Seraphina's arm so she will stay, and he complains to Comonot that the Censors have been harassing him for sixteen years. Insisting that the Censors are outside his jurisdiction, Comonot suggests that Orma should consent to a voluntary excision of his emotions, refusing to allow Orma to prove his fealty by hunting Imlann. When Seraphina asks why an exception can be made for Basind but not her uncle, Comonot jumps to his feet and demands to know who she is. After Orma admits that she is his sister's child, Comonot is furious because Orma reported that Linn died childless; he revokes Orma's scholars' visa and orders him to return home for excision before exiting the room. Crying, Seraphina apologizes, but she had assumed Comonot knew like Eskar did. Orma insists that it is his fault for asking her to stay because he wanted her here, and he begins to suspect that he is emotionally compromised. Still, he will not go home because they will take all of his memories of Linn and Seraphina, despite the fact that he will be declared magna culpa and can be killed on sight. Imlann has remained hidden for sixteen years, so Orma is sure that he can manage hiding for a few years. Returning his earring to Seraphina, he says that she is all that is left of Linn and he values her continued existence, leaving without a farewell. Seraphina stares at nothing for a long time as the full weight of everything that has befallen her on this long night lands on her shoulders. Orma being punished for loving his niece is indicative of dragon culture's derogatory view of human emotions.



Section 10: Chapters 23 & 24

Section 10: Chapters 23 & 24 Summary

The next morning in Chapter 23, Glisselda confronts Seraphina; her encounter with Imlann demonstrates loyalty, so she does not understand why Lucian is angry with her. When Seraphina admits that she lied to Lucian, Glisselda offers to arrange a reconciliation. Late that night, Seraphina wakes to the smell of smoke, visiting her garden when she realizes her rooms are fine. In her mental garden, she finds Fruit Bat lying on her flaming memory box in an attempt to protect her. When she questions him, she learns that his real name is Abdo and he knows three of the other grotesques in reality. Entering one of Linn's memories, Seraphina learns that Imlann and a cabal of ten generals plot against Comonot, and despite the danger to her secret, Seraphina knows that she must share this information.

In Chapter 24, Seraphina learns that Glisselda has ordered a species check on all palace dwellers, plus there is a rumor that Seraphina is a dragon. To prove the rumor false, Guntard asks a table of dragons to smell Seraphina, and though they assure the humans that she is not a dragon, Seraphina realizes from their covert glances that they lied for her. At work, Viridius offers to allow Seraphina to have the next day off, admitting that he knew Linn and knows Seraphina's secret; he worries that she does not take the rumors seriously enough and urges her to hide. As she prepares for Glisselda's music lesson, Seraphina receives a note to meet in the second laundry, but downstairs, Seraphina encounters a horned figure.

Section 10: Chapters 23 & 24 Analysis

In Chapter 23, Seraphina is eager to go to bed because she is worried about Orma and cannot stop thinking about Lucian. She wakes in the afternoon to Princess Glisselda knocking on her door to inform her that dragons are being sent out to search for Imlann, but Glisselda is confused because the story of the encounter with Imlann demonstrates Seraphina's bravery, so she does not understand why Lucian is so mad at her. Seraphina admits that she lied to him because they were scared after facing Imlann and she wanted to reassure him. Glisselda decides to arrange a meeting so they can reconcile because she cannot stand to have them at odds. She also mentions that Josef had been away all day yesterday. Seraphina wonders if Glisselda would be so keen to patch things between her and Lucian if she knew what is in Seraphina's heart. At midnight, Seraphina wakes in a panic because she smells fire, but finding her rooms are fine, she visits her garden. There, she finds Fruit Bat on fire as he clutches her memory box, explaining that it burst into flames when Imlann landed near her, and he threw himself on it so it would not hurt her. Seraphina realizes that she is lucky that Fruit Bat had been there to prevent the memories from overwhelming her. Questioning Fruit Bat about his identity in reality, she learns that his name is Abdo and he lives in an inn with his family. He also knows three other ityasaari, Newt, Misere and Pelican Man from the



garden, but only Seraphina calls him. Moving the box and entering one of Linn's memories, Seraphina feels anger as she flies above a mountain toward a cave after hearing her father talking to his generals about his hoard and, worse, treason. Hiding in the cave, Linn worries that Orma will not know what happened to her, but when her father attacks her and demands to know what she overheard, Imlann decides to let her live, but she cannot tell anyone what she heard; her loyalty to the Ardmagar Comonot is irrelevant because she is in trouble with the Censors and Imlann will speak out against her. Imlann plans to escort her home, forbidding her to return south and intending to marry her off to one of his generals. Linn shoots flame into the ice, causing an avalanche that traps Imlann, making herself a traitor to her family. She hopes that Orma keeps safe from Imlann as Seraphina exits the memory. The memory changes Seraphina because she had felt Linn's struggle with the decision to choose Papa over her family. This earns her daughter's sympathy because she truly cared for Orma, as does Linn's emptiness that is so familiar to Seraphina. Realizing that her mother had known of a cabal hostile to the Ardmagar Comonot, Seraphina decides she cannot hoard these words no matter how much Lucian despises her or Comonot condemns her as a result. Seraphina learning about the cabal of generals working with Imlann foreshadows the need to protect Comonot, while her decision that she must share this information foreshadows the discovery of her secret.

Not knowing what to do next in Chapter 24, Seraphina contacts Orma on the spinet, but he cannot meet her because he must flee, and he cannot risk staying near her because of the Censors. At breakfast, no one will talk to Seraphina, and when she asks why, she learns that Glisselda has ordered a species check and a rumor has spread that Seraphina is a dragon. Rumors that Seraphina is a dragon foreshadow her being subjected to a species check. Insisting that Seraphina is human, Guntard leads her to a table filled with dragons who smell her and squash the rumor, stunning Seraphina that they did not recognize her scent until their looks assure her that they lied about her smell. Seraphina exits the hall without eating breakfast. When she goes to work, Viridius offers to give her the next day off, admitting that he thought she would prefer to avoid the species check. Seraphina objects, but Viridius informs her that he knew Linn and what she was, but he will not reveal Seraphina's secret. Worrying that she does not take the rumors seriously enough, Viridius tells her that she must hide, especially since she has a secret. On the way to give Glisselda's music lesson, Seraphina receives a note asking her to meet the princess downstairs in the second laundry. The laundry smells foul and reminds her of the Infernum, but as Seraphina turns to leave, a dark, horned figure steps into her path.



Section 11: Chapters 25-27

Section 11: Chapters 25-27 Summary

Realizing that the horned figure is just Lady Corongi wearing a hat in Chapter 25, Seraphina is led to a room where Princess Dionne waits. Demanding the truth, Dionne cuts Seraphina's arm, furious when her blood does not indicate that she is a dragon as Lady Corongi's source had reported. Dame Okra Carmine arrives, fortunately, and rescues Seraphina. After Princess Dionne and Lady Corongi hastily exit, Glisselda arrives. Dame Okra asks Glisselda to have someone tend Seraphina's arm, and after stitches are applied, Glisselda is furious to learn that vigilantes had tested her friend's blood. Seraphina panics when Glisselda notices her scales, but she quickly agrees to Glisselda's suggestion that the silver band is a saint's burthen. Shortly after, Dame Okra arrives to convey Seraphina to Papa who will get her to safety.

In Chapter 26, Seraphina apologizes to Papa for everything going wrong; Orma is being sent away, and she had fallen in love with everyone and wants everything that she cannot have, plus she is ashamed to be running away. Papa assures her that she does not have to decide whether she is running away until morning, and when he asks with whom she had fallen in love, Seraphina admits her feelings for Prince Lucian. Papa had been hurt that Linn never trusted him enough to confide that she was a dragon, and he hates that his daughter inherited that deceit. The next morning, Seraphina wakes in Papa's house and goes downstairs where her stepmother, Anne-Marie, and her half-siblings freeze and stare at her. Realizing they do not know that she spent the night there, Seraphina lies that she came to collect something she forgot, going upstairs and deciding to visit Orma before he disappears for good. Her twin sisters, Tessie and Jeann, bring her a letter and a box from Papa which she tucks into her bag before leaving. Since Orma is not at his apartment, Seraphina goes to St. Ida's, and seeing pygegyrian dancers, she recognizes Fruit Bat. When Orma surprises her by grabbing her arm, she tells him her new information about Imlann as learned from Linn's memory, noting that the knights were exiled under false pretenses and the cabal could be anywhere. Orma assures her that the peace treaty is not a ruse to lull Goredd into complacency, but she suggests that the generals may have secretly meant it that way, worrying that war brews in the hearts of the old dragon generals. Basind joins them, claiming their conversation sounds treasonous, and he admits that he has been charged with seeing that Orma reports for his excision. He agrees to wait outside while Orma says goodbye to Seraphina. After Orma sneaks out the back, Basind chases Seraphina, both stopping when they emerge in the midst of a cluster of Sons of St. Ogdo.

