

Shadows in the Darkness Study Guide

Shadows in the Darkness by Elaine Cunningham

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Plot Summary

It is present day in Providence, Rhode Island. Gwen Gellman has been released from the police department due to a bust that goes terribly wrong. She is working undercover in a gentleman's club owned by Tiger Leone. A man named Carl Jamison is killing young virgins in the Providence area. He rapes them, carves a symbol in their thigh (Caer Sidi, which is a path that leads to the Celtic Otherworld) then kills them. He leaves them in hotel rooms for the police to find. While Gwen is undercover at the club she is taken hostage by Carl and taken to a hotel room. She is to be the family's next victim, but she manages to escape. Her sergeant denies having sent her undercover, which starts an investigation that does not end in Gwen's favor.

A year later she's working as a private investigator with the help of Frank Cross, her first partner from the force. Frank is retired and living on the bay. He helps Gwen with her cases when she needs him. Gwen first gets a call from the mother of a young girl named Lauren. Gwen is too late to save the young girl's life, but stumbles into Carl Jamison in the hotel room where she finds the dead Lauren. She manages to cuff Jamison, calls for the police to come, and Carl Jamison is arrested yet again. Gwen hopes this time the charges will stick.

She is called upon again by another mother. This one has a missing fourteen-year-old girl named Meredith. The family is rather well-to-do, so she tries to keep things low profile while investigating the girl's disappearance. The father is an attorney for a prominent organization and, as it turns out, it's his employers who have taken the girl. Gwen gets wrapped up in the case, and as she's working undercover at a club called Underhill, she discovers that the owners are very special. Gwen has always had a gift for seeing things that no one else can and when she encounters the owners, her powers are doing things she thought were impossible.

Ian Forest, one of Underhill's owner's, gives Gwen another case to work on once he finds out she's not a dancer they hired, but rather a private investigator. She takes the missing heir case, but gives it to Frank, because she's working on finding Meredith. Frank ends up dead and she finds him floating in his own bay. Things heat up as she finally opens the missing heir case and finds information on a couple by the name of Avalon. They run off the road in their car in 1971 and the father, mother, and baby girl die in the crash. There is also information on another father, mother, and baby girl who are burglarized in 1971. The family is the Gellman's, Gwen's mother and father; she is the baby girl.

The owners of Underhill are Elders and part of the Celtic Otherworld. Being an elder means that they are like the "grandparents" of their family, or the eldest. Their powers are stronger and their skill in using them is superior. Aside from being an Elder, there is one Elder that is special. This would be the last living relative to their actual blood line. This particular Elder will be able to use the blue gem to gain and utilize their utmost power. The blue gem is passed down through their generations from one "special" Elder to the next. When there is not one to pass it on to, it is put away until another special



Elder comes alone. One of the Elder's, thinking he's the last of his kind, takes the gem into his hands upon the Beltane, time of the changeling, and the powers do not work. It can only mean he is not the last of his kind. He sets out to find the one who is the last of his kind and that's where Gwen comes into the picture. The heir is Gwen and the fortune is the blue gem.

The Avalon's switched babies with the Gellman's before they died in the car crash. Then, Gwen's parents are murdered, leaving her to be raised in foster homes, never knowing where her powers came from, nor how to use them. She is silent her whole life, not telling anyone of her gift until Ian Forest comes into her life and makes her realize who and what she truly is.

There are others looking for Gwen as well. The other members of the Celtic Otherworld who are on the wrong side and want to find Gwen so they can use her powers for their own deeds. Wallace is one of these people, and as Gwen investigates she finds out that Wallace is actually her own uncle. She digs further and finds out he is the one who had her parents killed (both sets of parents). He's also behind Frank's murder, and this hits home hard for Gwen.

The story continues as Gwen finds out that the Jamison family are the ones who have Meredith. She meets them at a hotel one night and agrees to take Meredith's place if they let her go and drive her home. Gwen opens up to them, telling them that they will never become Celtic Elders by raping and murdering virgins. She explains that one can only become an Elder by bloodlines that run in the family. She tricks them into thinking if they have sex with Gwen that will make them Elders. They agree to the plan. Gwen seizes a chance at escape and a fight ensues. Gwen manages to kill Carl, but his mother, Sandra, is putting up a pretty good fight. Ian shows up and rescues her, killing Sandra.

Ian and Gwen race to retrieve Meredith who is in the trunk of Kyle's car (Kyle is Carl's brother) at a local park. They arrive in time and another fight starts with Kyle. Ian manages to knock him out and drag him to a nearby tree. Gwen gets Meredith out of the trunk and drives her to the safety of her family. Later, Gwen confronts Wallace at his home. He confesses to killing her parents just as Ian and two of his men arrive. Killing one of their own kind is a serious crime for them, so they take Ian away and Gwen is set free to continue her life as she knows it. It will, however, be a difficult task, considering she's not the same person she always thought she was. She has to live a new life of a Celtic Elder.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

Gwen Gellman is a private investigator who has psychic abilities. She is investigating the disappearance of a girl named Lauren Simpson. At Lauren's mother's request, Gellman visits her roommate (Rachel York) at the college apartments. Rachel tells her that Lauren was to make an appearance at an art gallery event and then meet her friends at the movies. She never showed up at the movie theater. Upon Rachel's return home from the theater, she gets a call from the gallery stating that Lauren had left her purse behind. This startles Rachel, so she calls Lauren's mother.

Gellman asks Rachel for some personal articles of Lauren's and Rachel retrieves them right away. Rachel thinks they are for DNA purposes, and Gellman doesn't tell her otherwise. The truth is that Gellman wants to touch them and try to use her psychic abilities to tell her what happened to Lauren. She takes the items, thanks Rachel, then goes to her car and touches the brush. Gellman starts seeing Lauren's memories immediately. She sees Lauren being handed a glass of wine that has been dosed with a double shot of Rohypnol (the date-rape drug). After her vision, Gellman realizes Lauren is in serious trouble.

Chapter 1 Analysis

The book starts out with a missing person's case that Gwen Gellman, a private investigator, is in charge of. Hired by the missing girl's mother, she sets out to visit the girl's roommate and find out what happened. The chapter begins by informing the reader about Gwen Gellman and her psychic ability. She can see the memories of people by touching their personal things, such as a brush, compact mirror, etc. It's a startling realization when Gellman touches the purse of the missing girl (Lauren Simpson), as she sees her being handed a glass of wine that has been drugged.

Gellman is shocked back into reality as the seriousness of the situation hits home. She realizes she must act fast if she wants to save this girl, and the reader feels the intensity of this situation through her.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

Gellman starts her car and speeds off in the direction of a hotel she suspects Lauren was taken to. She pulls in, hands her keys to the valet, and grabs a paper bag out of her trunk. Her intent is to pretend to be a delivery girl to get past the front desk. She accomplishes this and takes the elevator to the upstairs rooms. She is looking for room number six. As the story in this chapter unfolds, there have been several missing girls in the area and in the end, they are found dead in hotel rooms. The first victim is found in room number one, the second in room two, etc. Her hunch is Lauren will be found in room number six.

As it turns out, Gellman used to be on the police force and was actually the killer's fifth victim. She was drugged and taken to room number five of the hotel. Because of her immune system, before the drug took affect, she managed to escape. The arrest of Carl Jamison (her attacker) never stuck, so he was set free.

Gellman sneaks into room number five where the maid is cleaning, steals her key card, and enters room number six. There her instincts are confirmed. Lauren is dead on the bed in a pool of blood. Her stomach and thighs have been sliced with a knife. As Gellman takes all of this in, she is approached from behind by Carl Jamison. Her police instincts kick in and she brings him to the floor with several kicks and punches. As she contains him, she uses her cell phone to call Quaid at the police department. He arrives fifteen minutes later and she tells him the whole story of how her hunch was to look in room number six, as she was the victim in room number five.

Soon, others from the police station show up. They recognize Gellman, because they used to work together. The niceties are not so nice, as there is tension between Gellman and Quaid. Because Gellman didn't submit to a blood test after she was abducted, there was never any real proof that she'd been drugged. She still maintains that she would have been killed also and tells this to Quaid. He's not sure he believes her, but listens anyway.

Chapter 2 Analysis

Gellman is right on the money with her instincts. She was trying to be optimistic at first that she would find Lauren alive, but as she entered the hallway to room number six, she felt differently. Once she opened the door, she knew no one was alive in the room.

Although her former pals on the police force cannot understand her theories on the room numbers being associated with the victims, she stands firm. The reader feels the tension between Quaid and Gellman. They are both very good at their jobs and it's almost as if they are competing with one another now that Gellman is a private investigator instead of a cop.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Gellman drives to Lauren's mother's house to deliver the bad news. She then has to give the news once again to Lauren's roommate. Quaid calls her a little later and asks that she come to the police department to make a statement. She is not happy about having to enter the police department after her departure months earlier. The officers do not think very highly of her and it shows on their faces when they see her. Some were very good friends to her before, but now they don't even give her the time of day.

Gellman drives home after her ordeal at the police station and finds a car parked in her driveway. Gellman knows her landlady is not expecting any guests, so she realizes the guest must be for her. The lady in the car introduces herself as Dianne Cody, sent by Stephen Weiss.

Dianne asks Gellman if there is a place where they can speak in private, so Gwen Gellman leads her to the room in the garage she uses as an office. Dianne tells Gwen that she wants help finding her fourteen-year-old daughter, Meredith, who has been missing for four days. Gwen's stomach feels sick at the thought of what might be happening to the girl. Gwen asks Dianne all the normal questions about whether or not there is trouble at home, at school, or if there is any particular reason the girl might have run away. Dianne assures her there is nothing out of the ordinary.

Dianne continues by telling Gwen that Meredith disappeared in the middle of the night. She was in her room alone and it was a school night. Gwen presses more questions at Dianne. She learns the husband is a criminal attorney who may have enemies, but no ransom has been demanded. She offers Gwen an envelope with a picture of Meredith, phone numbers to all of her friends and coaches at school, and a list of her class schedules and athletic activities. Gwen is impressed and takes the envelope.

The two women talk a little more and Gwen tells her she will find Meredith. They agree on a ten thousand dollar fee and Gwen tells her she will account for her expenses, and anything left over she will give back to Dianne. After Dianne leaves, Gwen calls a friend, Marcy Bartlett, an attorney, and asks about Mr. Cody and his enemies. Marcy fills her in on a recent incident in which Mr. Cody hired a bodyguard to follow him around and the client who meant him harm ended up dead. Marcy tells Gwen that she will get her the information on the case and Gwen agrees to pick the information up at her office later.

Chapter 3 Analysis

This chapter reveals the true sadness in Gwen's job as a private investigator. She drives home after a rough day of having to tell a mother that her daughter is dead. She then has to make yet another trip to tell the girl's roommate the same thing. Her training



allows her to be sympathetic even though she deals with this often. It still doesn't get any easier.

When she's finally on her way home to take a long hot shower and forget the day's events, she finds another client parked outside her house. This client is a woman who also has a missing daughter. She's only fourteen years old, and Gwen feels all too sure that this girl might also be dead.

Gwen contemplates the situation and almost immediately agrees to help the woman find her daughter. Gwen is the type of person who will take on these assignments with optimism and pray to God that she will find the girl alive for a happy ending. She will do nothing but her best.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Gwen arrives at Marcy's house later to pick up the paperwork on Mr. Cody. Marcy greets her at the door with a glass of fruity wine. Trudy Wasserman, Marcy's live-in lesbian lover, also greets Gwen as she enters their home. Gwen notices that Trudy's smile is not so sincere. She tends to be a bit jealous of Marcy.

