

# **Soulless Study Guide**

## **Soulless by Gail Carriger**

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# Plot Summary

*Soulless* by Gail Carriger is a novel of many genres. Its setting is London, England in Victorian times. The culture is more than one: werewolves, vampires, ghosts, and the natural humans. We also have one preternatural who is a soulless person who can touch a supernatural person and neutralize them. The mixed society is involved in the comedy of manners. Propriety is the top priority. We have the steam-punk genre that showcases the inventions of the day. The werewolves and vampires seem to have the market on the inventions. We also have scientists who hide their devious tricks and horrible experiments to bring London under the power of one man.

It is a love story between the preternatural and the alpha werewolf. Both the hero and heroine are strong characters. The lovers save the day and stop the evil from winning in the struggle between good and evil. Alexia is a natural detective who sees her moving about in the supernatural culture more than in her own. When werewolves and vampires turn up missing, Alexia is determined to discover what is happening. There are a couple of attempts made on her life before she is kidnapped. Maccon tries to keep her safe. He has her watched by members of his pack. When the full moon occurs, he has vampires set to watch her.

The mad scientist has her in his clutches and is prepared to do all kinds of horrible things to her to understand her power so he can control it. The climax comes during the full moon. The scientist has the oldest vampire in his experimenting room. He takes Alexia to see the horrible torture chamber. He is holding Maccon, the alpha werewolf. He thinks he has the upper hand. However, with his unmasking, everything turns to true chaos. The vampire and werewolf win over the mad scientist.

Before the end of the book, our heroine Alexia Tarabotti has been invited to join the Shadow Council, which is the Council of the supernaturals who advise the Queen. Alexia is chosen to keep a balance between the supernatural leaders of the Council. Society has been saved and will go back to each group living with the other and respecting each other. Lord Maccon has made an excellent hero and lover and taught the reader all about werewolves. He has overcome his natural instinct when he is endangering his love. Peace is reigning and Queen Victoria and her country are safe. The country lives in harmony. Alexia and Maccon are married in the epilogue. It is clearly apparent that this union is a love match.

# Chapter One

## Chapter One Summary

Miss Alexia Tarabotti is a spinster and a preternatural in London. The preternatural has no soul and she could translate a vampire or werewolf into a human. The vampires and werewolves and the supernatural were accepted in London at this time. The natural and supernatural had learned to live together and had rules that fit into the manners of the day. Alexia becomes hungry at a ball and asks for some refreshments from the butler to be served in the library. She relaxes on a sofa when a vampire makes his appearance and tries to bite her neck. Alexia is very distressed that he didn't introduce himself before trying to bite. She forces him away from her. His fangs retract when he touches the preternatural. We have a scene of the vampire trying to bite and Alexia defending herself with her own power. Finally Alexia has him on the floor and she uses her hair stick, which seems to work like a stake to the heart of a vampire.

Lord Maccon and his sidekick, Professor Lyall, appear in the library and they all discuss that the vampire looked young and desperate for blood. The queen of his hive must not have taken care of him. Professor Lyall has some weird glasses that are also magnifying glasses to look over the body. It seems that vampires who are very hungry and draw blood from their drones in their hives or buy some blood from blood whores on the streets. The situation with Alexis should never have occurred.

Lord Maccon is an alpha werewolf as well as a peer. Professor Lyall is his Beta who helps him through the London society. Maccon and Alexia get into a power struggle about the vampire and what to do. Maccon wins the round by threatening to tell Alexia's mother that she is preternatural. Alexia's mother isn't aware of much. She rather flits about acting like a silly woman.

Maccon and Lyall think that one of the queens of one of the hives about London is biting where she shouldn't and they will have to question all the queens. They carry the vampire out of the house and to headquarters. Once again, Alexia has tried to work with BUR at headquarters and Maccon has basically patted her on the head and told her to get married.

## Chapter One Analysis

Carriger has combined several genres into this book. We have the supernatural with the werewolves and vampires. We have the inventions of the times with the glasses that are introduced in the first chapter. We have the comedy of manners going on with the first conflict being the discourteous vampire who doesn't introduce himself before trying to take as much blood as possible from Alexia.

The meeting between Alexia and Maccon introduces our heroine and hero immediately. Alexia is definitely a thorn in Maccon's side but he forgets the pain often and only sees

the rose. They argue and get into a power struggle in the first chapter. Maccon wins because he threatens to tell her mother that she is preternatural. The mother seems to flit through life as the women were expected to do in Victorian times. Alexia may not have a soul but she has a heart and can't hurt her mother.

Maccon, the Alpha, is defined for the reader right away. If the reader doesn't realize that Maccon and Alexia are destined to be sexually attracted, Maccon claims that he can deal with Alexia because he has dealt with she-wolves in Scotland and recognizes her strength. Maccon even tells the reader that he likes strong women. We have two strong personalities whose narratives together make up the biggest story.

Carriger is a humorous writer. The lines and the situations are funny. The reader does more than just smile at the lines. The reader wants to read the line to someone and laugh aloud together.

# Two

## Two Summary

Alexia and her family gather around the breakfast table to read about the ball the night before. Her two sisters are interested in whether their names and their dresses are in the society column. One reads that something strange has happened at the ball. She laments her lack of knowledge about it. How can she spread her own gossip and be in the know? Alexia's stepfather tries to meet with some of the wealthy and highly political men of London. They happen to be of the supernatural. The stepfather is very disturbed by Alexia's lack of manners with Lord Maccon. He wants to do business with Lord Maccon.

Alexia leaves the table to visit her friend, Ivy, and invite her for a walk in Hyde Park. They are able to talk about everything and anything. After they watch a dirigible land, an actress comes up to them. She had an invitation from the queen of Westminster's vampire hive. Alexia accepts the invitation for the next night.

Alexia invites Lord Akeldama for dinner to find out what he knows about the invitation. Lord Akeldama is a vampire that dresses in all kinds of bright colors and reminds one of a buffoon. However if someone knew him, they soon saw he was very sharp and knew what was going on around town all the time. Lord Akeldama and Alexia had an agreement that he could hold her hand or touch her and feel human for a little while as much as he liked in private. For the first time since Alexia has known him, she sees fear in his eyes. For once he doesn't know what is happening and that worries him. He makes her promise to go to Lord Maccon and see what he knows before she enters the hive. He is afraid for her.

## Two Analysis

Carriger writes the beginning of Chapter Two as if this were a historical romance. The sisters are interested in their names in the paper because they have pretty dresses. The mother doesn't know that the world actually spins. The stepfather does know that he is dealing with the supernatural in his business. Carriger uses wording that reminds one of Georgette Heyer.

The chapter continues to sound like a romance as the two young women go for a walk in Hyde Park. Alexia may have settled into spinster hood but Ivy still has some hope that a white knight will appear and sweep her away. They watch the dirigible and talk about the inventions of the day and how modern things have grown.

