

# Shade Study Guide

## Shade by Jeri Smith-Ready

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# Plot Summary

"Shade" by Jeri Smith-Ready tells the story of a teenage girl who can see ghosts. All the kids her age and younger can see them, but things get harder to deal with when her own boyfriend dies. She can see his ghost, too, and she's got to make sure he doesn't become a shade.

Aura is constantly surrounded by ghosts who want her attention. They want justice for their murders. Aura is trying to live a normal life. She has a boyfriend named Logan, and they are coming through a tough patch. It's his birthday, and they have great plans. Since his parents are out of town, they plan to spend the night together, and Aura is ready to go all the way with him.

Making the night even more special, Logan finds out that label people are coming to the concert on his birthday to check out his band. The night is a serious success, and his band has two companies eager to sign them. In all the excitement, Logan makes some poor choices, mixing alcohol and cocaine. He dies and Aura is left to cope with his death.

Her aunt tries to warn her that Logan can turn into a shade, but Aura doesn't want to listen. She desperately wants to see Logan, and he seems happy to hang around, even though he doesn't appreciate the way she meets up with Zachary for their school project.

Logan continues to visit Aura at night and a month goes by. Aura and Zachary go back to the professor and discover that they have to go back to the field to observe the night sky again. As they watch the sky, they become closer, and they almost kiss. Logan approaches Aura after she drops Zachary off, and for the first time, she sees his anger.

The family meets at the cemetery, and Logan's mother wants to know what her son needs. Those who can see him don't want him gone, but the others are grieving and ready to accept his death.

Megan takes Aura out where Logan can't go. Later, Logan comes to Aura and tells her his plan to cross over. They discover a way to appreciate their relationship physically.

Things go well for a short period even though Aura is exhausted. Zachary invites her on a date on their mutual birthday. While they are out she learns that he can actually repel ghosts. She also learns that they are being watched by the government.

Zachary and Aura eventually kiss, and Aura breaks up with Logan. He is angry and becomes a shade for a few seconds. Aura is hurt while this happens, and her pain is enough to bring him back to help her.

Early in the new year, the trial occurs. Logan's family wins and he is ready to move on during a public performance. It starts well, but then he turns shade. Everyone is horrified.

Aura doesn't give up on him, and month later she calls to him. Her love and trust in him bring him back.



# Chapters 1-5

## Chapters 1-5 Summary

"Shade" by Jeri Smith-Ready tells the story of a teenage girl who can see ghosts. All the kids her age and younger can see them, but things get harder to deal with when her own boyfriend dies. She can see his ghost, too, and she's got to make sure he doesn't become a shade.

In Chapter One, a ghost is trying to get her attention. She's doing everything she can to avoid hearing the story of the ghost. This isn't new to her. Aura was born after the Shift, and ghosts of people who were not ready to die constantly approach her, trying to get her to help them. All the children born after the Shift can see ghosts, and Aura was used to tell the ghosts' stories on witness stands since ghosts can't lie. Even though she has had to deal with this all her life, Aura is not used to it, and it upsets her. The ghost starts to get overwhelmed with bitterness and shows signs of turning into a shade—a rogue ghost who never finds peace—so Aura stays at work late to listen to her.

Aura leaves work and goes to join her boyfriend and her friends, still upset about her encounter. Her boyfriend Logan is practicing with his band. Her best friend, Megan, is also in the room. Logan has some good news to share with her. Some label people are coming to the show the next day. He thinks it will be the most amazing birthday present ever. She tells him that she has a present that she hopes he will enjoy even better. She's ready to go all the way with him.

In Chapter Two, at school Megan and Aura talk about the assembly they're going to. A government worker is trying to tell them to help serve the country by locking up ghosts, but Aura doesn't want anything to do with it. The girls see a new student in the courtyard. It's a Scottish exchange student who was in Megan's homeroom class. He comes over to them and asks if she is Aura. Megan officially introduces them.

One of his teachers, Mrs. Richards, said that Aura needed help with her thesis. She asks him what he knows about megaliths. He tells her that when he lived in Scotland he was never more than an hour's drive from the stones.

They agree to meet on that Sunday, then Aura goes off to the assembly. The boy tells her he doesn't have to go to the assembly since he was born pre-Shift. But only by a minute. The speaker at the assembly mentions the Shift took place on December 21, during the winter solstice. They figured it happened at 3:50 AM local time. Megan is one of the few people who knows that Aura was born right at that moment. She was the first child born after the Shift. Zachary, the Scottish student, was born one minute before her.

In Chapter Three, the girls spend some time eating dinner at the mall as they wait for the gig to begin. They have two hours to kill before the concert. Aura watches a young



mother in front of Baby Gap. The woman seems frustrated by her choices. 90% of the clothes are red since they realize that the dead hate that color. Megan and Aura never wore red to clubs or any other important places because they don't want to advertise the fact that they are only 16.

As they eat, Megan asks what Aura is doing for Logan's birthday. Aura doesn't want to tell her that she bought him an autographed copy of Snow Patrol's "Eyes Open" CD because she wants it to be a special gift to him when they are alone. A ghost interrupts them, trying to find her child. The ghost becomes angry, and they leave the mall.

They get to the community center and find a place up front. Together they try to locate the recording label people. The concert is a success. Logan winks at her as he finishes singing the first set of the concert, sharing his relief that it all went well.

His parents are on a cruise to Aruba so he can sing whatever he wants. Later, he and Aura can do whatever they want as well. They begin another set, and Logan performs brilliantly. Aura is very aware of how painfully in love with him she is.

The birthday party after the concert is terrific. Both recording labels wanted to sign the band. Logan proposes making a video, and he drinks four beers. He dances with Aura and tells her how amazing it was to be on stage. The two decide to go upstairs to get some time alone together. As they are heading out, Brian Knox hands Logan a drink called Liquid Stupid. Aura decides not to have any.

When they are alone, Logan tells Aura that he wrote the song for her for that night. As soon as he starts playing they realize something is wrong. His hands are feeling tingly. He puts the guitar away, and they begin to make out. She sees that he got a tattoo with her name on it.

He picks up Aura and stumbles to the bed. They kiss, but things aren't right. Logan says he can't feel his face. He's too wasted to continue. Deciding to take a shower so he can wake up, he leaves. Logan takes something out of his drawer before he heads to the shower. When Aura questions what it is, he tells her it's shampoo.

Aura waits for him in the room, and soon she hears shouts in the hallway. Siobahn shrieks his name and calls for a defibrillator. Aura sees Logan in the room, but now he is violet.

In Chapter Four, his ghost apologizes and says he has done something stupid. She runs into the hallway even as his ghost tells her that it's too late. Megan comes in and asks what's on the bathroom sink. Aura goes to the bathroom, and she sees the powder lining the sink. After a while the paramedics arrive, and the partygoers leave. They can't contact the parents because there is no phone reception on the cruise. Aura goes off by herself and calls to Logan, asking him to come back to her. She doesn't want her last memory of him to be watching his body slip into a body bag. He doesn't come, and she feels very alone.