Gwen notices that both women are dressed for a night out on the town and it's a weeknight. She guesses that they must be celebrating something, so on a hunch she congratulates Trudy. The smile on Trudy's face is enough for Gwen to know she hit the jackpot. It's their ten month anniversary. Gwen wants to see what Trudy has bought for Marcy. As Trudy nearly skips into the bedroom to retrieve her gift, Marcy tells Gwen that she had no idea it was their anniversary. She does not have a gift for Trudy. Gwen produces a package from her pocket which contains an antique ring given to her by her landlady. Marcy thanks her and tells her she owes her one.

Gwen takes the information from Marcy and leaves the women to their night out on the town. Later, as she's skimming through it, she notices that in one of the cases Cody lost, his client served three out of ten years and upon release, disappeared. He started making phone calls to Cody, then ends up dead a few days later from a car accident. The car mechanic who worked on the car a few days prior to the accident happened to be a family member to a man implicated by the client.

Gwen decides to call an old friend, Sister Tamar, who runs a home for troubled girls. Gwen gives her Meredith's description and asks if she's seen her, to which Tamar answers she has not. Tamar tells Gwen to send a photo and she'll pass it around. In return, Gwen offers her services. Tamar tells her of a home in which a Russian girl, Sophie, has just escaped. The girls there were lured from their countries, promised lives of luxury, only to find themselves beaten and treated as sex slaves. Gwen agrees to check out the home.

Chapter 4 Analysis

The reader learns more about the relationships Gwen maintains. Her landlady keeps to herself for the most part, leaving Gwen alone. She also provides Gwen with a room in her garage that she uses as an office. Gwen's circle of friends follow the same philosophy, "one hand washes the other". Gwen knew Marcy could provide her with information on Mr. Cody, which she did. They did each other favors. When Marcy needs something, she will call on Gwen.

Sister Tamar is the same way. Gwen wanted to know if she had seen Meredith. Tamar promises to keep an eye out for the girl. In return, she asks Gwen to visit a home she

suspects of housing girls that were sold into prostitution and slavery. Gwen hesitates, but her heart is truly good. She could not say no to Sister Tamar.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

Gwen drives to the home she believes to be a prostitution haven. She creeps behind bushes so she is not seen. She witnesses a car pull into the driveway and a man gets out. He is not in the house long before he gets back into his car and drives away. Gwen goes in for a closer look. She picks the lock and enters the house, looking from room to room. It is obvious that the inhabitants left hastily. The dresser drawers in numerous bedrooms were still left open. The clothes must have been taken quickly. There is no sign of anyone still in the home, so Gwen leaves, after finding a risqué photo of what she believes to be a thirteen-year-old girl in a sexual position with a man behind her. She hopes Sister Tamar can do something with the photo.

Gwen goes home to take a shower before heading to Frank Cross's home. Frank opens the door to greet her before she has a chance to knock. She offers a smile and he invites her in. She asks him to do a search on Ryan Cody for her. Frank is delighted to do some work for a change. He has been used to fishing for clams lately to pass the time. Gwen makes some coffee for them as he sets to work on his computer. They discover that Cody recently visited Underhill (a men's club where the dancers look to be teenagers). They find this to be odd behavior, considering his fourteen-year-old daughter is missing.

Chapter 5 Analysis

Gwen is saddened to find the prostitution home empty. She knew it was a chance she would have to take though, if she wanted to find Meredith. There was a slim chance that Meredith would be there, but now Gwen wouldn't know.

Gwen moves on to her next task: Frank Cross. She relies on Frank for computer work. Even though she has a computer of her own, it's more for looks than anything else. They get to work researching everything they can on Ryan Cody. Gwen, with her lack of computer knowledge, is impressed that Frank can find recent bank transactions on Cody. The only important thing they find is a transaction that proves Cody had visited a men's club recently.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

Gwen sees an ad in the paper for dancers wanted at Underhill. She dresses and intends to apply for the job. She wears her black hair down, spiderweb black stockings, long false eyelashes, bright red lipstick, and thigh high black boots. Even though she's nearly forty, she looks to be about fifteen years old in the outfit. Downstairs she runs into Sylvia, her landlady. Sylvia shares with Gwen that she used to do business with the owner of Underhill. Gwen is shocked. She also tells Gwen that she needs to apply makeup to the covered parts of her body if she wants to land the job. She implies that Gwen's breasts are small and need a little of the same bright red lipstick.

Gwen goes back upstairs to retrieve her lipstick when Stephen Weiss (her ex-boyfriend) shows up. He seems to be at her door for more than just a simple visit. She looks extremely sexy to him in the outfit she is wearing and he can't seem to resist her. She knows she doesn't have time for anything because of the dancing job interview, but she can't seem to resist him either. They start to wrestle, like old times, and end up in each other's arms on her bed.

The realization that she is going to be late makes Gwen jump up, releasing Stephen. He's shocked by this, but she tells him she just doesn't have time right now. He tells her he's moving to Boston to accept a job offer and wants her to come with him. She looks at him for a moment, wondering if that could work out. She tells him no and goes out the door for the interview.

She parks her car and enters Underhill. She walks onto the stage where the other girls are standing and a womanly sharply comments that the auditions are over. Gwen is disappointed and starts to walk away. A man comes out from the shadows of a corner in the room and tells the woman to hire Gwen. The woman balks about it, but does what he says and makes another opening, so Gwen can join the other girls. The man can sense by the way Gwen walked onto the stage that she is something special.

Ian Forest is the man who insisted Gwen be hired. Gwen used her fake identification card, in which she is Gi Gi Silver. Ian proceeds to an office in the back of the club where an older silver haired man sat. He tells him all about Gi Gi and how he thinks she is one of their "kind". He says he could smell it on her and thinks she has no idea "what" she actually is. He goes on saying she must have been raised in human society without consent of their council. The old man tells him to find everything he can on Gi Gi Silver.

Chapter 6 Analysis

The reader gets a taste of what's actually behind the Underhill club. The dark haired, handsome Ian Forest and the older man with the silver hair run the place, and Althea manages the dancers. Gwen fears that because of Stephen's sudden appearance at



her places, she will be too late to get the dancing job. Once Ian sees her and feels her presence, he makes sure she is hired.

Gwen is relieved, and quite proud that she made such an impact on Ian. She has no idea what she's getting into and the reader feels that.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

Gwen meets Marcy for french fries and chicken fingers to discuss matters of her case and everything else personal. Gwen tells Marcy of her new job and Marcy jokingly asks if she can come and watch her dance. Marcy truly is attracted to Gwen, but she knows Gwen is not homosexual. Gwen originally helped Marcy through the divorce from her abusive husband. After counseling, Marcy came to the realization that she really preferred woman as lovers.

They finish their fast food and leave the restaurant. There is a young black man sitting on his car, and when the ladies pass by him, he jumps up and walks toward them. Gwen readies herself in a defensive mode as the guy approaches. He removes his hood in the streetlight and she realizes he is Quaid's partner. He asks if he can have a word with her and she agrees to go back into the restaurant with him. Marcy leaves after commenting on her jealousy for Gwen's ability to eat again and still maintain her gorgeous figure.

Back in the restaurant and with another plate of food in front of her, Gwen listens as Damian O'Riley pulls out mug shot after mug shot and goes over every case with Gwen. She asks him why he has mug shots of victims, since it's an unusual practice. He tells her he'll get to that and continues with the photos, pulling out one of an attractive teenaged, black girl. Gwen recognizes her from Tiger Leone's place. Damian tells her that every photo he has shown her was of people who had been to Tiger Leone's club. Things started happening to these people, some small things and some bigger things, but something none-the-less. Apparently, there is a camera at the entrance of the club that takes pictures of everyone who enters. It's a big coincidence.

Damian goes on telling Gwen that per Quaid's suggestion, he is looking into this on his own time. It's not an official case or anything, and he confesses that he knows Gwen has some unnatural ability. Quaid confessed to him that she had some kind of special insight into things. She tells Damian that she sometimes sees things when she touches objects, but it's not a constant thing. It comes and goes. He asks for her help in finding out what the coincidence is with the photos and Tiger's club. They come to the conclusion that the people who entered the club were attacked for personal items such as combs, brushes, and even pieces of their hair. It must be DNA they are searching for. Damian mentions that Quaid's girlfriend works at a lab and when Quaid says he's going to Winston's to take a closer look at things, she explodes and breaks up with him. Damian and Gwen agree to work on things together, considering Gwen was also in Tiger's club and they may come after her next.



Chapter 7 Analysis

The reader gains a deeper insight into the friendship between Marcy and Gwen and realizes the mutual respect between the two. Gwen hopes to find more information from Marcy while they dine and talk.

The meeting with Damien O'Riley that takes place immediately following her meeting with Marcy, produces much more information. Gwen realizes that he's been digging around in the Tiger Leone case. The crimes revolving around several people tie in with a recent visit they all had at Tiger's club. Gwen had also been in that club many times working undercover, so logically she may be the next target. Gwen wants to help Damian and he is thankful for her insight into the situation.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

The next morning Gwen goes to Ryan Cody's office (Simmons, Fletcher and Rye) pretending to be a friend of Meredith's. She uses the name Fiona Warwick and asks to see Cody. Once Cody comes out and escorts her to his office, she apologizes and tells him she's really not a friend of Meredith's, but a private investigator hired to find his daughter. He seems to understand her deception and her wish to make her meeting confidential, and offers his help in any way.

She questions him in the same manner in which she questioned Mrs. Cody. She asked if Meredith's behavior had been suspicious in the days prior to her disappearance, and how long he waited to phone the police once he knew she was missing. He offers nothing new and asks her what progress she has made. Gwen gets up to leave and tells him that she hasn't enough time to fill him in at the moment, but would get back to him with a report as soon as she can.

Gwen's next stop is at the Cody home. Mrs. Cody welcomes her in and Gwen tells her there is no new news yet, to which Mrs. Cody seems relieved not to hear bad news. She asks if she can have a look at Meredith's bedroom. She secretly hopes to find some personal item that she can make a connection with in order to find Meredith. The room, unlike the rest of the home, is a disaster, with strewn clothing on the floor, an unmade bed, and very untidy. She doesn't find anything of interest and tells Mrs. Cody she will visit the school next. She also discloses to Mrs. Cody that she had just visited Mr. Cody, but did not mention that his wife was the one who hired her.

She starts her car and drives away calling the school from her cell phone. Gina Kazlowski, the guidance counselor, comes on the line, and Gwen explains that she was hired by the Cody's. Gina is under the impression that Meredith had gone to visit a terminally ill cousin. Gwen is shocked that Mr. Cody would lie about the situation, but tells Gina the truth and for her to keep things quiet. She agrees, Gwen hangs up the phone, then calls the police station. Her instincts tell her that if the school was not informed of the missing fourteen-year-old Meredith, the police weren't either. Her call to the police station and Mary, the captain's assistant, confirm her suspicions. There is no missing person report on file.

Chapter 8 Analysis

The idea that there was never a mention to either the authorities at the school or the police department that Meredith Cody was missing disturbs Gwen. Meredith's father was the one who contacted the school, but he told some bizarre story about a terminally ill cousin, which makes no sense to Gwen.

Gwen relies on her own instincts to determine who is telling the truth and who is lying. Clearly the guidance counselor at the school honestly didn't know Meredith was missing. Mr. Cody, on the other hand, has a lot to hide, and Gwen is going to find out no matter what it takes.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

Gwen dresses for her job at Underhill. She puts on an outfit suited for the occasion, including her red lipstick and spiderweb panty hose. The phone rings as she's leaving, so she turns around to answer it. Dianne Cody is on the other end of the phone and she's furious. She tells Gwen to meet her at a local diner and that she's fired.