In Chapter 27, Seraphina claims that Basind is trying to hurt her, so the Sons detain him, and she is surprised to see Josef, disguised among the Sons. As the guards approach with the royal carriages, Josef and Seraphina both flee, and she takes refuge in the cathedral behind the megaharmonium. She sees Josef talk to a priest, and once he is gone, she follows a monk moving oddly, recognizing him as the Ardmagar



Comonot. She tells him that it is not safe for him to be alone, informing him of what she learned about Imlann and the cabal from Linn's memories, yet Comonot insists that his generals are loyal and Seraphina will have to do better to convince him of a plot. Before she can argue, an arm wraps around her throat, choking her, as someone stabs her in the back.

Section 11: Chapters 25-27 Analysis

In Chapter 25, Seraphina is relieved to realize the horned creature is only Lady Corongi, having mistaken her hat for horns. Offering to lead Seraphina to Glisselda, Lady Corongi mentions Seraphina's adventures with dragons and knights, and that she has also heard that she kissed Prince Lucian. When Seraphina insists those are lies, Lady Corongi claims she has been outmaneuvered as they enter a laundry where Princess Dionne awaits. Princess Dionne demands that Seraphina explain herself, cutting the music teacher's wrist when she questions what she is supposed to explain. They are furious that Seraphina does not bleed silver, indicating she is a dragon, as Lady Corongi had it on good authority that she smelled of saar. Luckily, Dame Okra Carmine enters and demands they release Seraphina, advising Seraphina to wear perfume to cover her saar smell after the other ladies leave because Princess Glisselda is not a fool, so Seraphina should not be one either. Glisselda enters with Millie, and Dame Okra tells them to tend to Seraphina's arm and take her somewhere safe. After Seraphina's arm is stitched, she admits that vigilantes tested her because of the rumor she is a saar. Glisselda is furious, but as she helps her tutor dress, she notices the silver scales on Seraphina's arm and asks if it is a saint's burthen. Seraphina quickly agrees to this way out, claiming she wears a silver girdle to reflect heresy since St. Yirtrudis was her patron on her blessing day. Dame Okra arrives after finding the perfect person to whisk Seraphina away to safety, and she ushers her out the door, toward Papa. Dionne and Corongi's attack on Seraphina fulfills foreshadowing about her being subjected to a species check. Glisselda seeing Seraphina's scales foreshadows the discovery of her secret.

When Seraphina laments her mistakes in Chapter 26, Papa reassures her, even giving the impression that it is alright for her to love Lucian. The way that Seraphina's step-mother and siblings treat her demonstrates why she has always been so lonely since even her family seems to be afraid of her. The letter and box from Papa foreshadows a reassuring meaning when Seraphina opens it. Fulfilling earlier foreshadowing, Seraphina encounters Fruit Bat in reality, strengthening her determination to locate all of her grotesques. Seraphina tells Orma about the cabal of generals, foreshadowing her intent to protect Comonot. Basind's invasive presence foreshadows his nefarious purposes, especially when Orma escapes him causing him to pursue Seraphina.

The sight of Josef talking to a priest in Chapter 27 foreshadows danger and reinforces Seraphina's belief that he is Imlann in disguise. The fact that Seraphina is stabbed while talking to Comonot fulfills this foreshadowing and proves that there is a threat against Comonot, reinforcing Seraphina's desire to protect him for Goredd's sake.



Section 12: Chapters 28-30

Section 12: Chapters 28-30 Summary

In Chapter 28, Comonot kills the priest, though the sword could not penetrate Seraphina's scales, but he is confused by the emotions urging him to protect her. Seraphina is stunned to recognize the priest as Thomas Broadwick. When Lucian arrives, Seraphina uses her saint's burthen as an excuse for why the attempted stabbing did not injure her. Discussing the situation with Lucian, Seraphina admits to her past with Thomas and even presents her quig idol which rants about dragons transforming into humans when Lucian twists its head. Still, Lucian suspects Seraphina of lying to him, but when she insists that she has never wanted to lie to him, he apologizes for his harshness and offers his protection, pointing out that he cannot help her if he does not know what is going on; yet, he reminds her that he considers her a friend despite their conflicts.

Back at the castle in Chapter 29, Seraphina goes to her rooms because it hurts too much to be so close to Lucian, and she plans to disappear tomorrow, after the Treaty Eve celebrations. Her satchel falls open revealing the box and letter from Papa, and the letter explains that he had another of Linn's instruments or he could not have destroyed the first; he regrets the look of betrayal Seraphina gave him when he destroyed the other, admitting, "I was the monster in our household, not you" (page 356). Having made peace with his past and future, he tells Seraphina not to be afraid of what she feels she must do. Winding a strip around her scaly wrist to remind herself that she is not alone, Seraphina heads for the door because there is work to do that can only be done by her. As she visits Comonot to discuss her cabal theory, he admits that he has been a superstitious fool, and he questions her about his emotions which he cannot understand. Regarding the cabal, Comonot points out that Seraphina's information is twenty years old and that it would be easier to kill him in Tanamoot, plus the attacker was one of the Sons of St. Ogdo. Realizing that a clever dragon would work with the Sons of St. Ogdo so they could do his dirty work and be prosecuted, thus also getting rid of the anti-dragon problem, Seraphina leaves to find someone who will listen. She runs into Lucian in the hallway and says she needs to tell him something she has not yet confessed, but Glisselda needs to hear it too, so they head toward the Blue Salon.

In Chapter 30, Seraphina tells Lucian and Glisselda about seeing Josef talk to Thomas before he stabbed her, noting it would be wise for a disguised dragon to assume an anti-dragon sentiment in order to quit the room when dragons enter and avoid being smelled out. When Lucian argues that they need a source, Glisselda insists that Seraphina is a reliable source, yet their focus needs to be on keeping Comonot safe until he leaves tomorrow. Lucian tightens security while Glisselda and Seraphina will take turns babysitting Comonot, but Seraphina secretly plans to gather the other half breeds because they need all the help they can get. After mentally contacting Abdo and Lars to inform them of the situation, she dresses, wearing Orma's earring on a chain. Lucian praises her appearance at the grand feast. As the ball begins, he tells her that



Glisselda stored coffee on the stage in case Seraphina gets sleepy, and he tells her to save him a dance before disappearing into the crowd.

Section 12: Chapters 28-30 Analysis

In Chapter 28, the attacker is dismayed as his dagger fails to even dent Seraphina's scaly midriff. After Ardmagar Comonot draws his sword and dispatches the priest, Seraphina rolls him over to see Thomas Broadwick. Comonot freezes, uncertain who saved whose life. While they wait in the bishop's study for the Queen's Guard, he notes that he still finds Seraphina repulsive, but he is now in her debt which is why he protected her; the emotions in his body irritate him since he cares nothing for Seraphina, yet his body wants things he would never want. Upon Prince Lucian's arrival, Comonot explains what happened, and Seraphina uses her supposed saint's burthen as an excuse for why she had not been wounded by Thomas's attempt to stab her. After sending guards to escort Comonot back to Castle Orison, Lucian asks why Seraphina had been at the cathedral and why Thomas would want to kill her. Pulling out the lizard figurine, she tells him about her earlier encounter with Thomas, and Lucian, wondering what the figure does, twists the lizard's head, invoking a voice in quigutl mootya which rants about dragons transforming into saarantra. Still, Lucian does not believe this explains the attack, and when he accuses her of lying, Seraphina insists that she has never wanted to lie to him. Noting that it must be difficult to be forced to lie when she does not want to, Lucian apologizes for his harshness, but this is the second day Seraphina has been stabbed; he had overheard Princess Dionne lamenting Lady Corongi's faulty intelligence and thus learned of that attack. Lucian offers protection, but he cannot help if he does not know what is going on; Seraphina wishes she could tell him, and though she thinks of the conversation with Papa, she knows that more than scales stand between Lucian and herself. Lucian reminds her that he considers himself her friend as he escorts her home.