In Chapter Five, Aura dreams of Logan, seeing him made of blood and slipping away. Megan comes in and tells her that nobody has seen Logan, and she lets Aura know that they got hold of his parents. Aura discovers that people are saying horrible things about her online. They say she gave him the cocaine. Megan tells Aura at Logan's parents are considering suing the record company for giving him the cocaine. Aura hopes that Logan will show up. Even though she knows it's wrong to wish it, Aura wants to see his smile again. She knows she should be praying for the passage of his soul, but she wants Logan back, even if he is violet.

## Chapters 1-5 Analysis

In Chapter One, the reader is introduced to Aura, the main character. She sees ghosts, but isn't scared of them. Instead, she does everything she can to get away from them because they bother her. Still, she shows that she has a kind heart by the way she stays and helps a ghost when she realizes that the ghost is turning to the dark side and showing signs of becoming a shade. Because of the situation, the reader understands that some occurrence has made it so that children see ghosts all around them. They understand that these are the people that are not able to move on after death and that it's possible for the ghosts to become bad.

When Aura leaves and goes to join her boyfriend, the reader gets more of a glimpse into her life. It's clear that she is a free spirit and that she really cares about her boyfriend. However, the relationship between the two is not completely smooth. She wants to make things better between them, and she plans to do it on his birthday.

Logan's life is changing. He is a talented musician, and he's going to get his chance to play in front of important people. Logan is happy to share the moment with Aura. At the end of this chapter the reader sees that Aura has a good friend who she can talk seriously with. In the last line of the chapter, it's clear that Aura sees that something that is going to happen. This foreshadows the tragedy soon to come.

At the beginning of Chapter Two, it's clear that Aura and her friends are different from the older students and the adults at school. It's unnerving to them that they can see ghosts while others can't. The government is trying to test them on their abilities by trying to get them interested in locking up ghosts in order to serve their country.

Aura meets a new boy in school, and she finds out that they have similar interests. He wants to work with her on a class project, but she isn't very happy about it since she thinks she can handle project alone. She doesn't want to share her real interest in the project. Still, she's intrigued by his background and what he might offer to the project. The author makes a point of highlighting the fact that Zachary was born right before the Shift, while Aura was born right when the shift happened. Although the reader doesn't understand how, it's implied that this will be important in the story.

In Chapter 3, the ability to see ghosts makes life difficult for the post-Shift kids. They can't go out in society without being approached by tormented souls. The kids take



precautionary measures by changing the way they dress, but this gives away their age. Megan and Aura are sensitive to this since they want to be perceived as if they are older than they are. There are some places where ghosts can be blocked out, but most places are open.

The concert goes very well, and there is an obvious connection between Aura and Logan. Even when he is trying to impress the labels, he takes time to acknowledge her. With his parents out of town, he isn't monitored as closely as usual, and his choices reflect that.

It's obvious that the two have a close connection. He writes Aura a song and has her name tattooed on him. She is willing to go all the way with him sexually, but she doesn't get upset with him when she realizes he partied too much. He tries to make things up to her by waking up with a shower. Since she can see ghosts, Aura knows exactly what happened but he appears at the foot of the bed, violet.

In Chapter Four, when he comes in as a ghost, the first thing that Logan does is apologize. His death obviously wasn't a suicide. His siblings and friends try to get him back to life, but Aura and his younger brother, Dylan, can see his ghost and know what's going on. Logan's upset thinking that the others are trying to bring him back when he knows he isn't able to come back.

When Aura finds out that Logan took some drugs, she is angry. And she and the others lash out and try to deal with the death, Logan disappears. Aura is torn in her feelings. She knows that it's best for him to move on. If he does so, she won't see him. Somewhat selfishly she wants to be with him again so she hopes he will stay around so she calls him.

In Chapter Five, Aura hears that people are spreading all sorts of rumors about her and about Logan. She doesn't really mind what they are saying about her, but it bothers her that they are talking negatively about Logan. She still wants to see Logan again, even though she's upset at him.





# Chapters 6-10

## Chapters 6-10 Summary

In Chapter Six, on Sunday Aura wakes up when her phone rings. It's Zachary. He forgot to give her his address. She tells him she probably should have canceled and tells him that her boyfriend died. Deciding that she doesn't want to spend another day crying in bed, she decides to go visit the professor with him.

As they drive to the meeting, Aura learns a bit about Zachary's background, and she fills him in on what she wants him to know about the project. There are some secrets she keeps from him. One of these is the fact that her mother had a journal in which she wrote about her time in Ireland. Someone tore out some of the entries.

They arrive at Dr. Harris's office and meet the professor. She invites them to drink tea. The meeting doesn't go as Aura would have expected. The professor tells them that they need to become more familiar with the night sky. She tells them to go out to a farm and draw the night sky. After they leave, the two decide to go out to Farmer Frank's Field on Thursday since it's supposed to be clear. Aura realizes she doesn't want to go home, and she asks Zachary if he wants to hear what really happened with Logan. He tells her he has time.

In Chapter Seven, at school on Monday Aura notices that Megan has a scratch on her cheek. Her hair is messed up as well. She asked what's going on. Aura finds out that her friend was injured trying to defend her. It reminds her of an odd almost-fight between Brian and Logan the night of the party.

Later Aura goes to the funeral home. She notices Grandma Keeley sitting outside the home and talks with her before going in. The viewing is difficult, but she tells herself she can do it. Logan doesn't look like himself. They colored his hair back to brown, and he was wearing clothes that made him look like a stockbroker. She doesn't want to remember him this way, and she runs out of the room. Later they gather at the Keeley's house. Aura hears children laughing and finds out that Logan is playing with them.

When he sees her, Logan tells her that he stayed away because he knew they were mad at him. They talk about how much they miss each other. When others at the gathering realize that he's there, voices cry out. One cries out in horror. It's Mrs. Keeley.

In Chapter Eight, Aura talks with Megan at school the next day and finds out that things hadn't gone well the night before. After everyone left, they had to alter funeral arrangements now that Logan's ghost was about to give input. Logan wanted to be cremated, but it is against his parents' religion. He gets angry, and acts a bit shady.

Mrs. Keeley wouldn't stop sobbing, and she kept begging her son to go into the light. Zachary comes over to see if he can sit with Aura at lunch, but she tells him it's a bad time.



Later, Aura thinks that the funeral is very odd, and as she sits there, Logan joins her. They go to the vestibule to talk. He tells her that he came to her once, but her red sheets made him dizzy. She tells him she will buy new ones.

In Chapter Nine, the next night Aura goes to pick up Zachary at his apartment. Logan shows up in the passenger seat and asks her about the sheets. She tells him that she is planning to get that evening. When he asks what she's doing, she tells them that she's getting a classmate for a school project.

She and Zachary go to the store, and she can't believe the prices of the sheets. Zachary finds some sheets and offers to give her the money for it. He tells her that he owes her for gasoline anyway.

