

# **Song of the Wanderer Study Guide**

## **Song of the Wanderer by Bruce Coville**

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# Plot Summary

*Song of the Wanderer: The Unicorn Chronicles, Book Two* by Bruce Coville is a book about Cara Hunter and her journey back to Earth from Luster to fetch her grandmother, Ivy Morris. Along the way, Cara learns about her family's mysterious history and their involvement with unicorns. Upon returning to Earth, Cara is confronted by her ancestor, Beloved, who seeks to destroy the unicorns and any world they inhabit. In the end Cara learns about herself, her family, and both the unicorns and the world they now inhabit: Luster.

The book begins where the first one, *Into the Land of the Unicorns*, left off. Cara is in the Queen's court in Luster. The Queen, Arabella Skydancer, tells Cara that she needs to return to earth and find her grandmother, Ivy Morris, who is known to the Unicorns as "The Wanderer." To help Cara with her task, the unicorns Moonheart, Belle, and Finder go with her on her quest to retrieve her grandmother. She is to return to earth using the amulet her grandmother gave her which allows her to travel between Earth and Luster. Cara's human friend, Thomas the Tinker, joins up with them in a few days. They arrive at the cave of M'Gama, The Geomancer, who leads Cara underground and performs a spell to find out which gate Cara needs to use in order to return to earth and find her grandmother. The gate is in the cave of the seventh dragon, Ebillan. M'Gama then gives Cara a green ring and a sword.

When they set out again on their travels, the group meets The Queen's Players. Among this group of humans is a man named Jacques, who was once married to Cara's grandmother. He decides to join Cara and her group on their quest. The gang is soon attacked by a group of delvers. Lightfoot and the Dimblethum charge out of the forest to save them. After the battle, the group meets up with Grimwald, keeper of the Unicorn Chronicles. He leads them on a shortcut underground and tells all of them the story of how Ivy Morris first came to Luster. Before sending the group back above ground, Grimwald gives Cara a big red jewel, which she looks into and briefly sees her mother.

Once above ground, Cara has a dream in which she is contacted by her diabolic ancestor and enemy to all unicorns, Beloved. Cara wakes in a fright and runs off into the woods where she happens upon a Gryphon. His name is Medafil and he is trapped. Cara frees him and he takes her to his nest, where he gives her a glowing sphere and a seashell. When she places the seashell to her ear, Cara hears her grandmother singing "The Song of the Wanderer." Medafil then returns her to the rest of the group and takes them to Ebilan's territory. Cara bargains with the dragon, eventually giving him the seashell in order for him to allow her to use the gate leading back to earth in his cave. Once in Ebilan's cave, Cara returns to earth, only to find Beloved waiting for her. Beloved wants Cara's amulet, in order to enter Luster. Lightfoot and Jacques then enter and fight with the Hunters Beloved brought with her. Cara's father, Ian Hunter is there and he ends up betraying Beloved in order to save his daughter. After Beloved and the rest of the Hunters flee, Cara finds her grandmother's body. Her grandmother is trapped in the Rainbow Prison and Cara sings "The Song of the Wanderer" and joins her there. The Queen of the Unicorns, Arabella Skydancer, also meets them there. She tells both



Cara and Ivy that Ivy is actually a unicorn. Ivy is Amilia Flickerfoot, the queen's long-lost granddaughter and heir to the Unicorn throne.

After being released from the Rainbow Prison, Ivy, Cara, and most everyone else in their group return to the Queen's Court. Shortly after their arrival the Queen dies. M'Gama then breaks the Queen's horn over her knee. The magic released by the broken horn causes Ivy to turn back into her true form, that of the unicorn Amalia Flickerfoot. Amalia then takes her place as the rightful new queen of the unicorns.



# Chapters 1-3

## Chapters 1-3 Summary

Song of the Wanderer by Bruce Coville is the second book of a four-part series: The Unicorn Chronicles. The book begins where the first one left off, with Cara Hunter in the Queen's court in Luster. The queen, Arabella Skydancer, tells Cara she needs to return to earth and find her grandmother, Ivy Morris, who is known to the unicorns as "The Wanderer." The Queen tells Cara that she is weary and needs the Wanderer to return. Cara is to go back to Earth, using the amulet her grandmother gave her which opens the gate between the worlds.

To help Cara with her task, the unicorns Moonheart, Belle, and Finder accompany her on her quest to retrieve her grandmother. A ceremony is held to confirm that all parties accept the task of their own free will. Cara's human friend, Thomas the Tinker, promises to join up with them in a few days. Cara is excited to find her grandmother and happy for the company of those helping her, but she finds herself missing her old friends Lightfoot and the Dimblethum. Before leaving, Beloved contacts Cara through a dream.

Beloved is Cara's great-grandmother many times over. She seeks revenge against all unicorns for an failed healing many years ago. Beloved trains a the men in her family to hunt and kill unicorns. These men bare the family's last name, Hunter, and are simply called Hunters. Moonheart and Thomas wake Cara and ask her what is wrong. The unicorn and tinker are concerned by this, but the group has no choice but to start out on their long journey.

## Chapters 1-3 Analysis

Song of the Wanderer begins right where the first book in this series, Into the Land of the Unicorns, left off. Cara Hunter, the book's main character, is in Luster, the land of the unicorns. Cara is currently at the Queen's Court, the Queen of course being Arabella Skydancer. Reader's unfamiliar with the series will struggle with the opening sequences of the book, since it is assumed that the reader is already familiar with the land of unicorns and the back story of how Cara got to Luster. There is a brief recap of the previous book's story, but the reader will have to pick most of it up as they go along.

Since the story is not overly complex, the reader can guess most of the details as to what previously took place and be correct. Cara is an unusual girl in several regards. She comes from a blood-line that includes both unicorns and Hunter, Hunter's being the group that seeks to destroy all unicorns. Cara struggles with this dynamic throughout the book. She loves the unicorns and considers them some of her closest friends. However the bulk of her family comes from the Hunter side, who has a sworn vengeance against all unicorns on behalf of Beloved. Beloved is Cara's great grandmother several times over and the arch-enemy of unicorns. Cara's father, Ian



Hunter, is a hunter, which means he stalks and kills unicorns. For the past few years Cara has been living with her grandmother, Ivy Morris, who is a friend to all unicorns, and is deeply embedded in the on-goings of Luster. It was Ivy who gave Cara the amulet that allowed her to enter Luster from Earth. Cara seems to believe that her grandmother is right, and that unicorns are to be trusted.

The Queen tells Cara that she needs to go back to earth and bring her grandmother, "The Wanderer", back to Luster. To help Cara on her task, the Queen has her trusted servant Moonheart join her on her quest. Moonheart chose Belle, a fierce warrior, and Finder, a passive unicorn with a knack for finding unseen places, to join them along the way. Cara's human friend, Thomas the Tinker, decides he'll join them on the quest as well. Before the group can set out on their journey, Beloved contacts Cara in a dream. Cara is frightened by all this. When she wakes from the nightmare Moonheart and Thomas are right by her side. Neither of them understand how Beloved could contact Cara and they are disturbed by this story. However they have to start out on their adventure. They are now even more nervous that something may be afoot.



# Chapters 4-7

## Chapters 4-7 Summary

After a few days of traveling, Cara and her traveling party reach the cave of the Geomancer, M'Gama. The Queen told them to visit M'Gama first because she will tell them what path to take to get Cara back to Earth. Just before they arrived they Thomas the Tinker rejoins the traveling party. A rock alerts all of them that they have found the entrance to The Geomancer's cave. M'Gama greets the group and then takes Cara deep underground where she preforms a spell, in order to locate the location of the gate Cara needs to take to return to Earth. They hope to find the gate that will bring Cara directly back to her grandmother's house.