Ivy in particular acts like a Victorian England miss when the actress, Mabel Dair, tries to talk to them. She wants to talk but thinks of the manners of the day. They do talk to her and Carriger carries us back into the tale that she is telling. The vampires appear. Alexia gets an invitation to the web. The reader learns much about vampires with Lord

Akeldama. How he looks and who he is are two different things. After using Akeldama to explain to the reader some more about the preternatural and how they operate with the supernatural, Carriger reminds the reader of Lord Maccon. Lord Maccon is wiser than Akeldama.



# Chapter Three

## Chapter Three Summary

In chapter three Alexia goes to Lord Maccon's office early and finds him in real disarray. She attempts to learn what he knows of the Westminster queen, Countess Nadasdy, wanting to have her to dinner. They discuss the question of the young vampire that she killed and neither of them understand what is happening. The reader learns more about behavior of a werewolf. Maccon is very angry as he learns that Lord Akeldama has advised Alexia to come to him. Maccon doesn't appreciate the friendship between Akeldama and Alexia. It never occurs to him that he is jealous of Akeldama. Maccon has Alexia tell him everything that had happened since the death of the vampire. He listens with consideration until Alexia tells him that Akeldama had been to supper with her and that she has already told Akeldama the whole story. She doesn't tell him that Akeldama's strange reaction had convinced her to seek out Maccon. As Maccon prepares to see Alexia home, he orders her not to go to the hive. Of course, no one orders Alexia. Maccon takes her home and requests that she not go to the hive. He is really afraid for her.

Professor Lyall has been sent to all the different districts to discover any information he can about the vampire. Lyall will start his questioning in Canterbury. Lyall converts into his werewolf state and travels by night. In the day, since he is an older werewolf and can handle the day time, he travels by stagecoach. The description of Lyall changing from werewolf to human form in the cloakroom of the BUR office in Canterbury is quite thorough. Lyall meets Greeme and doesn't like him. Greeme is human and a little too impressed with vampires. Lyall is going to have him reassigned. It seems roves from the vampire group have been disappearing and that means they have been dying. As Lyall leaves the office and goes back to the cloak room to get his cape, he runs into a young werewolf who immediately submits to him. The reader learns how high in the werewolf world Lyall is. Lyall learns that the werewolves have been dying as well. This werewolf is the last loner left. A loner is a werewolf who does not belong to a family. After learning about the werewolves, Lyall catches a stage but for London rather than going on to the next district.

## Chapter Three Analysis

Carriger in Chapter Tree gives us a better view of the characteristics of a werewolf. She has Alexia go to see Lord Maccon early while he is unorganized and without his tea. He is also without Professor Lyall who helps him become organized for the day. Carriger has him act more like the animal side of himself. He drinks from the spout of the tea pitcher. She has him "huff" which brings to mind the wolf of The Three Little Pigs fame. Carriger brings up his tawny eyes that are more yellow as he has moved farther from his days as a human. Alexia sees all these characteristics and knows he is an Alpha which should have a Victorian lady swooning. She is delighted to meet him as an equal.



Alexia offers her ideas and contributes to the conversations unlike most of the women of the day. She challenges Lord Maccon at every phase. Carriger sees them as a couple who are well matched. All their discussions illustrate the sexual tension between them.

The reader learns more about the society of the time. The werewolves, vampires, and ghosts have a leader who is over a district. Maccon is the alpha in London and its environs. They all ultimately answer to him. Alexia is reminded that as a preternatural, she answers to him too. She doesn't pay much attention to his reminder.

Professor Lyall's trip to Canterbury fills the second half of the chapter. He has been the limited sidekick in the first chapters. The reader is shown that he is the second highest in command and a respected werewolf in his own right. Carriger uses this trip to describe the conversion of the wolf to the man. She points out that the younger pups have a harder time with the change. The physical body has to be in real pain to move from a four-footed animal to a man on two legs. Carriger explains the clothes which are always in the cloak room to accommodate a visiting werewolf. Carriger gives good aids to our imaginations to accept the transitions of the superhuman to the human.

Carriger has Lyall tell us that he will be relocating Greemes. He has the power to do that. Once Carriger has gone back to the cloakroom to get ready to catch the stage, he meets a young wolf. The pup, as a human, bares his neck to show his subservience to Lyall. He tells Lyall that all the "loner" werewolves have been killed. He is the only remaining one. Lyall changes his itinerary and heads back to London. Carriger has added to the conflict, bringing more suspense and mystery.

# Chapter Four

## Chapter Four Summary

In Chapter Four Alexia ignores Lord Maccon's advice and goes to the vampire hive. She meets the queen as well as several older vampires who seem to be counselors to the queen. The three males don't want Alexia in their hive at all. Because Alexia is a preternatural, they see her as their enemy and stay away from her. The queen invites her in and is very cordial to her. The queen even allows Alexia to touch her. Alexia can see some of her human side from years ago as the queen and Alexia touch. Alexia is offered a fine meal even though the vampires might take a bite for politeness's sake, they do not eat food. Alexia sees many of the secrets of the hive while she is in it. As the meeting continues, Alexia learns that there have been three other strange vampires in the district. The hive took them in but they couldn't keep them alive. The vampires were already nearly starved when they arrived. The young vampires didn't know any of the hive rules. They were completely ignorant of the etiquette they should have observed with the queen. They didn't know their place in the hive. They didn't acknowledge the older vampires. They also knew nothing about how to dress in order to live in natural society as well as supernatural society. As Alexia was leaving the hive, a maid came to her and asked her to tell that her master is missing. The roves, or loners, are missing and the maid is frightened. The queen had admitted that she had never seen vampires that no one admitted to turning. She was frightened and didn't know what to make of the young vampires. She even wants Lord Maccon to know what is happening.

Alexia finds a different carriage waiting for her as she leaves the hives. She tries not to ride in the carriage but the driver jumps down and struggles with her until she is in the carriage. A shadow type man waits for her in the carriage. She can't see him and tell who or what he is. He has a wet rag that he attempts to get up to her nose. She screams and struggles harder. She hears a strange sound and feels the thump on the carriage. She is struggling harder with the shadow man when the door opens. Alexia is braced against it. She falls out and lands on a firm body. By the time she and Lord Maccon are un-entangled, the shadow man has disappeared.

Lord Maccon then proceeds to question Alexia and she questions him. She was sure that he was a werewolf who has changed form. She wants to know how he can be dressed. He tries to question her further but she won't budge from her own questions. She puts her hand on him and he has to change. As he explains about changing to her, he also tells her things about his group. Eventually he learns about the young vampires appearing and the queen's fear. He and Alexia discuss many aspects of the society as it is at the time. Alexia learns more about the were-wolf world. Lord Maccon tells Alexia that she needs protection. Of course, there is another argument about that. Finally, Lord Maccon sends her home. He stays human for a kiss.

## Chapter Four Analysis

Carriger uses Chapter Four to world build. She has told the reader that Alexia is in a different world than the natural place that the reader usually lives in. Alexia herself has proven to be a strange character who looks and acts like "just" a woman but in reality is a preternatural who is dangerous to the vampires, ghosts, and were-wolves who mix with the rest of society in this book's time. While Alexia lives in the world we recognize, the vampires and werewolves have their own private worlds.