They go out to the farm, which doesn't have any ghosts. It's cold, and Zachary gives her his jacket. They draw the stars and talk together.

In Chapter Ten, Aunt Gina is already in bed by the time Aura gets home at 11 o'clock. She is about to put the new sheets on the bed her aunt comes in to talk with her. Aunt Gina reminds her that Logan is really dead even though Aura can still see him. It's confusing, but it's important to accept the reality. She encourages her niece to help Logan realize that he is dead so that he can move on.

Aunt Gina tells her that the Keeleys want to file a wrongful death suit against Warrant Records. Logan will have to testify, and they want Aura to be a witness. She also thinks it will help clear the record regarding what happened between Aura and Logan. Aunt Gina tries to remind Aura that Logan's eternal soul is at stake. He won't be able to pass on if he is a shade. Aura insists that he wouldn't become a shade because he's a good guy, but Aunt Gina tells her that many good ghosts turn bad.

After Aunt Gina leaves, Logan joins Aura in bed. They talk together, and he apologizes again about Friday night. Aura tells him that her aunt said she should help him move on, and he snaps at Aura saying that he will decide when he moves on.

Aura begins to cry, and he wants to comfort her. She tells him he can and uses her own hands with his on top to wipe away her tears. This way they are doing it together. He tells her he will come back the next day if she wants him to, and she agrees.

## Chapters 6-10 Analysis

In Chapter Six, Logan's death surprises Aura so much that she loses track of plans she has made. When Zachary calls her, she realizes that she should have canceled. She is tired of grieving, however, and decides to go on with the project. As they talk together, she finds out more about him. The two seem to get along well. When they first met Aura was attracted to his accent and to how he looked physically. Now she seems to be enjoying his personality. The reader can see that she isn't thinking of him romantically because she is still extremely attached to Logan, but there is potential for a romance between the two.



When they meet with the professor, it isn't what they expect. The reader understands that somehow this professor is connected to what Aura is looking for, but she doesn't have the answers. The two teens are given an assignment which will throw them together in what could be perceived as a romantic setting in the near future. After they leave, Aura isn't ready to go home. She warns Zachary about what he's going to hear at school and opens up to share the truth about Logan's death with him. This shows that she trusts him and is willing to be vulnerable in front of him. He doesn't make fun of her, but rather offers his time and willingness to listen.

In Chapter Seven, at school Megan has injuries that show that she is willing to stand up for her friend. Later, Aura goes to the funeral home, and the reader sees how ghosts can sometimes be comforting. They aren't always a burden. At the gathering after the viewing Logan makes an appearance for the first time in a while. This garners a mixed reaction from people in his life. The children are happy to play with him, others are reassured by seeing him again, but others understand the reality of the situation and find it horrifying that he is still around. It means he hasn't passed to the other side.

In Chapter Eight, Mrs. Kaylee seems to have more of a grasp of the reality of the situation. It's obvious that she is grieving for her son and really misses him, but she is upset by the fact that he is still around.

In Chapter Nine, the reader sees that Logan is already starting to change. He seems to be jealous of Aura's relationship with Zachary even though he has never met the other boy. She is eager to get to a place where there are no ghosts, and she knows Logan can't go out to the farm.

She is honest about her relationship with her dead boyfriend in front of Logan. He shows how much of a friend he is by helping her out by paying for the sheets that will make it possible for Logan to come visit her.

Aura and Zachary get along well, and she loves the smell of his jacket. This shows a more personal connection to her new friend. They are working on a school project, but both seem to completely enjoy their time together under the stars.

In Chapter Ten, Aunt Gina is very close with her niece, and she takes the time to talk with Aura about accepting the reality of her boyfriend's death. She seems to have good insight, but it's not information that Aura is ready to hear. She is too busy hiding the fact that she is changing the sheets because she's actually encouraging her boyfriend to come to her.

When Logan does come, he is angry and upset when she tells him that her aunt wants her to help him see that he should move on. He also gets frustrated with the fact that he can touch her and comfort her. They are beginning to see limitations in their relationship, but are willing to try to work around the limitations.



# Chapters 11-15

## Chapters 11-15 Summary

In Chapter Eleven, Logan continues to visit Aura nightly for the next month. They talk, and he sings to her, but he won't sing the song he was supposed to sing to her the night he died. Zachary and Aura went back to visit the professor, and Aura brought the portfolio with her mother's journal and drawings.

The professor shares a book that tells them about megalith in Ireland. Aura pretends that she had never seen or heard of the place. Zachary discovers that she wasn't telling the truth after she dropped her mother's photos on the floor. When they get to the parking lot later, she asks him why he doesn't ask about it. He says he doesn't know if she'll really answer so there might be no point in asking.

In Chapter Twelve, Megan and Laura going to a cafe they usually avoid. The Spirit Cafe is a ghost gimmick that pleases twenty and thirty-something people who think it's cool to visit a haunted restaurant. Love Megan going to check on the order, where gets a phone call. It's Dylan. He asks her if she still sees Logan, and she says that the last time she saw him was the night before.

Dylan tells her that the headstone is almost ready and his mom is going to call her and to see if they could all go together to see you next week. World doesn't want to see it, and neither does he. He asks her what they do when Logan is with her, and she tells in the top.

Dylan mentions the fact that he is in the bathroom where Logan died. It has a BlackBox so this but it can't come in. Dylan asks her if she ever wishes that Logan would leave for good. She says she doesn't, and he confesses that sometimes it's difficult to see his brother. He wonders how long he will stay and what it will be like in the future when they have their own families and 17-year-old Logan is still around.

Logan is happy around Aura, but Dylan sees his anger and frustration over his death and the court case. He is worried that Logan will go shade. Aura yells out that it will never happen, but Dylan tells her to seriously think about encouraging Logan to move on. Sometimes when Logan is around he is so dizzy that Dylan feels like puking.

In Chapter Thirteen, the stars look different the next time Zachary and Aura go to Farmer Frank's field. It's after Thanksgiving now. As they lie there looking at the stars, Zachary reminds her that he called her bonnie, and tells her it's true.

They talk about their families. Aura tells him that her mom died from cancer when she was three, and she doesn't know who her dad is. She only knows he had brown eyes since she has brown eyes, and her mom's eyes were blue. Aura feels that her mom might have been in Ireland when she conceived.



Zachary says that his mother left, and his dad has a classified job. He like anything is a political science professor. He is always moving around, and has to work constantly. As he talks, Laura has an urge to hug him. They continue working, and she is very aware of his proximity. They almost kiss, but are interrupted when Aunt Gina calls. Aura realizes it's almost the one-year anniversary of when she and Logan first kissed.

Aura drops Zachary off, and Logan joins her in the car. He calls Zachary Mr. Red and says he can't even look at him because of all the regulars. Era thinks that's crazy since he never wears red. They have an argument over whether or not moving is feeling threatened, and order it sees his form flicker and feed, chilling her. She focuses on calming him down.