Gwen meets her at the diner, wearing her risqué outfit. She hopes to have enough time to figure out what's going on with Dianne and still make her appointment at Underhill, since the diner and Underhill are in close proximity. Dianne shows her pictures and a police report that were delivered to her email that morning. They are pictures of Gwen while doing an undercover investigation about teens and porno sites on the web. Gwen explains everything, including her past with foster homes and detention, which was included in the emailed report to Dianne. She further explains the reason for her attire, in that she's secured a job at Underhill and Dianne's husband had a membership that expired right before Meredith's disappearance. Dianne seems to feel a little better about everything and tells Gwen to keep working for her.

Chapter 9 Analysis

Gwen realizes the seriousness of the situation and how the person who emailed the files to Dianne must be on the inside with serious connections. The police report on Gwen and some of the photos had been sealed by the police department, so how could Dianne have received them? Gwen believes the culprit to be either Mr. Cody or his connections.

She is, however, relieved that Dianne listened to her story about how the photos and the police record came to be and didn't fire her. She did work for the police force for over ten years and undercover work was not always pretty. She tells Dianne that, if possible, she will find Meredith and bring her home, which makes Dianne happy.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

Gwen makes her way from the diner to Underhill. When she arrives inside there is a band playing and a few new girls practicing choreographed moves under Althea's instruction. A girl named Sarah approaches Gwen and asks her if she's new and in need of a tour. Gwen nods her head and Sarah shows her where the lockers are and the office in the back where she should place her paperwork. Gwen thanks her as she leaves to practice her own dance and heads to the office to put her papers in the in-box. She notices a file with "expired" clients listed and finds Cody's name on it. She jots down some names and phone numbers and leaves the office.

Althea spots Gwen in the hallway leaving the office and tells her that she needs a better I.D. The one Gwen gave her had been investigated by Althea and the address did not exist. She hands her another one with a woman's shelter address on it for Gwen to use. They proceed to practice for three solid hours on a dance routine, because she needs to be onstage by the weekend.

When Gwen leaves Underhill she is tired and sore. She heads to Sal's Garage. She is trying to find Sal Almeida who used to run the garage. She tells the elderly man behind the counter that she's investigating the death of Joe Perotti. He tells her to look for his son, Jimmy at the cable company. She drives to the cable company, finds Jimmy parked in his van in the parking lot, and heads over to talk to him.

He is not pleased to see her. The guy at the garage had called him on his cell phone to tip him off to her arrival. He tells her she is wasting her time coming to him. She uses her persuasion, mentions that the man Perroti's attorney threatened had a fourteen-year-old daughter who is missing. This softens him up a bit. He tells her everything he knows about his dad being hired to do the brake job and surprises her by taking his necklace off and handing it to her. He tells her it's for protection. She takes it, gets into her car, and calls Sister Tamar.

Gwen asks Tamar about a certain shelter (the address to which is on her new I.D. card given to her by Althea). Tamar tells her she knows of the shelter and does not trust the woman who runs the place. Sherry Fenton was the name of the woman and Gwen knows exactly who she is. Gwen had a run-in with her while they were in juvenile together. She recalls the vivid memory of a fight they once had, which resulted in stitches for both girls. She thanks Tamar and hangs up the phone.

Chapter 10 Analysis

Gwen's ugly past comes through in this chapter. Albeit true, she had let her past stay behind her years ago, turned a new leaf, and now works for the good guys. She worked



very hard at Underhill trying to get the dance routine down so she could work the weekend as they wanted.

Gwen was a bit surprised that Althea looked up the address on her fake identification card. But, Underhill had to be careful. That's why no one has ever been caught or arrested. The new identification card given to her by Althea contains the address of a woman's home. Gwen is shocked to find out from Tamar that the home is run by a childhood rival named Sherry Fenton.



Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Summary

As Gwen proceeds to drive away from the cable company parking lot, her cell phone rings. Ian Forest is on the other end, asking her to meet him for a conversation. This shocks her, but she agrees. She meets him at his office fifteen minutes later and he asks her to take on another case, for him this time. He also tells her that whatever case she's working on that concerns his club will not pan out, because there is nothing to find. She is surprised that he will allow her to stay on as a dancer and finish her case. She agrees to look into his case and he hands her an envelope to take with her to read over.

As she shakes his hand to leave, she experiences a strange sensation, similar to the one she experienced at the Underhill the day she came to apply for the job. It scares her and makes her eager to leave at once. She tells him she will call him later and leaves. Gwen proceeds directly to the shelter to see Sherry Fenton. Fenton doesn't recognize Gwen, so she uses this to her advantage. She asks about Meredith and Sherry tells her that they can come to a financial arrangement in which Sherry would help her for money. This pisses Gwen off and she grabs Sherry by the arm, twists it, and makes her look into Gwen's eyes. She then recognizes Gwen. The interrogation continues by Gwen asking about Meredith. Sherry hasn't seen her, but offers to call Gwen if there is any news. Gwen tells her as she gets up to leave that if she is considering contacting Underhill, she needs to go to Ian Forest directly.

Chapter 11 Analysis

This is becoming a sticky situation that Gwen has found herself in. Ian Forest now knows who she is, but has not asked her to leave Underhill. He allows her to continue her investigation at his club and proceed with his own investigation when she is finished with the club. She's not sure what to make of everything, but agrees anyway.

She's not sure what the strange feeling is that comes over her every time she comes in contact with Ian either, but pushes it aside to concentrate on finding Meredith. She is determined to find out the connection between Ryan Cody and his missing daughter. She knows the file is at Underhill and it must contain something more for her to go on.



Chapter 12

Chapter 12 Summary

Gwen is invited to Frank Cross's house for chowder and coffee. She loves his chowder and when she arrives, she helps him with the ingredients as he labors over the pot on the stove. She makes a fresh pot of coffee and they finally sit down at the table to eat. She tells Frank of another case she's been asked to take on. She tells him that she put Ian Forest's file on his desk when she arrived. He says he'll make time to take a look at it.

The small talk continues about Stephen, his job offer in Boston, and the fact that he had asked her to come along. She tells Frank that she will not accompany him though. They talk more about how Gwen was actually Stephen's side woman. He was engaged to a doctor. When Gwen and the doctor found out about each other, they each broke things off with him. Frank confesses to Gwen that he has a twenty-five-year-old son who doesn't know him at all. His point is for Gwen to respect the family unit, because he never had a chance to know his son. She's touched by this.

It's getting late, so Gwen tells Frank she'll see him later. He asks about the case file she put on his desk and she tells him it's about a missing heir, it pays the standard rate, and to take his time, because they are in no rush. She bids him goodbye and heads for Underhill.

She enters the side entrance at Underhill and sees Sarah in the dressing room. She poses as Gi Gi and asks Sarah and the other girls to take a look at a photo of Meredith. Her excuse is that Meredith is a friend of hers and wants to be a dancer, but doesn't think she's cut out for it. So, the girls take a look at the photo and Gwen watches their facial expressions as they say she's too skinny, not enough make-up, etc. She realizes that these girls have never seen Meredith before. She thanks them and leaves by the same side door.

Ian Forester steps out of the shadows as she's leaving and she assures him that she will not be returning, and he is clean as he said he was. He asks her about Sherry Fenton, to which she is surprised. That is how he found out about Meredith. She is impressed and shocked to realize that before today he had no idea that Meredith was missing. He asks her if she will be taking on his case and she says she'll find the guy. He realizes that she has not read the file, because the heir is a woman (before the twentieth century women and men were both called heirs). He shakes her hand and she feels the same weird sensation. She speaks without thinking and implies that if he can make her feel like that with a handshake, what must a kiss be like. Without hesitation, he moves toward her and kisses her. The strange sensation takes over her body and swims through her mind. She backs away quickly and tells him never to do that again.



Chapter 12 Analysis

The plan is coming together well. Gwen will continue to search for Meredith and Frank will take on the strange missing heir case. She's still not sure what to make of Ian Forest or his creepy club, though. Gwen thinks Ryan Cody must have something to do with his missing daughter. The reader also learns in this chapter that Frank is Gwen's very best friend and has been for over fifteen years and she never knew he had a son. He never knew his son. Gwen confesses that she hasn't told Frank everything about her childhood either.

Under the current circumstances, Gwen must push on with her case of the missing Meredith and try to not let the thoughts of Ian Forest interfere. She has the feeling that there's more going on with him and his club, but she can't put her finger on it.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

The next morning Gwen drives to Cody's office. She is met with resistance from his secretary, who tells her Cody doesn't want to see her. Gwen's not giving up that easily, so she mentions the Perroti murder. The secretary goes into Cody's office and comes out a few minutes later, telling Gwen that he will see her in fifteen minutes. While the secretary is in Cody's office, Gwen is able to plug the flash drive into the back of her computer. A few minutes later Gwen is invited into Cody's office and he tells her to stop lying to his wife. She asks what he's talking about. He produces a missing person report that he says was filed with the police department. Gwen looks it over and asks if she can keep it. He tells her no. She is suspicious, but decides she's had enough and bids him goodbye so she can continue with her case.

She goes to see Frank with the flash drive to see what he can retrieve from it. He is impressed, because she's not comfortable around computers. He pulls up Cody's calendar and tells her he'll look at the rest later. She's surprised he's working so early, so he tells her he's been looking over the case of the missing heir and it's very interesting. A family dies in a car accident (mother, father, and baby girl). The bodies turn up missing from the morgue. Strange thing is, Frank was working at that time and doesn't remember anything about a family killed in an accident. It should have made big news. Gwen tells Frank about her ex-partner, Quaid, and how his girlfriend told him about two policemen's bodies that came up missing from the morgue.

Gwen is interrupted by her cell phone. It's Stephen, wanting to take her to dinner. She realizes she hasn't spoken to him about Ryan Cody. Since he was the one who referred Mrs. Cody to her she would have dinner with him and find out what he knows.

Chapter 13 Analysis

The plot thickens in this chapter. Frank finds the missing heir case to be very interesting and tells Gwen. She's intrigued and hears him out. She is also able to retrieve files from Cody's secretary's computer, which Frank will weed through for her.

The reader also learns the stamina Gwen has when tackling these cases. She doesn't give up easily. She's also not scared off easily. She approaches things head on and doesn't back down until she's satisfied with the answer or outcome.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

Gwen meets Stephen at a restaurant on State Street. Stephen is already there and has ordered fish and chips for them. Gwen gets right to the point and asks him what he knows about Ryan Cody. He tells Gwen that he and Ryan meet a few times a week to go running together. One morning Ryan doesn't show up and Stephen goes to his house to find the family in utter chaos because Meredith has gone missing.

She continues questioning him about how well he knows Ryan and the Cody family. He tells her he's been playing tennis and running with Ryan for about five years, but doesn't know the rest of the family that well. When he arrived on the morning Meredith disappeared, he mentioned to Ryan that he was dating a private investigator. Later that day, Dianne called him to get the information. Ryan was against hiring a private investigator. The waiter brings the food over and the conversation ends there. They decide to continue the conversation in a more private setting later.

As they leave the restaurant, they notice food vendors setting up along the water. There is a waterfire and people are starting to show up and walk along the waterway. Stephen and Gwen decide to take a walk with them along the waterway. Caught up in the atmosphere of the smoke from the waterfire and the sounds of the music, Stephen asks Gwen to marry him. She is shocked, but doesn't say anything. Instead she pulls him to her and asks if his apartment is all packed up for his move. He says yes, so they decide to go to Gwen's place.

They start undressing each other on the stairway that leads to her apartment. Her cell phone rings and interrupts them. It's Frank, with news on the heir case. She asks if it can wait until morning, and he catches on, realizing that her date with Stephen must be going very well. He agrees and she hangs the phone up and goes up the stairs, returning to Stephen who is now inside her apartment. He has the nude photos of her in his hand and is obviously not happy. She explains that they were taken while she was working undercover to catch an Internet porn ring.