Chapter 28 serves to fulfill the foreshadowing concerning Thomas Broadwick's enmity toward Seraphina once she discovers that he was her attacker. Comonot's confusion about his emotions foreshadows his desire to understand them. Seraphina continues to lie to Lucian to protect her secret, and his loyalty to her, despite her lies, foreshadows Lucian loving Seraphina.

In Chapter 29, Seraphina's love for Lucian is further developed as she plans to run away, but fulfilling foreshadowing, she finds comfort in Papa's letter and gift, and this also reinforces her plan to protect Comonot and see Imlann brought to justice. When she talks to Comonot about the cabal, he does not believe that he is really in danger, so unable to convince him, Seraphina decides to talk to Lucian and Glisselda about the threat, foreshadowing their involvement in her scheme to protect Comonot. In Chapter 30, foreshadowing is fulfilled as Seraphina tells Lucian and Glisselda about the cabal of generals, effectively involving them in her scheme to protect the Ardmagar Comonot. Glisselda shows her loyalty to Seraphina by insisting that her music teacher is a reliable source, even though Seraphina cannot provide proof of her claims. The mention of Josef talking to Thomas before the attack reinforces everyone's belief that Josef is



Imlann in disguise. The plan to protect Comonot fulfills earlier foreshadowing while now foreshadowing their success. Seraphina's plan to gather the other half breeds foreshadows their role in protecting Comonot. Lucian's comment on Seraphina's appearance foreshadows his admission of love.



Section 13: Chapters 31 & 32

Section 13: Chapters 31 & 32 Summary

In Chapter 31, Seraphina tells Dame Okra about her fear for Comonot's safety and asks her to observe him discreetly. Dame Okra agrees, excited when she learns that there are other half breeds as well. Having been mentally directed to Abdo, he assures her that he will not fail to do what she needs, showing the scales in his mouth that inhibit him from speech. As the night drags on, Josef dances continually. When Glisselda performs, her playing is mediocre, but her poise and presence make for a delightful performance. When Glisselda finishes, she announces that her teacher will now perform, so after asking Lars to keep an eye on Comonot, Seraphina plays one of Linn's melodies with Papa's lyrics, feeling that the three of them are together for a moment. Finishing, she sees Papa's pain and his determination not to let it get the best of him as she feels her own pain at the sight of Lucian and Glisselda together; still, this performance is different from the funeral since she is surrounded by friends and feels that she belongs. By 3 A.M., Seraphina is exhausted and considers taking a nap, but just then, Lucian asks her to dance, and the music allows her to love him for a moment. She is relieved to notice that Comonot looks tired also. After the song, Lucian leads Seraphina to her coffee and also gives her a volume of Pontheus' "Love and Work" about thought, self-knowledge, friendship and happiness. Dame Okra captures Seraphina's attention to tell her that Comonot claims he is going to take a nap, but Dame Okra does not believe him. Lucian insists that a guard accompany Comonot who mocks Lucian for not knowing where his aunt is, showing that he is as stupid as they are. As Comonot runs off, Lucian and Seraphina follow, and when Comonot asks who the assassin intended to stab before settling for Seraphina, he admits that Princess Dionne is in his rooms so Lucian sprints toward the royal family's wing.

As Comonot and Seraphina reach the room in Chapter 32, a guard rushes out for the physician while Lucian helps Dionne from the floor as she vomits and proclaims, "Apsig! Wine!" (page 388). Comonot assures Lucian that the wine does not belong to him, and when Lucian accuses him of playacting at being human when he knows nothing about it, Comonot admits that he does not understand his feelings, causing Seraphina to suggest that he feels guilt. She tells him to help Dionne, but she must make sure no one else dies tonight, and when she asks Lucian where Glisselda and Queen Lavonda are, they rush to the queen's room. Seraphina is sure that Josef gave the wine to Dionne; she also believes that Princess Dionne is the one who was meant to be killed at the cathedral but Thomas acted impulsively after recognizing Seraphina. Finding the queen's study empty, Lucian mobilizes the guard while Seraphina mentally contacts Abdo, Lars, and Okra whose instincts point her toward Lucian's tower. Though Glisselda has a key to the tower, Lucian insists it is implausible that she would be there, yet they hear four voices and laughter. They open the door as Queen Lavonda, Princess Glisselda and Lady Corongi toast the new year with glasses of wine while Josef holds the bottle in his hand.



Section 13: Chapters 31 & 32 Analysis

Fulfilling foreshadowing in Chapter 31, Seraphina enlists the aid of Dame Okra, Abdo, and Lars in Comonot's protection detail. Glisselda encourages Seraphina to perform, again showing her devotion to her teacher, but this performance contrasts with Seraphina's earlier performance because she finally feels that she belongs. Seraphina's interactions with Lucian in this chapter foreshadow the declaration of their love, but their moment together is interrupted by Dame Okra alerting them that Comonot is trying to leave. When Comonot mocks Lucian for not protecting his own family, he questions who Thomas intended to stab at the cathedral, indicating that he was supposed to meet Princess Dionne. This foreshadows the attacks on the royal family of Goredd.

In Chapter 32, Josef's guilt appears evident when Princess Dionne is discovered to have been poisoned by wine given to her by Josef. Comonot's bombardment of emotions further foreshadows his desire to understand what is going on in his head. The attack on Princess Dionne fulfills foreshadowing of the attack against the royal family which is further fulfilled when Lucian and Seraphina find Josef giving wine to Queen Lavonda, Princess Glisselda, and Lady Corongi. Josef's presence in this group further indicates his guilt and that he is actually Imlann in disguise.



Section 14: Chapters 33-35

Section 14: Chapters 33-35 Summary

In Chapter 33, Lucian warns the women against drinking the poisoned wine, but Queen Lavonda has already had a sip, so Dame Okra leads her to the doctor. Lady Corongi glares at Josef who insists he is innocent and swears that Lady Corongi gave him this wine and the wine he delivered to Princess Dionne. As Lady Corongi objects, a horrifying voice calls her an imposter, and Lucian opens his hand to reveal Seraphina's lizard figurine. When Lady Corongi grabs Glisselda and runs, Lucian orders the guard to seal the tunnels as he and Seraphina chase Lady Corongi, fearing for Glisselda's safety. Activating Orma's earring, Seraphina also mentally contacts Abdo, asking him and Lars to go to the northwest side of the castle and warning that they may face a hostile dragon. The old man holding Glisselda transforms into Imlann so Seraphina pleads with him to take her with him, claiming that she has special abilities that could help him in his quest. Before Imlann can decide whether to trust her, Abdo and Lars attack him, causing him to release Glisselda and take to the air with Abdo still clinging to him. Seraphina is relieved to see Orma flying toward his father.

In Chapter 34, Imlann and Orma battle in the air, but Orma does not use his fire for fear of harming Abdo. Another dragon enters the sky but does not engage, and when Lucian is surprised that the dragon does not help Orma, Seraphina decides that she cannot lie anymore, though the offer to return to normal is tempting; she admits that Orma is her uncle, shocking Lucian at the idea of interbreeding. The third dragon, Basind, lands and admits that he has been gathering information on Orma for the Censors to which he belongs, and Orma will be excised for putting his half-human niece before his own people. As Orma is thrown into the cathedral's bell tower, Glisselda offers him asylum since he is fighting a traitor to his own kind, but Basind does not care about peace because the Censors predate peace and will be around after peace fails. As people gather in the streets to watch the dragons fight, Seraphina worries about Orma as Imlann sets him on fire and he falls. Hearing a screech, Seraphina looks up as Eskar and her petit ard return; yet, she feels an odd sorrow as Imlann charges them which is nothing short of suicide. She cries as Eskar beheads her maternal grandfather. Mentally searching for Abdo, she is relieved that Abdo is alive and Orma is still breathing. Glisselda asks if Seraphina can see her companions in her mind, and she is awed to learn that her music teacher can only see the seventeen half dragons. Lucian is stunned into disbelief even as Seraphina insists that this is the explanation he has been looking for. Revealing her scales, she does not look at their faces because she cannot bear to see their disgust. Returning to the cave, Seraphina leans on Lars, weeping half for Orma and half for herself.