She asks him if he has plans for the future and asks if he is planning to change into a shade. He can't believe she would even think that. He tells her he wants to be at peace. Aura tells him how he is upsetting Dylan.

In Chapter Fourteen, family and friends gather at the graveyard. Logan isn't there. Siobahn tells Aura that the house seems empty without her and Logan, and she offers an open invitation to visit. She also invites Aura to a concert. The Keeleys will play now that they can't be The Keeley Brothers with Logan gone.

Dylan comes up to Aura and tells her that he realizes she must have been speaking to Logan because Logan is acting much better this week. The two discuss different shades that they have seen in the past. Dylan tells about a time that young child started shading in front of him, he related how Obsidians showed up and detained the boy.

Mrs. Keeley asks Aura what she and Logan talk about. She wants to help him find peace. Family members get into an argument because Dylan tells his sister to that he doesn't like it when she talks about Logan as if he is gone. She reminds him that Logan really is gone. She emphasizes the fact that he is dead.

In Chapter Fifteen, Megan is driving while Logan and Aura sit in the backseat. She complains about feeling like a chauffeur. They start bantering, just like old times. Then Megan pulls over and tells Aura that she is going to a new club. Logan has never been to the club so he can't go. Megan drives forward, and Logan disappears. When Aura turns around she can see him standing in the road. She wants her friend to go back, but Megan tells her that she won't. She is sorry, but she's doing it for Aura.

Siobahn had asked Megan to check out the band. The place is great, and Aura knows Logan would have loved it. She talks to Megan about missing Logan, and Megan says her boyfriend might as well be a ghost, too. They haven't even had a real kiss since Logan died.

While Megan goes to dance, the ghost of a boy comes over to Aura. He wants her help. He asks for something she finds inappropriate so she sends him away. She looks over and sees Zachary sitting down in a nearby booth. Megan comes over and says that she kissed the guy she was dancing with. She immediately texted her boyfriend so he knew



about it. She didn't want him to hear about it from someone else. Mickey tells Megan to come over.

When Laura gets home, Logan is sitting on his bed. He ended up having a fine evening listening to another band. He's ready to share his plan with her. After reminding her that he loves her, he tells her that he is going to pass on before the trial. They share a moment of closeness as Logan asks her to undress then talks to her as she finds physical release.

## Chapters 11-15 Analysis

In Chapter Eleven, time is moving on, and Logan is still hanging around. Aura keeps his presence from her aunt by not letting her see the sheets. Logan and Aura spend their evenings together together, talking and listening to music. He sings her to sleep sometimes, but he never shares the song that he was going to sing the night he died. Even as a ghost, he has boundaries regarding what he wants to face.

Zachary and Aura are continuing with their project. They talk with the professor, and even though she gets along well with Zachary at this point, Aura still isn't willing to share her real interest in the project.

She tries to hide her knowledge about her mother and Ireland. He realizes she's hiding something when he sees the photograph she drops on the floor. Zachary shows that he is not invasive and that he's patient in the way he doesn't question her about the photos. He also shows that he is wise when he tells her that he doesn't ask the question because he isn't sure whether she will give him an answer. That shows respect for her because he is saving her from being in a position where she feels forced to lie.

In Chapter Twelve, Dylan calls Aura to tell her that the tombstone is almost ready. She isn't ready to face it, and neither is he. As the two talk, the reader understands that there is a bond between them. They have known each other for years, and both of them can see ghosts. It's obvious that they can talk freely with each other and share confidentialities.

Aura only sees a positive side of Logan after his death, so there is no desire for her to have him leave. Dylan see a darker side of his brother, and it worries him. He is calling to ask for a for help encouraging his brother to move on. Like his mother, he is becoming aware of the negative side of Logan's staying around. He is very concerned that his brother will turn shade. Aura still isn't ready to help him leave and doesn't believe that Logan could go shade.

In Chapter Thirteen, the connection between Aura and Zachary is getting stronger. She's very physically attracted to him, and as they stay in the field together, looking at the stars, she finds herself almost kissing him. This makes her confused about how she really feels, especially since she remembers that it's only been a year since she kissed Logan for the first time.



The friendship and connection strengthens between Zachary and Aura as they share their backgrounds. Later, after she drops him off, Logan appears in her car. Usually he's all happy around her, but this time he's upset. He seems to understand that she has a connection with the new boy, and it makes him angry. For the first time, she sees that he does have potential to become a shade. It scares her, and she asks him about it. He is very clear in his desire to eventually go to the light and cross over. He has no intention of becoming a shade.

In this chapter, Logan talks about Zachary and how he can't even see the other boy because all he sees is red. It's been stated earlier in the book that bed repels ghosts. Aura doesn't understand what he's talking about since Zachary never wears red.

In Chapter Fourteen, Laura sees how fife is moving on as she gathers with the family at the graveyard. Logan isn't there, and it's almost as if he doesn't want to focus on his own death. Or perhaps he understands that the place is not for him. It's for the ones who are still living and mourning him. The family members get into an argument. Dylan and Aura are obviously having a hard time letting go of Logan because they keep seeing him. The rest of the family is living on memories from before his death, but Dylan and Aura have memories of him after his death.

Once again Dylan and Aura show a common bond as they talk about ghosts and shades. The reader learns more about ghosts as Dylan relates a story of seeing a boy who is about to turn shade then the Obsidian come and collect him.

In Chapter Fifteen, Megan is determined to help Aura move on with her life even if she has to do it by force. Without Aura's prior knowledge, they leave Logan behind as the two go to a club. Aura is in a position where she is forced to realize that her life is not the only one that is changing.

She sees some girls flirting with Zachary, and that bothers her. When she gets home, Logan is there. She discovers that she spent the evening worrying about him for no reason. He was just fine out on his own. This is a sign that maybe he is holding her back from relationships and living a real life. He's fully able to care for himself.

He opens up finally and tells her his plans for the future. He really does plan to pass on, and he doesn't want to wait for the trial. She isn't ready to let him go. They continue to have a strong bond, and they find a way to substitute for their lack of physical intimacy.



# Chapters 16-20

## Chapters 16-20 Summary

In Chapter Sixteen, Aura is doing well surviving on little sleep, or so she thinks. In school, right before Christmas, Zachary tells her he wants her to join him the next day for a tour of the Inner Harbor. It's her birthday, too, but she doesn't tell him that. She tells him she doesn't want to be pushed, and he tells her that she needs to be pushed. She's turning into a ghost. Aura agrees to go with him.

The next day they go out together, and Zachary looks as if he is always watching out for something. Aura wonders if he is looking out for Becca Goldman. At one point Aura thought he was going to kiss her, but she backed away, knowing that Logan had been to the Inner Harbor before so he might be watching.

Zachary decides to go out on the paddleboats. She tells him it's her birthday, too, and he says he knows. When they are out on the water he tells her that they are being followed by the DMP. He knows this because his dad is in the UK's counterpart for the DMP.

