

Shadow Kiss Study Guide

Shadow Kiss by Richelle Mead

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Plot Summary

Shadow Kiss by Richelle Mead is the third book in the Vampire Academy Series. In this novel, Rose is still struggling with the death of her friend, Mason, and the mistakes that forced her to kill two Strigoi vampires in Colorado. As a senior at the academy, Rose also finds herself in the middle of a guardian test she must pass in order to graduate. To add to her troubles, Rose begins seeing ghosts. Shadow Kiss delves deeper into Rose's relationship not only with her best friend and bond mate, Lissa, but with her guardian teacher, Dimitri. Shadow Kiss is a satisfying installment in the Vampire Academy series that will leave readers begging for more.

It is just a few weeks after the death of Rose's friend, Mason, and the fiasco in Colorado that caused Rose to have to kill two Strigoi for the first time. Everyone thinks Rose is still struggling with grief, but Rose finds herself thinking more and more about the future, not the past. As a senior, Rose is anticipating the beginning of the guardian test, six weeks guarding a Moroi. Rose assumes she will guard Lissa, therefore she is shocked when she is assigned to guard Christian, Lissa's boyfriend.

During the first test of the six weeks, Rose is confronted by a guardian pretending to be a Strigoi. Rose is prepared, but when she sees Mason standing a few feet away, she becomes distracted long enough for the fake Strigoi to take her Morois. Rose is brought before a panel of guardian instructors and forced to explain her actions. While Rose refuses to tell the truth, she manages to talk her way out of severe punishment. Later, Dimitri tries to get Rose to tell him the truth, but Rose is afraid of what Dimitri might think of her if he knew she was seeing ghosts and decides to keep the truth to herself.

A short time later, Rose learns that someone has arranged for her, Christian, and Lissa to testify at the trial of Victor Dashkov, the Moroi royal who kidnapped and tortured Lissa the previous fall. While in transit to the Moroi royal court, Rose suffers a terrible migraine that quickly passes when they land. Later, Rose becomes frightened when she receives a note from Dashkov threatening to reveal her love for Dimitri to the queen. Rose and Dimitri visit Dashkov and he asks after Lissa, proving to Rose that he only wanted to see her in order to learn more about Lissa. However, Rose does learn a few things about being shadow kissed from Dashkov that prove to be helpful later.

After the trial, Rose is on the plane returning to the academy when she is suddenly hit by a horrible headache and begins to see ghosts. Rose becomes so agitated that she screams and passes out. When Rose wakes in the academy infirmary, she is forced to tell Dimitri, the head of the guardians, and the doctor the truth. No one believes her and they come to the conclusion that she is suffering stress from Mason's death. Rose is forced to drop half of her guardian hours and to see a counselor.

A short time later, Lissa is tortured by a group of Moroi who are attempting to force her to use compulsion. When Rose arrives to rescue Lissa, she discovers Lissa using her powers to torture one of the worst of her tormentors. Rose takes away the darkness from Lissa through their bond, but this causes her to become filled with dark emotions.



Dimitri leads Rose away from the others, taking her to an abandoned cabin where he slowly manages to convince Rose to calm down. They then consummate their relationship for the first time.

After leaving the cabin, Rose and Dimitri are on their way back to the academy when they become aware that Strigoi have somehow managed to get onto the property. Rose rushes back to the dorms to warn the others while Dimitri stays to fight. Rose joins the fight with Christian, who uses his magic to help slow down and stop the Strigoi. Afterward, the academy stages a rescue attempt that ends in Dimitri being bitten by a Strigoi. Rose decides to go after Dimitri so that she might kill him, rather than allow him to continue to live as Strigoi.



Chapters 1-3

Chapters 1-3 Summary

Shadow Kiss is the third book in the Vampire Academy Series. Rose Hathaway is a dhampir, a person who is half human and half Moroi vampire. After a car accident, Rose was brought back to life by her friend, Lissa, something that has caused a mental bond between the two girls that is referred to as being shadow kissed. Rose rescued Lissa from Victor Dashkov, a royal Moroi who wanted to use her rare and unique gifts of spirit to prolong his own life. During this rescue, Rose was forced to act upon romantic feelings for her guardian instructor, Dimitri, by a charm Victor placed on her. Dimitri has since admitted to loving Rose, but expressed concern that they cannot indulge their feelings because they are both slated to be Lissa's guardians after her graduation from the academy.

In Chapter 1, Rose is awoken by a romantic interlude between Lissa and Christian that Rose witnesses through her mental bond with Lissa. To shake off the restless feelings it has given her, Rose goes for a walk outside her dorm. Rose runs into Dimitri and overhears him speaking with Alberta, the head of the guardians at the academy, about an impending trial for Victor Dashkov. Rose becomes angry when she realizes that she, Christian, and Lissa will not be allowed to attend the trial. As Rose makes her way back to her dorm, she sees Mason, her dead friend, standing in the courtyard.

In Chapter 2, Rose watches Mason, convinced he has come in search of some sort of revenge on her for his death due to the overwhelming sadness she sees in his face. When Mason disappears, Rose returns to her room and convinces herself she only imagined it. The next day is the beginning of the guardian test in which all senior dhampirs will spend six weeks guarding a Moroi student. Rose is convinced she will be guarding Lissa because she is to be her guardian when they graduate. However, Rose is shocked to learn she will be guarding Lissa's boyfriend Christian while her friend, Eddie, will be guarding Lissa. Rose argues with the instructors only to be told that she has no choice in the matter.

In Chapter 3, Rose runs into Adrian on her way to the lunch room. In the lunch room, Rose catches up with Lissa. Lissa is sympathetic to Rose's disappointment, but also excited to begin the test with Eddie. While getting something to eat, Rose finds herself in the unusual position of defending Christian to a couple of Moroi who use the choice of Christian's parents to turn Strigoi as an excuse to question his worth as a Moroi royal.

Chapters 1-3 Analysis

Shadow Kiss begins just a few weeks after the second book in the series. Rose is still dealing with the death of Mason, who died in the previous book after attempting to track down the Strigoi who attacked and killed two royal Moroi families. When Rose begins to



see Mason, she thinks that it is caused by guilt as well as stress and exhaustion, dismissing the sighting. However, this sighting will prove to play an important role in the overall plot of the novel.

This book also goes back to the first book in the series when Rose learns that Victor Dashkov, who in the first book kidnapped and tortured Lissa to force her to use her unique magic, spirit, to heal him, is about to go on trial for his crimes. Rose is angry that she, Christian, and Lissa will not be allowed to attend the trial even though they were the targets of Dashkov's actions. This will also play an important part in the overall plot of the novel as Rose deals with her frustration and anger before telling Lissa the news.