First Alexia is welcomed into the vampire hive. No one but vampires are generally allowed into the hive. It looks like just a house on the inside but when one enters, one sees the riches and differences that the vampires have created. We have the vampire world. As the queen questions Alexia, the queen also explains history and culture of the hive. Alexia is already more learned than most people because her father had a library full of the supernatural. When Alexia was told that she was a preternatural, Alexia became a bluestocking. Her mother never knew what Alexia studied. It was too much for her mother to know that she studied at all. Alexia's is smart and perceptive. As the queen let down her defenses with Alexia and even allowed Alexia to touch her, Alexia could see the fear because of the new vampires who appeared out of nowhere.

Carriger reminded the reader that the vampires were a natural enemy of the preternatural. The older male vampires saw Alexia as a predator. Alexia tried to look as non-threatening as possible as she listened to the queen. Alexia was surprised to have the queen ask her to share the problem with Lord Maccon. Both characters were power hungry in the super human world.

When Carriger has Maccon rescue Alexia from the threatening shadow figure in the carriage, she uses these scenes after the rescue as more illustration of world building. This time we see the werewolves world from his point of view. Maccon is the alpha and he enjoys his strength. The queen of the Westminster Hive is the strongest being in London except for himself. The two get along because they have to keep peace so the normal society will not have an uprising against the supernatural. Each has a counselor for the Queen of England at her side and each tries to keep the most influence.

In the talking to Alexia, Maccon learns about the new vampires that have no explanation. He learns that the shadow man says that they are trying to catch Alexia so she can tell them what is going on. Carriger adds to the mystery and suspense by this threat to Alexia. If Alexia isn't afraid of werewolves and vampires, she needs something bigger to make the reader fear for her. Maccon wants her protected. Of course, Alexia doesn't agree. Maccon can't resist kissing Alexia before he sends her home.

Carriger has shown Alexia, the preternatural, with her hand on both the vampire and the werewolf. The worlds are now shown to the reader. Alexia is a definite link that connects all three worlds.

# Chapter Five

## Chapter Five Summary

Chapter five begins with the kiss between Alexia and Maccon. Once was not enough for Maccon, and he takes hold of her chin and begins a much more intimate kiss than Alexia had ever experienced. The kiss included Maccon's tongue; Alexia found she liked it. They grew more intimate and neither of them remembered they were on a public street. As Maccon's hands were exploring Alexia's body to her delight, Lyall interrupted them. Maccon told him to go away but Lyall wouldn't. He had news to impart that couldn't wait. After Lyall told Maccon about the disappearance of the roves around the Canterbury district, Alexia remembered to tell about the maid's master. It seemed that all the roves in London were gone with the exception of the dewan. No new werewolves had appeared but new vampires were appearing. Maccon said something about the roves and werewolves and Alexia too.

Alexia got a good look at Lyall and saw that he was wrapped in a blanket. He had no hat and no shoes. She looked again and didn't see any evidence of pants. Maccon told Lyall to scamper back to the den. Lyall disappeared into an alley and then was gone. Maccon saw Alexia home and made sure she understood that she would be under a watch protection detail. Before Alexia crawled into her bed, she looked out and saw the big wolf pacing before her home.

Ivy visited the next day while Alexia's sisters and mother were out shopping. Alexia was able to tell her about everything that happened the night before. She started with getting dressed and went through the evening in the vampire hive and her near abduction. The kiss was the high note. The use of the tongue was of particular interest to both girls. Alexia was wearing a dress which covered the bruise at her neckline. She didn't tell Ivy about it.

At a dinner party given by Lord Blingchester, Maccon didn't come to find Alexia. While he was cordial if they were close to each other, he acted as if nothing had happened between them. She felt ignored and became quite angry with him. When they sat down to dinner, the place card which had been near each other had been moved. Alexia was beside an American scientist and Maccon was seated beside a young, rather frivolous lady. As Maccon paid attention to the younger woman, Alexia tried to listen to them and yet talk with the American. The American has come to London to give a paper on measuring the amount of soul in a person.

Lord Maccon has gone to his office after the dinner party and is totally upset with Alexia. He states his grievances to Professor Lyall. Maccon says he has let Alexia see his interest and she ignored him. Why hadn't she come up to him and paid attention to him. She could have even dragged him off to a nice, soft, dark place...



Lyall points out that while Alexia may be a woman and definitely alpha, she is not a werewolf so does not even know the ways of the pack. She isn't going to act like a mate who is a werewolf will act. Lyall remembers that Maccon has spent most of his life until recently in Scotland and not in a metropolitan area. Lyall has had to teach him much about the London society and how to move about in it. When Maccon asks advice on his next move, Lyall suggests apologizing and groveling. Lyall tells him to forget Alexia then because he will have to learn new things to court Alexia. One of those is groveling. After sputtering and resisting, he accepts as he sits at his desk and looking at a report says, "Groveling, you say."

Lyall answers him by saying "Grovel, my lord."

## Chapter Five Analysis

Carriger in Chapter Five breaks the chapter in three parts again. The first section gives all the players the information about the roves and vampires disappearing or dying. The section is introduced with more kissing between Maccon and Alexia. The reader can be sure that there is sexual attraction between the two of them. Carriger makes them both forget the manners of the day. Alexia is a candidate for being the ruined woman to kiss in public. Maccon loses his head which is usually in control. The two control freaks are out of control. Alexia has seen the inside of a hive and during this section she has an experience of seeing a werewolf in a blanket because he has returned from a trip in his werewolf state. Alexia is learning more and more about both other worlds.

Carriger reminds the reader that while Alexia is a preternatural, she is also human. She acts like any woman in love. She shares her thrills with her friend Ivy. She holds a few things private that she wants just between her and her love. She is excited and made herself wait as well as her friend wait for the kiss. First she tells plenty of facts that will make good gossip for Ivy and finally she tells the biggest secret.

Carriger has added the threat to Alexia's life. It may be only information that the shadow man wanted but with a disguise and covert actions one doesn't know that Alexia would live through the questioning. The vampire hive was dangerous but they let her go. The shadow man seems to be human so Alexia is not dangerous to him.

Alexia's bluestocking conversation with the American scientist brings the reader back to the human world. Alexia's interest in the man is influenced by her feelings of jealousy. This is normal behavior.

Finally Carriger reminds the reader that there is another world. Maccon paces like a wolf and is upset by Alexia's treatment of him at the dinner. She should have come to him in a subservient attitude. She is his as far as Maccon is concerned. He showed his interest and now he is due her adoration. The culture of the werewolf is back in the reader's face. Lyall who is the valet like tutor for Maccon when he doesn't know how to go about in society, has to remind him that he can't play with wolf-pack rules with Alexia. After

some grumbling and firm stands on Maccon's part, he admits that he will have to change. He will have to learn to grovel.

It may be that Alexia will win the battle of the sexes with the alpha werewolf.