M'Gama says her incantation, and then the room goes pitch black. Cara can't see a thing and feels her way along the floor, trying to find the Geomancer. When she reaches the Geomancer, Cara realizes she's unconscious. Then, in the distance, Cara hears an old, familiar song. It is a song she used to hear her grandmother sing late at night when Ivy thought she was asleep. It is "The Song of the Wanderer". Cara hears her grandmother's voice getting closer and closer until it suddenly vanishes. The Geomancer then begins to moan. The spell took a lot out of her and she is drained. Her dwarf then comes to tend to her and drags M'Gama back to the surface.

Once they have rejoined the group, M'Gama tells everyone that the gate Cara needs to take to return to earth is in the territory of the seventh dragon, Ebillan. Everyone in the group is deeply disturbed by this news. Before they set off again, they decided to eat. After dinner, Cara bathes. M'Gama and her dwarf help Cara, who realizes that she hasn't been clean in a very long time.

Cara then rejoins the others for a feast. Everyone eats heartily and they seem ready and even a bit excited, to renew their quest. Before they head off again, M'Gama give Cara a beautiful green ring and a small sword for her to protect herself with. In her parting words, M'Gama tells all of them that they must reach the gate before Luster changes into Autumn, at which point the position of the gate will move.

## Chapters 4-7 Analysis

When Cara and her group reach the cave of the Geomancer, a great many details about their quest are revealed. Their visit provides many answers and clues as to what will happen as the group travels. After conducting her spell to locate the gate that Cara must take to return to Earth, M'Gama passes out and the room in which they are preforming the spell becomes pitch black. In the darkness Cara hears her grandmother, Ivy Morris, singing "The Song of the Wanderer". This is the first appearance of the song, but it appears several more times through out the book, helping Cara in her quest to locate her grandmother and bring her back to Luster.



Once Cara and the Geomancer rejoin the group, M'Gama reveals that the gate the group needs to get to is in the territory of Ebilan, the seventh dragon. Everyone is dismayed by this news. Even the usually optimistic Finder remarks that traveling there will be extremely dangerous. A time-table is also set for the group. They must reach the gate before the seasons change and Autumn comes to Luster. Once the summer ends Luster changes, and so will the position of the gates.

Before they leave M'Gama's cave, the group first eats together. Cara bathes before the meal and feels very refreshed. After they eat, M'Gama gives Cara two items that will help her on her journey. The first item is a bright green ring. Cara thinks it is beautiful but she doesn't yet know how it will be of use to her. The second item is a small sword which Cara can use to protect herself. The Geomancer tells Cara that she hopes all she will need the sword for is to cut through thick brush. As the group sets about to resume their travels, Cara makes sure to thank M'Gama for all her help. Cara is a very kind girl and throughout her adventures, she makes sure to express her gratitude with those who help her.





# Chapters 8-10

## Chapters 8-10 Summary

Back on the road after leaving M'Gama's cave, the group runs into the Queen's Players, a group of humans who travel about Luster on the Queen's orders singing, tumbling, and playing for humans and unicorns alike. The Queen's Players are delighted to meet up with Cara and company and they decided to travel with them since they're heading the same direction. Cara hears one of the Player's in the group singing "The Song of the Wander." She sees that it is an older man whose name is Jacques. She begins to talk to him and she learns that he was once married to Cara's grandmother, Ivy Morris. Jacques may not be Cara's blood relative, but he decides that since she is the granddaughter of Ivy he views her as his granddaughter regardless of what their true relationship is. When Cara tells Jacques that they are traveling to bring Ivy back to Luster he decides to leave the Player's and join Cara and the rest of the group on their quest.

Shortly after departing from the Player's, the group is ambushed in the woods by a band of delvers. The delvers charge at the group, consisting of Cara, Jacques, Thomas the Tinker, and the three unicorns. The hideous little creatures shout out "Get her. Get her" as they rush at the group. All parties go about defending themselves, even Cara pulls out the sword M'Gama gave her. Midway through the battle, Cara's old friends Lightfoot and the Dimblethum return and help swing the fight. Lightfoot helped Cara when she first came Luster and they are good friends.. He is also Moonheart's nephew and the two do not get along. The Dimblethum is a large, bear-like creature with a kind heart. He too has helped Cara before on her adventures in Luster and they are friends.

Moonheart is upset to see his nephew again, but can't deny that they helped in the fight. The unicorns use their magic powers to heal both the human's and their own wounds. Cara is thrilled to have her friends Lightfoot and the Dimblethum back by her side. They have been following the group since they left the Queen's Court and now they do will join the ever-growing entourage on their way to retrieve the wanderer.

## Chapters 8-10 Analysis

Upon resuming their travels, the group meets up with The Queen's Players. Among them is a man name Jacques, who sings "The Song of the Wanderer". This of course is Cara's grandmother's song, and whenever Cara hears it it brings her closer to Ivy Morris. The green ring which M'Gama gave Cara glows whenever it hears "The Song of the Wanderer." When Cara hears Jacques singing the song in the woods, the ring glows for the first time.

From talking to Jacques, Cara learns that he was once married to Cara's grandmother. And while they may not be blood related, Jacques says that he views Cara as his



granddaughter. He decided to join up with the rest of the group on their quest to find the wanderer and bring her back to Luster. This is the first of many occasions in which new members are added to the traveling group. Jacques shares a tearful goodbye with the rest of the Queen's Players, and then he joins Cara and the rest of her group as they set off for Ebilan's territory.

Once they parted ways with the Player's, Cara and company are attacked by a band of delvers. The creatures cry out and point at Cara, letting it be known that she's the reason for the attack. After the battle Moonheart and Thomas worry that the delvers know that Beloved wants Cara and they may be trying to capture her for Beloved. Before things get too drastic, Cara's old friends Lightfoot and the Dimblethum burst through the forest and send the delvers into retreat. Cara is thrilled to see her friends again, but the rest of the group seems less than happy at the appearance of these two.

Belle's suspicions that they were being followed are confirmed. Lightfoot and the Dimblethum have been tracking the group since they left the Queen's Court. While Belle and Moonheart are upset at Lightfoot, they both also acknowledge that the fight with the delvers may have ended differently had they not shown up. Moonheart and Lightfoot have an icing relationship. Moonheart does not approve of his nephew's wandering ways. He believes that Lightfoot needs to rejoin the Queen's Court in order to serve Arabella Skydancer and the rest of the unicorn community. Interestingly enough, it is Lightfoot's care-free nature and thirst for adventure that Cara finds so endearing.

Everyone in the traveling party is wounded in the battle with the delvers. The unicorns use their powers to heal everyone. The only problem with unicorns using their magic to heal themselves and others is that it leaves them drained. The group has to rest for a few days before resuming travel precisely because the unicorns are so drained from the mass healing.



# Chapters 11-14

## Chapters 11-14 Summary

Once everyone's wounds had sufficiently healed, the group starts traveling again to the territory of Ebilan, the seventh dragon. Grimwald, keeper of the Unicorn Chronicles, meets up with the group and takes them underground. He's taking them on a short cut. Time is of the essence because the group has to get to the gate before Luster changes into Autumn. One night when the groups stops and sets up camp for the night, at the Queen's request, Grimwald tells the group the story of how Ivy Morris first came to Luster.