These first few chapters of the book introduce the reader to a test Rose and her fellow senior students will be undergoing for the next six weeks. As part of their training as guardians to Moroi, the students will be assigned a Moroi student and will guard them for six weeks as the guardian instructors will randomly attack the students as a Strigoi might. Rose is excited for this test, seeing it as an excuse to spend six weeks with her best friend, but learns she will not be Lissa's guardian during this test even though she is to be Lissa's guardian after graduation. Rose is told this is because she needs to learn to guard someone with whom she does not have a mental bond. Rose reveals her frustration to the instructors, causing some to think she does not plan on taking her assignment to Christian seriously. This come back to haunt Rose later in the novel.

Finally, these first few chapters remind the reader of Rose's personal relationships. Rose has a mental bond to her best friend, Lissa, who brought her back to life after a car accident that resulted in a mental bond between them. Rose dislikes Lissa's boyfriend, mainly because he interferes with her relationship with Lissa. Christian's parents became Strigoi by choice, something that is unheard of among the Moroi and has caused him to suffer greatly in social settings. This is not part of Rose's dislike of Christian, but it is an issue for other students and Rose finds herself defending Christian despite her own unhappiness with him. Finally, these early chapters also remind the reader of Rose's love affair with Dimitri, her teacher who is seven years her senior. Despite the fact that the feelings are mutual, Dimitri refuses to act on them because it could cause problems for them among the Moroi and it can cause them trouble in guarding Lissa when Rose and Lissa graduate from the academy. This evolving relationship will be of great importance as the plot develops in this novel.



Chapters 4-8

Chapters 4-8 Summary

In Chapter 4, the guardian test begins. Rose and Eddie work together because Lissa and Christian have most of their classes together. In the afternoon, Rose witnesses a fight between several guardian students and guardian instructors. One of the boys makes a mistake and fails the test. Rose is anxious to be tested. Later, Rose and Christian have a heart-to-heart talk during his home class and clear the air. Afterward, Rose is confronted by a guardian instructor dressed as a Strigoi, but she freezes when she sees Mason watching.

In Chapter 5, Rose is brought before a panel of guardian instructors to explain her actions. Rose is accused of purposely leaving Christian unprotected in order to protest her assignment to him rather than Lissa. Rose tries to defend herself without admitting the truth, finally accepting a probationary period and community service after Dimitri comes to her defense and stops the panel from kicking her out of the test all together. Later, Rose and Dimitri talk, but again Rose refuses to admit the truth, afraid Dimitri will think she is crazy.

In Chapter 6, Rose is on the way to the library to talk to Lissa when she runs into a guardian and his Moroi. The guardian, Ryan, accuses Rose of refusing to fight. Rose becomes angry. Rose grabs Ryan's Moroi and pins her against the wall, showing him danger can come from unexpected places. Adrian happens upon the scene and he uses compulsion to force Rose to let go of the Moroi, which only causes Rose to become even angrier later when she realizes what he has done. In the library, Lissa is annoyed with Rose and confronts her on her actions. Rose convinces Lissa she did not abandon Christian, a view that is supported when Christian himself arrives and backs up Rose. Rose then tells Christian and Lissa about Victor Dashkov's upcoming trial. Lissa becomes agitated and this causes Rose to also become agitated, but she is forced to back away to act as a guardian rather than participate in the ensuing discussion.

In Chapter 7, as part of the guardian test, Rose sleeps in Christian's dorm room. As she sleeps, Adrian comes into her dream using his spirit powers. They talk about his crush on her, her feelings for Dimitri, and the upcoming trial.

In Chapter 8, Rose spends an uneventful week guarding Christian. Then Rose, Lissa, and Eddie are attacked while walking across campus. Rose wants to fight, but cannot find an opening and stays back. However, Rose is later criticized for paying too much attention to the fight and not watching her Moroi, who could have been attacked by another Strigoi he might have been hiding behind them. Rose is angry and has to remind herself to allow Eddie to bask in the compliments he received. Rose, Eddie, and Lissa catch up with Christian and Adrian. Lissa shows Adrian how to heal when she heals a few scratches Eddie got in the fight. Christian becomes annoyed and takes Rose with him to visit a feeder, a human who willingly provides blood to the Moroi. While



waiting, Christian complains about Adrian. A Moroi named Jesse overhears and tries to talk Christian into joining some private club he runs in which Moroi are learning how to take a more active role in government. Christian quickly declines.

Chapters 4-8 Analysis

Rose begins her guardian test and it begins with a little blip as a fellow student fails his first test. Rose, however, appears to be taking the situation quite seriously and even attempts to make amends with Christian as she watches him do his homework in home ec. However, a short time later Rose is accused of leaving Christian to the mercy of a Strigoi in the form of one of the guardian instructors. Rose has done this not because she dislikes Christian or is angry at the guardian instructors, but because she sees Mason again. Rose is beginning to think she is going insane, therefore she refuses to admit the truth to anyone, including Dimitri and Lissa. Not only does this show the reader how tough Rose can be sometimes, but it also reveals an underlying fear of losing the trust of those around her and the real possibility that she might be going insane.

These chapters also reintroduce Adrian to the reader. Adrian is Moroi royal, actually related to the current Moroi queen, who has come to the academy after meeting Lissa at a ski resort in order to learn more about spirit with her. Adrian is also a spirit user, but he does not have a bond with anyone such as the bond between Rose and Lissa. While Adrian's interest in Lissa is purely educational, Christian is jealous of Adrian and is afraid that he wants to be with Lissa. However, Adrian's interest is in Rose alone. Unfortunately, relationships between Moroi and dhampirs is not encouraged in this society. Not only this, but Rose is in love with Dimitri, a fact that Adrian has inadvertently figured out.



Chapter 9-12

Chapter 9-12 Summary

In Chapter 9, Rose spends Sunday afternoon, her off day, cleaning out the attic room of the church for her community service. Without explanation, Dimitri has decided to join her. As they work, the priest mentions some new books on St. Vladimir and his guardian, Anna. Lissa and Rose had been deeply interested in the pair previously because they were the only other spirit and shadow kissed coupling they knew about, like Rose and Lissa. However, their interest has waned since Adrian's arrival. At the same time, Rose asks the priest about ghosts and he tells her that he believes spirits can remain on the earth plane for more than a month after death if they died violently or exceptionally young. Rose begins to worry that Mason is appearing to her because he wants revenge for his death. Later, Rose runs into a younger student named Jill who wants to learn how to use her magic to fight Strigoi, something that has thus far been frowned upon in Moroi society. Jill tells Rose about some other students who have been sporting bruises and other marks that make Rose worry that there is some kind of bully at work on campus.

In Chapter 10, Rose goes with Christian to the feeders again. Christian again visits the same feeder, an older woman named Alice, who says some weird things to Rose that she initially dismisses. Afterward, Rose and Christian learn that they are to attend Victor Dashkov's trial after all. Rose thinks it was Dimitri who made it happen and thanks him, only to discover it was not him. On the plane, Rose experiences a terrible headache on takeoff that lasts until they land again.