# Chapter Six

## Chapter Six Summary

In Chapter Six, Alexia steps out with Mr. MacDougall in his carriage. Mr. MacDougall has the highest quality carriage with all types of inventions. Alexia's parasol looks puny as MacDougall makes a huge parasol come up over the passengers in the carriage as he and Alexia stop and have a picnic. He has an invention for hot water to make tea. Obviously he is English enough to want his tea. Alexia and he have a good time as they talk about MacDougall's scientific thoughts. His brother changed into a vampire. Unfortunately Americans do not want the supernatural in the country. Even his family hunted him down and killed him. MacDougall didn't see much difference in him after he turned except he moved about more at night and his skin was paler. MacDougall was working on a way to predict the amount of soul a person had so they would know who could be turned and who would have a harder time of it.

Alexia spent her time in conversation, turning the subject away from anything which would make it easier for him to ask her to become more than friends. He appreciated her intelligence and was of an age to be looking for someone who could understand his work. MacDougall had no idea that preternaturals existed.

Alexia did notice Professor Lyall following them. He ran into a man at one point. Alexia wondered who that had been. After the ride, she went to Lyall and asked. Of course, Lyall didn't tell her. He only let her know he was protecting Maccon's interests.

Alexia went inside the house to find Maccon waiting for her. Her family was out so she and Maccon could speak freely. Maccon had come to grovel; however, groveling was not in an alpha's make-up. Demands came first. Where had she been? Of course, she took exception and wanted him to explain what had happened between them. Why had he ignored her? Was he done with her and brushing her off? Was she supposed to understand that she was only good for a one night episode?

He, of course, thinks that she is insulting him and his honor so they are off and running to their usual spark-filled arguments. They discussed his unusual behavior of the night before. Their arguments and explanations moved forward until they were in each other's arms and finally Alexia was in his lap. It ends with Alexia promising to take advantage of Maccon.

## Chapter Six Analysis

Carriger begins the chapter with our natural man. He wants to study unnatural things. He may have been studying, but he knows essentially nothing. MacDougall makes the reader think of the person who is very intelligent but always seems to be in the wrong place. The sentences sound good but he doesn't comprehend. MacDougall is so intent on his study and his own methodology that he doesn't study the whole picture. In this

case, MacDougall wants to take a body out of England and back to America to dissect and check on the soul. If the man is any part Christian, he should know the soul is gone at death. He has a shell to take far away from its milieu and any hope of learning about the supernatural forms that make up the culture.

Alexia, as usual, has no idea of her attractiveness. She is unconventional and a great deal smarter than most of the people she meets. Her society doesn't accept her personality so it must be bad.

Carriger continues to introduce more inventions. Each chapter introduces something for the reader to consider. Many of the inventions are grandparents to items that we use today. She keeps the reader connected to the time of this society.

Finally, Carriger brings the reader back to our hero. The reader knew Maccon would never grovel but we also knew that these two people are meant for each other. These two alpha creatures must push every limit to be sure that the other is worthy of being the mate. Alexia knows immediately who is not worthy of her. She has to haggle with Maccon until she is sure of his strength. The alpha wolf makes for a strong protector. While Alexia needs no real protection from society, she wants the strength that can protect her from herself. They are playing a game to learn just how strong the other is.





# Chapter Seven

## Chapter Seven Summary

As Chapter Seven begins, Alexia is indeed aggressively taking advantage of Maccon. She is sitting on his lap and working very hard at removing the clothing that is in her way. Maccon is doing his best to talk her out of losing control and forcing him to lose his control. Any part of himself that is a gentleman is disappearing rapidly. Maccon wants her and she wants him. A commotion in the hallway snaps them back to the present and their surroundings.

Ivy and Professor Lyall come into the room together. Alexia and Maccon are almost back to normal. They have made attempts at righting their clothing. Ivy goes to Alexia to tell her about the werewolf from BUR she met in the hallway. She notices that Alexia is still flushed. She begins to worry about Alexia. Professor Lyall has gone directly to Maccon, and they are talking in whispers. Maccon is in his usual state of aggravation. Maccon asks Professor Lyall to remain with Alexia until he sends someone from BUR. He leaves rather quickly.

Seeing how tired the Professor looks, Alexia orders tea. She learns that Ivy and Professor Lyall do not know each other and introduces them. She orders chopped liver for Professor Lyall which is served in an ice cream dish. He has a little more strength after the liver dish. Ivy has never had any dealings with the werewolves, so she is fascinated.

Alexia sees her chance to ask some Werewolf pack protocol questions. She learns that Maccon's behavior comes from his experience in the pack. She is quite pleased to learn that there are few lady werewolves and that they are alphas. The ladies get to choose her mate. While this is wonderful news to Alexia's inner core, she knows once again she will be unconventional and surprising to society if she chases and claims Maccon. She admits to herself that she has always been a little envious of the queen of the hive of the vampires. A woman with power. She had a choice, act like a werewolf or go back to living her own lonely life.

Mr. Haverbink is ushered into the room by Floote. Mr. Haverbink is a big man who looks as if he could do the work of an ox. He is from BUR but is not a werewolf. He works for the pack. Haverbink introduces himself and assures Alexia that she will be safe for the night. Haverbink goes on to suggest Professor Lyall go to the carriage that Maccon has ordered and get some rest. Haverbink goes to the carriage and sees Lyall into it and on his way. Alexia is left with Haverbink watching her house and protecting her.

## Chapter Seven Analysis

Carriger begins Chapter Seven with Alexia and Maccon in an intimate situation. Alexia is as aggressive as Maccon would like to be. Maccon is trying to remain in control and not

make a scene if someone walks into the room. Carriger likes to make the reader see that love can make the differences between supernatural humans and humans disappear. Perhaps love between other cultures can also overcome the hate. Carriger reminds the reader of the conventions of Victorian England as unexpected guests arrive.

When Ivy appears and goes immediately to Alexia, the reader sees that Alexia does have support even though it does not come from her family. Carriger also reminds us of Ivy by her hat. It must have been fun to create the hats for Ivy. Professor Lyall comes in at the same time with Ivy. Ivy has never been around the other cultures of London. Ivy shows her interest and her distrust of something that is new to her. Hearing about such things and seeing them are two different things. Ivy has her eyes opened wider as she hears Alexia order chopped liver, raw. Alexia has accepted the needs of the werewolves. Ivy is very conventional and would rather watch the werewolf eat tea biscuits.

Ivy remains by Alexia's side as Alexia asks about werewolf protocol. Ivy is gasping, and Alexia is considering her ability to act as an alpha female werewolf as she chooses her mate. Alexia is rather pleased with the idea. If Maccon isn't going to offer marriage, she is a little afraid of her standing in society. However, Alexia may say she is going to consider but the reader can plainly see that she has already made up her mind and Maccon is hers. She will follow the pack protocol and take her alpha male.

The bodyguard for Alexia arrives and proceeds to make sure that Professor Lyall goes home and gets some rest. Alexia immediately acts like part of the pack. She is ready to help take care of other members of the group. She has finally agreed to allow Maccon to protect her. Alexia doesn't hide her actions or her unconventional lifestyle from Ivy. Ivy is having her own chance to learn more about the world. Ivy even quotes a poem that Alexia and she use as a code when there is interest in the male. The reader wonders if Ivy might join the pack as well.