Ivy was a young girl living in an orphanage when a husband and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Hunter came to adopted her. Although they seemed like very nice people, Ivy didn't trust them. She thought that both of them were hiding something, that deep down they were bad people. That same night, she ran away from the orphanage. She heard a horse following her along the trail and hid in the bushes. Ivy looked up to see Mr. Hunter on the horse. She waited for him to pass and then ran further into the nearby woods. It was dark and she couldn't see where she was going. She ended up falling off a small hill and breaking her leg. She painful pulled herself to a near by stream. A unicorn then appeared before her and stabbed his horn into her heart. This didn't hurt her, in fact it helped heal her broken leg and now she could communicate with the unicorn mind-to-mind. Then Mr. Hunter appeared out of the darkness and stabbed the unicorn. The unicorn was badly wounded, but he was able to knock Mr. Hunter unconscious. He then told Ivy to go get the other unicorns to come help him. He told her to go through the portal and into Luster. Ivy did what she was told, and everyone made it safe and soundly back to Luster. As the story ends, Grimwald reveals that the unicorn who had saved Ivy's life was in fact Moonheart!

After he finished his long story, he fulfills the second thing the Queen has requested: giving Cara a big red jewel. After receiving it, Cara seems to fall into the jewel. Once inside, she sees the back women of a woman's head. As she moves closer the woman starts to turn and she can see that it is her mother. Cara is overcome with emotion at seeing her mother. Before anything else happens she finds herself back in the cave with the rest of her travel companions. She tells everyone what happened. They are all surprised since they never saw her move and she was only holding the jewel for a brief moment.

Grimwald's short cut saved the group several days time. Before leading them back above ground, Grimwald gives Cara a big red jewel. When Cara briefly looks at the jewel she just as briefly sees her mother inside it. No one knows what to make of this occurrence.



## Chapters 11-14 Analysis

The now robust traveling party briefly adds one more member as Grimwald takes the group underground for a short cut to Ebilan's territory. It is the second time on her quest that Cara has gone deep underground. The group has recently added Jacques, Lightfoot, and the Dimblethum to its original five. Because of their large numbers the group has trouble crossing some of the underground caverns. Cara shows what a kind person she is by making sure she spends equal amount of time with all the people in the traveling company. She is especially happy to have her friends Lightfoot and the Dimblethum back by her side.

When Grimwald tells the story of how Ivy Morris first came to Luster, many questions are left unanswered. For starters, no one knows why the Queen asked Grimwald to tell Ivy and the group that story. Moonheart, who much to everyone's surprised played such a vital role in the story, is still unsure about many of the things that happened that night. He was in a wander year, which everyone, especially Lightfoot, is surprised to learn. Moonheart is quick to point out that he only wandered for a year. The thing that Moonheart has wondered the most since that night, is how he was able to feel Ivy's suffering in Luster that evening. Unicorns are known to help out maidens in trouble, but the fact that he was able to feel it through a gate was a surprise to him. Another unanswered question is why Mr. and Mrs. Hunter, who were of course descendants of Beloved, wanted to adopt Ivy Morris in the first place. All of these questions acts as a tip to the reader that there is more to the case of Ivy Morris than anyone had first suspected.

Another clue for the reader in this section is when Cara sees her mother in the big red jewel that Grimwald gave her. For readers who are new to the series this is also the first time we learn about Cara's mother. When Cara recounts the story the rest of her travel companions they all say that it sounds like her mother is imprisoned. They also worry that this vision might be Beloved trying to contact her again. This will be the last time that Cara sees her mother by looking into the jewel, but it will not be the last time she finds herself in a magic and colorful prison cell.



# Chapters 15-17

## Chapters 15-17 Summary

Above ground again, Cara tries to look into the jewel Grimwald gave her and see her mother again. She is unable to do so and falls asleep. Once asleep she has another nightmare involving Beloved. Cara wakes up and is so scared she goes running off into the forest. On her run she trips and falls, hurting her leg. Cara quickly realizes how foolish she was to run off into the woods, away from the group. Her leg is hurt but she tells herself that the unicorns can heal her.

Cara hears a creature moaning in the darkness and is at first very frightened at the thought of what it might be. She eventually works up her nerve and decides to follow the sound. She finds a Gryphon named Medafil who has been snared in a trap set by delvers. Medafil is a very proud and arrogant creature. He tells Cara that he wasn't moaning. He fell into the trap because the delvers used a shinning object as the bait. Medafil has a weakness for shinning things. Cara uses a rock to help free his leg from the trap. Once free Medafil decides to take Cara back to his nest until the sun rises.

When Cara arrives at Medafil's nest, she finds all sorts of objects and bones strewn about. The gryphon admits that it's messy because he is single. It's dark and Cara cannot see so Medafil digs through his collection of things and finds a sphere that glows when touched. He gives it to Cara and shows her how she can shrink it down to the size of a marble. When talking to Medafil, Cara learns that the last girl he ever saw was actually Cara's grandmother, Ivy Morris. He saw her many years ago when she was about Cara's age. He then mentions that Ivy promised to give him a kiss, but never made good on the promise. Instead she gave him a seashell. When Cara places the seashell to her ear she hears her grandmother singing "The Song of the Wanderer". Cara then gives Medafil the kiss her grandmother owes him. Medafil is grateful and lets Cara keep the seashell.

When the morning light comes, Medafil then takes Cara back to the rest of the group. At first the group is on edge at the sight of this potential intruder. Cara tells Medafil to fly down lower so that everyone will see she is with him. He does this and the group then relaxes as the two of them land. Cara explains what happened to the rest of the group. Everyone in the traveling company is very disturbed that Beloved was able to contact Cara again. Medafil warns the group that traveling into Ebilan's territory will be very dangerous. Cara however convinces him to travel with the rest of the group. He eventually relents. The group is very grateful to have Medafil navigate for them as he helps them get to Ebilan's territory without getting lost.



## Chapters 15-17 Analysis

After taking Grimwald's short cut and returning above ground, Cara and her traveling companions sleep under the stars for the first time in a few days. Then, much the same way she was at the Queen's Court, Cara is contacted by Beloved in a dream. Naturally Cara is terrified by this, and she wakes up and decides foolishly to run into the forest. She ends up hurting her leg. Once she stops to gather herself, she realizes the potential dangers that lurk in these unknown woods. Cara hears a creature moaning in the darkness and despite her initial fears, she decides to investigate where the moans are coming from. This is how she meets the gryphon Medafil.

Medafil is a very arrogant and brash beast, although Cara soon learns that he is this way to hide his insecurities. When she frees Medafil from the delvers trap, he then flies her to his nest. Once at the gryphon's nest, Cara learns more about Medafil and receives two items that will help her on her quest. Cara learns that Medafil is a bachelor. This helps explain why his nest is so messy. Medafil is also very sad not to have a mate. He tells Cara that she is very similar to the last girl that he saw. Both of them are surprised to learn that the girl was actually Ivy Morris, Cara's grandmother. Ivy had met Medafil when she was about the same age that Cara is now. Medafil tells Cara that her grandmother owes him a kiss. After some negotiating, Cara gives Medafil a kiss on behalf of her grandmother. Medafil then shows Cara the seashell that Ivy Morris gave him. When Cara holds it to her ear she hears her grandmother singing "The Song of the Wanderer". As it always does whenever she hears anyone sing this particular song, the green ring that M'Gama gave her begins to glow. Medafil decides to give Cara the seashell, which will come in handy on her adventures.