In Chapter 11, upon arriving at the Royal Court, Rose and her friends are shown to their guest rooms. Lissa must go to see the queen. Lissa asks Rose to use her mental bond to go with Lissa to the queen since the queen will not allow Rose to go in person. Rose watches through Lissa's eyes as the queen questions her use of spirit and Lissa finds herself arguing against the use of her powers to heal people randomly. Lissa also promotes the idea of Moroi learning how to defend themselves in order to preserve the few dhampir guardians available to them. When Lissa leaves the queen's audience, Rose returns to herself and goes downstairs where she runs into Mia, a former enemy from the academy whom she now considers a good friend.

Chapter 12. Rose, Mia, Christian, and Eddie go to a coffee shop inside a building at the Royal Court and catch up on their lives. When Adrian and Lissa arrive, Christian again becomes jealous and an argument breaks out between him and Lissa. Rose soothes the argument over, but feels agitated herself so she goes outside. Rose runs into Adrian and learns he was the one who arranged for her, Christian, and Lissa to attend the trial. Rose gives him a hug. Later, Mia comes outside and gives Rose a note that was left for her. Rose discovers the note is from Victor Dashkov and he is threatening to reveal her relationship with Dimitri to the court.



Chapter 9-12 Analysis

Rose continues to deal with her Mason sightings alone, hoping to find a reasonable explanation that has nothing to do with her losing her sanity. However, the alternatives do not seem to be that much better as Rose begins to wonder if Mason has returned to seek revenge on her for his untimely death. At the same time, Rose has a strange experience on the airplane as she flies to the Royal Court to testify against Victor Dashkov. Rose has a headache and sees dark shapes, but she puts it down to a lack of food and stress. However, these are the same excuses she gave when she began seeing Mason, too.

Rose, Christian, and Lissa travel to the Royal Court to testify in Victor Dashkov's trial. Victor once kidnapped Lissa and tried to force her to heal him, leading to Lissa developing an opinion in which spirit users should be able to choose who they heal rather than being forced to heal whomever the government says they should. This leads to a discussion with the queen in which Lissa stands up for her views despite the queen's obvious difference of opinion. This shows the reader the depth of Lissa's beliefs, but it also opens up a moral question that will leave the reader wondering how the new development of spirit in people like Lissa and Adrian will impact the Moroi government in the future.

Rose is becoming more and more agitated, having darker and darker moods as the novel progresses. These moods seem to increase after Lissa has been upset and Rose has calmed her down. This is an important situation that the reader should note because it will have great impact on the plot later in the novel. At the same time, Rose has her own troubles as the novel continues to develop, specifically a fear that Victor Dashkov will tell the world of her relationship with Dimitri, a situation that can lead to punishment for them both and a separation.



Chapters 13-17

Chapters 13-17 Summary

In Chapter 13, Rose goes immediately to Dimitri. Dimitri makes a single phone call and minutes later escorts Rose to Victor Dashkov's cell. Victor immediately asks questions about Lissa, seeming to prove to Rose that Victor only sent the note because he had nothing to force Lissa herself to come see him. However, as they talk, Rose asks Victor a few things about ghosts and he implies that when she killed the Strigoi in Colorado, it caused her to draw closer to the world of the dead and enable her to see ghosts. Before they leave, Dimitri threatens to kill Victor if he hurts Rose.

In Chapter 14, the next day, Rose is excited when she receives a delivery of authentic guardian clothing for the trial. During the trial, Rose is nervous that Victor will still reveal the truth of her relationship with Dimitri, but Victor never does. At one point, he does suggest there was something going on, but no one believes him. Victor is found guilty and sentenced to prison. Afterward, Lissa is asked to remain behind to speak with the queen. The queen offers Lissa a chance to go to a larger university if she agrees to live at court after she graduates from the academy. Then the queen asks to speak with Rose.

In Chapter 15, the queen tells Rose that she wants Rose to stay away from Adrian. The queen makes it clear that she would like for Lissa and Adrian to marry one day. Rose tries to argue, but the queen refuses to listen. The queen threatens to make someone else Lissa's guardian if Rose refuses to comply. Later, Rose finds Lissa excited over the idea of living at court, so she does not tell her what the queen said to her. Instead, Rose and Lissa go to another building where there is a spa at which Lissa has made them appointments. After getting their nails done, Rose and Lissa get foot massages. Rose is shocked when she realizes her masseuse is a male blood whore to the queen.

In Chapter 16, the masseuse, Ambrose, defends his choice and questions Rose's devotion to the guardians. Ambrose then takes Rose and Lissa to see a psychic. Lissa gets a detailed reading in which the woman tells her she will be an important leader someday. Rose's reading, however, is sparse, telling her only that she will destroy that which is undead. As Rose prepares to argue, Dimitri comes in. To Rose's surprise, he agrees to a reading as well. Dimitri's fortune tells him he will soon lose what he values most.

In Chapter 17, Rose avoids answering questions about her meeting with the queen when she boards the plane. As the plane takes off, Rose experiences her headache again. Later, the plane is forced to land at a non-Moroi airport. As the plane lands, Rose expects her headache will get better, but instead it gets even worse. Rose begins to see ghosts, including Mason and Lissa's family who died in the same car crash that caused Rose to be bound to Lissa. Rose's headache and the ghost sightings becomes overwhelming and Rose screams before she passes out.



Chapters 13-17 Analysis

Rose confronts Victor Dashkov only to find an old man who used the only tool he had to learn about Lissa. Despite his apparent lack of control, Dimitri threatens him should he hurt Rose, proving his deep feelings for Rose despite his need to hide them. This only serves to draw Rose and Dimitri closer together and make her want him even more.

At Victor's trial, Rose and Dimitri are frightened of what Victor might say, but when the moment comes no one believes him, therefore they discover they have little to fear. Later, the queen makes an offer to Lissa she cannot pass up. However, the reader learns that the queen has plans for Lissa that Lissa cannot fully grasp at this point. The queen seems to be grooming Lissa to be, at the least, a spouse to her nephew, at best, the next queen. Rose discovers this when the queen threatens to make someone else Lissa's guardian if Rose will not end her relationship with Adrian, a relationship that is non-existent as far as Rose is concerned.

Rose meets a blood whore, a dhampir who lives life in order to provide sex and blood to Moroi. This blood whore is a man who has made the choice to not be a guardian, but to be a sexual slave to a Moroi, in this case the queen. Rose is shocked because she has always assumed that blood whores were female dhampirs who wanted to raise children. Since dhampirs cannot reproduce with one another, but only with Moroi, this is not as discouraged as it might be in order to replenish the dhampir population, but is not a respectable career choice either. Rose is highly prejudiced against blood whores and is determined not to be one. Meeting Ambrose changes Rose's views of blood whores slightly, but not enough to make her choice her own life over Lissa's.