She grabs the photos from Stephens hand and as she does, she starts to get a vision of a blue house with a neon sign above it. She can see the street clearly and remembers where the house is. Apparently Stephen starts to see this also, because his eyes look fuzzy to Gwen. She snaps out of it and Stephen asks her what just happened. She wishes she could explain it to him, but she cannot. He is too freaked out about it and when she reaches for him, he backs up, grabs his clothes, and tells her it's too much for him to handle. He leaves her apartment and she can't really blame him. She wishes she could run too.



Chapter 14 Analysis

As Gwen has dinner with Stephen, she enjoys herself for the first time in a while. She still grounded in her missing child case, so she probes Stephen for any information he has on the Cody's. He fills her in as best he can, considering he didn't know the family as well as he knew Ryan Cody. After dinner, they take a walk by the water and get absorbed in the music and party element surrounding them.

As much as Gwen wants to have a night of passion with Stephen, her visions interfere. As she dreads, she now knows that not everyone can handle her special gift. It saddens her that another person she cares for cannot handle it and is now gone from her life. She truly wishes she didn't have this power and wonders why some people try all their lives to gain the power she so desperately wants to be relieved of.



Chapter 15

Chapter 15 Summary

Gwen decides to visit the blue house she saw in her vision. It's late, but the convenience store is still open. She bides her time as long as she can in the store, then grabs a magazine and some candy and goes to the counter. A little chit chat with the clerk reveals that the house is not vacant. A man occupies it a couple of times a week, but doesn't stay long. Gwen picks the lock on the back door to the house and lets herself in. She's not quite sure what she's looking for. All she knows is the vision she received has something to do with the photos given to Dianne.

Upon entering the home she knows she's alone. She looks around, searching for anything that has a name on it, but comes up empty handed. She continues to the main bedroom and opens up the closet. There is a row of pastel colored men's shirts. She remembers that the guy who was taking the nude photos wore pink. She was never able to arrest him, because Gwen is not a minor. The pictures he had taken were legitimate. She grabs a pencil off the table in hopes of getting fingerprints from it. Finding nothing else of interest, she lets herself out, drives home, and puts herself to bed, fighting back tears as she recalls the day's events.

Chapter 15 Analysis

This is one of the many times that Gwen feels at a loss. As she receives the images from her photos, she's sure the blue house has something to do with Meredith's disappearance. When she enters the home, however, there is nothing that shines a light on her case. Whoever had given Dianne the photos must be involved somehow, but she's not sure how.

She recounts every step of her depressing night and then reminisces about the handful of close friends that she has, the ones she trusts. She has no one to talk to about her special gift. She has kept that locked away through the years, and Stephen's hasty departure was enough to remind her why she has kept silent.



Chapter 16

Chapter 16 Summary

The next morning Gwen drives to see Frank and get the information on the heir case he mentioned the night before. She knocks on the door, but there's no answer. She lets herself in and looks around for him. He's not at his computer or in his bedroom. She notices a bottle of scotch on the table and is startled. Frank had quit drinking five years ago. She wonders if perhaps he had called his son and the call had gone badly.

She starts thinking the worst and goes out to his boat to see if he had taken it. The boat is out in the middle of the water, but the towboat is still there. She takes out her cell phone, calls the police, then rows out to the other boat. Frank is not on the larger boat, so she starts rowing back for the shore when her row hits something. It's Frank, floating on his stomach in the water. She screams, then cries as she tries to pull him aboard without success. She then ties the rope around him and pulls him to shore. When she arrives, the police are there.

Inside Frank's house they question her about what she found and the events leading up to it. She tells them that Frank only drank Jamison, never Scotch. He said he didn't like Scotch. She doesn't mention the case he had been working on, but tells them he called her last night to discuss redecorating his house with her and that's why she came by this morning.

Once the cops leave, she looks in Frank's bedroom and notices that all his files are missing, including his laptop computer. She searches for the heir case file, but comes up empty. She realizes something is very wrong. As far as the cops were concerned, Frank got drunk, took his boat out, and fell in the water. She knows differently and is determined to find out what happened. She calls Quaid from her cell phone to ask for help. She seriously dislikes the man, but has no other alternative.

Chapter 16 Analysis

The reader feels the strong emotional bond between Frank and Gwen in this chapter. She is totally devastated that he's dead and cannot understand why he would start drinking again after five years of sobriety. Not only was he drinking, he was drinking Scotch, which he doesn't like. His drink of choice was always Jamison.

Although the police chalk Frank's death up to a drunken accident, she knows in her heart it's something much more. This is the first time Gwen has reached out for help since being on the force. Despite her dislike for Quaid, she cannot handle two cases at the same time. She needs his help.



Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Summary

Gwen tells Quaid about her suspicions with the drowning of Frank and how he never drank Scotch but rather Jamison. He listens to her, but wonders how this adds up to homicide and not suicide. She tells him that maybe she's a little too shaken up and things aren't making sense at the moment. She asks him to talk to the lady coroner in his office. She wants to speak to her about Frank. He says he will ask her, but can't promise anything. He starts to irritate her by questioning her tactics in the case. Without explanation, she tells him to look into a certain case number and hangs up the phone.

She starts looking for Frank's thumb drive. It has disappeared along with his backup CDs. She finds that his address book is still there, opens it, and calls Jason, Frank's son. Jason answers right away and Gwen tells him about Frank Cross. Turns out, Jason knows he is his father and is saddened that he never had the opportunity to have a relationship with him. Gwen shares that he was her best friend and Jason asks to come and meet her. She is hesitant, but agrees. He says he will come to her house the next day.

Chapter 17 Analysis

Gwen knows that meeting Jason is something she must do, but it scares her. She thinks that Frank would definitely approve, and she wants to do everything she can for him, including proving he was murdered. The reader understands that it took a lot of guts for Gwen to call Quaid. She finds that she hasn't any other choices if she wants to handle both of her cases at the same time.

Gwen is also very disturbed by the fact that Frank's computer had come up missing, not to mention all of the files, including the heir case file. She wonders if the case had something to do with his drowning. It hits her like a brick, the thought that she brought him the case that caused his death. How would she live with herself?



Chapter 18

Chapter 18 Summary

Quaid calls Gwen on her cell phone and mentions the case number she had given him earlier. It's the missing person report filed by Cody. The date on it shows it was filed yesterday. She tells Quaid that Cody said he filed the report almost a week ago. Sergeant Walsh's signature is on the paperwork, so he asks her if she believes Walsh to be a liar. She is silent for a moment, then brings up the fact that her last case on the force was an undercover assignment from Walsh that he later denied.

Quaid hears her out and realizes he has a difficult decision to make concerning whether or not he backs Gwen on this or Walsh. Either way is risky for him. Quaid tells her that he has arranged for the coroner to meet with her at noon at a local Thai restaurant. It's nearly noon already, so they end their conversation and Gwen drives to the restaurant. Kate Myers is already there and stands to greet Gwen. It's clear to Gwen that Kate is not happy to be there. She is under the impression Gwen is there to discuss the case that got her relieved from the police force. Gwen informs her that she's there to discuss Frank Cross's death and his autopsy.

Gwen continues by telling her that Quaid trusts her, so she wants her to handle everything. Kate seems a little flattered. The waiter comes over and takes their order. After he leaves, they continue talking and Gwen mentions her fallen comrades, Yoland and Moniz, and wonders who kept their cases so silent. Kate tells her it was Sam Giles, the coroner before her. Gwen tells Kate about a case she and Frank were working on before he died. A family had been killed in a car accident and their bodies disappeared from the coroner's office. It had been when Sam Giles was working there. Kate is shocked by this news.

The waiter brings their food and Gwen is thankful, for she is very hungry. Gwen takes a few bites of her food and questions Kate further as she asks where someone would look if they wanted DNA on a certain person. Kate tells her that Damian O'Riley asked her that a few days ago. Kate thinks about things and tells Gwen that she's scared. Gwen tells her that's perfectly natural. They finish eating and Kate looks at her watch, announcing that she has to leave for an appointment. She tells Gwen that she'll be in touch with her, then leaves.

Gwen heads to the mall to meet Damian O'Riley and hands him the pencil she took from the blue house. She asks him to run fingerprints on it. He takes the pencil from her and says it's no problem to run the prints. He tries to make small talk with her, but there's nothing much to say.



Chapter 18 Analysis

This chapter starts out with Quaid thinking that Gwen might have been telling the truth all along about the case that got her off the police force. She tells him about Sergeant Walsh bringing the missing person report to Cody's office the day she went to confront Cody about it. As it happens, the case file is dated for the day before and it was supposed to have been reported a week earlier. Things don't add up and she tells Quaid about it.

Gwen's meeting with Kate turns out better than she expected. Kate thinks Gwen is meeting her to discuss other matters, but Gwen informs her she's interested in the death of Frank Cross. This makes Kate feel both relieved and flattered that Gwen would come to her for assistance.



Chapter 19

Chapter 19 Summary

Gwen's cell phone rings and it's the hospital. Sylvia, her landlady, has had a heart attack and had asked the nurse to call Gwen. Gwen tells the nurse she'll be there in twenty minutes. She arrives to see Sylvia in a hospital bed, looking very old. Sylvia tells her that Ian Forest has been to see her. He was looking for Gwen and it brought back memories of when Sylvia knew him. He hadn't changed a bit. Gwen insists that the man Sylvia knew in her younger years must have been Ian Forest Senior, but Sylvia tells her otherwise. Gwen cannot imagine that Ian hasn't aged in all those years, but she nods her head to Sylvia in agreement.

Gwen tells Sylvia that she will take care of things and that Sylvia should get some sleep. Sylvia agrees and Gwen leaves the room to call Ian. He agrees to meet her at her office and she leaves promptly from the hospital. He's there to meet her when she arrives. She asks him why he came to see her earlier and he tells her he came to offer his assistance with her missing child case. He tells her that he can offer assistance outside of the legal areas in which she is currently using.

Gwen averts his offer by telling him there's something she wants to show him. She escorts him into Sylvia's home and points to a portrait taken of Sylvia forty years earlier. She asks if he knows her and he says she resembles someone he knew a long time ago. She enlightens him that it's Sylvia Black and when she saw him earlier she noticed that he hadn't aged a day since she last saw him and the shock triggered her heart attack.

She asks him if he's surprised about Sylvia's heart attack and he tells her he is not surprised due to her race. Gwen probes further and he tells her it's due to the fact that Sylvia is human. She bursts into laughter and he does not find it amusing. He asks her about the case he gave her and she starts remembering Frank. Her teary eyes prompt more inquiries from him. She feels drawn to confide in him and tells the whole story about Frank's death and how she gave him the file to work on for her. He feels that she blames him in some way, so he offers his hand so that she can see he had nothing to do with it. She hesitates, but touches his hands anyway to see any visions using her special powers. As she takes his hands the memories flood into her mind and none of them include Frank. She releases his hands and reassures him that she knows he had nothing to do with Frank's death.

Chapter 19 Analysis

Sylvia is so shocked by seeing that Ian hasn't aged a day in forty years that it causes her to have a heart attack. Gwen thinks she must have seen Ian Jr. and that Ian Sr. is



who she knew all those years ago. When Gwen confronts Ian about this, he doesn't offer any direct explanation, but instead offers his sympathy and gentlemanly respect.

Gwen feels compelled, for no known reasons, to confide in Ian, and tells him the whole story about how she gave the heir case file to Frank and how everything disappeared. Ian knows she blames him, so he offers his hands for her to seek answers. With her special gift she knows exactly what to do and takes his hands into hers. She sees no connection to Frank and releases his hands. She still doesn't know what to make of the whole situation.



Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Summary

Gwen's cell phone rings and Dianne Cody is on the other end. She tells Gwen that the kidnappers have made contact via email about Meredith and that she's alive. Gwen tells her she'll be right over to take a look at the email. She tells Ian she must go and he understands. He tells her they will talk again later. She locks up Sylvia's home and gets in her car. Ian must have left abruptly, because by the time she finished locking the door he was gone. As Gwen backs out of the driveway she notices a car blocking her in. It's a woman she doesn't recognize.

Gwen stops her car and gets out to find out who she is. It's Detective Moniz's widow and she tells Gwen that she has something important to tell her. As it turns out, Teresa Moniz has powers similar to Gwen's. Gwen doesn't know what to think of this information. Teresa pulls out a piece of paper with a symbol drawn on it. Gwen recognizes it as the Caer Sidi, the spiral castle; a link to the Celtic Otherworld. This symbol was carved into the body of the two detectives that died at Winston's. Detective Moniz was one of them.

Gwen tells Teresa that she has to leave to meet a client, so Teresa bids her goodbye and thanks her for listening. Gwen drives to the Cody home. By the look on Ryan Cody's face, she's not sure he'll let her in. They look at one another, then he moves to let her in. She goes to the computer and views the email sent by the kidnappers. It's two pictures, side by side. One is of Meredith naked, sitting on a floor, knees drawn to her chest with a scared look in her eyes. She has obviously been crying, because her eyes are puffy and red and there are tears still on her cheeks. The picture next to it is Gwen in the same position.

She turns to Ryan and asks if he is the one who gave her photos to Dianne. He tells her yes, it was someone associated with his law firm. She wants to know the name, but he refuses. He says they would never talk to Gwen. She asks him how he came to be employed by the law firm. Dianne answers for him, saying that they found him through the Internet and the porn child sites he visited. The law firm wanted to make sure their attorneys were of the same caliber as them. And, since Ryan liked looking at child porn, a silent partner bought him the membership to Underhill as a gift. They also used this as collateral to make sure he never left the firm.

He confesses that his intention was to leave the firm, then Meredith came up missing. He told his firm that he would come back, but in the meantime, Dianne hired Gwen. This is what caused things to become twisted. Ryan confesses to both Gwen and Dianne that the firm wants him to defend a client in a murder trial. If he wins and gets the client off on the charges, they will let Meredith go. The client is Carl Jamison (the one that murdered the girls and left them in hotel rooms; the same guy that almost killed Gwen



the same way). Gwen is appalled at the possibility that this guy would walk away and not be convicted of his crimes.

Gwen tells them both that the pictures being sent via email is a message for Gwen. They want her to look for Jamison and if she doesn't, she knows full well what will happen to Meredith. Dianne chokes back sobs and walks away. Gwen tries to comfort her by telling her that it's going to be alright. Dianne is comforted in the fact that Gwen will stop at nothing to find Meredith.

Dianne walks away and Gwen turns her attention to Ryan. She tells him he's a liar and hasn't told her everything. He says he cannot tell her anymore. She is disgusted and walks out of their house. As she gets in her car, she calls O'Riley and asks if he's gotten a name yet for the fingerprint she gave him. He doesn't, but promises to get right on it. She then remembers seeing Wallace Edmonson in Ryan's office. Wallace is Ryan's attorney, so she calls Marcy. Gwen asks Marcy to pull up everything she knows about Wallace, and that she needs it in a hurry. Marcy obliges and tells her she'll have it within the hour.

As Gwen drives toward Zimmer's house, O'Riley calls her and tells her the fingerprint belongs to Thaddeus Zimmer. She thanks him as she parks her car near Zimmer's house and slips in through the back door. She quietly heads upstairs and finds him behind his computer. She says, "Hi Tadpole", which is a nickname for him. He sees her and tries to escape. She's too fast for him though, and stops him. She asks about Meredith and he's not sure who she's talking about. She points to a thumbnail picture of Meredith that's on his computer screen and he tells her that he took the photo this morning. One of Tiger Leone's men brought Meredith to him and paid a lot of money.

Gwen takes all of this information in and decides that both Tiger and Ian must work for the same guy, but she's not sure who it is. She asks Zimmer if he can contact the guy that brought Meredith over this morning. He says he can email him. Gwen asks him to email him and say that Gi Gi took the bait. He does so and as she waits for a reply email she notices she missed Marcy's call. She dials her number and Marcy tells her that Wallace is not a practicing attorney in Rhode Island, but is a consultant under contract with Cody's law firm. She remembers Cody saying that a consultant provided him with Gwen's risqué photos. An email comes back and Zimmer reads it to Gwen. It says to tell Ms. Gellman that they will contact her at midnight the following night. After he prints both emails for her, she is finished with Zimmer, so she releases him and leaves.

Chapter 20 Analysis

The plot twists and turns a little in this chapter, as the Cody's receive email notification that Meredith is still alive. Upon Gwen's arrival at the Cody's house, she is shocked to see that the contact is in the form of photos, not words. The side-by-side photos are of Gwen and Meredith, sitting, naked with their hands wrapped around their knees.



Gwen quickly gets to the bottom of things by questioning Ryan Cody. As he tells her the whole sick story of how his law firm found him through his sex searches and provided him with the membership at Underhill, his wife looks at him with disgust. He continues by telling her he tried to leave the firm, but that's when they kidnapped Meredith. Furthermore, they now know that Gwen is on the case, so they tell Ryan that he needs to win a murder case defending Carl Jamison in order to get Meredith back. Gwen also learns that Ian and Tiger are somehow connected because of their similar clubs and that there must be a boss that's higher up in the chain.



Chapter 21

Chapter 21 Summary

Back at home, Gwen listens to her messages on the answering machine. There is one from Jason Cross, stating that he's in Providence and staying at a local hotel. One is from Kate with the autopsy results. She says that Frank died of drowning and there was extensive alcohol in his system. The third call is from O'Riley, telling Gwen that he found a lab that has done a lot of tests recently and the only information they are asked to require is if the DNA is human or not.

It's after midnight and she's tired, but she's also hungry. She takes a shower, grabs an apple, and calls the Cody home. Ryan answers right away and she asks him about Wallace. He tells her Wallace is the go-between for him and whoever has Meredith. She tells him about finding Zimmer and setting up the meeting the next day at midnight. She asks for Wallace's phone number and address and he hesitantly gives it to her. He says Wallace will not meet with Gwen, but she feels otherwise.

She can't sleep, so she dresses and goes to Wallace's house. He lives less than a mile from Gwen. He is not surprised to see her and invites her in. Gwen notices the house is in the middle of some renovations. Wallace leads her upstairs so they can talk away from the rubble. She notices a glass case which holds a blue gem in the middle, and as she walks toward it, it lights up. He tells her it's a motion sensor and offers her some brandy. She takes the brandy and sits down. She asks him if he knows where Meredith is and he tells her he's only a go-between, carrying messages. He tells her that he knows they want something from her too. She confirms that it's true, but she's not sure what they want. He tells her that they want him to watch her for at least three more days. She doesn't comment. This is all the information she can get out of him and she feels that it's gotten her nowhere, so she bids him goodbye and lets herself out.

She drives around the corner and pulls out a phone scanner. She takes it and quietly crouches on the outside of his house. She had been in his house for fifteen minutes and if she truly set off the alarm by getting too close to the blue gem, there would have been at least a phone call from the security company. Nothing had come through, which made her suspicious. She comes to the conclusion that he's lying about the gem and possibly about Meredith.

Chapter 21 Analysis

Gwen feels a glimmer of hope when she contacts Ryan Cody and he actually gives her the contact information on Wallace. When she confronts Wallace, however, he doesn't provide her with any useful information. She was hoping to have some information, so that she doesn't have to go to the meeting the following night with no ammunition.



Wallace might have been telling the truth about the blue gem being a security system and that Meredith was alive and unharmed. Gwen is not sure, based on her analysis that no phone calls came in when she apparently set off the alarm and no police vehicles drove up to Wallace's house. All of this does not sit well with Gwen. She will have no choice but to keep digging for information.



Chapter 22

Chapter 22 Summary

The next morning Gwen is woken up by someone banging on her door. She gets out of bed wearing the same jeans and shirt she had put on the previous night to go see Wallace. There's a tall thin man at her door with an envelope from Frank addressed to her. After a minute, she recognizes the man as George, one of Frank's informants. George tells Gwen that Frank paid him twenty dollars to deliver the envelope to her days ago, but he spent the twenty on booze and lost track of time. He asks her if she's going to tell Frank what he did. George is also being sponsored by Frank at the local AA.

She starts to question him about the night Frank gave him the envelope. George wonders why all the questions, but tells her it was close to midnight, he was sober, and he didn't have anything to drink at Frank's house either. She realizes that the coroner's report stated that Frank died very close to midnight and his system had a lot of alcohol in it. George's face remains inquisitive, so Gwen tells him of Frank's death. He can't believe it. She tells him to come to the wake, which will be held this afternoon. He shakes his head and walks away.

As soon as George leaves, Gwen opens the envelope to find the heir case file and all of Frank's notes inside. James and Ruby Avalon, along with their daughter (Tess) had died in a car accident on April 30, 1971. Next she finds a file on David and Regina Gellman, her parents, and how the neighbor heard Gwen crying and went over to see what was happening. She'd found the back door open, David and Regina dead, and Gwen unharmed. The date of the incident is May 1, 1971. There is a photo also of her parents standing together and her mother is pregnant with Gwen. She turns the photo over and it says Mendel's peas. Gwen is not sure what this means. She thinks about it and suddenly remembers it has something to do with genetic testing. There was an assignment when she was in school that had something to do with Mendel's peas.

She continues reading the file and discovers that the Avalon's time of death was between 11 pm and midnight and the driving distance between her parent's house and the Avalon crash was fifteen minutes. Frank thought there was some connection here. She picks up the phone and calls Ian Forest. He tells her it is not a good time to talk, but she tells him that his file had been delivered to her and she's not sure who will come looking for it. He tells her he will come right over.

She quickly showers and by the time she's finished, Ian is already at her house. She doesn't expect to walk into the other room and find someone standing there, so in the shock she drops her towel and picks up a lamp to hit the intruder with. She realizes it's Ian. His face is bruised and cut, so she asks him what happened. He simply says he's met a new client. He asks her about the file. She's angry and he knows it. In the heat of her fury she forgets that she's still naked, so Ian suggests she get dressed.



She pulls a dress over her head and stares at Ian. She tells him that she's angry because the file Frank had that Ian had given her contained information about her life too. The bottom line is that Frank is dead. Ian asks her what she knows about the file, so she tells him that she thinks the Avalon's were running from something, probably being chased. Their car runs off the cliff and whoever is chasing them ends up running into her family instead. Ian asks her about the two baby girls in each case. She doesn't answer him.

She demands to know what happened to the Avalon bodies and who removed them from the morgue. He tells her that's what he hired her to find out. He tosses an envelope full of money on her bed and hands her a gun to carry with her. She asks why the need for the gun, because it's unregistered and custom made, making it illegal. He tells her there is a shabby man lying dead outside her gate. She rushes to the phone to call Jason. She asks him if everything is alright and he says yes. She tells him the whole story about how she was given the heir case and gave it to Frank. Frank ends up dead and days later a messenger shows up with the envelope from Frank and the messenger ends up dead in her front yard. She tells him to check into a hotel room instead of staying at Frank's place. He tells her he'll be alright and she tells him she'll talk to him later.