When the sun begins to rise, Medafil flies Cara back to the group. After flying low enough for the group to see that the gryphon has Cara with him, the rest of the traveling party relaxes and welcomes them both. Cara recounts what happened to everyone. She then persuades Medafil to lead them to Ebilan's territory since he knows these parts of the woods better than anyone. She even offers to give him another kiss if he does. Medafil agrees to lead them, but refuses Cara's offer of a kiss. He tells her that she only kissed him the first time because her grandmother owed him one. He says that if she kisses him again she wants it to be because she actually wants to kiss him. With Medafil acting as navigator, the group quickly makes its way to Ebilan's territory, missing several detours along the way thanks to the gryphon's directions.



# Chapters 18-19

## Chapters 18-19 Summary

As soon as they enter Ebilan's territory, the dragon is there to meet them. Belle and Moonheart stand guard, ready to spring into attack if necessary. Ebilan announces his presence by shooting fire into the air before flying down to greet them. Cara, given the gift of tongues by the dragon Lady Firethroat, speaks to Ebilan in his own language. He is surprised that she knows how to speak his language and that the young girl is a friend of Lady Firefoot. She tells the 7th dragon that she needs to use the gate in his cave to return to earth and retrieve her grandmother. Cara also says that they are all on a mission from the queen. Ebilan tells them that one of the queen's missions is of no concern, but he decides to bargain with Cara. If she can produce an item that he likes he'll allow her to use the gate in his cave. At first Cara offers him the red jewel that Grimwald gave her, but he rejects it. Next she offers him M'Gama's ring, but he rejects this too. He rejects the glowing sphere that Medafil gave Cara as well. Finally she surrenders the seashell that when placed to the ear one can hear Ivy Morris singing "The Song of the Wanderer". Ebilan accepts this and allows them to pass through his territory. He then flies back to his cave, leaving Cara and her friends to cross over the treacherous landscape on their own.

When the group finally arrives at Ebilan's cave, they only have one day left before the seasons change in Luster. Once Autumn sets in Luster, the gates all move, meaning Cara will need to find a different gate in order to return to her grandmother's house. As the group is resting, Thomas the Tinker offers to fix something for Ebilan. He does this to create a diversion, allowing Cara to slip to the back of the cave and return to earth. The dragon goes to the back of his cave and comes back with a cup. It is badly dented and Ebilan tells the group that he did this when he threw the cup. He threw the cup because he drank out of it when taking an oath. He was taking the oath because of a lost love, and he vowed to find her again. Thomas begins to set about fixing the cup for the dragon. With Ebilan distracted Cara runs deep into his cave and uses her grandmother's amulet to open the gate there and return to earth.

## Chapters 18-19 Analysis

Bargaining with the dragon is the key moment for Cara on her quest to retrieve her grandmother. Up until now her travel companions have taken the lead in being controlling the action. But now, thanks to Lady Firethroat giving her the gift of tongues, Cara is able to address the dragon in his own language. Also, she has to offer up all the items that she has received thus far on her journey. While Ebilan is able to find value for all four of the things Cara presents him with, he only accepts the seashell that plays "The Song of the Wanderer". Cara is very sad to have to give up this link to her grandmother, but since doing so allows her to go back to earth and retrieve her, she is willing to do it.



Once Ebilan departs for his cave, the group has to pass through the vast valley that lies between where they are and the dragon's lair. Finder is particularly useful for his part of the journey, because he is able to point out the numerous pratfalls along the way. After crossing the valley the group then has to climb up several rows of rocks, which are similar to stairs, in order to reach the entrance of the dragon's cave. This is an exhausting exercise for everyone, but they press on because Autumn is nearly here and they have very little time left to use this gate.

With only a day left before the positions of the gates change, the group arrives at Ebilan's cave and needs to use the gate to get Cara back to earth immediately. Thomas the Tinker decides to fix something for the dragon, in order to create a distraction that will allow Cara to slip away and use the gate. The dragon retreats to the back of his cave and returns with a dented cup for the Tinker to fix. He tells the travel party his connection to the cup. He tells them about a time when every magical creature, dragon and unicorn alike, was fleeing earth. The dragons are proud and refused to leave earth, since it was there home. However Ebilan's love decided to take a gate to another world. When the time came that the last seven dragons on earth had no choice but leave, the gate to the world that Ebilan's love had gone to was closed. Ebilan had to go to Luster and has not seen his love since. He drank out of the cup as part of an oath to one day find his lost love. Everyone is moved by this story and feels bad for the dragon.

After the story Thomas the Tinker sets about fixing the cup. Cara tells Lightfoot, speaking to him mind-to-mind, that he is doing this to create a diversion for her. She tells her friend that now is the moment in which she is going to go to the back of the cave and use the gate there to return to earth. After saying goodbye to her friend Cara does exactly this, and using her grandmother's amulet returns to the house they have lived in for a year and a half.





# Chapters 20-22

## Chapters 20-22 Summary

Cara is zipped back to earth, into the house that she and her grandmother lived at. Things are eerily quite there. She walks into the living room to find not her grandmother, but her diabolical ancestor Beloved waiting for her. Beloved tries to get Cara to give her the amulet, but Cara refuses. They wrestle over it, with neither party gain the upper hand. Beloved has brought with a group of Hunters, the men in her family she trains to hunt and kill unicorns, with her. Among them is Cara's father, Ian Hunter. They soon come to their master's aid and help her subdue Cara. Lightfoot and Jacques then appear out of nowhere and began to fight the Hunters. Cara is scared that her friends will be injured or worse during the ensuing battle. The fighting is brought to a quick halt when Beloved grabs Cara and holds a dagger to her throat.

Beloved has one of the Hunters take Jacques into the other room. A few, including Cara's father, remain in the room to guard Lightfoot. Beloved then begins to tell Cara her side of the story. While she does this she also mentions that Lightfoot is next in line for the thrown of Luster. Beloved tries to tell Cara that the unicorns are evil. That she has to destroy them otherwise she will never have peace. Cara refuses to believe her, saying that the unicorns are her friends. Then, Ian betrays Beloved and frees Cara from her grasp. Lightfoot has also broken free. The Hunters guarding Jacques rush in the room to see what happened. Before any fighting breaks out, Beloved calls the rest of the Hunters to her side and then in a blink of an eye they all vanish. Cara then goes to check on her grandpa, who is unconscious when she finds him. While going upstairs to look for a pillow to place under his head, she finds her grandmother's lifeless body on the bed. She begins to sing "The Song of the Wanderer" to her, and Cara soon finds herself being pulled into a mist.

## Chapters 20-22 Analysis

Similar to the nightmare she had before she met Medafil, Cara returns to earth to find Beloved waiting for her in her grandmother's house. This however is not a nightmare, but real life. Beloved wants the amulet that Cara was given by her grandmother, Ivy Morris. The amulet opens the gates that act as a bridge between earth and Luster. Beloved explains to Cara that the amulet will keep all of it's magical power if Cara will just freely give it to Beloved. Cara of course refuses and the two then struggle over the amulet. While trying to keep the amulet away from Beloved, Cara finds in herself a strength that she did not know she had. She is able to hold her great grandmother several times over off long enough for reinforcements to arrive.