In Chapter 35, Glisselda takes charge of the kingdom because her mother is dead and her grandmother is sick. She receives a letter from the cabal of ten generals demanding the return of Comonot and threatening war if he is not returned. She asks Comonot to convince her not to hand him over since refusal means war. Discussing the matter with



her advisors, Glisselda notes that she is willing to break the peace treaty in order to save it after confirming that the Regent of Samsam and Count Pesavolta of Ninys will not wage war on Goredd. Addressing the half dragons, Glisselda asks if all of them are so talented, and Seraphina admits that she believes they could be formidable together and she believes she can find the others if she looks. Glisselda grants her permission to search for the other half breeds, also offering all needed aid to accomplish this. The Regent of Samsam does not understand who they are, so Papa explains about his wife and half dragon daughter. Count Pesavolta cannot believe that Glisselda is willing to trust these abominations, and when he points out that Dame Okra is already willing to choose Goredd over Ninys, she insists that she will choose what is right and expects him to do the same. Comonot claims that the division is no longer about humans versus dragons but whether to preserve or destroy the peace, and dragons have learned from humans that they are stronger together; "we need not take on the entire world alone. Let us stand together now for the peace" (page 425). Glisselda hugs Comonot, removing all doubt and showing that she will not turn him over to the generals. Goredd will go to war and fight for peace.

Section 14: Chapters 33-35 Analysis

Josef's guilt seems determined as Lucian and Seraphina find him administering wine to Queen Lavonda, Lady Corongi and Princess Glisselda; however, he insists he is innocent and transfers blame to Lady Corongi. Regarding the cathedral, he claims that he was delivered a coded message for the Sons of St. Ogdo with whom Lady Corongi put him in touch since she supplies them with intelligence from the palace. The lizard figurine accuses Lady Corongi of being an imposter, foreshadowing the revelation that Josef is innocent and Lady Corongi is actually Imlann in disguise. This foreshadowing is quickly fulfilled as Lady Corongi tries to escape. Fulfilling earlier foreshadowing, Seraphina reaches out to her half breed friends for assistance, foreshadowing the danger they will face when confronting Imlann. Lucian wants Seraphina to turn back because he does not know what he would do if she were hurt, again foreshadowing his love for the half dragon. An old man holds Glisselda, causing Seraphina to realize that Imlann has been disguised at court for most of Glisselda's life, biding his time. All doubt is removed as he transforms into the dragon Imlann. Though he cannot fly, he can still spit fire, so taking the only available course of action, Seraphina tells Imlann that she is his granddaughter and asks him to take her with him, insisting that her visions and her ability to mentally contact other half breeds could be useful in the upcoming conflict. Though he has killed half of the royal family and the Ardmagar Comonot, Goredd is not weak enough for him to just walk in, so he will need her help. As Imlann expresses skepticism that Seraphina would renounce her loyalty to Prince Lucian, Lars plays his war pipes while Abdo jumps on Imlann's neck, forcing him to release Glisselda before taking to the air with Abdo clinging to his neck. Though Lucian notes that her lying saved them again, Seraphina weeps with relief as she sees Orma hurtling through the air toward Imlann.

Orma shows his humanity in Chapter 34 as he tries to avoid hurting Abdo while fighting Imlann. Fulfilling earlier foreshadowing, Seraphina shares her secret. Basind's



admission that he has been spying on Orma for the Censors fulfills earlier foreshadowing regarding his nefarious purposes. Glisselda pardons Orma for his crimes because of his services against Imlann, foreshadowing him fleeing. As Orma begins to lose, Seraphina is relieved to see Eskar returning, foreshadowing Imlann's demise. She is equally happy to realize that Abdo and Orma are both still alive. Showing her scales and fulfilling foreshadowing, Seraphina fears her friends' reactions to her secret. Lucian's reaction foreshadows the revelation of his love for Seraphina.

In Chapter 35, the palace is in an uproar; Princess Dionne is dead, and Queen Lavonda barely lives. While Glisselda sees to her grandmother, Lucian questions Basind, and Lars leads Seraphina to Viridius's chambers to rest after revealing her true nature to Glisselda and Lucian. The next morning, Glisselda summons Seraphina to the queen's study where Lucian, Papa, Dame Okra and Abdo also wait with Comonot and the ambassadors to other neighboring nations. Glisselda announces that since her mother is dead and her grandmother is incapacitated, she must speak, decide and act on Queen Lavonda's behalf. She has received a letter from ten generals who declare themselves the rightful rulers of Tanamoot and demand the return of the Ardmagar Comonot for making treaties and alliances detrimental to dragonkind and having emotions; they threaten to declare war if Comonot is not returned within three days. Though Lady Corongi has convinced Glisselda that dragons are weak and demoralized, the fight between Imlann and Orma has persuaded her that humans cannot last long against the dragons, so Comonot will need to convince her not to give him back.

Ambassador Fulda suspects that the older generation will stand with the cabal, but the youth will want peace to continue, so this could lead to an intergenerational war. When someone points out that Glisselda would be involving Goredd in a civil war and that she would need to break the treaty to save Comonot, she notes that she may have to break the treaty in order to save it, and she asks the Regent of Samsam and Count Pesavolta of Ninys if they will renegotiate their treaties banishing her knights since she cannot risk war unless they revive dracomachia. They agree, and Papa agrees to help Glisselda draft the necessary documents. Glisselda is forced to explain the presence of the half dragons to her allies present, but Comonot gives a moving speech about the importance of humans and dragons working together, cementing Glisselda's intent to stand by him against the cabal.



Section 15: Chapters 36 & 37

Section 15: Chapters 36 & 37 Summary

After the regent and count leave in Chapter 36, Glisselda admits that Lucian had been right about them taking it poorly, but he insists they would have learned about half dragons eventually and they will get over it. Since Lucian still will not look at her, Seraphina knows he is not used to the idea either. When Papa apologizes for no longer being able to live in this prison, the Ardmagar Comonot is stunned that the man who defends the treaty lured Linn from draconian ways, and he does not understand why he cannot see what she saw; however as Papa leaves, Seraphina sees what Comonot does not: a core of decency, his struggle to do right, the grief of a husband, and the fear of a father. Comonot also tells Seraphina that Orma is at the seminary's infirmary, and Eskar will spirit him away tonight because Comonot has pardoned him. Admitting that his opinions about what dragons should learn have become calcified, he asks Seraphina to be his teacher, apologizing for how he treated Linn and telling Seraphina to say goodbye to her uncle. At the infirmary, Orma tells Seraphina that he trusts Eskar, and when he felt Abdo dance, he had been happy, despite his injuries, but he had also been saddened by Imlann's death and at the thought that Seraphina would weep when he was excised. Since he cannot bare the thought of her being alone, Seraphina assures him that she is not alone, and she will find others of her kind. Orma believes that someone should love her, and though he is unsure whether Linn was right when she said love is not a disease, he could not allow them to cut Linn and Seraphina out of him because he holds them close like the sun. After he falls asleep, Seraphina leaves, and looking at the sun outside, she promises Orma that she will hold it close, even if it burns. She hurries home because she has a prince to find.

In Chapter 37, Princess Glisselda appears on a balcony of the palace, and her herald reads her response to the generals of Tanamoot: Goredd rejects their claim to Tanamoot and will not turn Comonot over because he is their ally and Tanamoot's legitimate ruler. Furthermore, peace has changed their world for the better, and she will not allow the generals to drag them back into the past. Inside the castle, Seraphina finds Glisselda crying over her mother's death, and Glisselda assures her that she thinks no less of her for being half dragon. At Glisselda's request, Seraphina goes to find Lucian, and her heart breaks a little as she heads to the East Tower and finds him on the parapet. Since the truth is out now, she offers to answer his questions, and because he wants to know everything, she tries to explain her life. She also admits that she loves him though she knows it is wrong because Glisselda needs him and she is half monster. Insisting that Seraphina is not a monster, Lucian tells her about how Rufus told him he was mischievous when he was younger because he needed a purpose in life. Lucian prayed to St. Clare to show him the way, promising to always tell the truth if she complied, and at Papa's wedding, the first time Lucian was allowed to leave the palace in years, he heard Seraphina sing and never forgot it. Thinking that both of their mothers were reckless in love, Seraphina wonders if they were not as foolish as she and Lucian had taken them for being; maybe love is really worth it. As Seraphina sang at Papa's