# Chapter Eight

## Chapter Eight Summary

Chapter Eight gives the reader another view of the empty-headed sisters and mother. They come in with their very fancy and expensive gloves to show Alexia. Their father has had two drinks in a matter of a few minutes and still looks a little green. He has waved his money goodbye with the gloves and the dresses. Alexia insults her mother by asking if she is going to wear something that is suited to a woman half her age. The mother punishes Alexia by refusing to allow her to go to one of society parties. Exactly as Alexia had planned. As the family breaks up to go their separate ways, Ivy who had been caught in the family thing, takes her leave. Ivy says as she passes Alexia, "You never planned to attend, did you?" Alexia admits that she had maneuvered her mother very nicely. She does tell Ivy that she will be having her friend the vampire over.

Alexia looked out before she went to bed and saw the vampires who were there to protect her. She went on to bed feeling safe. During the night she was awakened by the commotion in the alley below her window. She went to the window and leaned out. She saw fighting going on among several men. One of the men looked up and saw her and whipped away from the fighting to come at her. He moved quickly and like no one she had seen before. She was able to see his face and immediately recognized him as one of the type who had tried to kidnap her. He seemed to be unstoppable. One of the vampires noticed and came after the wax-like faced figure. He caught him but had a very hard time holding on to him. Alexia was frightened. The wax-like creature kept coming. The vampire grabbed him and was holding on to him. They were struggling terribly. The vampire had a desperate grip on the creature but the creature was strong. Finally police whistles were heard and the odd creatures had to run. When the police appeared, the vampires showed their papers and things settled down.

The next morning Alexia came down to breakfast to find her whole family in a fluttering, near hysterical tizzy. They had company who had eaten three whole chickens. Alexia went in to greet Maccon. As she smiled, he told her to wait for that until they discussed some important business. He told her that the BUR had been broken into and files of vampires and werewolves had been taken. Also, her file. The creatures from the night before were curious about her. They hadn't known she was a preternatural and now they would want to kidnap her to dissect her for study. Maccon was more than displeased.

Since it was a full moon, Maccon couldn't protect her. He was led to muse about what it would be like to go through a full moon as a human. However, he feared too much for Alexia. Alexia brings him back to the business at hand with her questions. Maccon doesn't know what the creature is. He speculates that he might be a medical experiment gone bad. He knows that the creature is full of blood but there was no real flesh. Maccon had bit him the night he tried to kidnap Alexia previously. Alexia tells Maccon

that she is dining with Lord Akeldama. She should be safe with him since Maccon cannot be with her.

When Maccon decides that Akeldama won't be interested in Alexia because she is preternatural, Alexia sees a chance to discover Maccon's feelings and she asks why he is interested or if he is. They get into a conversation that has Maccon trying to sidestep his feelings. He can't avoid admitting his interest. Alexia sees that she will have to figure a way to take over. She asks him to be her "mistress" for want of a better word. Maccon is aghast. At his yelp, Mrs. Loontwill breaks into the room to find Alexia entangled with Maccon.

## Chapter Eight Analysis

Carriger has a talent for mixing the genres and reminding the reader of each one of them. In the beginning Chapter Eight parades the comedy of manners and the Victorian times directly before the reader. The family is completely Victorian. The two sisters and mother are such fluff heads. The only thoughts that ever touch their heads are dresses and fashion. A marriage. Being the woman in society who is noticed. Alexia plays the Cinderella part before the ball as far as these sisters are concerned. Alexia may not sweep the hearth but she takes all their nasty, little digs and is basically not expected to be any competition for them. They don't seem to recognize that in reality Alexia is Cinderella after the ball. She has a real life and love with it from a powerful force in London. The first part of the chapter is comic relief. The family doesn't know they are the clowns of the story.

The story returns to the supernatural with a second step to a plot. The wax-faced creatures are after Alexia, and they come to kidnap her at night. They are a real physically strong power. The vampires guarding her who are strong themselves have a struggle to keep one of the creatures from grabbing Alexia out of her bedroom window. The vampire is beaten up but still holding on to the creature when the police finally appear. Since the vampires are part of the BUR who carry papers and are known to the police, the vampires tell the authorities that they have stopped a burglary and are believed.

The next morning comes and along comes Maccon. The supernatural is mixing with the human. Alexia's family leave the werewolf alone but wait around to see what they can hear or see. Alexia waltzes into the room and closes the door firmly on the family. The family is nosey. They aren't there to support Alexia. Now the reader learns that these creatures want to grab Alexia to dissect her and study her. They don't understand what a preternatural is. Maccon and Alexia don't know what this new culture is. Because Maccon took a bite out of one when he stopped the first kidnapping, he knows they are full of blood but their flesh is not human or animal flesh. Maccon is worried about her and his inability to be with her because he has to be locked up during the full moon. When Alexia tells him that her vampire friend will be with her during the evening, he shows his jealousy and his animal instincts. Alexia sees this conversation as the perfect way to talk about the pack protocol and the Bitch's Dance. Is it her turn to make a

move? Maccon continues to attempt to evade the question but is unable to change the subject. When he thinks of Alexia, he has one strong first thought...mine. He can't escape his animal instincts. He wants her. He finally admits it. As Alexia attempts to claim him, she shocks Maccon and he yells. Alexia's mother bursts through the door to find them wrapped in each other's arms.

# Chapter Nine

## Chapter Nine Summary

Alexia's mother breaks in on the lovers at the beginning of Chapter Nine. Mrs. Loontwill is her usual hysterical self. She screams the house down and has everyone in the room to see Maccon and Alexia together. She demands a marriage. Alexia's father is afraid to demand anything. He knows he can't win against Maccon. While he is supposed to find a stand-in for him if it comes to a duel, no one would fight Maccon. Maccon's reputation made anyone consider how much they wanted to live. After a lot of hysteria from the family with the girls pointing out why Maccon would have to be forced to marry her, Maccon steps in and takes over. He does offer marriage and by this time had convinced himself that it was his idea. Of course, Alexia says no because she is not going to have him coerced to marry her. She believes the family's comments and put downs and can't believe that she would be an asset to anyone. Finally Maccon threatens the family to keep their mouths shut and let Alexia have some time and space. He tells Alexia's father that if he will give them time, they can work it out.

Evening comes and Alexia goes to Lord Akeldama's home for their meeting. She wants to discover if Akeldama has learned anything else. He wants to know every piece of information that she might have. His house is rather like a palace. He dresses like a dandy of the day. His colors are loud and his metal is polished. His drones are hurrying around and getting ready to go out to parties and about the city since it is a full moon. Vampires always celebrate the full moon.

Akeldama listens as she tells all about the afternoon and its proposal. Akeldama can't believe that she would refuse to marry Maccon. He knows them both well enough to believe they belong together. As they are talking, they hear a noise from the hall. No one should still be in the house, The door opens and a stranger is standing there. He talks into an invention and tells someone that the woman is not alone. As he ends the conversation, a new creature appears in the doorway. It is the wax-faced creature.