When Jacques and Lightfoot arrive on earth Cara is both relieved and instantly even more frightened. She is glad that her friends have come to help her, but she fears that there are too many hunters here and that Lightfoot especially is in grave danger. The



presence of Cara's father, Ian, is also a source of conflict for her. When she first sees her father in the crowd she is angry that he didn't acknowledge her. She even thinks in her head that he is not her father anymore. Since Cara has become such good friends with the unicorns she hates that he is a Hunter. The fact that he did not even say anything to her makes her even more upset.

Beloved shows just how evil she is when she holds a dagger to Cara's throat to bring the fighting to an end. Cara's worst fears are confirmed because now both Jacques and Lightfoot are Beloved's prisoners. Looking over Lightfoot, Beloved says that he is not only of royal blood, but that he is actually next in line for the throne of Luster. Cara is shocked by this news, although she and the reader now know why Lightfoot has been wandering away from the Queen's Court. He is afraid of the responsibility of ruling over Luster. When Cara is finally freed from Beloved's grasp, in comes from a surprising source. Her father, who did not even acknowledge her presence has betrayed Beloved, allowing her and her friends to escape. Beloved can not believe that Ian has turned against her. Having seemingly been defeated, she gathers her Hunters and flees. The night of surprises is not nearly over for Cara. When she goes up stairs to get a pillow to place under Jacques head, she finds her grandmother lying unconscious on a bed. Cara then sings "The Song of the Wanderer". As always the ring M'Gama gave her starts to glow and Cara finds herself being transported to another place.



# Chapters 23-24

## Chapters 23-24 Summary

Cara finds herself reunited with her grandmother in a strange place. Ivy Morris has been imprisoned by Beloved, and is trapped in the Rainbow Prison. Cara is thrilled to see her grandmother again. In spite of her joy, she asks her grandmother some touch questions. She wants to know if her grandmother really kidnapped her from her parents as she had been told, and why her grandmother had never told her about unicorns before. Ivy is shaken, but calmly tells her granddaughter her side of the story. Ivy tells Cara that she only wanted to protect Cara. Also, she says that she really wanted to tell Cara about unicorns, but that she was afraid Cara would think that she was crazy. Cara is still slightly upset with her grandmother, but she understands why she did what she did. Before they can catch up any further they are joined by Arabella Skydancer, the Queen of the Unicorns. Arabella can easily travel to this magical place despite her bodies weakness. Here she appears young and vibrant because she is there in spirit form. Since time is off the essence, Arabella quickly tells both of them a story. The story is about her long lost granddaughter, Flickerfoot. Flickerfoot was a wanderer and often got into mischief. For her own protection, Flickerfoot was turned into a human. That human is Ivy Morris, the wanderer. The Queen also tells them that Flickerfoot is actually the true heir to the throne, not Lightfoot. Ivy begins to sob, and she now knows why she has spend so much of her life wandering.

Cara then asks the Queen who she is. Arabella tells her that she is a very strange and unique child as she has both unicorn and Hunter blood in her. The Queen then says that it all comes together in Cara and that she hopes Cara is the one who can once and for all bring an end to the hunt. Before Cara or Ivy can say anything else they hear Jacques singing "The Song of the Wanderer". Cara knows that this is their chance to get out of the Rainbow Prison. Her grandmother is excited to leave and they both head towards his voice and their bodies.

## Chapters 23-24 Analysis

Similar to when she looked into the jewel Grimwald gave her, Cara finds herself being transported in to a magical prison. This time instead of seeing her mother, she finds her grandmother, Ivy Morris. Cara is thrilled to see her grandmother, but cannot help herself from asking difficult questions. Ivy tells Cara that all she ever wanted to do was protect her. Ivy did everything in her power to keep Cara from the Hunters, that is why they were always moving. Ivy also tells Cara that she desperately wanted to tell Cara about unicorns, but she was afraid that Cara would never have believed her. Cara listens to what her grandmother has to say and understands Ivy's actions.

In what has been a very surprising reunion already for Cara and Ivy, the biggest surprise of them all comes from the Queen's arrival. Arabella Skydancer tells both of



them the truth about who Ivy really is. In the presence of her granddaughter, Ivy Morris learns that she is actually the Queen's granddaughter, Flickerfoot. Flickerfoot was changed into a human by M'Gama for her own protection. Upon hearing this news, Ivy is finally able to make sense of her life. Overcome with emotion she breaks down and starts to cry. Cara likewise can not believe the news. She is also relieved for her friend Lightfoot, who no longer has to worry about becoming the ruler of Luster. Arabella tells them both that they need to return to Luster immediately because the Queen is about to die. Cara and Ivy then hear Jacques singing and begin to leave the Rainbow Prison.



# Chapters 25-26

## Chapters 25-26 Summary

Cara and Ivy are brought back to their bodies by Jacques singing "The Song of the Wanderer." As the three of them catch up, Jacques reveals that the Hunters stole the amulet he used to come to earth. He was given the amulet by Thomas the Tinker. The Hunters stole knocked him unconscious and stole it from him after the initial fight. Jacques is ashamed that he let the amulet get away. Cara now knows why Beloved left so quickly. Armed with an amulet, Beloved now has access to Luster. Ivy says they must return to The Queen's Court at once and relay this important news. Before they head back to the Queen's Court Cara travels back to Ebillan's cave in Luster and brings her friends who were still waiting there back to her grandmother's house on earth. Medafil is the loan exception, as he just returns to his nest, but not before getting another kiss from Cara. Before heading back to the Queen's Court, Cara has a brief conversation with her father Ian. Ian tells her that the night he lost her, when Cara first traveled to Luster he realized that everything Beloved ever told him was a lie. He also tells Cara that he is going to stay on earth and do everything he can to get her mother back and protect Luster. Then Ivy uses the amulet to take the whole group, with the exception of Ian Hunter, back to Luster. They all return to the Queen's Court except the Dimblethum.

Back in Luster Autumn has set in and the Queen is very near her death. Lightfoot is frightened because he still thinks that he is next in line for the throne. The Queen holds a small gathering and speaks to several of her subjects. She speaks to Cara in private and thanks the child for all that she has done for her, all unicorns, and Luster. Cara is very touched by this. The Queen then speaks to a few more of her subjects before she finally dies. M'Gama then comes and tells everyone that what she is about to do was by request of Arabella. M'Gama then takes Arabella's horn and smashes it against her knee. The crowd is horrified by this at first. However, the magic released by the broken horn caused Ivy to turn back into her true form, that of the unicorn Amalia Flickerfoot. M'Gama announces the return of Flickerfoot. Amalia then takes her place as the rightful new queen of the unicorns. The crowd shouts "The Queen is gone. Long live the Queen."

## Chapters 25-26 Analysis

"The Song of the Wanderer" has helped Cara throughout her quest to bring her grandmother back to Luster, and now Jacques sings it to break both of them out of the Rainbow Prison. The happy reunion of Jacques, Ivy, and Cara is cut short by bad news that the amulet Jacques used to come to earth was stolen by one of the Hunters. This means that Beloved now can access Luster from any of the gates here on earth. Ivy is very dismayed by this news and tells everyone that they need to return to the Queen's Court immediately. Before they do that, Cara uses the amulet to go back to Eblan's cave. Once there she informs Moonheart, Belle, Finder, Thomas the Tinker, the



Dumblethum, and Medafil about what happened when she returned to earth. Cara then tells them all that they need to go back to her grandmother's house in order to quickly get back to the Queen's Court. Medafil will not be going to the Queen's court, choosing instead to fly back to his nest. Before he leaves Cara gives him another kiss, which Medafil is delighted to receive. The rest of the group then travels back to Ivy Morris' house in order to return to the Queen's Court.