He tells her that they are unusual. Every minute that goes by on the planet, an average of 400 babies are born. In the minute he was born and in the minute Aura was born, there was only one child born in each minute. Then, Zachary tells her that he has another secret that she won't believe, but he can show her.

In Chapter Seventeen, the two walk up the gangplank of the USS Constellation. The sun is setting, and she knows that historical landmarks like this are haunted by the craziest, oldest ghosts. Aura goes on board with Zachary, and at first everything seems normal. They tour around. When they enter in an area that is darker, she notices that there are no ghosts. It seems odd to her since she remembers seeing many ghosts when she came there previously on a field trip.

As they wander around, Zachary is busy reading all the plaques. Aura has time to think and wonders why Logan hasn't tried to contact her for her birthday. She doesn't know whether she should be happy or upset. She is ready to go down deeper in the boat, and Zachary tells her that he will catch up in a minute.

As soon as she goes away from him, she begins to see ghosts. Soon she has a group of them coming after her trying to get her to help them. She's overwhelmed. A shade comes straight at her, and she drops to the floor. Suddenly, there is silence. She turns to see Zachary standing in the doorway. All the ghosts and the shade are gone. She thinks back to everything she knows about Zachary. Aura remembers how Logan fades when he is around and calls Zachary "Mr. Red."

She realizes that he has the ability to get rid of ghosts. He doesn't want anyone to know about it, especially his father. He doesn't want to spend the rest of his life in a





laboratory. Aura is envious. He has a power that she always wished she had. She decides to test him, and realizes that it's true.

After talking for a bit, things start to get more serious between them, and they almost kiss once again. This time they're interrupted by some tourists. As they look out a port hole, they see three DMP agents on the docks. They hide from them, and while they are hiding, they finally kiss. It is perfect. In fact, it's so perfect they don't realize someone found them. It's Zachary's dad.

In Chapter Eighteen, he gets them into a car and takes off, arguing with Zachary as they go. Aura is supposed to meet her aunt for dinner, but he won't let her go to a regular restaurant. Instead, he takes her to the Poe House. There are no ghosts there, and it's used as a safe house. Aunt Gina meets them there for pizza.

As they talk over dinner, Aunt Gina finds out for the first time that Aura was the first child born after the Shift. Aura learns that Zachary's father knew her mother and Eowyn. He seems very disconcerted by the fact that Aura and his son have contacted Eowyn.

The teens tell him about their project, and Aura explains that she broadened it so no-one would know what she was really looking for. Zachary says he had started to guess. Aura wants to know who her father is. She thought Aunt Gina had taken the pages out of her mother's journal, but Aunt Gina denies it and said she thought Aura's mother did.

They change the topic, and Aunt Gina talks about the cold weather. She mentions changing the bedsheets, and Aura realizes that her aunt must know that she isn't using red sheets anymore. Aura isn't having a very good birthday.

Zachary goes upstairs with her so they get a break. Aura talks to him about Becca, and he tells her that he is hanging out with the group so that he can find out who started all the gossip about Aura and Logan. It was Brian just as Megan suspected.

In Chapter Nineteen, Aunt Gina takes Aura home, and she gives Aura a birthday gift. It's something Aura said she wanted to have before. The gift is an obsidian necklace, and Aunt Gina bought it after Logan's death. Aura wants to please her aunt and puts it on. Her aunt tells her that the Keeley's want to go forward with the trial even if Logan has passed along. It's become their mission.

Aunt Gina tells Aura something that she has never mentioned to anyone before, aside from Father Rotella. She had been able to see ghosts before the Shift, but people didn't know was that she was once in love with a man who died and was a ghost just like Logan. At that time Gina was married, and she had an affair. Even worse, Aura's mother has a crush on him. Aunt Gina knew Aura's mom would be hurt if she found out. The man died in an accident and came back to haunt Aunt Gina. She was so upset by it that she left her husband and never told him why. She realized, too late, that she had made a poor choice.

Aura remembers why she wanted to get an obsidian necklace. It was after the first time she had seen a shade. She asks her aunt if she had ever seen a shade back when she



saw ghosts. Her aunt told her that it's all different now. Back then ghosts were in full color, and didn't look dark. Aunt Gina blames the BlackBox technology for making ghosts bitter and turning them into shades.

When Aura gets to her room, she notices that she has red sheets on her bed. She also notices that her other sheets are in the laundry bin, and it's mostly open. Her aunt has left it up to her to decide what she wants to do. It takes Aura a long time to decide, but she chooses to keep the red sheets on the bed.

Logan calls her from the window. He is angry with his parents about their decision regarding the trial. Logan asks if he is still her boyfriend, and she tries to answer him, but he's distracted by the sheets. He asks her to come outside. She doesn't want to make him more upset so she goes out to the roof.

He tells her that he tried to find her all day but couldn't. Logan realizes that she was with the guy all day. He is angry. Aura tells him that she can't see him anymore, but also tells him that she loves him. He starts changing, and Aura goes to help him, but her necklace comes out. He lunges at her, and she falls off the roof. He can't help her since he can't touch her. She hears his voice two blocks over shouting for Megan. Aura slips into unconsciousness.

In Chapter Twenty, Megan is with Aura in the hospital. She asks for a phone and calls Zachary. Aura tells him what happened the night before and tells him she broke up with Logan. Later, Zachary comes to visit her in the hospital. He gives her flowers but says he is confused about their relationship. Although she tries to hide it, he hears the pain in her voice when she talks about Logan. He doesn't think she's over him.

Aura goes home later, and Logan visits her. He apologizes for losing it and admits that for a few seconds he was a total shade. While he is explaining things to her, Aunt Gina comes in and chases him away with the obsidian pendant.

## Chapters 16-20 Analysis

In Chapter Sixteen, something is going on between Brian and Zachary, but the reader doesn't know what. Aura observes that Brian is trying to hide a black eye, and she also notices that Zachary has a bandaged hand.

The nights are catching up to her, and she doesn't think others see, but they do. Zachary invites her out for his birthday. At this point she still doesn't tell him that they share a birthday. He tells her that she is beginning to look like a ghost herself, and she agrees to go out with him.

When they go out, he's acting strangely. She wonders if he is looking for another girl was trying to get his attention. Even as she is drawn to him, and they almost kiss once again, she backs away knowing that Logan might be watching. She is torn between the boys, unable to move on to her future and let go of her past.



On the water, Zachary shares some interesting news that is hard for her to handle. They are both unique children, even though they aren't aware of it. Their uniqueness gives them special powers. He knows this, but she doesn't numbers.

In Chapter Seventeen, Aura discovers Zachary's secret. She is very envious of it. Now she knows for certain that he is unique, and she also sees how serious he is about the DMP agents. Just as all chaos reigns around them, they finally get a chance to physically connect, and they kiss. Everything seems right for a moment before Zachary's dad finds them.

In Chapter Eighteen, Zachary's father risks them away showing that he has impressive political power. He takes him to an old house that doesn't have ghosts. This, too, shows the political power he has as well as his organization.