wedding, Lucian heard St. Clare say "the truth will out" (page 445) because Seraphina embodied the truth that could not be concealed, and he knew he was called to investigate the truth of things. He never lies, but he hopes to avoid a trap where he is caught between the truth and hurting someone dear by uttering the truth. Seraphina both hopes and dreads this truth. Lucian wonders if he could have saved his aunt if he had not been so preoccupied with Seraphina, but struggling his entire life to put thought before feeling makes him unworthy because he cannot speak the truth to her; however, that is not true because he always saw the truth in her, and "your lies didn't stop me loving you; your truth hasn't stopped me either" (page 447). Seraphina is overcome as he kisses her scaly wrist, but Lucian continues that he is prepared to leave the truth of his love unspoken until Glisselda is settled into her crown and the war is over. He does not know whether Glisselda will release him from his promise, but when Seraphina argues that Glisselda needs him, he insists that she needs them both and for them not to be so distracted by each other that they are unable to do their parts in the war. Seraphina agrees to worry about love later, certain their day will come. When Lucian insists he will not kiss her again because they must keep things to a minimum for now, she kisses him, leading to the best moment of her life in which she feels as if she can fly. Lucian comments that they would run away together in a romance, and though Seraphina sees how to break his resolve to stay, she does not want to do so because it would change who he is, so they will proceed in their own way, not recklessly, because that is the only way that things will work between them. She agrees not to kiss him again because she knows that their day will come, and after he leaves, Seraphina looks out at the city, seeing that everyone is beautiful and everyone is monstrous. She has had her share of beauty today, so tomorrow, she will replenish the world. Throwing her shoes into the night and laughing, she knows that though the world is full of war and uncertainty, she will not face it alone because "I had love and work, friends and a people. I had a place to stand" (page 451).

Section 15: Chapters 36 & 37 Analysis

The penultimate chapter fulfills earlier foreshadowing regarding Glisselda's acceptance of Seraphina's dual nature and her continued loyalty; however, Lucian's aversion to this new information seems to indicate that he will not be able to accept it. Fulfilling earlier foreshadowing, Comonot expresses curiosity about his emotions and even asks Seraphina to teach him about emotions. Furthermore, as a result of these newfound emotions, Comonot has encouraged Eskar to sneak away with Orma so his emotions will not be excised. When Seraphina visits Orma, he admits that he loves her and cannot stand the thought of leaving her alone, but Seraphina further foreshadows her plans to find others of her kind as she reassures him that she will not be alone. Their conversation about love foreshadows Seraphina's confession to Prince Lucian that she is in love with him, and it also foreshadows his reciprocated love.

Chapter 37 shows Glisselda taking responsibility for the kingdom as she announces that Goredd will stand behind Comonot as the rightful ruler of Tanamoot. Seraphina's conversation with Josef about his past clarifies his odd behavior throughout the novel: As the crowd cheers and seeks audience with the princess, Seraphina enters the



palace and is confronted by Josef who is distraught about the truth of her parentage because nowhere is exclusively human. His mother raised Lars as his equal, and when Lars shows his scales at age seven, Josef's father killed their mother and would have killed Lars, but Josef killed his father, took his great-grandmother's name and threatened to kill Lars if he saw him again. Now, he will return to Samsam and make the Regent see the kind of sense that puts humans over animals. After a brief conversation with Glisselda, which fulfills foreshadowing concerning both women's loyalty to one another, Seraphina seeks Lucian. Now that her secret has been revealed, she tries to tell him all about herself, ending with a confession that she loves him which fulfills the continuous foreshadowing throughout the novel. Lucian also tells Seraphina about his past and explains his affinity for the truth, but he ends his explanation by admitting that he loves her, despite her half dragon heritage. This completes the fulfillment of foreshadowing regarding the romantic relationship between Lucian and Seraphina. Unfortunately, their kingdom is getting ready to go to war, so both of them agree that they must wait to announce their love until the danger has passed. Still, Seraphina is hopeful and happy because she knows that she loves and is loved and that she is not as alone as she had always suspected. Most importantly, her friends and loved ones now know her secret and truly accept her for who she is rather than who they think she is.



Characters

Seraphina Dombegh

Seraphina Dombegh is the narrator and main character of this book. She is a half-dragon, born to a dragon mother and human father, and she strives to keep her heritage a secret for fear of how she and her father will be treated and punished. An excellent musician, Seraphina works as the assistant to the court composer, Viridius. She also falls in love with Prince Lucian. Seraphina is secretly a half dragon who is mentally connected to seventeen other half dragons through her mental garden, and she also has access to some of her dead mother's memories. After she sings at the funeral of Prince Rufus, whom the people suspect was killed by a dragon, Seraphina worries more than ever about her secret being discovered. Orma, her dragon teacher and uncle, receives a coin that belongs to his father, Imlann, and he suspects that Imlann is plotting against the Ardmagar Comonot. Thomas Broadwick nearly kills Seraphina for being a quig lover when he finds her in possession of a quig-made lizard figurine. During the preparations to celebrate Treaty Eve, Seraphina is excited to encounter three of the people from her mental garden in reality. When two exiled knights report seeing a rogue dragon, Seraphina and Prince Lucian visit the knights' cave where Sir James confirms that the rogue dragon is Imlann. On the way home, Imlann appears and threatens Lucian and Seraphina, causing her to summon Orma using his earring. Furious at Seraphina's lies, Lucian arrests both of them. Queen Lavonda pardons Seraphina, but Comonot orders Orma to have his emotions excised. Due to a rumor that Seraphina is a dragon, Lady Corongi and Princess Dionne attack and bleed her.

Later, Seraphina is bombarded by her mother's memory, learning that Imlann and a cabal of generals plot against Comonot, but as she tries to convince Comonot that he is in danger, a priest she had seen talking to Josef stabs her, causing her to suspect that Josef is actually Imlann in disguise. When she tells Lucian and Glisselda of her suspicions, they agree to keep a close watch on Comonot throughout the Treaty Eve festivities. Realizing that no one knows where Princess Dionne is, Lucian, Seraphina and Comonot rush to her room to find she has been poisoned by wine given to her by Josef. They search for the rest of the royal family and find Lady Corongi, Princess Glisselda and Queen Lavonda toasting the new year with Josef who insists that he received the wine from Lady Corongi. After Seraphina's lizard figurine calls Lady Corongi an imposter, she turns into Imlann and carries Glisselda away. With the help of her grotesques, Seraphina is able to retrieve Glisselda while Orma battles Imlann in the air. Orma is injured, but a group of dragons kill Imlann. Seraphina confesses that she is a half dragon, a fact that Glisselda accepts but Lucian struggles with. When the cabal of generals sends a note to Goredd demanding Comonot be returned so they can try him for his crimes against dragons, Glisselda, acting in the place of Queen Lavonda who is still ill from the wine, refuses to relinquish Comonot, deciding to go to war in order to continue the peace. Seraphina admits to Lucian that she loves him, and though he returns her feelings, they must wait until the war ends and Glisselda is settled in her new role as queen. Seraphina is content because she is no longer alone.



Prince Lucian Kiggs

The bastard prince of Goredd, Prince Lucian Kiggs is Princess Glisselda's cousin as well as her fiancé. Working as the Captain of the Guard, he befriends Seraphina and falls in love with her. When two exiled knights report seeing a rogue dragon, Seraphina and Prince Lucian visit the knights' cave where Sir James confirms that the rogue dragon is Imlann. On the way home, Imlann appears and threatens Lucian and Seraphina, causing her to summon Orma using his earring. Furious at Seraphina's lies, Lucian arrests both of them. Later, Seraphina is bombarded by her mother's memory, learning that Imlann and a cabal of generals plot against Comonot, but as she tries to convince Comonot that he is in danger, a priest she had seen talking to Josef stabs her, causing her to suspect that Josef is actually Imlann in disguise. When she tells Lucian and Glisselda of her suspicions, they agree to keep a close watch on Comonot throughout the Treaty Eve festivities.

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Princess Glisselda

Princess Glisselda is the second heir to the throne of Goredd until her mother's death makes her first heir. She is also Seraphina's music student, and Glisselda befriends her music teacher. She supports Seraphina and Lucian's investigations into the rogue dragon plaguing her lands, even after learning that Seraphina is half-dragon. Glisselda takes charge after her mother dies and when her grandmother is ill, announcing that Goredd will support the Ardmagar Comonot against the cabal of generals attempting to usurp his authority over Tanamoot.

Orma

Orma is Seraphina's uncle and dragon tutor who saves her life three times. He suspects his father, Imlann, of killing Prince Rufus, but gets in trouble when he responds to



Seraphina's call for aid using his draconian earring and is ordered to return home and submit to a voluntary excision of his emotions. Orma fights Imlann after he attacks Princess Glisselda, and he is injured. Because of this, Comonot pardons Orma and asks Eskar to spirit him away in secret.