Quaid is the next phone call Gwen makes. The phone wakes him up, but Gwen doesn't care. She tells him that Kate said he had information for her and she wants to know what it is. He tells her that shortly after she left the department, a new guy started. The new guy was given Gwen's old computer. One day he spills coffee on it and gets a new computer. Since the old computer isn't working any more the department gives it to O'Riley for parts. Gwen is growing impatient and asks him to get to the point. He tells her that O'Riley gave the computer to a guy to clean up the hard drive and found one of Gwen's reports while she was working on the Winston case. This would prove Gwen's innocence and she can return to the force. She should be excited about this news, but she tells Quaid she's got too much on her plate right now to think about it. She wants a favor from him and gives him the information on the Avalon car accident. She wants him to see if there are any personal belongings on file. He tells her he'll put O'Riley on it and she thanks him and tells him she owes him.

Chapter 22 Analysis

Gwen is elated to find George delivering an envelope from Frank. Even though it took him several days to deliver it, she now had the heir case in her hands and could thumb through Frank's notes. She finds it disturbing that there is possibly only an hour or two between the death of the Avalon family and her family, plus the fact that the driving distance between her parent's home and the crash site was only fifteen minutes.

All of this information puts Gwen's head in a whirlwind of thought. After meeting with Ian Forest, she feels no closer to solving the mystery, plus the fact that Ian tells her there is a dead man outside her gate. This shakes her up and she realizes she may be in real danger. The call to Quaid goes a little better than expected as he sheds light on her old

computer and the report O'Riley finds from her to Walsh. This information could clear her name and that makes her happy.



Chapter 23

Chapter 23 Summary

Gwen goes to her gate to check Ian's claim of a dead George outside her gate. She doesn't see anything. There are a few broken branches, but no body. She calls Ian from her cell phone and he tells her that he moved George to a less conspicuous place. She tells him she wanted to check out the situation before calling the police, so she hasn't called them. He is happy about that decision. She hangs up the phone and goes back upstairs to retrieve the gun he had given her. She has a legal gun of her own, but for some reason she feels she should carry the silver one instead. She slips it into her jacket pocket and takes Sylvia's car. She wants to observe someone and doesn't want her own vehicle recognized.

She drives the black sedan to Wallace's house and parks a little off the beaten path. Wallace leaves in his car and she follows him to an office park at the other end of town. She parks about two buildings away from him and watches him walk inside. O'Riley startles her by knocking on the passenger window. She almost shoots him with her silver gun. She curses under her breath and lets him in. He excitedly tells her that the DNA lab he's been in contact with claims that the last sample they ran was not human. They called him and he is there to find out the scoop. Apparently the lab is in the same building Wallace had just entered.

Gwen and O'Riley head for the building. As they approach, they hear a woman scream. They both reach for their guns and start running toward the sound of the scream. When they enter the building they see two young blond men running toward the exit doors. O'Riley tackles one and Gwen gets the other. The men are unarmed, so Gwen drops her gun. A fight ensues and both guys get away. O'Riley has been hit in the stomach and is out of breath, so Gwen rushes over to aid him. He gets up and they find the woman they heard scream. She tells them the men took her sample and all of the test results. They had even taken the money she was paid to run the test. She describes the man that paid her right before the two blonds arrive and Gwen finds the description remarkably close to Wallace's description.

All of a sudden Gwen recalls her meeting at Cody's office where Wallace handed her jacket back to her when she was leaving. His index finger and thumb were touching one another like he was holding something. She thinks it might have been some of her hair from the collar of her jacket. She also remembers that Wallace mentioned he was supposed to be investigating her and it would take three more days. It had taken the lab three days to come up with the DNA results and they turned out not to be human. She doesn't know what to make of all this information.

They tell the woman to call the police and say she was robbed, but for her not to mention that they had come by. She agrees and they leave. Once they are outside the building, O'Riley tells Gwen that Quaid wants her to meet him at the arcade at noon.



She decides she has enough time to visit Sylvia at the hospital first. Sylvia has been moved to a private room. Gwen finds her and tells her about her visit with Ian. He is, in fact, the same man she had known years ago. Sylvia is relieved that she hasn't lost her mind. She tells Gwen of a time in which she and Ian became very close and he broke the relationship off, because he claimed he was of a different race than her and could not be with her. Gwen takes all of this information in and realizes that Ian did have a similar effect on her.

She leaves the hospital after seeing Sylvia and heads downtown to meet Quaid. He is inside the arcade with two white paper bags. He hands one to her and she pulls out two drivers licenses. They are for James and Ruby Avalon. Quaid mentions that Ruby looks a lot like Gwen. She now knows why her eyes are strikingly blue and her Gellman parents had brown eyes. According to studies, brown eyes should have prevailed. These Avalons must be her real parents. She hastily tells Quaid she has to leave and rushes over to Wallace's house, squealing her tires as she leaves the parking lot.

Wallace answers his door to find Gwen holding both licenses in her hand. After he studies them, he invites her in. They go upstairs again, and this time he offers her brandy from his glass decanter (his private stock). She asks him about the Avalon's and he tells her James was his brother, although James was not his real name and Wallace is not really Wallace, either. She is not surprised by this. He tells Gwen that his brother had been hiding and running for a long time and he had been trying to find him. When he arrived in Providence all those years ago looking for his brother, he learned of the car accident. Wallace decided to continue living in Providence.

Gwen tells Wallace that she believes the Avalons stopped at the Gellman home and switched babies before they died in the car accident. Wallace says he agrees with her. She turns her head toward him in shock. She tells him of the heir case in which she was hired and realizes she was hired to find herself. Wallace goes to the glass case, pulls the blue stone out, using a black cloth between his hand and the stone. He hands it to Gwen, telling her that the stone is the fortune to which Ian spoke of. As she holds the stone, the whole room lights up in a bright blue hue. It creates a vision of a land with mountains and stone beds. It's beautiful. Wallace tells her that her powers are stronger than his brother's. Gwen is untrained as well, which makes him more impressed.

Wallace tells her she has the gift of her father, to remember things. Her mother had the gift of rain. He believes she used her gift the night they died, maybe to slow down their pursuers, but it backfired on them. Gwen is overloaded with this information. She tells him she doesn't believe it. He tells her that Beltane approaches and it's the time of the changeling. She bursts into tears and runs out of his house.

Chapter 23 Analysis

This chapter reveals the true identity of Gwen Gellman and as she tries to push it out of her mind, she has to face the truth. The hairs from her jacket were picked up by Wallace



and he has the lab check the DNA. It is, in fact, not human. She was lucky to receive the file from George, but the information from inside both shocks and saddens her.

The drivers licenses of the Avalons look to be people that resemble her very much, and once she sees the photo of the Gellmans in the file Frank was working on, she realizes that with her blue eyes she cannot possibly be the Gellman's baby. Both accidents happened within an hour of each other and Gwen puts two and two together and decides she must have been switched with the other baby. When Wallace confirms all of this and then hands her the stone, it's all too real. She doesn't know how to handle this information and is not sure what to do next. The only logical thing for her to do is to temporarily run away.



Chapter 24

Chapter 24 Summary

Later, Gwen attends Frank's wake. She walks up to the casket and barely recognizes him due to the makeup and what he called his "funeral suit". She knew he never meant it literally. She touches his face in hopes of conjuring up some kind of image that will help her prove he didn't kill himself, but nothing comes to her. She turns to leave and recognizes Jason's voice calling to her. She notices he looks nothing like Frank. Frank had always said he looked like his mother, who is part Wampanoag.

They stand and talk for a few minutes about how uncomfortable these things are and Jason thinks that Gwen should be the one receiving condolences instead of himself. She explains the story behind her departure from the force more than a year ago so that he understands her situation. Soft music starts to play from the speakers at the funeral home and Gwen comments that Frank would hate it. Jason asks what Frank would have wanted and Gwen says he'd probably want to be left in the water where she had found him. They both look at each other and decide to celebrate his death in his boat on his water. Jason arrives first in his rental car and Gwen behind him in her Toyota. They climb aboard the boat and row into the water.

Gwen starts by asking him how long he's staying in Providence and he tells her he's thinking about staying. She's surprised, but thinks it's not a bad idea. He wants to know about his father and asks Gwen to tell him everything. She starts from the beginning with him being her first partner and how much he taught her. They laugh over a few stories she shares about their adventures on the force. He asks her about the case he was working on when he died. Gwen thinks about it for a minute and decides she will tell him everything. He notices the similarities between Meredith and the heir case just as she had.

It starts to thunder, so they decide to go in. They make a pot of coffee and talk more. They change the subject to more general things like movies and music. They play some of Frank's music in remembrance of him. Gwen notices it's close to midnight and tells him she has to leave for an appointment. He questions the hour of the appointment, to which she tells him it's work. He offers to come along, but she tells him he can't. She bids him goodbye and heads for her car.

As she approaches her car she notices a black sedan parked in front of her. Sandra Jamison steps out and tells Gwen to get into the sedan. No way is Gwen getting into the car. She tells Jamison that if Jason finds her car still parked outside his house he'll wonder what's going on. After a few moments Jamison agrees to let Gwen follow her and they drive to a hotel in Massachusetts. Inside the hotel room Gwen finds Carl Jamison and his brother, both leaning over the bed in which Meredith is lying. Carl had drawn the Caer Sidi on her thigh with a pen. Gwen tells him it's the way to the Celtic



Otherworld. He tells her that someone like her could never understand such things, to which she laughs out loud.

The deal unfolds and Gwen is told that Kyle, Carl's brother, will take Meredith away. Gwen will take her place to play and as soon as they are finished with Gwen they will call Ryan Cody to come and pick Meredith up. Gwen tells Kyle that if anything happens to Meredith that Edmonson will know. They are shocked by this announcement and ask her angrily what she knows about the Elders. She tells Carl that he will never become an Elder. It's in the blood, but not the blood you spill she tells him. She also says she knows this because she is an Elder herself.

They don't believe her so she asks for his pocket knife. Sandra tells them to keep the gun pointed toward her and if she does anything funny to shoot her. Gwen takes the knife in her palm and the bright red hues start illuminating the room in the shape of an ancient maze. They stare in disbelief. She continues by telling Carl that by killing virgins he will never become an Elder. She inclines that if he had made love to her when they captured her a year ago things might be different. She's lying, but he believes her. She leads him to believe that if Gwen sleeps with all of them, including Sandra, they'll all become Elders. She insists that Meredith be returned to her family and once they contact her via cell phone, she'll play with them. They drug Meredith and wrap her in a blanket to bring her home.

As the boys carry Meredith to the trunk of the car, Gwen decides to try her powers at helping her escape. She wants to grab Sandra's gun that is still pointed at Gwen's head. She envisions the window smashing open and it happens. As Sandra ducks from the shards of glass, Gwen lunges for the gun. A fight ensues and the boys come back in to defend their mother. Carl attacks Gwen with his knife and slices her arm open. She manages to grab the knife away from him just as the lamp falls to the ground and puts them in darkness. Carl manages to get the better of her, pins her down and digs his fingers into her open wound. She screams, but frees herself by plunging the knife into him. She manages to grab Sandra as Carl is dying on the floor. She tells her to call Kyle and tell him there's been a change in the plans. He is to bring Meredith to Haines Park and she will meet him there later. She gives Sandra a cell phone and she delivers the instructions.

Out of the blue, Ian shows up in the hotel room and tells Gwen she cannot leave Sandra, because the moment she does Sandra will call the police. He comes over to her side, takes Sandra's head in his hands and snaps her neck. She grabs the yellow rain coat and her keys and Ian tells her that's a good idea. They drive together to the park to get Meredith. Gwen drops Ian off short of the park and tells him to meet her there. He agrees and she proceeds to Kyle's car. She snatches the door open and a fight ensues. He reaches for a gun and to her astonishment Ian is there in a flash to help her. She can't understand how he got there so quickly. The window shatters and Kyle is thrown out of the car. She helps Ian drag him to a nearby oak tree. He tells her to get Meredith home and he will take care of the Jamison family. She agrees, goes to the trunk to retrieve Meredith, and by the time she gets her inside the car, Ian and Kyle are gone.