Aunt Gina meets them at the house, and they have pizza together. During this dinner they share information, and everybody learns interesting things about each other. They all seem to realize that there is something very important about the two teens, but nobody really understands what extent the importance is.

Aura realizes that her aunt knows about the bed sheets, and she knows that Zachary knows about that as well. For the first time this makes her feel uncomfortable. She realizes that she's going to have to say something to Logan now that she and Zachary have kissed. Zachary remains supportive and understanding. He shows her how he is on her side when he talks about how he discovered who is spreading gossip.

In Chapter Nineteen, the stress from her birthday isn't over. Aunt Gina talks to Aura when she gets home, and Aura learns that her aunt understands her more than she had previously thought. He aunt had gone through a similar experience.

When Aura gets to her bedroom she realizes that her aunt has given her the choice regarding which sheets to put on the bed. Once an easy decision in the past, this time Aura agonizes over it. She eventually decides to keep Logan away, even though it's her birthday. It's her first real step away from him. He comes to her window sounding agonized, and he shows that he is angry over several things. The anger eventually leads to personal injury for Laura. Logan tries to help her, but he can't touch her because he isn't alive and real.

Chapter Twenty is about relationships. Megan is there for Aura in the hospital-a true friend. Aura calls Zachary and tells him that she broke up with Logan, but when he visits her later he realizes that she isn't completely over her former boyfriend. Still, he is patient and kind and offers to give her time.

When Aura gets home later Logan visits her. He admits that he became a shade, and Aura learns what it's like to be a shade. She also learns that he was able to come back, even though it was difficult. This is a pivotal discovery because up to this point, it appeared as if there was no redemption from becoming a shade. Aunt Gina chases Logan away before he can finish saying everything he has to say.



# Chapters 21-25

## Chapters 21-25 Summary

In Chapter Twenty-one, Aura stays home for Christmas instead of traveling due to her injuries. She misses Logan horribly and realizes that Zachary was right. She isn't over Logan. Dylan calls because he and Siobahn are missing their Christmas tradition of getting together. Aura suggests they go for a drive to look at lights. During the drive, Dylan tells them that Logan wants to move on in a public ceremony. A grand final performance. Siobahn suggests The Green Derby. It's a club right next to the courthouse.

On New Year's Eve, two Obsidians knock on her door. They want to talk with her about Logan. They have evidence that he has displayed shade behavior several times. After they leave she calls Dylan and tells him that he has to tell Logan to leave. She tells him the Obsidians are watching. As they talk Dylan tells her that the men just pulled up to his house.

In Chapter Twenty-two, it's the day of the trial, and Aura sits on the witness stand. Logan knows the Obsidians are watching him, and he's quiet. He knows they can detain him at any time. The trial begins, and Aura has to relate everything that happened that night in full detail.

By the end of the day, Aura and Logan's sex life is all over the Internet. Aunt Gina reassures Aura, reminding her that there will be a new scandal next week. Aura texts Zachary to see if he is out of patience yet, and he response saying he's not even close.

That night, Logan comes to her. He sings her a song called "Forever," and it's their story. She doesn't talk with him, but she realizes that she had been wrong about the uncertainties of their relationship. If he had lived, they would have been fine together.

In Chapter Twenty-three, Logan is speaking in court on this day, and Aura doesn't want to miss it even though it's very difficult. As he speaks, she realizes that he was afraid of losing her. This shocks her, and it makes his death more difficult to bear. Now she feels as if she is at fault.

Logan's family wins the trial. After it's over his dad comes to talk with Aura. She realizes once again that Logan will never get a chance to age. The father tells her that he doesn't blame her. Aura notices that he doesn't say "we," and understands that Logan's mom still does blame her.

In Chapter Twenty-four, Logan zooms up to Aura as she enters the Green Derby pub. He is very excited and says he feels as if something is calling him. He just hopes it's something good. Logan goes on stage and talks to everyone, with Megan translating for those who are pre-Shift.



He begins to sing. After the song, Logan begins to change, and he is filled with a golden light. Suddenly it all changed and black sparks begin to fly. The post-Shifters gasp in horror. Aura goes to the stage, and he tells her not to touch him. Logan loses the yellow glow and becomes violet again, with shadows rippling through him.

Aura tells him that she's not giving up. Logan tells her to let him go, and Agent Falk come forward ready to detain Logan. Aura tries to grab the disc, and Dylan grabs the other agent. The agents fight back, and Aura is in pain from her injuries. This angers Logan, who turns shade. He tells Aura not to wait for him.

In Chapter Twenty-five, Dylan and Aura talk during the aftermath. He tells her that Logan knew something was wrong. They blame themselves then blame Logan. Aura says they should just wait.

Two days after the trial Aura goes to Zachary's house to give him cookies and the dried red roses. It shows him that she made her decision, and he sounds disappointed. Zachary invites her for tea, but she declines. They briefly talk about how Logan left, and Aura mentions that she thinks she can bring him back. It happened before.

She tells Logan about the time Logan shaded and how he came back. Zachary points out that it could give a lot of people hope. He also notices that Aura has really let go of a romantic connection to Logan.

After weeks of trying to contact Logan, Aura is about to give up. Nobody has seen him. On the first day of spring she decides she can't wait anymore and calls to him, leaving fear, anger and pity out of her voice. He comes shrieking at her, and she asks him if he wants her to give up on her. He says "no."

His presence makes her collapse as he screams at her telling her that he told her not to wait. She says she doesn't listen to shade. Using all her willpower, she focuses on the light in him in her memory. He tries to block her, but she tells him that he burns too bright for that. Her eyes are shut so she doesn't see the darkness, and soon she senses a violet glow. When her eyes open, she sees Logan in front of her—not a shade. He says, "Wow."

## Chapters 21-25 Analysis

In Chapter Twenty-one, Aura becomes clearly aware of all she has lost. She doesn't have Logan anymore, she isn't ready for a relationship with Zachary and she has lost family/friend traditions since she doesn't feel comfortable at the Keeley's house anymore. Dylan feels the pain as well. They fix the problem by getting together in a new arena. While they are out, Siobahn expresses frustration and anger over all that is happening. She lashes out at Logan, and Dylan and Aura defend the ghost. Once again there is an obvious difference in perspective. Those who can still see him can't let him go while those who can't are ready to finish grieving and move on.



On New Year's the stakes are raised. Aura already knows that it's important for Logan to move on, but now she knows he is being watched. The Obsidians want to detain him. If this happens, he will be lost to everyone forever.

In Chapter Twenty-two, the trailer is finally happening. It's very difficult for world since many personal details are exposed. Her and has kept her well, there are still some questions she hadn't expected. She answers and honestly, hoping to help the cause even when it causes her personal embarrassment.

Aura expects everyone to give up on her, and she's still strong. Even though she didn't expect it, she still gets the support from those who love her. Perky and is there to reassure her, and Zachary reassures her that he won't give up on her. He is willing to continue waiting until she is ready to make up her mind.