On the plane ride back to the academy, Rose again suffers a headache. When the plane lands in a non-Moroi airport, Rose is overwhelmed when she begins to see ghosts. This seems to support that the Mason Rose has been seeing at the academy is real and that she can somehow see ghosts. However, it does not fully explain how she can see ghosts or what this might mean for her. Rose must figure this out later in the novel.



Chapters 18-22

Chapters 18-22 Summary

In Chapter 18, Rose wakes in the academy infirmary. Dimitri, Alberta, and Dr. Olendski are there. Rose is forced to tell the truth about what happened. Dr. Olendski is of the opinion that Rose is reacting to the stress of killing two Strigoi, losing Mason, and having to undergo the guardian test. Dr. Olendski wants Rose taken out of the test, but Rose will not hear of it. Finally it is agreed that Rose will do the test part time and she will begin seeing a counselor. When Rose leaves, Dimitri walks her back to her dorm. Taking a risk, Dimitri stops and pulls Rose into his arms, telling her how hard it was for him to watch her in pain and not be able to help. Unfortunately, Dimitri also tells her he does not believe her story about ghosts, but he will try to keep an open mind. Later, Rose returns to the infirmary to get her bag and runs into a girl who has been badly beaten up. Pretending to know all about it, Rose gets the girl to tell her the name of the secret group that caused the injuries.

In Chapter 19, Rose rejoins her friends during a training session between Lissa and Adrian. Lissa is trying to teach Adrian to heal plants, but he is struggling. When Lissa uses her magic, Rose senses darkness in her mind that is like the darkness that led to her depression before. However, the darkness quickly disappears. Later Adrian tells Rose about it. Rose rushes to the church to ask the priest a question. Rose learns that Anna, the shadow kissed guardian who spent her life with St. Vladimir, committed suicide after St. Vladimir's death. This leaves Rose convinced that her connection with Lissa will keep Lissa sane, but has the potential to drive Rose insane. A short time later, Rose sees Mason again. Rose tries to speak to him, but Mason cannot speak to her.

In Chapter 20, Rose attends her first counseling session. The counselor, Deidre, suggests to Rose that perhaps she is in love with Dimitri because she cannot have him. When Rose runs into Adrian a few minutes later, she asks him to use compulsion to make her want to kiss him. When it is over, Rose realizes that her feelings for Dimitri are much deeper than a simple physical attraction and that Deidre's theory is not true. A short time later, Rose accompanies Christian to the feeders where they run into Jesse. Jesse wants Christian to join his secret group and he pushes the idea, suggesting that the group is using compulsion to change things in Moroi society. Christian again refuses, but he also makes a comment about Lissa's ability to use compulsion. When Christian is called to the feeder, it is Alice again. Alice makes a comment about the protective wards around the school that are designed to keep out the Strigoi. The wards work because the Strigoi are dead and cannot pass, suggesting that ghosts should not be able to pass them either. However, Rose has repeatedly seen Mason.

Chapter 21. Rose runs into Dimitri at the church and asks him about the wards around the academy. Dimitri assures her that the wards are checked almost daily and that there is no way they could be weakened. Later, Rose checks in on Lissa through their mental



bond and watches as Jesse approaches her about his secret club. Lissa politely refuses his offer to join.

Chapter 22. At Rose's next visit with Deidre, Deidre questions Rose's unquestioned devotion to Lissa and how she feels about putting her own life on hold in order to guard Lissa. This questions what Rose has always been taught, that the Moroi go first. Later, Rose has to defend herself to a group of students who wonder why she has been put on half time in the test. As they walk across the grounds, they are attacked by several instructors dressed in black to signify they are pretending to be Strigoi. Even though Rose is technically not on duty, she joins the fight and proves herself well against two instructors. When Rose faces the third, she discovers it is Dimitri. Rose and Dimitri are equally matched, but Rose eventually gets the better of Dimitri, giving a good showing in the test. Afterward, Rose goes to clean up before dinner. On her way to the cafeteria, Rose runs into Christian and Adrian fighting. Christian has learned of the queen's plans for Adrian and he is jealous. Rose breaks up the fight, but then begins to wonder where Lissa is. Over their bond, Rose suddenly realizes Lissa is in trouble.

Chapters 18-22 Analysis

Rose is forced to tell the truth about seeing ghosts. The doctor and instructors think she is simply suffering a stress reaction to all that has been going on lately, but Rose knows it goes deeper than that. Rose believes it is part of being shadow kissed. However, not even Dimitri believes that Rose can actually see ghosts. This causes some tension in their relationship, but Dimitri is open enough with Rose that she accepts his doubts despite her disappointment that he cannot believe her.

Rose is forced to begin questioning her commitment to the guardian program when she begins seeing a counselor. Rose has always been taught that the Moroi always go first, that their lives are more important. For this reason, Rose does not balk at all the restrictions being a guardian will place on her life. However, the counselor makes her look a little more closely at those restrictions, especially in connection with Dimitri. However, Rose continues to believe that she and Dimitri will be able to find way to make their relationship work.

Adrian has spotted something move between Rose and Lissa's auras that causes him to think that Rose somehow steals the dark side effects of spirit use from Lissa in a way that keeps her from suffering depression while using the magic. This leads Rose to question what happened to the only other known shadow kissed pair, St. Vladimir and Anna. When Rose learns that Anna committed suicide shortly after Vladimir's death, she begins to fear for her own sanity.



Chapters 23-26

Chapters 23-26 Summary

In Chapter 23, Rose rushes to where Lissa is being attacked by other Moroi in a distant corner of the school grounds and stops the attack by physically attacking several of the people there. When Rose goes to Lissa, she discovers that Lissa is using compulsion to force Jesse to see his darkest nightmares as real. Rose talks Lissa down and makes her stop, taking the darkness from her. However, Rose is then filled with the darkness and she attacks Jesse. Dimitri takes Rose away, walking her to a small cabin not far away. Inside the cabin, Dimitri talks Rose down, helping her deal with the darkness. When Rose finally calms, they begin to kiss, finally consummating their relationship. When Dimitri and Rose leave the cabin, Rose sees Mason. Mason manages to warn Rose that someone is coming.

In Chapter 24, Rose and Dimitri are attacked by a Strigoi. Dimitri sends Rose to the dorms to warn everyone while he continues to fight more Strigoi. Rose runs to the dhampir dorm where she tells one of the other instructors. Rose is then sent upstairs out of the way. Rose wants to help, but they give her a simple assignment. Rose checks on Lissa through their mental bond and learns that Christian is at the church. Rose decides to go find Christian. When Rose finds Christian, he is out in the yard. Rose barely has time to warn him when a Strigoi attacks. Rose is able to defeat one, but another surprises her and nearly gets the better of her when Christian uses his fire magic to burn the Strigoi. Rose tries to get Christian to go back to the church, but Christian wants to fight. Together they go to the elementary dorms and join the fight. When it is over, Rose learns that the Strigoi did not kill as many as they might have, but they managed to carry several students and guardians away.