Ian Hunter takes his daughter aside to talk to her before she joins her friends in order to return to Luster. He explains to her how he changed the night he lost her. Readers new to the series will be confused here because Ian and Cara are talking about an event that took place in the first book of this series. Alert readers however will be able to understand the plot enough to understand what Ian is saying. He tells his daughter that he is going to stay on earth in order to fight Beloved and protect unicorns. Cara is thrilled by this of course. She is happy not only to have her father back in her life, but also to be able to love him again.

Back in Luster the Queen's Court has changed locations since it is now Autumn. The Dimplethum did not return to the Queen's Court for reasons unknown to Cara. Lightfoot is there, and he is very worried because the Queen is gravely ill and he still believes that he is next in line for the throne. He does not know that Ivy Morris is actually Amilia Flickerfoot, the true heir to the throne. In fact, only Cara, Ivy, and the Queen know the truth. The Queen is near death so all of her subjects have gathered to pay their respects. A few of them, including Cara, have a brief conversation with her as she lays dying. Cara and the Queen exchange heart-felt goodbyes, each grateful for the other's friendship. After talking to a few more of her subjects, the Queen dies. Everyone is extremely saddened by this. M'Gama then emerges from the crowd and says that what she is about to do was by request of the Queen. She then breaks Arabella's horn over her knee. This cause great excitement and fear amongst the crowd, as some openly gasp. M'Gama then explains why she broke the Queen's horn. The magic released by breaking the horn has turned Ivy Morris back into her true form: that of the unicorn Amilia Flickerfoot. The Geomancer then announces to the Court the return of the Queen's long-lost granddaughter and the true heir to the throne of Luster. The crowd then erupts in chants to bot their old and new Queen as the book comes to a close.



# Characters

## Cara Hunter

Cara Hunter is a 12-year-old girl who came to Luster by using an amulet given to her by her grandmother, Ivy Morris. Cara is a very brave and unique girl. Her family's history is crossed with both Hunter and unicorn blood. There is a great deal that Cara does not know about her family's history. She knows that her grandmother was a great friend of the unicorns and once lived among them in Luster. She also knows that her great-grandmother several times over, Beloved, is the mortal enemy of the unicorns. Beloved trains the men in her family to hunt and kill unicorns. These men are called Hunters. Cara's father, Ian, is a Hunter. In this family debate, Cara sides with her grandmother. She likes the unicorns and considers them to be her friends.

Cara has been requested by the Queen to return to earth and bring her grandmother Ivy Morris back to earth. Cara accepts this quest, and sets out on her journey to return to earth. Trying to find a gate back to earth takes Cara to some of the furthest reaches of Luster. She encounters several strange and magnificent creatures along the way, including a gryphon and a dragon. Once back on earth Cara is confronted by Beloved. Cara is able to escape from her evil ancestor thanks to some help from her father. She is then able to complete her quest of retrieving her grandmother and returning to Luster.

## Ivy Morris / Amilia Flickerfoot

Ivy Morris, the wanderer, is Cara Hunter's grandmother. Ivy has raised Cara for several years, often traveling around from house to house. Ivy is a great friend to the unicorns, having lived among them in Luster for several years. Ivy has a mysterious connection to both unicorns and Hunters. Ivy came to Luster as a small girl. She was living in an orphanage when a husband and wife came to adopt her. Ivy ran away instead of being adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Hunter. While fleeing she fell and broke her leg. The unicorn Moonheart could sense her pain all the way in Luster and came to earth to heal her. Mr. Hunter then found both of them and wounded Moonheart before getting knocked unconscious himself. Ivy then went to Luster to find other unicorns to come help Moonheart. And that is the mysterious circumstances of how Ivy first came to Luster.

The Queen has requested that Ivy's granddaughter, Cara, return to earth and bring her back to Luster. Ivy is trapped in the Rainbow Prison when Cara finally finds her. The Queen joins both of them there. The Queen tells them about her long lost granddaughter, Flickerfoot. Flickerfoot was a wanderer and often got into mischief. For her own protection, she was turned into a human. That human is Ivy Morris, the wanderer. The Queen also tells them that Flickerfoot is actually the true heir to the throne of Luster. Ivy then escapes from the Rainbow Prison and returns to Luster. She eventually is changed back to her unicorn form and takes her place as the rightful Queen of Luster.



## Arabella Skydancer

Arabella Skydancer is the Queen of the Unicorns. She lives in Luster, often residing in her court. Arabella is very weak and nearing her death. She is nearly transparent, which is what happens to unicorns who are close to dying. Arabella requests that Cara Hunter travel back to earth in order to bring her grandmother, Ivy Morris, back to Luster. The Queen tells Cara that it is time. Arabella has several of her subjects in Luster help Cara on her quest back to earth. When Cara finds her grandmother trapped in the magical Rainbow Prison, Arabella greets them there in spirit form. Arabella tells them that Ivy Morris is actually a unicorn, the Queen's long-lost granddaughter Flickerfoot to be exact. Flickerfoot is the true heir to the throne of Luster. Once Ivy/Flickerfoot has returned to Luster, the Queen knows her world is in safe hands and she breathes her final breath.

## Lightfoot

Lightfoot is a free-spirited and courageous unicorn. He is also one of Cara's best friends in Luster. He helped her when she first came to Luster, but is not with her when her new quest to retrieve her grandmother begins. Lightfoot is wandering, mainly because he wants to avoid the responsibility of serving in the Queen's court. It is eventually learned that Lightfoot is the heir to the throne of Luster, which is one of the main reasons he is wandering. Moonheart, his uncle, does not approve of Lightfoot's current choices and the two have an icy relationship.

Lightfoot cares deeply for Cara. As evidence of this he follows her and her travel companions as they start their quest. When they get into a fight with some delvers in the woods he has no choice but to rush in and save the day. He does this again when Beloved captures Cara on earth. Lightfoot may be avoiding his duties to the Queen's Court, but he shows his strength and valor in the lengths that he goes to protect Cara.

## Beloved

Beloved is Cara Hunter's great-grandmother several times over. She is the arch enemy of all unicorns and an overall very evil woman. She trains the men in her family to hunt and kill unicorns. These men are known simply as Hunters. Beloved was healed by a unicorn long ago, but the unicorn's horn broke off in her heart. This both causes constant pain for Beloved, and also constant healing. She has sworn vengeance against all unicorns. Beloved has imprisoned Ivy Morris in the Rainbow Prison and is waiting in her house for Cara to return to earth. When Cara does return, Beloved tries to get Ivy's amulet from her. At first Beloved tries to take it by force, then she tries to persuade Cara to give it to her. Both these attempts fail. She has to flee when Ian Hunter betrays her and gains the upper-hand in the situation. However, one of her other Hunters was able to get another amulet from Jacques, meaning Beloved now has access to Luster.





## Ian Hunter

Ian Hunter is Cara's estranged father. As his name suggests, Ian is a Hunter and therefore a servant of Beloved's who hunts and kills unicorns. Cara hates her father, because she loves the unicorns and views them as her friends. She can't comprehend how her father could go about doing such things. When she returns to earth and is captured by Beloved, she sees that her father is also there. Since he didn't even acknowledge her Cara decides he is no longer her father. In the end Ian ends up betraying Beloved in order to rescue his daughter. He tells her that he was wrong all along and that he now hopes to help unicorns as oppose to harming them.