## Chapter Nine Analysis

Carriger begins Chapter Nine with a great dramatic moment. If there is anything that disturbs a mother in Victorian England, it is the possibility of a daughter being ruined. For Mrs. Loontwill to discover Alexia and Maccon in a compromising position overwhelms the woman. Hysterics are always the reaction to such a thing. Mrs. Loontwill had accepted Alexia as a spinster. This scandal will ruin Mrs. Loontwill's plans for her other daughters. The Loontwill women are not particularly smart women. Mrs. Loontwill doesn't even think that her husband would die if she pushes him into dueling with Maccon.

During the scene, Maccon realizes that he would like to marry Alexia. He had discovered his jealousy earlier but hadn't really thought about marriage. As Maccon steps up and agrees to marriage, Alexia refuses. She won't have anyone obligated to marry her. Of course, Carriger keeps the sexual tension high with Alexia's disagreement. If Maccon says black, Alexia will say white. The lovers can't admit their feelings. Maccon does see that he will have to give Alexia time, and he can't stay with her with the full moon on the rise.

Carriger shows the usual society reaction to life in Victorian times. As the chapter progresses, Carriger moves to the supernatural. Alexia arrives at the vampire's home and the reader sees more of the grandiose style of the times. Mrs. Loontwill has her home and all her manners but the supernatural vampire has the décor and fashion just as the Loontwill's but his are bigger and richer. Lord Akeldama has all the mannerisms of the times. He has pet names for everyone around him. He probably holds his pinkie out as he holds a tea cup. The vampire is bigger than life. Lord Akeldama is also more intelligent than the normal citizen. The werewolf, Maccon, is also more intelligent but he is also less flamboyant.

Carriger lets the reader know that most of London is aware that Alexia and Maccon are destined to be together. As Lord Akeldama and Alexia talk, they hear noises in the house. Since all the household should be gone to the full moon celebrations, the reader sees trouble coming.

Evil arrives. A page turner as the chapter ends. The reader sees a kidnapping getting ready to happen. Is Alexia going to be killed and dissected? Will Lord Akeldama experience the same fate?

# Chapter Ten

## Chapter Ten Summary

In Chapter Ten Alexia and Lord Akeldama are overcome by the wax-faced creature. They are taken to the Hypocras Club. Alexia hears the men discussing doing experiments on Lord Akeldama. They don't know who she is. She and Akeldama are taken down to the experiment rooms in the elevator. Alexia has no idea what an elevator is at this time.

In the meantime, Lord Maccon has gotten back to his castle and is being put into chains and a cell. Maccon is so strong that he can't have any furniture or objects in the cell with him. He goes through his change very painfully. He is taken to his cell and all the younger members of the pack who have changed as the full moon approached exhibit their submissiveness to him. Professor Lyall is already in his cell. Just as the doors shut on Maccon and he is going through his final changes, he picks up the scent and knows that Alexia is in trouble. He can no longer talk English so can't do anything to help and protect her. His fear for her has him more violent than usual during the full moon.

Alexia and Akeldama are left in a dark cell. They are able to wiggle toward each other and remove the gags. They are handcuffed and can't open the locks. They try to figure out why and what is happening. Akeldama knows that he is going to be an experiment. Alexia realizes that they don't know who she is. Akeldama explains the waxed-face creature to her. The creature is an animated machine that has been built by the scientists. The machine cannot speak and can only follow directions given to it very simply. Akeldama tells Alexia that she can't kill it. The only way it can be stopped is to turn it off. It may take a command or a certain word. Alexia has seen the VIXI on its forehead. Akeldama tells her those letters are black because of magnetic iron filings. Akeldama is taken away to start his experiments. Since Akeldama is one of the oldest vampires living in London, the scientists believe he is very valuable to their experiments. Alexia is left alone in the dark.

## Chapter Ten Analysis

In Chapter Ten Carriger enlightens the reader. She has built up the mystery since the beginning. Why did the dead vampire not behave as vampires are supposed to behave? What is happening to the society? The supernatural and natural were living in harmony but suddenly the supernatural is changing. They are even disappearing. What has happened to the harmony?

We have a good conflict finally becoming a reality. Alexia is kidnapped. Akeldama is also put into immediate danger. This old vampire has done what is necessary to fit into whatever society he is existing in at the time. He acts like the dandy Victorian guy. He is



no danger to anyone. Yet, science is fascinated with him. They can't allow him to exist. Akeldama does not contribute to progress.

Carriger might tell the reader that "new and improved" is not always best. Science is being pitted against society and the way the different groups exist in peace. Carriger has implied that the werewolves and vampires have a higher I.Q. than the unimaginative people of the era. Many have chosen to become werewolves or vampires because of imagination and their curiosity. Once they have changed, they are intelligent enough to make a life for themselves. They have stepped out into the impossible and found out that there is no limit. They don't have to fight to exist side by side with others.

Carriger leaves Maccon in the midst of a horrible conflict for him. He knows that Alexia is in trouble. He knows he loves her and wants her for a wife, He knows he must protect her. He knows he cannot. Being an alpha werewolf is suddenly working against him. Nature and the cycles of the moon have won over his intelligence and physical abilities. He can't always win no matter how much he thinks he has control of his life.

# Chapter Eleven

## Chapter Eleven Summary

The beginning of Chapter Eleven finds Alexia by herself in a dark cell. She finally hears two voices outside her door. One voice sounds familiar. The door opens and Alexia sees the man who had her kidnapped and Mr. MacDougall. Mr. MacDougall recognizes her and goes to her to help her sit up and to demand that she be released. Mr. MacDougall calls her by name. Mr. Siemons is delighted that he has located the woman he has been hunting. He can't wait to study her. Siemons and MacDougall take her into a more comfortable room to talk about what they are doing. Siemons claims he is saving the commonwealth. He wants to destroy the supernatural before the supernatural overruns the country and takes it over. They have had to use the supernatural powers for military reasons and to build up wealth in the past but now it is time to be rid of them. He wants to find out if they need anything but a preternatural to end the supernaturals in the country.

Alexia tries to act dumb at first but as the scientists talk and offer their suggestions of how werewolves and vampires change, she can't keep herself from commenting. They think that the change has something to do with electrical power switching through the body. Siemons suggests that she help them without having to be forced to help. Siemons takes her on a tour of their machines. She hears screaming from one of the closed off rooms. She is sure it is Akeldama.

Siemons is told that they have a new crop of werewolves locked up. He asks how long it takes Alexia to complete the change, and she says an hour. Siemons throws her into a room where she had heard a large body throw itself against the wall. She isn't sure that she will last a minute after she is left in the room. If she should get the werewolf under control from the supernatural, she still might be in danger. Werewolves in their human state are usually big and strong men.

Siemons shoves her into the room and closes the door.

## Chapter Eleven Analysis

Carriger explores the science of the era in this chapter. The discussion among MacDougall, Siemons, and Alexia covers the beliefs and the experimentation with the supernatural. It is obvious that MacDougall and Siemons have no real knowledge of the supernatural. They are more set on destroying it than working with it. They distrust the werewolf and vampire community not to become power hungry and overtake the government. Since the supernatural and natural have found ways to live together for a number of years in London, this seems to be an unfounded hypothesis. The scientists speak the language of a bigot. If they can't make the society fit into their expectations

for it, something must be done. The scientists are more guilty of overtaking the government than the werewolves and vampires.