Logan comes to her at night, and he finally shares the song that he wrote for her specifically. It's a beautiful song, and it makes Aura realize that everything would have been okay if Logan had lived. Now he is a ghost, though, and she has to come to terms with that. She doesn't acknowledge his presence in the room, and he leaves.

In Chapter Twenty-Three, Aura really understand all the pain and trauma involved with putting a ghost on trial. She listens to Logan and understands much more about their relationship. This knowledge comes with guilt as she realizes that the events leading to his death occurred because Logan was trying to win her heart. He wanted to make everything right between them again since things had recently been rocky.

In Chapter Twenty-four, it's time for the show during which Logan is going to move on. He acts excited and positive, yet there is some foreshadowing that something is going on. This is shown by the way he says he feels different, and only hopes it's something good. When he gets onstage everything seems all right at first, but it quickly turns horrible. Even after he shades, Aura is willing to fight for him. He verbally releases her. Up until this point he kept telling her to wait for him, but now he tells her not to wait.

In Chapter Twenty-five there is an obvious shift in the relationship between Zachary and Aura. She still isn't ready to commit to him, but there are signs that it will be soon. She has finally let go of Logan romantically.

Because of the night on the roof, Aura thinks there might still be hope for Logan. Both she and Zachary realize that if she can bring him back, it will be feeling for many people, offering them hope. Aura isn't bringing Logan back selfishly, it's an act that can help everyone.

She still loves Logan, but now it's a different kind of love. Aura calls to him and shows faith in him and in the light in him. It's enough, and he becomes a normal ghost once again. Logan is no longer a shade.



# Characters

## Aura Salvatorre

This 16-year old girl was the first child to be born after the Shift. Like other children after the Shift, she has the ability to see and hear ghosts. This character is loyal to the ones she loves. This is shown in the way that she stands by her boyfriend even though they had been struggling with some issues. She is willing to talk with him and spend time with him to work things out. Even after Logan dies, she remains true to him, trying to figure out how to keep the relationship going even when he can't even physically be there for her.

This character is friends with Zachary, and eventually they begin to have a romantic relationship. She doesn't jump into this easily. In fact, it's quite difficult for her. Still, she hits a point she's able to look at the entire situation objectively and understand that it's really best for all parties involved to help Logan realize that he must move on.

## Zachary Moore

This character is a handsome Scottish exchange student that comes to Aura's school. A teacher suggests that he work with her on a project. She isn't very open to the idea, but he is polite and kind, and the two end up working together. He doesn't pressure or Aura, and he gently becomes her friend before the relationship goes any further. He was the last child before before the Shift, and he has a natural ability to repel ghosts and shades since he appears red to them.

This character has an interest in science, and he enjoys spending time out under the stars with Aura. He is patient and understanding. This is shown by the way he listens to Aura and helps her overcome her grief after her boyfriend dies.

## Logan Keeley

This character is the lead singer in a band that is rising in popularity. He dies after partying and becomes a ghost. Aura tries to prevent him from becoming a shade.

## Aunt Gina

This character is like a mother to Aura. She's a lawyer that specializes in helping ghosts sue people who caused their deaths. Back before the Shift, she could see ghosts but now she can't.



## **Siobahn**

This character is the Logan's sister. She's part of The Keeley Brothers band.

## **Mickey Keeley**

This character is Logan's brother and part of The Keeley Brothers Band. He is Megan's boyfriend.

## **Dylan Keeley**

This character was born post-Shift. This character is the only member of the family that can see Logan as a ghost.

## **Megan**

This character is Aura's best friend and Mickey's girlfriend. This character is was born post-Shift and can see ghosts.

## **Brian**

Part of The Keeley Brothers Band, this character has a crush on Nadine.

## **Agent Falk**

This character works for DMP and the Department of Metaphysical Purity.

## **Nadine**

This character is the girl from Logan's school who likes him. She and Brian started a hate campaign against Aura.

## **Ian**

This character is Zachary's dad. He works for the UK government. His job is classified, but it has to do with protecting the rights of the deceased and the containment of ghosts.



## **Dr. Harris**

This was the person Zachary and Aura went to for input for their project. She suggested that they first study the night sky.

## **Obsidians**

This is a group of government workers who round up ghosts who are becoming shades. They try to recruit Aura and others like her.



## **Objects/Places**

### **Roland Park**

This is where Aura wishes she could live.

### **Inner Harbor**

This is where Zachary and Aura go on a date. They are followed by others, and the day becomes turns into a day of confession and understanding.

### **USS Constellation**

This is a ship kept in the harbor to attract tourists. It's filled with ghosts.

### **Scotland**

This was where Zachary lived before he came over as an exchange student.

### **Baltimore County Community Center**

This was where The Keeley Brothers performed their last gig before Logan died.

### **Bathroom**

This was where Logan went to wake himself up and accidentally died.

### **Charles Village**

This was where Aura lived with her aunt.

### **John's Hopkins**

This was the university campus that lay between Aura's and Zachary's homes.

### **Ireland**

This was where Aura's mother went. She kept a journal while she was there, but some of the pages were torn out.



## **University of Maryland**

This was where Zachary and Aura went to meet up with Dr. Harris for the first time.

## **McConnell Funeral Home**

This was where Aura went to see Logan. His hair was died brown, and he was dressed in a suit. She ran out, not wanting to remember him like that.

## **Farm**

This was a place near Pennsylvania where Aura and Zachary would go to study the night sky. There were no ghosts there.



# Themes

## Dealing With Grief

Even though she is constantly surrounded by death, Aura isn't prepared for the death of her young boyfriend. Especially since it occurs on the night that is supposed to be very special for the two of them. It's particularly difficult for her since she can see the ghost of her boyfriend even as his body lies on the floor.

Not only does she have to deal with the fact that she was the last person to see him, but Aura also has to battle with herself over the anger she feels regarding the choices that led to Logan's death and the loneliness as she misses him.

Adults in her life, such as her Aunt Gina and Logan's mother, realize that seeing Logan is not a good sign. It means he did not go where he should have gone—heading towards the light. His soul is restless, and as long as he's around, there is every chance that he could become a shade. If this happens he will be lost to them all forever.

Aura knows this, but she loves him so much that she doesn't want to let him go. She wants to talk with him and be with him. Because she is so in love with him she only sees the good in him and refuses to acknowledge that there's a chance Logan can become a shade. Her aunt tries to warn her that even good ghosts go bad sometimes. As Aura sees Logan lashing out, she is forced to realize that it is possible for him to become a shade. She has to let him go.

## Understanding the Needs of the Dead

From the very beginning of the book Aura is confronted by ghosts. These departed souls are asking her to listen to their story so that she can help them. She has been on the witness stand many times telling stories of the ghosts share with her. In her society, those who can see ghosts are used as witnesses since ghosts can't mine. However, there have to be at least two different post shift people in order for a trial to be fair.

Aunt Gina used to be able to see ghosts before the Shift. She dedicates her life to work as a lawyer in order to help ghosts find peace. This is one of the reasons the ghosts come to Aura for help. They hope that she will pass on news of their stories to her aunt.