## Moonheart

Moonheart is a tough and detached unicorn who has a mysterious connection to Ivy Morris. He is a relative of the Queen's and she trusts him above all others. He is also Lightfoot's uncle. The Queen chooses Moonheart to be the leader of the traveling party that assists Cara in her quest to go back to Earth to retrieve her grandmother. Moonheart is very responsible and has made it his life to serve the Queen's Court. Because of this he is annoyed by his care-free nephew Lightfoot's ways. It is revealed that Moonheart was the unicorn who saved Ivy Morris when she was a young girl, paving the way for her to first come to Luster.

## M'Gama

M'Gama is a very powerful sorcerer known as the Geomancer, she is a friend of the Queen. When Cara first sets off on her quest to return to earth and bring her grandmother back to Luster, she first stops at the cave of the Geomancer. M'Gama uses a great deal of energy in locating the gate Cara needs to take to return to earth. M'Gama tells them that the gate is in the territory of Ebilan. Before sending Cara on her journey, M'Gama bathes her and gives her clothes. She also feeds Cara and her friends then gives Cara a sword to protect herself, and a green ring that glows whenever Cara hears "The Song of the Wanderer."

Later in the book it is revealed that M'Gama was the one who performed the spell that turned the unicorn Flickerfoot into a human. That human of course was Ivy Morris. In the end, it is M'Gama who breaks the Queen's horn, which causes Ivy Morris to turn back into her true form of the unicorn Flickerfoot.

## Jacques

Jacques is an older man who is a part of the Queen's Player. Cara meets him when her traveling party runs into the Player's in the woods. Jacques sings "The Song of the Wanderer" which is why Cara begins to talk to him. She soon learns that he was once married to her grandmother, Ivy Morris. While Jacques is unsure if they are blood



related, he decides that Cara is his granddaughter regardless. He decides to travel with Cara and her friends to bring Ivy back to Luster. When Cara does return to earth, Jacques uses another amulet to go after her and make sure she is safe. Although he was trying to protect Cara, Jacques eventually gets his amulet stolen by a Hunter.

## Thomas the Tinker

Thomas the Tinker is Luster's version of a repairman. He is a human who has the ability to fix most any object. He is an old friend of Cara's, having helped her on previous adventures. He carries a wagon that tends to make a lot of noise. He is able to quiet his wagon with magic, he can also fold it up so that it fits in his pocket. Thomas travels with Cara into Ebilan's territory. It is actually Thomas who creates the distraction in Ebilan's cave that allows Cara to take the gate back to earth. Thomas also gives Jacques and Lightfoot an amulet so that they can go to earth to check on Cara after she has left.

## The Dimblethum

The Dimblethum is a large creature who looks like a cross between a bear and a man. The Dimblethum is the constant travel companion of Lightfoot and a dear friend of Cara's. The Dimblethum and Lightfoot follow Cara and her travel companions as they begin their quest. They reveal themselves when they rush in and help the group triumph in their fight with the delvers.

## Grimwald

Grimwald is a dwarf who is the Keeper of the Unicorn Chronicles, which means it is his job to record all the stories of Luster. He helps Cara and her travel party by taking them on a short cut underground. He tells them the story of how Ivy Morris first came to Luster. He also gives Cara a big red jewel that when she initially looks into she sees her mother.

## Medafil

Medafil is a proud and arrogant gryphon who Cara meets in the woods. When she meets him his leg is trapped in a snare left by delvers. She frees him and he takes her to his nest. Once at his nest he tells her that he knew her grandmother, Ivy Morris. He also says that Ivy owes him a kiss, which Cara ends up giving him on behalf of her grandmother. Medafil gives Cara a sphere that glows, and a seashell that when placed to the ear plays "The Song of the Wanderer". He then flies her back to the rest of her traveling group. He then navigates the whole group into Ebilan's territory. At the end of the day he is another one of the many creatures in Luster that Cara can call a friend.

## Ebilan

Ebilan is the seventh dragon of Luster. The gate Cara must take to return to earth lies somewhere in his territory. Cara bargains with the dragon, eventually giving him the seashell that plays "The Song of the Wanderer" that she received from Medafil. Ebilan then agrees to let her use the gate back to earth that lies in his cave. Once the traveling party has reached his cave, Ebilan gives Thomas the Tinker a cup of his to fix. He broke the cup after drinking from it as part of oath in which he swore to one day find his lost love.



# Objects/Places

## Luster

Luster is the magical world that the unicorns and other mythical creatures inhabit. Cara first came to Luster using an amulet that her grandmother gave her.

## Earth

Earth is Cara's home planet. She returns to it to bring her grandmother Ivy Morris back to Luster.

## The Queen's Court

The Queen's Court is in Luster and changes location with the seasons.

## Cara's Amulet

Cara was given an amulet by her grandmother Ivy. Cara can use the amulet to open gates between earth and Luster.

## M'Gama's Cave

Cara and her travel companions go to M'Gama's cave to find out which gate Cara needs to take to get back to earth.

## The Geomancer's Ring

M'Gama gives Cara a green ring. The ring glows whenever Cara hears "The Song of the Wanderer."

## The Jewel

Grimwald gives Cara a red jewel while he is taking her and her travel companions on an underground short cut. Cara looks into the jewel and briefly sees her mother.

## The Sphere - Cara is given a sphere by the gryphon Medafil.

Description



## **The Seashell**

Medafil gives Cara a seashell her grandmother had given him. When placed to the ear one can hear Ivy singing "The Song of the Wanderer." Cara eventually gives the seashell to Ebilan in order to use the gate in his cave that leads back to earth.

## **The Rainbow Prison**

Beloved traps Ivy Morris in the magical Rainbow Prison. Cara, with some help from Jacques, break her out of it.



# Themes

## Magic

As one might suspect for a book with unicorns in the title, magic is the main theme of this book. Magic finds its way into every corner of this book. At the beginning of the book Cara is in Luster, a magical world full of unicorns, dragons, and other mythical creatures. Cara's arrival in this very world is through a magical occurrence. Her grandmother Ivy Morris, a woman with more magical ties than even she knows, gave Cara an amulet. This magical device acts as a key, opening gates between Earth and Luster.

The unicorns are also magical. Along with being mystical creatures, they have powers at their disposal. Their most impressive and useful magical power is that of healing. The unicorns can heal themselves as well as others. The downside to this ability is that it leaves the unicorns drained. Harnessing the magic needed for healing makes the unicorns very weak. Another magical ability they possess is the ability to speak mind-to-mind. Since not all humans have the gift of tongues, unicorns often have to communicate with them in a different way. They accomplish this by plunging their horns into a human's heart. This apparently violent act gives the unicorns the ability to speak with humans without having to speak aloud. Unicorns can of course talk, but most humans outside of Luster don't understand their magical language.

## Family

Family is one of the major themes of this book. Cara's family conflict is how she ended up in Luster in the first place. Cara's grandmother, Ivy Morris had taken to guarding Cara from her father, Ian Hunter. Ian Hunter is a Hunter, meaning he is one of Beloved's henchman who hunts and kills unicorns. Ivy Morris is a great friend of all unicorns and does not want Cara to fall in with Beloved and the Hunters. Cara wants to love her father, but because the unicorns are her friends too she cannot understand why he would want to harm them. When she returns to earth, her father is with Beloved and does not even acknowledge her. At that moment Cara is so hurt she decides he is not her father anymore. They reconcile however towards the end of the book when Ian betrays Beloved and helps free Cara and her friends. Ian tells his daughter that he was wrong about unicorns. He now wants to help them in their fight against Beloved.