Ardmagar Comonot

The Ardmagar Comonot is the leader of Tanamoot and arranges the treaty between Goredd and Tanamoot, along with Queen Lavonda. He visits Goredd to celebrate the anniversary of the treaty, but he disbelieves Seraphina's insistence that there is a plot against him. Imlann and his cabal of generals claim control of Tanamoot and demand that Glisselda return Comonot to be tried for his crimes against dragonkind; however, Glisselda decides to stand beside Comonot in order to continue peace. Comonot does not comprehend human emotions, and he asks Seraphina to be his teacher.

Princess Dionne

Princess Dionne, Glisselda's mother, attacks Seraphina to test her blood after Lady Corongi shares her suspicion that Seraphina is a dragon. Dionne dies after drinking wine given to her by Josef.

Queen Lavonda

Queen Lavonda, ruler of Goredd, arranged the treaty between humans and dragons with the Ardmagar Comonot. She is irritated by her people's continued fear of dragons. Queen Lavonda grows ill after being poisoned by Lady Corongi's wine, so Princess Glisselda acts in her place when the cabal of dragon generals demand Comonot's return.

Claude Dombegh

Claude Dombegh, AKA Papa, is Seraphina's human father who lies about his wife's species since he did not learn that Linn was a dragon until she died in childbirth. Claude urges Seraphina to keep her heritage a secret, but by the end of the novel, he loses his fear of being punished and tells his daughter to do what feels right.

Linn

Linn is Seraphina's dragon mother who died in childbirth and left memories for her daughter, allowing Seraphina to recognize Orma as her uncle and to learn about the cabal of generals plotting against the Ardmagar Comonot.



Viridius

Viridius is the court composer who Seraphina works for. He knew Linn and is aware of Seraphina's mixed heritage.

Prince Rufus

Prince Rufus was killed and decapitated during a hunting trip. His missing head causes the citizens of Goredd to suspect that a dragon killed Rufus, and this leads to an increase in dracophobia.

Undersecretary Eskar

Undersecretary Eskar is a dragon emissary who spirits Orma away after Comonot excuses him from having his emotions excised when he fights Imlann.

Basind

Basind is a young dragon assigned to Orma's tutelage, but he is actually a member of the Censors, sent to spy on Orma and ensure that Orma reports for the excision of his memories and emotions.

Lady Corongi

Lady Corongi is Princess Glisselda's governess. She is actually Imlann in disguise, and as such, she plots against the royal family of Goredd.

Imlann

Imlann, a dragon, is Orma's father and Seraphina's maternal grandfather who vanished sixteen years ago. Disguised as Lady Corongi, Imlann plots against the Ardmagar Comonot and the royal family of Goredd, planning to usurp control of Tanamoot with the aid of a cabal of generals. When his true identity is revealed, he fights Orma and is killed by Eskar and her petit ard.

Dame Okra Carmine

Dame Okra Carmine, AKA Miss Fusspots, is one of Seraphina's half-dragon grotesques, as well as the Ninysh ambassador to Goredd. She aids Seraphina with the threat against Comonot and Goredd.



Lars

Lars, AKA Loud Lad, is one of Seraphina's half-dragon grotesques and Viridius's protege. He is also a musician as well as half-brother to Josef, Earl of Apsig. Lars helps Seraphina protect the Ardmagar Comonot against Imlann's plots.

Josef, Earl of Apsig

Josef, Earl of Apsig, is a member of court in Goredd. He hates dragons, and Seraphina suspects that he is actually Imlann in disguise because of circumstantial evidence. Lady Corongi sets Josef up to take the blame for poisoning the royal family of Goredd, but when her true identity as Imlann is discovered, Josef is freed.



Objects/Places

Goredd

Goredd is the main setting of Seraphina. It is the kingdom ruled by Queen Lavonda who arranged a somewhat precarious peace treaty with the Ardmagar Comonot, ruler of Tanamoot.

Castle Orison

Castle Orison is the home of Goredd's royal family, and as the assistant to the court composer, Seraphina also resides in the palace.

Comonot's Treaty

Comonot's Treaty is the peace treaty between the dragons of Tanamoot and the humans of Goredd, and it is celebrated annually.

Garden of Grotesques

Seraphina creates a mental garden for the seventeen grotesques she has visions about, and she tends the garden daily to prevent these visions from overwhelming her. When several of her grotesques appear in her real life, she learns that they are half dragons like she is.

Blue Salon

When Princess Glisselda holds a soiree in the Blue Salon, Seraphina is irritated by the humans' derogatory comments about dragons. After Queen Lavonda arrives with the dragons and chides Glisselda for not inviting them, Seraphina encourages Glisselda and Lucian to socialize with the dragons.

St. Ida's Conservatory

Orma has his office at St. Ida's Conservatory, and Seraphina visits him to inform him about the knights seeing a rogue dragon.

Quighole

Quighole is a portion of town where the quigutls and dragons reside, and it is considered inappropriate for young ladies. Seraphina dines with Orma and Basind in an



establishment in Quighole after the owner of the Mallet & Mullet refuses to serve Basind because he is a dragon.

Mootya

Mootya is the language of the dragons which Seraphina understands but avoids speaking near humans for fear her secret will be discovered.

Tanamoot

Tanamoot is the land of the dragons over which the Ardmagar Comonot rules. Imlann and a cabal of generals conspire to kill Goredd's royal family and Comonot so they can take control of Tanamoot, but Princess Glisselda announces that Goredd will stand behind Comonot, even though that means war with Tanamoot.

Orma's Earring

Orma gives Seraphina one of his earrings, a draconian device that allows her to contact him if she is in danger. Seraphina activates the earring during her encounter with Imlann, causing Prince Lucian to arrest her for possessing the illegal draconian device; however, Queen Lavonda offers to forgive Seraphina if she returns Orma's earring. Later, after hearing that he must flee to avoid excision, Orma returns the earring to his niece so he can protect her if she is in danger because he values her continued existence.



Themes

Racism

One of the predominant, recurring themes in *Seraphina* is the racism exhibited toward the dragons or saar. This theme appears from the beginning as the Prologue notes that Claude hides the truth about his dead wife's heritage, even from his own daughter. Prince Rufus's death stirs up a bout of dracophobia because his missing head suggests that a dragon killed him. The timing is unfortunate since this tragedy occurs only two weeks before Treaty Eve. The Sons of St. Odgo are a hate group who attack Basind on the street after the funeral. Because of the attitude against dragons, Seraphina fears anyone learning that Orma is a dragon and that she is half dragon. When Princess Glisselda expresses derogatory beliefs about dragons, Seraphina chides her, explaining that the dragons agreed to the truce because they found humans to be interesting, not because humans were superior. Seraphina is subjected to this racism when Thomas Broadwick informs her that he had been tempted to kill her just for possessing a quig idol.

Queen Lavonda is furious that her granddaughter does not invite their dragon guests to her soiree, so Seraphina encourages Glisselda and Lucian to include the dragons in the festivities, though she is disturbed by some of the comments she overhears other guests make. Lady Corongi expresses her resentment at Seraphina's interference because she hopes that Glisselda will resume war with the dragons once she takes the throne. Seraphina also experiences this racism when the owner of the Mallet & Mullet turns her and Orma away because he will not allow Basind, a dragon, to dine in his establishment. After Seraphina and Lucian encounter Imlann, rumors spread through court that Seraphina is a dragon, and this leads to Princess Dionne and Lady Corongi's attack to bleed her and determine whether the rumor is true. Seraphina's stepmother and half-siblings know her secret and seem to be afraid of her, another factor that leads to her perpetual loneliness. In the cathedral, Thomas stabs Seraphina, further perpetuating the cycle of hatred. Seraphina begins to suspect that Josef is Imlann in disguise because of his hatred for dragons, realizing that this would be a clever stance for a hidden dragon to take; however, his innocence is eventually discovered when Lady Corongi's guilt is made evident. After the fight between Orma and Imlann, Seraphina confesses her draconian heritage to Lucian and Glisselda. Glisselda accepts her immediately, and though Lucian struggles with the notion, he admits that the truth does not prevent his love for Seraphina, showing that love can overcome even the deepest prejudices.