When Logan dies, Aura is conflicted. She needs to balance her own desires with what is best for Logan. She has to learn that wants are very different from needs, and sometimes wants are dangerous.

As Aunt Gina points out, even the nicest ghosts sometimes become shades. They are frustrated when they are stuck without their bodies. Sometimes this frustration turns into anger, and they lash out at the world. This anger allows them to turn into shades.



Aura has the patience and understanding to listen to many ghosts, even at the expense of her own sanity (she resorts to sugar and caffeine to help her in the roughest cases). Her kindness and compassion aid her as she reaches out to understand what the dead people need.

## The Importance of Letting Go

Aura knows about ghosts. She has spent her life watching her aunt try to help ghost who need to find peace before they can move on. Still, when her own boyfriend moves on, Aura isn't able to let go.

His mother and aunt know how important it is for Logan to cross over and move on, but they don't see him. Dylan and Aura do. For them, the pleasure of seeing Logan detracts from the desire to let him move on. For a while, Dylan is worried that his brother will go shade, but after Aura talks with Logan, he goes back to being pleasant. This makes Dylan enjoy being with him again, even if he is a ghost.

When Aura begins to see signs of Logan shifting to shade, she calms him then makes excuses for his reactions. She gets even closer to him, encouraging him to stay around even when he is making plans to cross over so she is free.

Aunt Gina has personal experience with loving someone and losing them then seeing them after they are gone. She talks with her niece as one who has traveled that road before and tries to help Aura come to terms with the importance of letting Logan go and moving on.

Logan isn't the only one held back by their choices. Aura is not able to move forward in the grieving process with Logan continuously visiting. The same holds true for Dylan. Megan tries to help Aura let go by taking her to a place where Logan can't go to have fun. She knows her friend is ready to move on.



# Style

## Point of View

"Shade" by Jeri Smith-Ready is a fiction novel recounted in the first-person perspective from the vantage of Aura, a 16-year-old girl. Because of her age, Aura sees the world as a child, yet her own experiences of dealing with ghosts and death have given her an unusual maturity. In the first chapter a ghost tells her that her eyes are old, and she thinks she has seen everything, but she doesn't know what it's like. Someday she will lose something important, and then she will know. This sums up the perspective of the book.

Aura is a girl who is interested in science and music. She also has a kind heart and reaches out to help ghosts even when she wants to run away from them. Since the book is written from her perspective, the reader gets a clear understanding of her thought process and growth. She wants to believe in good even when the world gives her bad.

With this perspective, the reader sees her visceral reactions to situations and understands the internal mental conflict she deals with. This makes it feel like a personal battle as Aura struggles with the balance of love and loss, light and darkness.

## Setting

The setting of this book is unique because it's very similar to a world most readers are familiar with. Aura lives in an area of Maryland with trees and housing developments. What's unique is that it's a world covered with ghosts that roam the streets, seen by children Aura's age and younger. There are some areas that don't allow ghosts, and these areas are cordoned off by BlackBoxes.

Aura is able to drive around freely. She is close to a mall and places where bands play concerts. There is also water, which is significant to the story since many ghosts live aboard an historic ship filled with ghosts. The ship is used to prove to Aura what unique gift Zachary has. All the ghosts disappear when he is around.

## Language and Meaning

This book is a young adult fiction novel. The language in the book reflects this. The author writes in a timeless manner so the book won't be outdated—avoiding current trendy sayings and using evergreen word usage. The only part that might eventually be considered dated was a short section showing an online chat. While the book is not over-run with swear words, there are a few, which is pretty realistic when teens are

around. Music is important to many teens, and the author highlights several bands and write some lyrics in the novel.

In this novel, the author creates a unique world filled with ghosts, shades, BlackBoxes and Obsidians. The reader never feels lost since the author explains what each of these terms are through natural dialogue. For example the reader learns all about the Shift while reading about a lecture given at school to students Aura's age and younger.

## **Structure**

"Shade" by Jeri Smith-Ready is a 309-page novel. It's the first in a series of three, as shown at the beginning of the novel. After a page that dedicates the book to Jimmy, the author writes a page of acknowledgements. Then the actual book begins. It has 25 chapters, averaging 10-20 pages each. The chapters don't have formal headings aside from the chapter number. The book ends abruptly at the end of the last chapter. It has no epilogue or any follow-up information.



## Quotes

"Vertigo in a post-Shifter like me usually means a ghost is turning shade. They go down that one-way path when they let bitterness warp their souls" (Chapter 1, p. 6).

"I knew then that everything would change the next night. It was like time had folded in on itself, and I could remember the future. A future I already hated" (Chapter 1, p. 15).

"Same with the answers you seek," she said. "You won't find them by staring until your eyes fall out. They'll come when you're looking at something else" (Chapter 6, p. 80).

"Maybe I was paranoid, but Eowyn seemed nervous as she showed us to the door, as though she were a mother sending kids off to army boot camp" (Chapter 11, p. 135).

"He's pissed as hell - about dying, about this stupid court case, about everything he can't do." The phone shifted again. "Sometimes he makes me so dizzy I think I'm gonna hurl" (Chapter 12, p. 142).

"I tried to force my mind back to the project instead of counting how many weeks it had been since anyone had touched me—really touched me, the way I wanted Zach to. I mean, the way I wanted Logan to" (Chapter 13, p. 150).

"Maybe he was starting to understand that these things weren't for him. The funeral and the headstone were for those he'd left behind - his parents and Mickey and Siobhan" (Chapter 14, p. 165).

"Every minute that goes by on this planet, an average of four hundred babies are born. During my minute, and yours? Only one. Us" (Chapter 16, p. 192).

We fit together like we'd been kidding for years in some parallel universe that had suddenly intersected with the one we were living in now.  
Chapter 17, "Shade" by Jeri Smith-Ready p. 209).

"I don't want you to want me just because I'm here and alive" (Chapter 20, p. 252).

"'Logan, this is incredible. It means shades can come back.' My mind boggled" (Chapter 20, p. 25).

"I'd been so wrong about us. If he lived, we would've been happy. Not every day, but over the span of time that made up forever. But he hadn't lived" (Chapter 22, p. 280).

"Every post-Shifter in that pub saw Logan turn shade," he said. "If you brought him back again, you could bring hope to a lot of people. And fear to a lot of other people. It could change everything" (Chapter 25, p. 305).





## Topics for Discussion

Explain the Shift, including when it happened and how it affected Aunt Gina and everyone else.

How did Logan die, and why did Aura feel as if it was her fault?

Why was Aunt Gina concerned for her niece and Logan?

How did Megan's life change after Logan died?

What made Aura decide to ask Logan what his plans were for the future, and how did he respond?

What did Aunt Gina and Aura have in common, and how did this knowledge help Aura?

What happened when Logan tried to pass on and why?

How did Aura save Logan, and what does that affect everyone in her world?