Cara does not know what has happened to her mother. At one point in the book she is given a red jewel by Grimwald, the keeper of the Unicorn Chronicles. When Cara looks into the jewel she is briefly transported to a magical room. In the room she sees her mother, but before they can have a conversation, Cara finds herself back outside the prison staring at the jewel. Later when Cara breaks her grandmother out of the Rainbow Prison she realizes that her mother is likely imprisoned. Cara does not resolve where



her mother is by the end of the book, but it is highly likely she will in later books in the series.

## Free Will

Free will is one of the major themes of this book. At the beginning of the book, the Queen of the Unicorns, Arabella Skydancer, requests that Cara go back to earth and bring her grandmother, Ivy Morris, back to Luster. Cara accepts, but before she leaves a big ceremony is held at the Queen's Court. Cara needs to publicly proclaim that she accepts this task of her own free will. The Queen also asked the unicorn Moonheart if he would assemble a team to travel with Cara. Moonheart, and the two unicorns he selected, Belle and Finder, also have to confirm that they are accepting this task of their own free will. The other travelers who join the group along that way are not sworn in in a similar manner, but in each situation it is clear that the person or creature are acting on their own free will.

When Cara returns to earth she finds Beloved waiting for her in her grandmother's house. Beloved wants the amulet that Ivy Morris gave to Cara. The amulet acts as a key, opening up the gates between Luster and earth. Beloved wants Cara to give her the amulet of her own free will. If Cara does that the amulet will retain its maximum magical power. In order to try and convince her to do this Beloved tells her side of the story involving the unicorns. She tells Cara that they are evil and hateful beasts who must be destroyed. Cara has not had any such experiences and refuses to give up the amulet. Beloved then tries to take it by force, but this too fails as she is eventually betrayed by Cara's father, Ian.



# Style

## Point of View

This book is written in a narrative mode, which means the action is explained by a semi-omniscient narrator. The narrator is never named, but they always knows what is going on around Cara. The narrator occasionally tells the reader what Cara is thinking as well, but the narrator never ventures into any of the other characters head. Outside of Cara's inner-monologue, everything else written in this book is either dialogue between characters, or an explanation of what is currently happening. Occasionally an event from the past is mentioned, it usually involved Cara's grandmother Ivy, and is most likely told by Jacques, the Queen, or Grimwald.

The book is told from a very intimate point of view. Cara is obviously the central focus of the book, and the book often remarks on her emotional reaction to things. The narrative is straight forward, telling the story of Cara's quest to bring her grandmother back to Luster. Even in instances where the book talks about something that happened in the past, the point is to drive the central narrative forward.

## Setting

The majority of this book is set in the magical world of Luster. Luster is a world full of magic and magical creatures like unicorns and dragons. The setting is obviously fantasy. Even the parts of the book that take place on earth involve magic, such as Cara using the amulet to get back to earth; Beloved using a spell to trap Ivy Morris in the Rainbow Prison. The setting of the book works perfectly with the plot, since the book is a fantasy involving the interactions of humans and magical creatures.

## Language and Meaning

The language and meaning of this book are both very direct. The book is aimed at a teenage and pre-teen audience, and it achieves the goal of reaching this audience. While some words and themes may be difficult for younger readers to understand, they should be able to comprehend them through some careful study and patient teaching.

Due to its magical setting, the book does include some fantasy language. Mythical creatures are given mythical names and the reader can understand what they look like by the narrators description. In some cases slang fantasy terms are used, usually by the gryphon Medafil.



## Structure

The book is separated into twenty six chapters. The chapters are all of similar lengths, with none being shorter than ten pages, and none longer than 15 pages. The chapters all tell a story through exposition, dialogue, and occasionally Cara's inner-monologue. Almost all of the chapters take place in the presence, with the lone exception being the chapter in which Grimwald tells the story of how Ivy Morris first came to Luster.

The book has one main plot, and several sub-plots. The main story involved Cara's quest to bring her grandmother back to Luster. The main plot is completely resolved by the end of the book, leaving readers with a sense of satisfaction. However, several sub-plots are not resolved, such as Cara's strange relationship with her family, or where Cara's mother is trapped. It is hinted that these plots will be resolved in later additions of the Unicorn Chronicles.



## Quotes

"If you are going to journey across our world in order to fetch the Wanderer, there are somethings you should understand" (Chapter 1, p. 6).

"Cara Diana Hunter, do you accept this task of your own free will" (Chapter 2, p. 15).

"You belong to me" (Chapter 3, p. 29).

"It will take you to the Northern Waste that is home to the seventh dragon" (Chapter 6, p. 75).

""My heart seeks the hearth, My feet seek the road. A soul so divided, Is a terrible load" (Chapter 8, p. 97).

"Do all wonders need to have a purpose" (Chapter 11, p. 133).

"Gadfangled girl things, always robbed me of my common sense" (Chapter 17, p. 217).

"That's all right. He's not my father anymore. I don't want him" (Chapter 21, p. 256).

"But was I not betrayed myself when I lost my daughter to the struggle between you and the Wanderer" (Chapter 21, p. 266).

"Within your soul is merged not merely human and unicorn, but unicorn and Hunter. It all comes together in you, child" (Chapter 24, p. 304).

"The Queen is gone. Long live the Queen" (Chapter 26, p. 330).



## Topics for Discussion

Who is Cara? Where is she at the beginning of the book? How did she get there? What quest does she go on her? Who asked her to take the quest? What is the first stop Cara makes on her quest? What creature gives Cara a seashell? What does Cara end up doing with this seashell? Where does Cara find her grandmother? What do Cara and her grandmother do to escape the Rainbow Prison? Where is Cara at the end of the book

Who is Ivy Morris? How did she first come to Luster? What song is Ivy famous for? Where is Ivy when Cara discovers her? Who joins them there? What secret does Ivy learn about herself in the Rainbow Prison? What happens to Ivy at the end of the book?

Who is Arabella Skydancer? What does she ask Cara to do? How is Arabella's health? How does Arabella get to the Rainbow Prison? What does she tell Ivy and Cara there? What happens to Arabella at the end of the book?

Who is Lightfoot? Who is his uncle? Why is Lightfoot not with Cara when she begins her quest? When does Lightfoot reunite with Cara? How did Lightfoot get to earth? What does Beloved say about Lightfoot? Why is Lightfoot wandering?

Who is Moonheart? Who does Moonheart select to go on the journey with Cara? What role did Moonheart play in Ivy Morris first coming to Luster? Why is this surprising? Explain Moonheart's relationship to his nephew Lightfoot?

Who is M'Gama? What title does she hold? Why does M'Gama take Cara underground? What happens once they are underground? What does M'Gama do for Cara before she leaves on her quest? What items does M'Gama give Cara? What does Cara do with these items?

Who is Grimwald? What is his job? How does he help Cara and her friends? What story does he tell them? What item does Grimwald give Cara?

Who is Medafil? How does Cara meet him? What does Cara do for him that he is grateful for? Once free, where does Medafil take Cara? What does he tell her once they get there? What items does Medafil give Cara? What does Cara do with these items?

Who is Cara's father? What is her relationship to him like at the beginning of the book? What does he do towards the end of the book to change their relationship? Where does Cara think her mother is?

Who is Beloved? Why does she hate unicorns? What is her relationship to Cara? What does Cara think of Beloved? What does Beloved want from Cara? How does she try to get it? What item does Beloved have at the end of the book? Why is this important?