In Chapter 25, Rose learns that Eddie is among the academy people taken by the Strigoi. Rose then runs into her mother, who has come to help replace the dead guardians until other arrangements can be made. Rose suggests to her mother that they stage a rescue mission, but her mother tells her there is no way of knowing where the Strigoi went. Rose then finds Dimitri and tells him that she thinks she can find out where the Strigoi are. Dimitri takes Rose outside the academy gates and she calls to Mason. Mason appears and tells Rose with gestures and a map where the Strigoi are.

Chapter 26. Rose and Dimitri attend a meeting of the guardians in which a rescue attempt is discussed. Rose's mother comes into the room and not only supports the rescue attempt, but suggests they take some Moroi with them to use their magic. A plan is agreed upon. While the rescue is planned, Dimitri takes Rose for a walk. Dimitri tells Rose that he loves her and that he has decided to ask for a new guardian assignment after Rose's graduation. Dimitri hopes that instead of being Lissa's guardian, he can be assigned to the Royal Court so that they can be together during their off time.



Chapters 23-26 Analysis

Rose and Dimitri have finally consummated their relationship and begun to make decisions that will change their future. Where Rose and Dimitri were supposed to be co-guardians over Lissa, Dimitri decides to ask for a different assignment so that their responsibilities to Lissa are not compromised by their love for one another. By doing this, Dimitri has made a clear commitment to Rose that will change their future and cause them some trouble when the truth comes out, but will allow them to be together.

An attack by Strigoi takes place at the school. The wards that protect the school have been compromised by the use of magic for nefarious purposes by Jesse and his secret group. Rose and Christian fight together, proving that Moroi can fight to protect themselves from Strigoi and that Rose is a competent guardian. However, Eddie is taken from the school. Rose already lives with the guilt of Mason's death, she does not want his best friend, Eddie, to suffer as well. Rose pushes for a rescue attempt and is pleased when she gets her own way. As a teenager and a trained guardian, Rose feels somewhat invincible and does not worry about the danger this attack will create, but is determined to get revenge.



Chapters 27-29

Chapters 27-29 Summary

In Chapter 27, Rose is part of the team that hikes to the caves where Strigoi are thought to be hiding to rescue those taken from the academy. Rose waits outside as the more experienced guardians and Moroi teachers go inside. Rose can hear the fight, but can do nothing to help. Slowly captives begin to come out of the caves. Finally the fight becomes chaotic and Rose is sent inside to help. Rose joins a group that includes Dimitri and her mother. They fight their way out of the cave and are nearly safe when Dimitri is suddenly overcome by a Strigoi who was hiding along one cave wall. Rose is only able to watch as Dimitri is taken down. Rose tries to go back for Dimitri, but her mother forces her to run.

In Chapter 28, Rose waits in the chapel for it to be light out so that a recovery team can return to the caves to recover the bodies of the dead. Lissa comes to sit with Rose. Rose begs Lissa to heal Dimitri when they recover his body, but Lissa refuses. It is then that Lissa finally realizes that Rose is in love with Dimitri. Rose waits with Lissa along the boundary of the school grounds and waits while the guardians bring the bodies back. Dimitri is not among them. Rose steps past the wards and calls to Mason. When he appears, Rose asks him if Dimitri is dead. Mason tells Rose that Dimitri is now Strigoi.

In Chapter 29, a week later, Rose goes to Adrian and asks for money. When he provides it to her after extracting a promise that she will seriously consider dating him, Rose withdraws from the academy. When Rose arrives at the gates to the school, Lissa is waiting. Lissa begs Rose to stay, but Rose tells her she must do this. Rose wants to find Dimitri and kill him, freeing him of an existence she knows he would not want. Rose then says goodbye to Mason, who is crossing over, and begins her journey.

Chapters 27-29 Analysis

Dimitri is taken down by a Strigoi at the end of the rescue mission to save the kidnapped students and teachers from the academy. Rose sees him go down and tries to help him, but her mother will not allow her to. Rose is devastated, even asking Lissa if she will heal him when they recover his body. Lissa refuses, but now understands Rose's feelings for Dimitri.

The counselor questioned Rose's unconditional commitment to the guardian program. At the time, Rose found it ridiculous, convinced nothing could cause her to refuse to protect Lissa. However, with Dimitri's transformation into a Strigoi, Rose has finally found the one situation that could cause her to turn her back on Lissa. Rose knows that Dimitri would not be happy living as a Strigoi, the one thing he has always hated and

fought against. For this reason, Rose walks away from everything she has always known in order to help the man she still loves.



Characters

Rose Hathaway

Rose Hathaway is the main character of this novel. Rose is a dhampir, half human and half Moroi vampire, and is in training to become a guardian, a type of bodyguard, to a Moroi vampire. Rose is already aware that upon graduation she will become guardian to her best friend, Lissa, along with her guardian instructor, Dimitri Belikov. This is because Rose and Lissa have a mental connection that began when Lissa brought Rose back from the dead after a car accident that also killed Lissa's parents and brother.

Rose has recently returned to school after killing two Strigoi who kidnapped her and several of her classmates from the academy during an ill-advised trip to Colorado. Rose's friend and romantic interest, Mason, was killed during this episode. Therefore, when Rose begins to see Mason around campus, she thinks that it is stress that is causing the sightings. It is not until later that Rose realizes that Mason has come to warn her of danger and that the fact that she can see him on campus should be a warning in itself due to the wards that guard the school from Strigoi, designed with all four elemental magics to keep dead things out.

As Rose struggles with her sightings of Mason and its possible implications about her mental status, Rose is in the middle of a major test of her guardian abilities at the school. Rose fails her first test and is nearly kicked out of the test all together. Later, Rose comes to realize that some of her troubles stem from her connection to Lissa and that it is a real possibility that if she is not going insane now, that she might go insane later in her life after years of taking away the side effects of spirit magic from Lissa. This causes Rose some concerns. However, what concerns Rose most is her growing relationship with her instructor, Dimitri. Dimitri admits to his feelings for Rose and decides on a plan of action that might allow the two of them to be together after graduation. However, before they can take the first step in this direction, Dimitri is transformed into a Strigoi during an attempt to recover students and faculty taken from the academy during a Strigoi attack.

Lissa Dragomir

Lissa Dragomir is Rose's best friend. Lissa is the last surviving member of the Dragomir royal Moroi family and as such she is a very important member of the Moroi community. In this capacity, Lissa finds herself drawn to the attention of the Moroi queen, Tatiana. Tatiana wants Lissa to live at the royal court and to eventually be married to the queen's own nephew, Adrian. Lissa is not fully aware of all of Tatiana's plans for her, but is excited at the idea of living at the royal court and going to a college that is bigger than the schools Moroi traditionally attend.