Alexia's attempt to remain quiet and not admit her intelligence doesn't work. Alexia has never developed the art of remaining quiet. She doesn't suffer fools gladly or at all. These two men are fools in her sight. While there is fear as she hears the screams of her friend, her anger rises in her as well. Alexia enjoys control just as the scientists do. She is unable to allow them to talk without speaking her mind.

Alexia's ability to change the supernatural into a neutral being could be a secret weapon for the scientists. Carriger points out that good can also become the evil in the hands of intelligence run rampant. This is a fictional example of scientific thinking that they are doing good but in reality doing evil. For instance, Nobel started the Peace Prize after he saw that his discovery had the capability to blow up the world. In his case, he was looking for the good. Carriger uses MacDougall to show how MacDougall talked himself into thinking he was saving others from the problems he perceived with his brother's turning. MacDougall did not appreciate the intelligence of the supernatural. He didn't want them to hold any credit for the improvements they made on the world. These scientists had to end the threat of competition to their own intelligence. This scientific club was another level of the society of London. In their case, they want to take over.

Carriger adds another cliffhanger end of the chapter. She is accomplished at writing a page-turner.

# Chapter Twelve

## Chapter Twelve Summary

The snarling, attacking werewolf hurls himself at Alexia before her eyes adjust to the dark. As an opening for Chapter Twelve, it grabs the attention. Somehow Alexia is able to jerk her body out of the wolf's aim. The wolf hits the door and begins to turn and get to its feet again. The werewolf seems confused. He hesitates about attacking as if it is holding himself back while he desperately wants to attack.

The wolf paces and gets ready to attack again. Alexia doesn't know if she can get hold of the werewolf and keep him from getting to her throat. Alexia jumps at him and wraps her arms around him. She holds on as she feels his body begin to change. She can feel the bones breaking and the muscles changing. Finally the wolf is gone and a very naked man is left in her arms. She realizes it is Lord Maccon. He commands her to hold on to him to keep him from changing back into the wolf again. As they talk, he tells her that he won't be in his human right mind if he changes back again. He would attack her and act on instinct.

As she tells him what has happened during the night, he tells her what he has learned. They can't keep their hands from wandering. Alexia is curious about his body and in the midst of their conversations, she is thinking about whether she can see or touch parts of Maccon. Maccon wants nothing more than to take her and make her completely his. Alexia keeps reminding him that they need to make plans. Maccon, as he nibbles her neck, talks her into marrying him.

Without any plans made, the villains come back.

## Chapter Twelve Analysis

Carriger illustrates that love conquers all as well as soothes the savage beast. The werewolf attacks the first time because he hasn't gotten the scent of his love. Even in his animal state, he recognizes Alexia. He has trouble understanding what is happening. His confusion gives Alexia a chance to get ready to meet him and save herself from his sharp teeth.

Carriger's characters are in danger but she uses comedy to relieve some of the stress. Alexia is funny as she realizes that Maccon is naked as a man. Alexia's thoughts about the pictures she saw in her father's library and trying to learn if the pictures were adequate are comic. She tries to remind herself that she is supposed to be a Victorian lady while she battles with her curiosity. Carriger is very good at playing with the words. Alexia has her first glimpse of Maccon as she looks over his shoulder. She sees a moon. She thinks this is appropriate to see Maccon's moon when it is a night of a full moon.

Alexia tries to redirect Maccon's attention from her neck to planning an escape and a rescue of Lord Akeldama. The reader is not sure if Carriger is showing Maccon's confidence as an alpha or his animal instincts still overtaking his good sense. Maccon does warn Alexia to keep a tight hold on him.

Alexia and Maccon are finally interrupted. The villain is back.

# Chapter Thirteen

## Chapter Thirteen Summary

Chapter Thirteen is a violent chapter with tons of blood and gore. Siemons entered the room with Maccon and Alexia in order to check to see if the werewolf was still present. He found the naked man, an alpha werewolf. He is very pleased and asks Alexia to help voluntarily again. She refuses and the first battle ensues. Siemons calls his automated creature into the room and has him grab Alexia. Siemons has his small army with him, and he leaves them to subdue the werewolf. Maccon returned to the werewolf as soon as he was separated from Alexia.

Alexia is carried down the hall by the creature. She realizes she needs to leave a trail for her werewolf. She cuts herself in order to leave a trail of blood for Maccon. Once Siemons reaches the last room in the cellar, they enter and Alexia sees Lord Akeldama on a platform. He is tied to a table as well as staked to it. They are draining the blood from him and into another being in the table across from him. Alexia knows she can't touch him or he will die. He must remain a vampire to have a chance at living.

After Siemons asks Alexia to help him destroy all the supernatural beings, he places Alexia on a platform and prepares her for some bloodletting. As he approaches Alexia with equipment, the door begins to shake as it is hit with a force from outside. Siemons tells the other scientists in the room that the door will hold. It doesn't. Maccon, as the werewolf, enters. He attacks anything blocking his path to Alexia. He makes the room a real blood bath before the creature tries to attack him. The creature and Maccon are in a life and death struggle. At one point Lord Akeldama becomes conscious and tells Alexia to rub out the letters on the automated creature's head. This slows the creature down but he isn't stopped completely because Alexia didn't wipe off all the letters.

Siemons tries to threaten Alexia so he can escape but in all the confusion, he lets go of Alexia and runs from the room himself. Alexia throws herself at Maccon, and he changes back into a human form again. They try to help Lord Akeldama but he has been drained. MacDougall had been in the room and the new vampire was trying to feed from him. Maccon ended that and had MacDougall tie up the new vampire. As all of them were trying to help those hurt in the room, the creature was able to drag itself to Maccon and grab him by the throat. It was trying to carry out its last order to kill Maccon.

## Chapter Thirteen Analysis

Carriger in Chapter Thirteen shows how inhumane a human being can be. The scientist, Siemons, has no conscience. He is willing to torture another being before killing them for the sake of science and progress. It can be compared with the scientists during Hitler's day. If a person can convince himself that he is doing something for the greater good, almost anything can be explained.



Maccon can't be stopped when he is a werewolf. He is the strongest man/wolf in the club. The door is not strong enough to keep him from protecting his mate. He might not recognize her as a man recognizes a woman but his animal instincts are on full alert. He knows that Alexia is in danger, and he will do anything he needs to in order to save her. While Siemons has lied to himself and claimed that he has a cause, he only wants to be the all powerful man in the country, perhaps the world. Maccon wants to save a life. During the time the werewolves and vampires have been a part of London society, they have searched for ways to live side by side with the non-supernaturals. The normal people of London have respected their differences and accepted them. Someone always has to attempt to take over and run the world as they decree.

Siemons really does throw his partners to the wolf. He uses the other scientists and tries to use Alexia to save himself from Maccon. No one in the room matters but Siemons. He watches the destruction and orders the automated creature to kill Maccon. Maccon can hold his own better than anyone else in London but he grows weaker as he fights with the creature. Lord Akeldama gains enough energy to instruct Alexia to wipe off the letters on the creature's forehead. She doesn't get all the letters. She does remove enough to weaken the creature.