Chapter 24 Analysis

This chapter starts out with the grim reality of Gwen's loss in Frank Cross. She attends his wake with a heavy heart and proceeds to the coffin where she notes that he doesn't look anything like the Frank Cross she knew and loved. She tries her powers on him by touching his face, but cannot bring any images to the surface.

Upon her exit, she runs into Jason and finally gets to meet him face to face. They enjoy time together remembering Frank as they take the boat out onto the water and talk about her memories of Frank. This helps to lift Gwen's heart a little and helps Jason to get to know his father a little.

The final part of Gwen's day is finding Sandra Jamison standing outside of Frank's house when she leaves Jason for the night. Sandra wants to take Gwen to Meredith, but Gwen insists on driving her own car. Upon entering the seedy hotel room she notices that Meredith is tied in the same manner in which Lauren was tied when Gwen found her dead. The floodgates open when Gwen learns that the Jamison family wants to exchange Meredith for her. Gwen uses her powers to convince them that she is an Elder and they cannot kill virgins and become Elders themselves. It could never happen. She devises a plan and Ian shows up for the latter half. They accomplish escaping. They find Meredith and Gwen is able to drive her home, leaving Ian to deal with the Jamison's.



Chapter 25

Chapter 25 Summary

Gwen pulls Meredith out of the trunk and tells the terrified girl that she's been sent to bring her home and her mother wants her to clean her room. Meredith smiles at this statement, knowing it's the truth. Gwen drives her to the Cody home and Dianne and Meredith embrace each other. Gwen tells Ryan that he needs to take his family away for a while until things simmer down. He agrees.

She heads toward the car to leave and Ian pops out of the bushes. She asks him how he's able to pop in and out like that and he tells her that's what he hired her to find out. She says she needs to see Edmonson, to which he questions how she knows him. She tells him he's part of Cody's law firm. He clarifies that Edmonson actually owns the firm. He also tells her that her uncle is one of the bad guys. She notices her Toyota is parked outside the Cody home and Ian tells her he drove it there. He insists on driving her home and she doesn't complain because of how tired she is. She climbs in the passenger seat and falls asleep.

She is awakened the next morning by Jimmy Almeida, who has information on the killing of Joe Perotti. Gwen had asked him that in the parking lot of the cable company a few days ago. He tells her that he remembers a man coming to his father and asking if he can fix the brakes on a car so they will fail in the rain. He was only six or seven at the time, but remembers his father treating this man like royalty and calls him Earl, like a duke or something. He also remembers the name given to his father, like something drowned. He recalls the name Alfred Drowne years later while he's working for the cable company. Gwen chimes in with Alfred Drowne Road. That's the address that's on the Avalon's drivers licenses.

She shows him her father's license and he says that's the man that came to his father for the brake job, or at least it looks a lot like him. It is Wallace Earl Edmonson. Gwen thanks Jimmy for the information and he leaves. As soon as he's gone, Gwen heads for Wallace's house. She goes through his back door and into his kitchen. She sees a computer, opens it up, and notices the screensaver. It's Frank's house and the bay behind it. It's Frank's laptop and Wallace killed him. Wallace enters the room and tells her he's glad she knows. She turns toward him and pulls the silver gun out. She points the gun toward him as he tells her they should band together. She confronts him about killing her parents, to which he confesses, but still urges her to join him.

She tells him he's crazy to think she'd actually band with him. Ian and two other men enter the room. Ian tells her to put the gun down, for if she kills him he will not be able to protect her. Ian and the other men talk to one another about Wallace admitting to breaking one of their sacred rules. Wallace has killed one of his own kind and he must be taken away. Gwen puts the gun down and lets the men take Wallace. Ian thanks her for solving his case and tells her that things will be different for her now. She knows this



and jokingly asks if she should change her business cards to say Changeling Detective Agency. He tells her it's a good idea and that things will go well for her.

Chapter 25 Analysis

The reader feels for Gwen and the situation she is in. She has always known that she is different than other people, but she thought it was due to the fact that she grew up in the system. Learning about her Elder status and being a changeling just added fuel to the fire. She's not really sure what to do now, but she will still help the other underdogs of the world.

There are strong emotions between Gwen and Wallace in this chapter. Gwen's anger grows as she learns that he has not only killed her parents, but Frank as well. This makes her blood feel like it's boiling. If Ian and his men hadn't shown up when they did, she wasn't sure what she would have done to Wallace. She is, however, glad that she was able to bring Meredith home and solve Ian's case. She originally didn't think she could handle both at the same time. She also learned of what and who she is and has Ian to thank for that. She knows that he will be around if she needs anything.



Epilogue

Epilogue Summary

Ian brings the blue gem to the silver haired man Gwen had met at Underhill. He takes the gem carefully and they decide together that Gwen is not ready to have it yet, even though it belongs to her by rights. She needs to find out what she is and be settled within that realization before she can start using the gem.

The men also agree to keep one of Wallace's men, even though originally they weren't going to. This particular man has already befriended Gwen and she doesn't trust people easily. They decide that the man who is now called Jason Cross will stay in their employ and watch over Gwen.

Epilogue Analysis

It is shocking in the end to find that Jason Cross is of the same race as Ian and Gwen. He originally worked for Wallace and came into Gwen's life as Frank's son. She likes him and will actually start trusting him, so who better for the job of watching over her.



Characters

Gwen Gellman

Gwen Gellman is the main character in the story. She is a thirty-four year old private investigator. She is slim and good looking with short auburn hair, and only looks to be about seventeen or eighteen years old. When she was a child, there was a burglary in her house. Her parents caught the burglar by surprise and were murdered. Gwen spent the rest of her life in the system, passed between foster homes. Later, she ends up in juvenile hall. She just can't seem to get her life straight.

She straightens her life out and becomes a cop. For fifteen years she served on the force. Her first partner was Frank Cross, who she learned a lot from. In her fifteenth year on the force she's sent undercover to investigate a club owned by Tiger Leone. She gets kidnapped by a local serial killer, is drugged, and almost killed. Later, she finds out that her boss denies sending her on the investigation, the whole thing gets covered up, and she is released from the force. The man who kidnapped her goes free. She becomes a private investigator later and remains best friends with Frank Cross.

Throughout her years on the force she remains close friends to a handful of people. These relationships are strong and sustain her through both the good and bad times in her life. Each one helps her in different ways. Frank Cross helps her with her private investigative work and her love life, Marcy helps her with relationships as well, but represents a different perspective because she's a lesbian, and Sister Tamar helps her with the spiritual side of her life.

Marcy Bartlett

Marcy is a middle-aged attorney who works the criminal law circuit. She is an attractive woman with short blond hair who works in a downtown office with a male secretary. She has a male secretary for a specific reason; she is a lesbian with a very jealous live-in lover named Trudy.

Marcy had gone through a bitter divorce from an abusive husband and Gwen Gellman helped her through it. After a few years of therapy Marcy learned that she actually favored women over men. She has a fierce attraction to Gwen, but Gwen is not homosexual, so Marcy respected that and moved on. She eventually met Trudy. They seem to be a perfect match for one another. Marcy is called upon by Gwen throughout the story. Gwen relies on Marcy's attorney relationships when she needs to have an opinion, or inside scoop on a particular attorney, or an attorney's assistant, etc.

Marcy does as much as she can for Gwen without breaking any laws or firm rules. Sometimes she cannot say anything to Gwen, which frustrates her, but she understands. Gwen is not really good with the computer, which frustrates Marcy. She would love to email information to Gwen sometimes, instead of Gwen having to come



get the information. On the other hand, this allows the two friends to visit face to face every now and then, so it helps keep their relationship close.

Frank Cross

Frank is Gwen's very first partner. They grew to become best friends in the fifteen years they worked together. Frank had been married and had a son, but he worked so many hours that his wife could not take being married to him any longer. He would go to work before his son woke up and he would come home after he had gone to bed. Frank's wife remarried after their divorce and she thought it would be too confusing to explain two fathers to the child, so Frank obliges her and does not contact his son after the divorce. Frank celebrates every April 16th with a birthday cake in honor of his son's birthday.

Frank retired from the police department and got a license to harvest quahogs. He sold them to the local market. He also loved computers and helped Gwen, because she was computer illiterate. He moved to a house on the water and had two boats he would take out often.

Ryan Cody

Ryan Cody is a prominent attorney for Simmons, Fletcher and Rye. The firm hired Ryan after searching the web and found that he frequented young girl sex sites. The law firm is a large sponsor of Underhill, a club that has underaged girls that dance for the men that frequent the establishment. They bought Ryan an expensive membership to ensure his confidentiality. If people, or his own family, realized he frequented this place he would be shamed.

Ryan has a fourteen-year-old daughter named Meredith. She turns up missing shortly after Ryan announces that he's leaving the firm. Ryan agrees to come back to the firm if they release his daughter; however, unbeknownst to him, his wife has hired private investigator Gwen Gellman to find his daughter. Things start to become messy and the firm decides that Ryan has to win a case in order to get Meredith back. The case is to get Carl Jamison off on murder charges for killing and raping several local teenaged girls.

Dianne Cody

Dianne is the wife of the Ryan Cody, prominent attorney for Simmons, Fletcher and Rye. Dianne has no idea that Ryan is being blackmailed by his firm, nor does she know about his membership at Underhill. When she hires Gwen to find Meredith, Ryan resists and she cannot understand why. Ryan tries to keep everything low profile, but Dianne learns that he never filed a missing persons report on Meredith, nor did he contact any of her friends to ask them about her.



Gwen informs her of this information and she confronts Ryan. He confesses to everything and tells her that the firm won't release Meredith because Gwen is now on the case and things have become complicated.

Ian Forest

Ian is an Elder of the Celtic Otherworld. He is part owner of Underhill, a gentleman's club that houses teenage dancers that entertain local business men. His other partner is an unnamed older man with silver hair. They both set out to seek the last of their kind.

When Gwen starts investigating Meredith's disappearance, she goes undercover and applies for a job as a dancer at Underhill. This is where Ian encounters her for the first time and senses her powers. He realizes at that moment that she is one of them, but is not quite sure if she is the last of their kind, so he does a background check on her and realizes she's not a dancer, but a private investigator.

Wallace Edmonson

Wallace plays many parts in this story. He's a consultant with Fletcher and Rye and is hired on a contractual basis. He plays the part of Ryan Cody's attorney when Ryan needs him to meet with Gwen to scare her off. Later Gwen finds out he's actually an Elder with the Celtic Otherworld and the person responsible for the death of her parents and her old partner Frank.

Wallace works with others of their kind, but he's one of the bad guys trying to obtain Gwen's powers as the last of her kind. He wants to put her powers to work for him instead of the betterment of their people.

Sylvia Black

Sylvia is Gwen's landlady. Sylvia, an ex-hooker, is now an old woman who lets Gwen stay in her upstairs apartment. She also allows Gwen to use a room in her garage as an office for her private investigative work. In her earlier days (thirty plus years ago), Sylvia knew Ian Forest. They had a very close relationship. It got to the point where it was getting too close, so Ian broke it off, telling her that they were not of the same kind. Sylvia didn't quite understand this, but Ian could be very persuasive, so she didn't ask any further questions.

Sylvia runs into Ian recently and since Ian is an Elder he has only aged very slightly. Sylvia thinks she must be dreaming, because Ian should be much older. The shock of this causes a heart attack and puts her in the hospital.