Lissa practices a type of magic that had been thought to be extinct, spirit magic. This magic allows Lissa to use her powers to heal people, to have a mental bond with Rose, and to use a stronger version of compulsion to force others to bend to her will. For this reason, Rose has been targeted in the past by Moroi who wanted to use her powers for their own gain. At the same time, Lissa's powers are becoming a source of debate at the government level as people discuss how Lissa's powers should be used. Lissa, however, is still learning to use her powers and the powers have a dark side effect that could potentially drive Lissa insane if not for Rose's ability to take it from her over their mental bond.

Christian Ozera

Christian is Lissa's boyfriend. Christian is also part of a royal Moroi family. However, Christian's parents made the choice to become Strigoi, something that is deeply frowned upon by the Moroi society and has caused him to become untrustworthy in the eyes of most Moroi and a social outcast. This is part of the reason Christian and Lissa were originally drawn to one another, because they both felt like social pariah.

Christian and Rose have not gotten along in the past. However, because of their time as captives of Strigoi in Colorado and Christian's use of fire magic to help Rose in their escape, they have become somewhat closer. When Rose is assigned to guard Christian during the guardian test, she protests, but she soon learns the true intentions of the instructors and accepts the situation. Not only this, but Christian and Rose have a conversation that helps them clear the air and become better friends.

Eddie Castile

Eddie is Mason's best friend. When Rose and her friends are kidnapped by the Strigoi in Colorado, Eddie is with them. During their captivity, Eddie is used for blood by one of the Strigoi, leaving him in a sedated condition during most of the ordeal. Now, back at the academy, Eddie is determined to prove his worth as a guardian. Eddie is assigned to Lissa and proves himself to be a capable guardian. However, when the Strigoi attack the school, Eddie is among those who are taken by the surviving Strigoi. Rose learns this and uses her fear for Eddie as a driving force to convince the guardians to make a rescue attempt for those stolen.

Dimitri Belikov

Dimitri Belikov is a guardian instructor at St. Vladimir's Academy. Dimitri has been training Rose one on one since her return from a two year absence at the school. During Lissa's struggles with Victor Dashkov, Victor found out about Rose's crush on Dimitri and used it to distract her by giving her an object charmed with a lust spell that caused them to nearly consummate their new relationship. Since that time, Dimitri has kept Rose at arm's length, not only because a relationship between them would be frowned on by society because of the differences in their ages and his job as her



instructor, but also because they both slatted to be Lissa's guardians and Dimitri worries they could not keep Lissa safe while worrying about one another's safety.

Dimitri finally admitted to his feelings for Rose in the previous book in the series, but continues to refuse to act on those feelings. However, when Rose becomes angry and violent after taking some darkness from Lissa, it is Dimitri that calms her. Afterward, Rose and Dimitri become carried away in one another and consummate their relationship for the first time. A short time later, Dimitri comes up with a solution to their problems and promises that they will have a future in their relationship. Then, during a rescue mission to save some students and faculty taken from the academy during a Strigoi attack, Dimitri is taken by a Strigoi and transformed into a Strigoi himself.

Victor Dashkov

Victor Dashkov is royal Moroi. Victor learned of Lissa's ability to use spirit magic before even Lissa understood what it was and decided to use her to heal himself from an illness that would eventually kill him. In doing this, Victor kidnapped Lissa and tortured her, placed Rose and Dimitri under a lust charm, and encouraged his own daughter to become Strigoi. In this novel, Victor is placed on trial for his actions. Rose and Dimitri worry that Victor might reveal their relationship at trial, but when he makes an offhand comment about the relationship, no one believes him. Victor is sentenced to prison for his actions.

Adrian Ivashkov

Adrian Ivashkov is a member of a royal Moroi family. In fact, Adrian's aunt is the current queen of the Moroi. Adrian sought out Lissa and Rose while they were at a ski resort during the holidays with the academy because he also practices spirit magic and he wants to learn from Lissa. Adrian has come to live at the academy with the purpose of learning from and teaching to Lissa the different powers of spirit. Adrian also has a crush on Rose and constantly pursues her despite the fact that he has guessed her true feelings for Dimitri. It is Adrian who gives Rose the money to pursue and kill Dimitri after he is turned into a Strigoi.

Janine Hathaway

Janine Hathaway is Rose's mother. Janine is a well-known guardian who has a reputation of being very brave and successful in her interactions with Strigoi. Rose and Janine have had a difficult relationship because Janine gave Rose up to the academy when she was only a small child in order to continue her guardian responsibilities and rarely came to see Rose. Janine also has refused to speak to Rose about her Moroi father. However, after Rose's experiences in Colorado has brought Rose and Janine together somewhat and eased the tensions between them. In this novel, Janine plays a large part in the rescue mission after the Strigoi attack on the academy, taking some of Rose's suggestions and incorporating them in her plans.



Mason Ashford

Mason Ashford is a student at the academy. During the Christmas break, Rose entertains a relationship with Mason due to the fact that Dimitri refuses to allow her to indulge her crush on him. However, Rose comes to the conclusion that Dimitri is the only one she really wants to be with and she is about to break up with Mason when she learns he runs off to Colorado to kill some Strigoi thought to be responsible for two attacks on Moroi royal families. Rose goes after Mason and the others he took with him, but they are all kidnapped by humans helping the Strigoi before they can leave town. Mason was killed while trying to help Rose fight the Strigoi during their escape. In this novel, Rose sees Mason and at first believes he is just a manifestation of sleep deprivation and stress, but later comes to realize Mason has come to her to warn her of an impending Strigoi attack.

Tatiana Ivashkov

Tatiana Ivashkov is the current Moroi queen. Tatiana is Adrian's aunt. Tatiana has become interested in Lissa for unknown reasons and offers to send her to a larger school than the ones the Moroi often attend for college if she will live at the royal court. Lissa agrees, unaware that Tatiana wants to marry Lissa off to her nephew, Adrian. Tatiana also warns Rose to stay away from Adrian, accusing her of aspiring to be a blood whore in her relations with Adrian. Therefore it is ironic when Rose learns later that Tatiana has taken a young dhampir man into her own bed.



Objects/Places

Stakes

The seniors of St. Vladimir's undergo a six week long test as guardians in this book. During the test, the future guardians are given fake stakes to kill the fake Strigoi. Later, the guardians carry silver stakes to kill Strigoi by stabbing them in the heart.

Wards

There are special wards around the academy that are made with all four elemental magics that are designed to protect the school from Strigoi. However, these wards are compromised by the malicious use of magic from a secret group of Moroi and allow the Strigoi onto the academy grounds for an attack.

Books

Rose and Lissa previously studied all they could on St. Vladimir and his guardian, Anna, because they are the only known shadow kissed pair in Moroi history. Through some of the books they have studied and the local priest has studied, Rose learns that Anna drew away the side effects of spirit from Vladimir and after his death, she became insane and killed herself.