Secrecy and Lies

Seraphina's secret concerning her mixed heritage leads her into many lies throughout this novel. Because of this secret, her interactions with her human friends are tense, making her seem moody, and she tries to go unnoticed in vain. Seraphina must also try



to prevent anyone from learning about her visions and her garden of grotesques, leading to several interesting situations. Her knowledge of dragons causes Glisselda to question her, but she explains that her father, the legal expert on Comonot's Treaty, taught her much. Seraphina tries to keep her distance from most of the court, but Viridius encourages her to interact with Glisselda and Lucian. As Seraphina and Lucian grow closer, he knows that she lies to him, a fact that infuriates him. When Seraphina encounters some of her grotesques in reality and learns that they are half dragons like she is, she adds another secret to her existence.

Lucian is enraged when Seraphina lies that she has his permission to visit the imprisoned knights, but he accompanies her to question Sir James anyway. When they encounter Imlann, Seraphina saves them by lying about possessing a certain draconian device as she summons Orma with his earring. Lucian is furious because he knows that Seraphina is lying to him, so he arrests her and Orma; however, they are pardoned. Through one of her mother's memories, Seraphina learns about a cabal of generals plotting against Comonot, but she must lie to explain this insight since she cannot honestly admit to how she received this knowledge. After Orma and Imlann fight, Seraphina finally tells Glisselda and Lucian the truth: that her mother was a dragon so she is a half dragon. Lucian is distraught, but since her lies did not prevent him from loving her, the truth does not stop it either. Another example of the secrecy in this novel is Lady Corongi's true identity as Imlann. Disguised, Imlann has resided in the court of Goredd for sixteen years as he plots against the Ardmagar Comonot and the royal family of Goredd.

Emotions

Emotions play a large role in this narrative since dragons do not understand human emotions, even when they experience them in their human form. Though Orma does not understand human emotions because he is a dragon, he believes he can cure Seraphina's visions from striking her unconscious. When Linn sings a song that Claude wrote, she finds the emotions maddening. Orma does not trust himself to make an unemotional decision about telling Prince Lucian because he hates his father and wants him dead, regardless of his guilt; this is ironic since Orma should not have to fear his emotions taking control of his logic because he is a dragon and should not succumb to human emotions. Seraphina's headache turns into a full ambush of Linn's memory in which Comonot teaches her to learn from humanity but not to forget her dragon nature because emotions are addictive. Trying to fight her emotions, Linn returned home to rid herself of her feelings, but "one cannot fly in two directions at once. I cannot perch among those who think that I am broken... Love is not a disease" (page 202).

Seraphina struggles with her own emotions, trying to suppress her feelings for Lucian. After Lucian and Seraphina's encounter with Imlann during which Orma came to their rescue, Comonot suggests that Orma should consent to a voluntary excision of his emotions, refusing to allow Orma to prove his fealty by hunting Imlann. When Seraphina asks why an exception can be made for Basind but not her uncle, Comonot jumps to his feet and demands to know who she is. When Orma admits that she is his sister's child,



Comonot is furious because Orma reported that Linn died childless; he revokes Orma's scholars' visa and orders him to return home for excision before exiting the room. Crying, Seraphina apologizes, but she had assumed Comonot knew like Eskar did. Orma insists that it is his fault for asking her to stay because he wanted her here, and he begins to suspect that he is emotionally compromised. After Comonot kills Thomas Broadwick to save Seraphina, he notes that he still finds Seraphina repulsive, but he is now in her debt which is why he protected her; the emotions in his body irritate him as he cares nothing for Seraphina, yet his body wants thing he would never want. As she visits Comonot to discuss her cabal theory, he admits that he has been a superstitious fool, and he questions her about his emotions which he cannot understand. Later, Glisselda receives a letter from ten generals who declare themselves the rightful rulers of Tanamoot and demand the return of the Ardmagar Comonot for making treaties and alliances detrimental to dragonkind and having emotions, and they threaten to declare war if Comonot is not returned within three days. Comonot asks Seraphina to tutor him in human emotions, finally beginning to accept that they may actually be important.



Style

Point of View

In *Seraphina*, the story is told from a first person, limited point of view. Seraphina acts as the narrator, and as such, the point of view is reliable. This is proven by the fact that Seraphina is able to report on events as she witnesses them or as she is told. Though she is privy to her own thoughts and feelings, the thoughts and emotions of other characters remains a secret unless explicitly shared with her and thus passed on to the readers. This point of view is important because it maintains a focus on Seraphina's adventures and her reactions to the danger of her secret being revealed while simultaneously allowing certain aspects of the narrative, such as the mystery of who Imlann uses as a disguise, to remain a surprise.

The distribution of exposition and dialogue in this story is fairly equal. The exposition serves to convey events that transpire and to explore the interactions between characters, including Seraphina's emotional responses to certain people and events. Meanwhile, the dialogue further develops character relationships, showing how other characters feel about Seraphina and even foreshadowing how Princess Glisselda and Prince Lucian will react when they learn Seraphina's secret. This story is told exclusively from Seraphina's viewpoint.

Setting

This novel is set in an imaginary world, primarily in Goredd, a human-controlled kingdom which has a peace treaty with Tanamoot, the land of the dragons. The characters are humans and dragons as well as some hybrids. This differentiation serves to emphasize the distrust between these two species, despite the peace treaty between them. There are also socioeconomic variances between royalty and servants, creating part of Seraphina's discomfort regarding her feelings for Prince Lucian.

Goredd is the main setting of *Seraphina*. It is the kingdom ruled by Queen Lavonda who arranged a somewhat precarious peace treaty with the Ardmagar Comonot, ruler of Tanamoot. Castle Orison is the home of Goredd's royal family, and as the assistant to the court composer, Seraphina also resides in the palace. Seraphina creates a mental garden for the seventeen grotesques she has visions about, and she tends the garden daily to prevent these visions from overwhelming her. When several of her grotesques appear in her real life, she learns that they are half dragons like she is. When Princess Glisselda holds a soiree in the Blue Salon, Seraphina is irritated by the humans' derogatory comments about dragons. After Queen Lavonda arrives with the dragons and chides Glisselda for not inviting them, Seraphina encourages Glisselda and Lucian to socialize with the dragons. Orma has his office at St. Ida's Conservatory, and Seraphina visits him to inform him about the knights seeing a rogue dragon. Quighole is a portion of town where the quigutls and dragons reside, and it is considered



inappropriate for young ladies. Seraphina dines with Orma and Basind in an establishment in Quighole after the owner of the Mallet & Mullet refuses to serve Basind because he is a dragon. Tanamoot is the land of the dragons over which the Ardmagar Comonot rules. Imlann and a cabal of generals conspire to kill Goredd's royal family and Comonot so they can take control of Tanamoot, but Princess Glisselda announces that Goredd will stand behind Comonot, even though that means war with Tanamoot.

Language and Meaning

The language used in Seraphina tends to be casual and informal; however, proper grammar is used for the most part, with the exception being to serve the purpose of indicating characters without proper education. The language chosen aids comprehension of the plot since it explains the concepts introduced that are foreign to readers because they do not exist in the real world. The main example of this is the explanation of anything related to the dragons.

The language utilized in this narrative characterizes the individuals and their feelings toward dragons and/or humans, and it also emphasizes the distrust between these two species. The distribution of exposition and dialogue in this story is fairly equal. The exposition serves to convey events that transpire and to explore the interactions between characters, including Seraphina's emotional responses to certain people and events. Meanwhile, the dialogue further develops character relationships, showing how other characters feel about Seraphina and even foreshadowing how Princess Glisselda and Prince Lucian will react when they learn Seraphina's secret. The language used aids the writing style chosen since it creates an ease in understanding by explaining foreign concepts. Overall, the language helps make this novel easy to read and comprehend.

Structure

Seraphina is comprised of 451 pages, divided into a Prologue and 37 chapters. Some of the chapters are short while others are long, ranging from five to 25 pages in length and averaging around 15 pages. These chapters are numbered, rather than titled, and they tend to be fairly detailed. The entirety of the novel occurs in a two-week time period with each chapter covering a period of several hours up to a full day.

Seraphina by Rachel Hartman is a fantasy novel about a young woman torn between keeping a lifelong secret and protecting her kingdom and those she loves. When Seraphina begins to suspect a plot against the Ardmagar Comonot, she must lie to warn Prince Lucian of the dangers without revealing the secrets of her parentage, but her lies begin to unravel as her secrets play a large role in her suspicions. Seraphina offers an intriguing narrative that will keep readers captivated. This novel is quick-paced and quite easy to read. It contains some flashbacks, particularly in the beginning as Seraphina explains her life history and also as she is bombarded by Linn's memories. Overall, this novel is an entertaining and enjoyable read.