Stephen Weiss

Stephen is the closest relationship to marriage Gwen ever had. He's young, handsome, and very physically fit. They dated for a while and it was everything Gwen wanted in a relationship. As it turns out, Stephen had a fiancé already. Gwen was his side girl. Once Gwen and the fiancé learns of this, they kick him to the curb.

He still comes around to see Gwen, regretting what he did to her. He even goes to the extent of proposing to her after dinner one evening. Gwen would not have kept even the friendship going if it weren't for Stephen sending private investigative work her way every now and then. In fact, Stephen is the one that sent Dianne Cody to Gwen when she needed help finding her daughter, Meredith.

Sister Tamar

Sister Tamar is a long-time friend of Gwen. She runs a home for runaway girls. Having grown up in foster care, she Gwen Tamar at an early age. Gwen started as a ward of the state and was passed around from home to home. When Gwen gets the cases for the missing teenage girls, she naturally calls on Sister Tamar to ask if she's seen any of them. Gwen figures if they ran away and have not been kidnapped, Sister, or perhaps one of her housemates would have seen them.



Objects/Places

Tiger Leone's Club

On the outskirts of Providence is Tiger's club. It's a place where there are under aged dancers. Attendees have to have a special invitation to get in, or someone has to know who they are. This is a club where clients get together and do illegal drugs, watch the dancers, and later have sex with each other. Tiger allows the girls to have sex two times with the same client, but no more. He rotates them to different clubs, so relationships don't form that will endanger his business.

Underhill Club

Underhill is another club near Providence that houses under-aged dancers. The girls are usually fourteen or fifteen years old, and have been given fake identification cards. The address on the I.D. will lead to a house for battered women and the owners of Underhill pay the overseer of the house, so if police investigate they will think it's legitimate. The gentlemen that frequent Underhill pay a hefty membership fee and their motto is "What happens at Underhill stays at Underhill".

Gwen's Apartment

Gwen lives in a modest apartment above her landlady's house. It's a one bedroom apartment that is entered from stairs near the bottom of the home. It's modest and out of the way, which is what Gwen prefers, as she likes her privacy. She spends most of her days with her investigative work, but she comes home to her apartment to refuel, for relaxation, and to get refocused on her cases. She usually enjoys a hot shower once she's home and gets a bite to eat as well.

Wallace's House

Wallace lives about a half hour from Gwen's apartment. His house is older and in a Victorian style. The outside is in dire need of new paint and the inside doesn't look much nicer. The hardwood floors need to be re-sanded and finished, the walls are peeling, and the furniture is old. Some parts of the home are under renovation downstairs, so Wallace uses one of the rooms upstairs as an office to avoid the sawdust and the mess.

Frank's House

Frank lives in a big house on the bay. He has two boats that he takes out frequently to fish from or just to enjoy the water. Gwen visits him often, as they are best friends and ex-partners from the force. Frank has a big kitchen and loves to cook, so he invites



Gwen over when he cooks. They also enjoy time together talking over cases in his living room while having freshly brewed coffee.

The Blue Gem

A rare blue gem, usually housed by the Elder who is the last of his bloodline, and used by the Elder at the precise moment of the Solstice to gain his birthright. The birthright is the power that comes from the gem and enters the Elder's body. The power is the gift of remembering. If used by anyone other than the last of the bloodline, the powers do not enter the Elder.

The Diner

The Diner is in Providence. It's a little hole in the wall where Gwen meets a lot of her contacts. They sit and eat the greasy fried foods prepared by the staff and sit in little tables or booths scattered throughout the place. It's quiet and out of the way, which Gwen prefers to other dining establishments around the area.

The Police Station

This is Gwen's stomping ground for nearly fifteen years. She starts the force with Frank as her partner. The station becomes a second home for her and her colleagues. They meet at the water cooler to discuss cases and have their lunch together in the kitchen as a family. After Gwen is relieved from the force, she doesn't get away from the station, as she has to make her statements there for her private investigation work. Her old friends are still there, but it doesn't seem like the same place to Gwen as when she worked there.

The Cody Home

This home is extravagant. The prominent attorney, Ryan Cody, his wife Dianne, and their daughter, Meredith, reside here in the lush surroundings of a large yard and privacy fence. It's richly decorated with expensive furniture and fine artwork. It's the perfect upper class Providence home and Dianne keeps it immaculate.

Gwen's Toyota

Gwen drives an old beat up blue Toyota. She likes the fact that she doesn't have car payments. It's nothing pretty to look at and it shakes when it gets past sixty miles per hour, but it gets her from point A to point B, so she has no intentions of selling it or getting a newer vehicle.



Themes

Not of Our Kind

The focal point of this story centers on finding an Elder of the Celtic Otherworld. It's a non-human race that walks around this world looking just as humans do. No one would know they were not human unless they performed a DNA test on them. The Elder in question does not even know she's an Elder, because her parents died when she was a baby and she was raised in the system, passed from foster home to foster home.

A DNA lab is secretly hired to test DNA to find out if it's simply human or not human. Since Gwen is police officer turned private investigator she notices that bodies come up missing from the morgue, random hair pulling during crimes starts happening, and purse snatchings are rampant. The end result is that it's all being done to find things on the people to use for DNA testing. Hair is used from Gwen's own head and is tested at this lab, unbeknownst to her. The result is that she is not not human.

The Elders of the Celtic Otherworld each have powers. Some possess the power to move about the world at the blink of an eye, some can call upon the rains and the winds to pour from the sky, and Gwen has the power to remember. She can remember her world the way it was hundreds of years ago with the flowing streams, high mountains, and misty fields. She can also touch a personal item that belongs to someone and recall their memories. She knows this is not normal, but keeps it a secret which she shares with no one, not even her best friend Frank.

A Family Betrayal

From the beginning, Gwen knows her parents were murdered when she was just a baby. She never had a chance to know them. What she does discover through a case that's been given to her by Ian Forest is that her parents both had deep brown eyes, yet her eyes are strikingly blue.

She discovers that her real parents are the Avalon's, not the Gellman's. Both sets of parents are killed; the Gellman's killed by a robbery and the Avalon's killed in a car accident along with a baby girl. Gwen was switched with the other baby girl by the Avalon's before their car crashed. Gwen is the only survivor.

As she investigates further she starts seeking out Wallace Edmonson. He's somehow connected to her current investigation of the missing fourteen-year-old, Meredith. As she starts digging deeper, the truth comes out. Wallace is really her uncle, and he was the mastermind behind the killing of her parents and her best friend, Frank.

Due to the fact that Wallace is also an Elder of the Celtic Otherworld and has killed his own kind, his Otherworld family condemns him also. It is a great crime to kill one of your



own kind and they don't take the matter too lightly. It seems as though Wallace has betrayed both his Otherworld family and his blood family.

Changing One's Life Path

Gwen starts her life out living in strange homes as a ward of the state. She's passed around from one foster home to another. She gets into trouble and gets in fights with other girls. She ends up in a detention center. Many times she runs away from home and ends up landing in homes for runaway girls. Her life has little meaning to her.

As she grows into a young adult she starts to straighten up. She continues to have strange visions as she touches the personal belongings of other people, but keeps it a secret. If she tells anyone about her special powers they will mock her and call her names. None of the other girls in her life seem to have any of the same powers, so she's also afraid to tell anyone.

She starts the police force when she's older and starts a good career for herself. These colleagues become her family, and her first partner, Frank, becomes her confidant and best friend. Even after she leaves the force nearly fifteen years later, she is still very close to Frank and calls upon him for help from time to time. They have dinner together and spend time together as friends hashing over old times on the force.

Despite her upbringing, Gwen turns her life around. It may have started out poorly for her, but she did not become a victim. Instead, she rose above the rest and took command of her own life. She made something of herself and is proud of that fact.



Style

Point of View

This story is told in third person, with the point of view being Gwen Gellman's. It are her comments that come through concerning the character, subject, and development of the people in the story. It is present day in Providence, Rhode Island. One knows that she is quite happy with her private investigation work. She finds it both satisfying to her and intriguing. It also helps keep her mind off of the mundane parts of her life.

Some of the characters are Elders from a Celtic Otherworld, but they are of a different species, not timeframe. Characters that are not of the Celtic Otherworld (humans) have no idea the Elders exist. It is only the Elders that can sense other Elders and they keep this very private.

This story is fiction, a work in which the timeframe stays the same. The people are depicted as hard working, business-minded professionals. Family ties and blood lines are of the utmost importance, the author shows us. Gwen, the main character, is lead into two separate cases, one of a missing girl and the other of a missing heir. Yet, as it turns out, they are one and the same. If she solves one, she solves the other. In the end, she not only rescues the missing girl, but she is rescued as well from her true family and blood line.

Setting

The novel opens in present day in Providence, Rhode Island. The story revolves around Gwen's apartment. This is where people come to call upon her. She meets them sometimes in her apartment and other times on the same property in her office downstairs. There are different places within the story, but the majority of the action is in these two locations.

Gwen is surrounded by a series of murders that happen at local hotel rooms. The victims are teenaged girls that are virgins. Maggie uses her police skills and her special gift of her insight to try and solve these cases. It is through her cases that she finds out she's an Elder as well.

Language and Meaning

This story was written in the early 2000s. There is a distinct knowledge the author portrays when writing about the Elders of the Celtic Otherworld and their symbols and meanings. The language is simple and easy to read and the story is told in the same manner.

The story is filled with history of Gwen's experience in the police department, her cases and her colleagues. The few close relationships Gwen has with her friends are described throughout each chapter and get stronger throughout the story.

Structure

The story is told in twenty-five chapters with an epilogue at the end. The progress of the story is linear. It starts and ends in the present day. The places portrayed throughout the story all take place in and around Providence, Rhode Island.



Quotes

"I'm Gwen Gellman, Lauren's mother asked me to talk to you. She said you'd be home and expecting me." Chap. 1, p. 26

"Oh yeah. You need, like, a hairbrush or something? For DNA." Chap. 1, p. 29

"When and where was Meredith last seen? School, home, the mall?" Chap. 3, p. 51

"Seems to me, you are exactly where you want to be." Chap. 6, p. 87

"Usually the man storms in before things heat up. Saves time, not to mention wear and tear." Chap. 7, p. 100

"As long as Walsh isn't likely to pick up while you are looking." Chap. 9, p. 118

"I doubt he'd want to hear from me after all this time." Chap. 12, p. 153

"Mr. Cody does not want to see you Ms. Gellman." Chap. 13, p. 162

"Don't touch that," Gwen said sharply. 'Jesus, what did they teach these townies.'" Chap. 16, p. 189

"From what little I've heard about my father, I'm guessing he appreciated that trait." Chap. 17, p. 196

"I am curious, though, who's responsible for keeping such a tight lid on what happened to Yoland and Moniz." Chap. 18, p. 204



Topics for Discussion

How would things have been different if Frank wasn't killed and he continued to help her solve the heir case?

What would have happened if the lab was able to continue testing on Gwen's hair sample? What if the information became public?

How could a species like the Elder of the Celtic Otherworld live among us? Could they truly exist?

Gwen seems to have superior strength as well as her psychic ability. Is this realistic?

What do you think would have happened if her parents (the Avalon's) were not killed in a car accident? What would Gwen's life have been like?

How do you explain the fact that the Elders of the Celtic Otherworld don't age much and Gwen looks seventeen years old, when she's really thirty-four?

What do you think Wallace's punishment will be for killing his own kind?

Do you think it's a nice touch to find out that Jason Cross is actually an Elder too?

Do you think that the fact Jason and Gwen are both Elders will affect their relationship?

How do you think the book would be different if in the end they found out that Gwen was not the end of the bloodline after all?