Jesse's Group

One of the Moroi students at St. Vladimir's, Jesse, creates a secret society that hopes to use compulsion to force change in the Moroi government.

Feeders

Feeders are humans who willingly give their blood to the Moroi. These people live with the Moroi and congregate in a central place where the Moroi come to take blood from their necks on a daily basis. The feeders experience a euphoria that is like a drug from the Moroi bite.

Dhampirs

Dhampirs are half-human and half-Moroi vampire. Dhampirs cannot reproduce among themselves and rely on Moroi to help them have children. Dhampirs are traditionally guardians to Moroi, but some dhampirs choose to become mothers or to otherwise use



their bodies to help the Moroi. Those women who choose to provide Moroi men with sex and blood are called blood whores.

Moroi

Moroi are vampires who are living creatures. The Moroi do not kill when they feed. In fact, if they kill to feed they become Strigoi. The Moroi can use elemental magic. Most Moroi children specialize in a specific magic while they are still young.

Strigoi

Strigoi are vampires who are dead and they often kill their human, dhampir, or Moroi prey when feeding. Strigoi are stronger than Moroi, but cannot use element magic like Moroi.

Airplane

While traveling by airplane, Rose experiences terrible headaches and sees the spirits of the dead. It is later established that this happens because of Rose's connections with the world of the dead after she died and was brought back by Lissa. The reason it only happens on the plane is because the wards around the academy and the royal court keeps out the dead, including Strigoi and spirits.

Caves

Rose uses Mason to show her where the Strigoi are hiding during the daylight hours in the aftermath of the attack on St. Vladimir's. With this information, the Moroi and dhampirs attack the caves to rescue their lost students and faculty. It is here that Dimitri is taken by one of the Strigoi.

Royal Court

Rose, Christian, and Lissa travel to the royal court with other guardians and Adrian Ivashkov in order to attend the trial of Victor Dashkov. Lissa is invited by the queen to live at the court and attend a larger university in the fall.

St. Vladimir's Academy

St. Vladimir's Academy is a boarding school for Moroi and dhampir children. The school is named after Vladimir, a Moroi vampire, who was a spirit user and bonded to his guardian, Anna.



Themes

Love

In this novel, Rose loves many people. In the beginning of the novel there is Lissa. Lissa is Rose's best friend. Lissa once brought Rose back to life after a terrible car accident that killed Lissa's parents and her brother. Now they have a mental connection that allows Rose to enter Lissa's mind and see things through Lissa's eyes. This helps Rose keep Lissa safe because she always knows where Lissa is and what is happening around her.

Rose and Lissa have a friendship that is different, but strong and filled with a great deal of affection on both sides. However, Lissa also has a boyfriend who takes up a great deal of her time and affection. Rose finds herself drawn involuntarily into Lissa's head when she is with her boyfriend, leaving Rose deeply aware of her own lack of romantic activity. Rose is in love with Dimitri, her guardian instructor, but cannot act on these feelings because of the difference in their ages, Dimitri's role as her teacher, and their joint role as Lissa's guardians upon graduation. However, this does not stop Rose from feeling deeply attached to Dimitri and unable to fill in love with anyone else.

Rose has also recently lost Mason, a boy that many saw as her boyfriend. When Rose begins seeing Mason, she believes that it is sleep deprivation that has brought on the ordeal, but later comes to realize that Mason is real and a part of her shadow kissed powers. Before this realization, however, Rose worries that Mason wants revenge for his death, making Rose feel guilty for her inability to love Mason the way he wanted her to even though she still deeply cares for him. It is these relationships filled with love that make love a theme of the novel.

Fear of Insanity

When Lissa began to experience elements of her magic, spirit, she has struggled with her own sanity. Lissa experiences dark side effects from the use of spirit that include odd behaviors and depression. Now that Lissa has stopped taking her antidepressants and using her magic again, Rose worries that she will slip into insanity again. Rose is unaware that she draws the darkness from Lissa until Adrian sees it happen by watching both Rose and Lissa's auras during a lesson in spirit from Lissa.

After learning about the exchange of darkness from Lissa to herself, Rose begins to wonder about her own sanity. Rose has been seeing Mason, her friend who died a few weeks before. These sightings, the knowledge that she draws the darkness from Lissa, and that Anna, the only other known shadow kissed woman, killed herself after St. Vladimir's death, leaves Rose seriously questioning her own sanity.

Rose tries to hide her fears at first, but eventually tells Dimitri all she knows. Dimitri promises Rose that he will do all he can to protect her from the effects of spirit and they

will find a way to counteract the impact. However, when the novel ends Rose is still concerned for her own mental health, making fear of insanity a theme of the novel.

Deceit

Tatiana calls Lissa to the royal court and speaks to her on her views about spirit use and the teaching of Moroi to protect themselves alongside the guardians. Although Tatiana clearly does not agree with Lissa's views, she invites Lissa to move to the royal court. In exchange, Tatiana will allow Lissa to go to a larger university than those typically used by Moroi. Lissa does not realize until much later that Tatiana is planning on marrying Lissa off to her nephew, Adrian, or that Tatiana wants to break up Lissa and Christian. In fact, the reader suspects that Tatiana has much more planned for Lissa that has yet to be revealed.

At the same time, Rose finds herself hiding from everyone the fact that she is seeing ghosts. Rose is afraid that everyone will think she is crazy. Instead, everyone simply thinks that Rose is blowing the guardian test on purpose in order to protest the fact that she has been assigned to guard Christian instead of Lissa. When the truth finally comes out, those in charge delude themselves into thinking Rose is simply having trouble dealing with the stress in her life rather than considering that her current situation could have anything to do with spirit use.

Finally, Rose and Dimitri find themselves hiding their love for one another because it is improper for a guardian instructor to have an affair with a student even if that student is eighteen. Rose and Dimitri try to deceive themselves by hiding their feelings and pretending they do not exist, but this only causes them heartache and loneliness. In the end, they give in to their feelings and try to find a way to deal with the situation that will allow them to be together. Hence, deceit is a theme of the novel.



Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the first person point of view. The narrator is Rose Hathaway, a dhampir girl who attends St. Vladimir's Academy to train to become a guardian to a Moroi vampire. Rose has a mental bond with her best friend, Lissa, and will become Lissa's guardian upon graduation. As part of this mental bond, Rose can enter Lissa's mind and see things through her eyes, allowing the narration to slip into the third person point of view during these moments.

The point of view of this novel works well because it allows the reader to be drawn closely in to the emotions and thoughts of the main character. The first person point of view is highly intimate, allowing the reader to remain with one character throughout the novel and to see everything through her eyes, not only her thoughts and feelings, but the actions that propel the plot. At the same time, this author slips into the third-person point of view when the main narrator moves into her best friend's mind and sees the world through her eyes. This allows the author to change narrating characters without losing the intimacy of the first-person point of view.