Quotes

"My love of music eventually lured me from the safety of my father's house, propelling me into the city and the royal court. I took a terrible risk, but I could not do otherwise. I did not understand that I carried loneliness before me on a plate, and that music would be the light illuminating me from behind." Prologue, page 5

"It's not nearly as hideous as I always pictured it." Eskar, Chapter 2, page 29

"You never understood this, Seraphina. I have neutralized every trace of your mother, renamed her, reframed her, given her another past- another life. Only two things of hers can still harm us: her insufferable brother- but he won't, with my eye upon him- and her music." Papa, Chapter 3, pages 34-35

"I tried to shrink into myself. I felt disgusting to my very soul- if I even had a soul. My mother was a dragon. Nothing was certain anymore." Chapter 3, page 45

"It is a bitter thing not to be able to do everything you are accustomed to. Die while you're young, Seraphina. Tertius had the right idea." Viridius, Chapter 4, page 63

"My faith should not come easily; There is no Heaven without pain. My days should never flutter past Unnoted, nor my past remain Beyond its span of usefulness; Let me not hold to grief. My hope, my light, my Saint is love; In love my one belief." Linn and Papa's lyrics, Chapter 6, page 90

"We'll arrest no one without proof. Unfounded arrests would give the Sons more fodder and bring new ones out of the woodwork. Besides, it's wrong in principle. 'Let the one who seeks justice be just.'" Prince Lucian, Chapter 7, page 100

"I believed, perhaps erroneously, that our peoples would simply grow accustomed to each other, given the cessation of warfare. Are we oil and water, that we cannot mix? Have I been remiss in expecting reason and decency to prevail, when I should have rolled up my sleeves and enforced them?" Queen Lavonda, Chapter 7, page 102

"When [Princess Glisselda] is Queen, Heaven willing, we will finish this conflict the way we should have finished it, instead of treating like cowards." Lady Corongi, Chapter 8, page 110

"I was just chased through St. Willibald's, and you know why? Because I was kind to a quig. I scrupulously hide every legitimate reason for people to hate me, and then it turns out they don't need legitimate reasons. Heaven has fashioned a knife of irony to stab me with." Seraphina, Chapter 9, page 124

"You're smart. That's useful. There are people who would appreciate that quality. In fact, there are people who do, and you do yourself no favors alienating them." Princess Glisselda, Chapter 12, page 158



"I asked what it's like to be so talented, and you gave me a straightforward comparison: like being a bastard! And with a little extra thought, I get it. Everyone gawks at you for something you can't help and did nothing to deserve. Your very presence makes other people feel awkward. You stand out when in fact you'd rather not." Prince Lucian, Chapter 13, page 174

"Humanity can be our teacher. The point of peace is the exchange of knowledge. My reforms- the bans on vendetta and on hoarding, for two- are buoyed by human philosophies. Where such philosophies are logical, ethical, and quantifiable, we can make them our own. But let me warn you, all of you, from the newskin on his first trip south to the venerable teacher who has flown into the macrocloud of unvigilance: there is danger in humanity. Do not lose yourself to the wet brain. Tempted by the chemical intoxication of emotion, dragons forget what they are." Ardmagar Comonot, Chapter 15, pages 200-201

"Love is not a disease." Linn, Chapter 15, page 202

"Sometimes the truth has difficulty breaching the city walls of our beliefs. A lie, dressed in the correct livery, passes through more easily." Seraphina, Chapter 18, page 239

"Once again, however, you leave me in awe. Is there nothing you're afraid of?... You bluff my guards and determine to come out here on your own. You climb on a horse as if you know what you're doing, assuming it will just come to you. You stand up to Viridius and the Earl of Apsig. You ask mad pipers to the palace. You fall in love with dragons..." Prince Lucian, Chapter 19, page 252

"Seraphina, if I have transformed for nothing, I am going to be in an unquantifiable amount of trouble. Tell me why I shouldn't bite your head off. It couldn't make things any worse for me." Orma, Chapter 21, page 268

"The Queen listened impassively; Comonot seemed touched that we'd undertaken to measure this threat. One might almost have taken them for their opposites: Comonot the sympathetic human, Queen Lavonda the dispassionate saar. Perhaps those qualities were what had enabled them to reach an agreement after centuries of distrust and war. Each saw something familiar in the other." Chapter 22, page 280

"You are all that's left of Linn. Her own people won't even say her name. I- I value your continued existence." Orma, Chapter 22, page 285

"The council has just adjourned. Lucian told us all about encountering the rogue in the countryside, about your bravery in persuading the dragon not to kill you. You're quite the pair of investigative heroes... But you see, here's what perplexes me. You were so helpful and knowledgeable, one would expect Lucian to be singing your praises unto Heaven's dome. He's not. I know he arrested you on little pretext. He's mad at you, evidently, but he won't say why; he's shut himself in his beastly tower. How do I mediate if I don't know what's going on? I can't have you two at odds!" Princess Glisselda, Chapter 23, page 287



"I'm sorry, Papa. I tried to keep to myself; I didn't mean it to go wrong. But they're sending Orma away, which is my fault, and I played my flute so beautifully that I fell in love with everyone and now I want everything. And I can't have it. And I'm ashamed to be running away." Seraphina, Chapter 26, page 323

"No! That didn't occur to me until after the deed was done. I defended you without even thinking. For the merest moment I... I had a strong feeling about what happened to you. I may have cared! The idea of you hurting made me... hurt!... But it wasn't me, you understand? It was this infernal body. It fills with a great surge of feeling before one has a chance to think. It's a species preservation instinct, maybe, to defend the young and helpless, but I care nothing for you. This body wants things I could never want." Ardmagar Comonot, Chapter 28, page 345

"Please know I consider myself your friend, what bumps we have encountered upon that road notwithstanding. The heart of you is good. You're an intelligent and fearless investigator, and a good teacher too, I hear. Glisselda swears she couldn't do with you. We want you to stay." Prince Lucian, Chapter 28, page 353

"Phina is the source, and Phina is reliable." Princess Glisselda, Chapter 30, page 366

"You couldn't tell me this? Do you have any idea how old I am?... One hundred twenty-eight! I spent that many years thinking I was alone. Then you prance into my life, nearly giving me a paroxysm, and now you deign to tell me there are more." Dame Okra, Chapter 31, page 375

"You heard Basind call Orma my uncle. Remember how you thought I loved him, how you were sick of guessing? Here's your explanation at last." Seraphina, Chapter 34, page 415

"Can you not see that it's no longer a question of dragon versus human? The division now is between those who think this peace is worth preserving and those who would keep us at war until one side or the other is destroyed. There are dragons who see the good of the treaty. They will join us. The young have been raised with peaceful ideals; they won't sympathize with these grizzled generals who want their hoards and their hunting grounds back. Something we dragons have learned from you is that we are stronger together. We need not take on the entire world alone. Let us stand together now for the peace." Ardmagar Comonot, Chapter 35, page 425

"I thought I knew which things we dragons should learn and which were unnecessary, but I see now that my opinions had calcified. I was as set in my thinking as the crusty old generals who've stolen my country. Let this signify my submission to your tutelage, since I doubt you would agree to bite the back of my neck. You are my teacher. I will listen, and I will try to learn." Ardmagar Comonot, Chapter 36, pages 428-429

"I know he's been a bit cantankerous since learning you were half dragon. You understand, surely, that he might find it difficult to adjust to the idea... And I... I think no less of you... It wasn't so difficult to accept. It was simply a matter of will." Princess Glisselda, Chapter 37, pages 439-440



"St. Clare did not choose wrongly. I always saw the truth in you, however much you prevaricated, even as you lied right to my face. I glimpsed the very heart of you, clear as sunlight, and it was something extraordinary. Your lies didn't stop me loving you; your truth hasn't stopped me either." Prince Lucian, Chapter 37, page 447

"The future would come, full of war and uncertainty, but I would not be facing it alone. I had love and work, friends and a people. I had a place to stand." Chapter 37, page 451



Topics for Discussion

What is Seraphina's secret, and why is secrecy so imperative?

Why is Orma so important to Seraphina?

Who is Imlann, and what is his role in this novel?

What is the significance of Seraphina's garden of grotesques?

How does Seraphina come to have her mother's memories, and how do these affect her life?

How does Seraphina feel about Prince Lucian, and why is this dangerous?

How do Princess Glisselda and Prince Lucian react to Seraphina's secret, and how does this make Seraphina feel?