Setting

This novel is set mainly on the campus of St. Vladimir's Academy in Montana. The campus consists of multiple buildings that house the classrooms, recreational areas, and dorms. The campus also includes a great deal of land where students are allowed to walk, run, and study at will. The campus is secured not only by a fence, but also by magical wards that are created with all four of the elemental magics in order to keep out everything dead, including the Strigoi vampires who are the mortal enemies of Moroi vampires and dhampirs.

The setting of this novel will be familiar to readers who have read the previous two novels and will prove a somewhat romantic and scholarly setting to those who are not already familiar with the setting. The setting of the novel is important not only because it is a familiar and safe place for the main characters, but should be a familiar place for the readers. In the end, the setting proves to be vulnerable, but until that moment it seems like a simple school setting that is only background to a compelling story. When the campus is infiltrated by the Strigoi, the reader is suddenly plunged into a danger that was partially expected, but a sad surprise nonetheless. For these reasons, the setting works well with the plot of this novel.

Language and Meaning

The novel is written in simple English. Due to the backgrounds of many of the characters, there are a few foreign words and phrases in the novel, but each is quickly



explained in the text of the novel in one manner or another. The language of the novel also includes some slang that might be expected of a book written with a teenager as the main character, but this slang is simple and common, not a complicated slang that young readers will not be familiar with.

The novel's intended audience is young adults, therefore the language of this novel is written in such a way that young people can easily comprehend most of the language. Although there is some foreign words and phrases, they are written with care and do not cause confusion in the plot. There is also little unfamiliar slang to confuse the reader. Therefore the language of this novel is appropriate to its plot and its intended audience.

Structure

The novel is divided into twenty-nine chapters. Each chapter contains multiple scenes that help propel the novel in a linear time line. The novel is told both with narrative and dialogue, showing the story to the reader rather than simply telling it.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot revolves around Rose Hathaway as she deals with her everyday life while seeing ghosts. One of the subplots follows Rose and her friends to the royal court where they attend the trial of Victor Dashkov, a former enemy. Another subplot follows the changing relationship between Rose and her forbidden love, Dimitri. All the plots of this novel come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

"Some coherent part of me immediately realized what was happening—and boy, was it pissed off" (Chapter 1, p. 7).

"It would figure that while I was raging over the problems in my unfair love life, the source of those problems would be the one to find me" (Chapter 1, p. 9).

"Spirit was an amazing power, one whose cool abilities we were just starting to figure out. It had a very nasty side effect, however: It could lead to depression and insanity." (Chapter 3, p. 32).

"But again, what choice did I have? Tell them that I'd seen a ghost? The ghost of a guy who'd had a major crush on me and who had quite likely died because of that crush?" (Chapter 5, p. 48).

"And how did Father Andrew's theology about heaven and hell fit with someone like me, who had died and come back to life?" (Chapter 9, p. 86).

"He was surprised to see me at his door - and a little wary. The last time this had happened, I'd been under the influence of Victor's lust charm and had behaved...aggressively" (Chapter 13, p. 123).

"Then I felt the weirdest thing through the bond. I saw myself through her eyes. It was like looking in a mirror, except she only had a profile view of me. But when she looked at me, she really did think I was beautiful" (Chapter 15, p. 50).

"Mason gave me one last wistful look and vanished" (Chapter 19, p. 187).

"And yet...her weird logic did make sense. If wards kept Strigoi out, why not ghosts? True, Strigoi were the dead who had come back to walk the earth, but her point was sound: All of them were dead" (Chapter 20, p. 199).

"Usually when Lissa used magic, it felt golden and warm and wonderful. This time, it was different. It was black and slimy and thick" (Chapter 23, p. 224).

"Now we had an odd situation before us. Under normal circumstances—not that a massive Strigoi attack was normal—we would never have pursued them. Those kidnapped by Strigoi were usually written off as dead, and, as my mother had pointed out, guardians rarely knew where to look for Strigoi. This time, however, we knew" (Chapter 26, p. 254).

"All my life, Lissa...all my life, it's been the same. They come first. I've lived my life for you. I've trained to be your shadow, but you know what? I want to come first. I need to take care of myself for once. I'm tired of looking out for everyone else and having to put

aside what I want. Dimitri and I did that, and look what happened. He's gone. I will never hold him again. Now I owe it to him to do this" (Chapter 29, p. 289).



Topics for Discussion

Who is Rose Hathaway? What happened to her in the weeks before the book begins that might leave some with the mistaken idea that she is suffering from depression rooted in grief? Why does Rose get out of bed in the middle of the night in the first chapter? Who does she run into? What is significant about this person whom Rose speaks to? What disturbing news does Rose learn while eavesdropping on a conversation between her companion and the head of the guardians, Alberta?

Why does Rose assume she will be paired with Lissa Dragomir during the guardian test? How does Rose react when she is assigned to Christian Ozera? Why does Rose become upset? Who is assigned to Lissa? What does Rose tell the instructors about her assignment that later comes back to hurt her? Why does Rose refuse to fight during her first confrontation with an instructor acting as a Strigoi? What is the result?

Who is Dimitri Belikov? Why does Rose believe she is in love with him? Does Dimitri return these feelings? Why do they not act upon their feelings? What does Dimitri do to help Rose when she gets in trouble for not fighting during her first confrontation during the guardian test? What does Rose refuse to tell Dimitri at this time? Why does Dimitri give up his free time on Sunday to help Rose clean the attic room of the church? What does Rose think Dimitri's motives are? Why does Dimitri not reveal his true motives to her?

Who is Lissa Dragomir? Why does she become upset when she learns that Victor Dashkov is about to go on trial? Why does Lissa want to attend the trial? Who makes it possible for Lissa to be at the trial? Why? Why does the queen want to visit with Lissa? What does Lissa think is behind this visit? Why does the queen offer to allow Lissa to live at the royal court and attend college nearby? What does the queen really want? Does Lissa realize this?

Who is Adrian Ivashkov? Why does he live at the academy? What does he want from Lissa? What does he want from Rose? Does he get satisfaction from either girl? Why does Adrian visit Rose's dreams? How does he do this? How does Rose feel about this? Why does Rose go to Adrian when she needs money? Why does Adrian agree to give the money to Rose?

Who is Mason? Where does Rose begin to see Mason? What does Rose think of these visions? What does Mason really want from Rose? How does Mason help Rose find the Strigoi who attacked the school? How does Mason help Rose learn about Dimitri's condition after the rescue mission? Where does Mason go at the end of the novel? For what reason? How does Rose feel about this?

What happens between Rose and Dimitri at the end of the novel? How does Rose feel about this? What plan does Dimitri come up with to help him and Rose continue their newly changed relationship? What happens to change Dimitri's plans? What does Rose



plan to do to help Dimitri at the end of the novel? Why does Rose withdraw from school? Why does Rose decide to leave Lissa? How does this make Rose feel?