Siemons slips out the door and runs from the room. Maccon reaches for Alexia and they move toward Lord Akeldama. Alexia doesn't dare touch him because he is so weak, Akeldama would die if she turned off the supernatural within him. As Maccon is attempting to help him, the creature reaches Maccon and grabs his neck. Akeldama saves the day as he gathers enough strength to reach the creature and erase the rest of the letters from his forehead. The vampire and werewolf can work together for the good of London.

Carriger points out that the intelligent man of the world isn't always what he seems to be. Siemons thinks so highly of himself that he tries to take over the world. Intelligence with no feelings of compassion or true caring breeds violence and hate. Siemons is jealous and wants the power that the alpha werewolf holds in the society. The vampire queen and alpha werewolf have the ability to influence the Queen. Siemons believes he should take over Queen Victoria's place in the society. He wants it all and is prepared to do every horrific thing he needs to in order to wipe out the competition.

Carriger ends the chapter with the werewolf and vampire cooperating and winning over the villain. They catch Siemons, and he is the one to be tied up and taken away. The legitimate scientists turn their backs on Siemons and the world goes back to writing reports and taking care of the hives and the pack again. Maccon and Alexia will marry. Everyone who enters the room after Maccon returns to his very naked man form, have no problem taking orders from him. Clothes aren't necessary to him to be in command. Whether he is in fur or skin, Maccon has the respect of a strong, honorable man.

# Chapter Fourteen

## Chapter Fourteen Summary

During Chapter Fourteen, the automated creature was finally destroyed. Lord Akeldama got to him and wiped off the last letter. The automated folded up on itself. The skin fell off and the inside parts of metal gears and machines came to light. Lord Maccon turned from the creature in time to attempt to catch Lord Akeldama. Noises from outside came from the group who normally surrounded Lord Akeldama. They told what had been happening around London as Akeldama's favorite pulled off his coat and rolled up his sleeve so Akeldama could feed from him. Akeldama needed four different drones to get enough blood to make him strong again.

Maccon began to organize the clean-up. They sent for help and planned the paper work to take care of the society. The drones had caught Siemons, and he was bound and awaiting his punishment. The house was searched and everyone still there was captured. Maccon didn't release the werewolves because dawn hadn't come. The vampires were free to do as they wanted.

Eventually Maccon had Professor Lyall take Alexia home. She was met at the door with her mother who was her most obnoxious self. The sisters came down the steps to discover what was happening but then went to dress so they could be in the midst of the chaos in the house. Alexia's mother was droning on and on when there was a commotion at the door. Alexia's mother was about to refuse admittance when a voice announced that she would be received. It was the queen. Queen Victoria dismissed everyone but Professor Lyall. They left Alexia's mother where she had fainted. Victoria asked Alexia to be part of the Shadow Panel. The vampire and werewolf needed a preternatural to break ties.

Of course, Alexia being Alexia, she had to argue about her ability and worthiness. They all finally decided that she would be part of the Council. Queen Victoria told Alexia that she was happy that Maccon and Alexia would marry. It seems she had known that it was going to happen for months. The court had been getting tired of them dancing around each other.

Mrs. Loontwill immediately forgot that Queen Victoria had been in her house when Alexia announced the marriage to Maccon and her mother and sisters forgot everything else to discuss the dresses for the wedding.

## Chapter Fourteen Analysis

Carriger wraps up the story in Chapter Fourteen. She explains anything that could still need explaining. The scientists are caught and stopped from their plan to take over the world. Carriger makes it clear that Alexia can be married to a werewolf without having to worry about his devouring her. Her preternatural abilities can keep her safe.



The strange and different person can be the good guy. There is nothing to fear from the vampires and werewolves in London. They have developed their own rules to make it possible to live in peace with others who are unlike them.

Maccon was able to distance himself from his instinctual attitudes concerning what should happen to Siemons. He is a law abiding man and not just an animal. Siemons would have a fair trial and not the justice of a wolf pack. Maccon kept his control. Carriger had already shown the strength Maccon could exert when he didn't devour Alexia when she first entered his cell. He could control his desire for justice or revenge and take the high road.

Carriger wrapped up the peaceful society when she comes to invite Alexia to become a part of the Shadow Panel. The Queen trusts the soulless one to add balance to any disagreements to two different parts of the kingdom.

Carriger points out the comedy of manners which continues. Alexia's mother pays no attention to a visit from the Queen of England. A marriage of a spinster daughter trumps a Queens' visit.

# Epilogue

## Epilogue Summary and Analysis

Alexia has a huge wedding at twilight. She wanted to make it possible for all of society to attend. The vampires didn't attend because they don't like change. The Queen of the vampire hive did send her a wedding present. She sent her own personal maid.

Because the maid's master had been killed by the scientists, Angelique had been happy to work for Alexia. Just before the ceremony, Alexia ran to Lord Akeldama's home and held his hand. He remained human long enough to see a sun set over the city. It had been his wish to see it set because it had been so long since he could be awake for the setting. He cried as he watched. He cried again at her wedding.

Queen Victoria attended the wedding. Many of the peers of society and their families attended. The pack attended. Lord Akeldama attended. Alexia had included everyone. She served a lot of meat dishes for the pack. She tried to accommodate everyone.

After the wedding, the pack did their own dance and celebration around the happy couple. Each of the wolf pack came and submitted to Alexia. When the couple could leave, they got into their carriage together. Maccon had waited long enough. He began his honeymoon right immediately.

# Characters

## Alexia Tarabotti

Alexia Tarabotti is the heroine of the book. She is Soulless. Soulless people in London at this time are preternatural beings. She has the ability to touch a werewolf or a vampire and make them lose their supernatural powers. The vampires draw in their fangs. The werewolf changes back into a man. Her touch is dangerous to the supernatural realm. She is a very smart woman. While she always appears attractive, she isn't caught up in the fashions of the times. She isn't the giggly, empty-headed female that men expected in Victorian England.

Alexia is not afraid of anything. She jumps right into the mystery of the missing werewolves and vampires in this book. She finds her soulmate when she and Maccon finally decide to admit their love. She works with a man and is not intimidated by him. She makes an excellent partner for the alpha male werewolf. As the book ends, she marries Maccon. It is clear that they will work together to keep London safe for both the supernatural and the natural. Queen Victoria recognizes her good sense and strength. Alexia is asked to become part of the Shadow Panel to be the pivotal point on the council.

## Lord Conall Maccon - Fourth Earl of Woolsey

Maccon is the alpha werewolf of the London group. While he is a peer, he is also the head of BUR which is a little like Scotland Yard for the supernaturals. Maccon is also the Fourth Earl of Woolsey and has only recently left Scotland and learned the better manners of the polite world in London. He has a werewolf who is second in command who helps him through the dangerous waters of society. Maccon is very personable. He makes an excellent hero. Maccon and Alexia are constantly at loggerheads with each other. Maccon tries to order her about but she isn't intimidated.

Maccon wants to keep Alexia out of the investigation of the werewolves' and vampires' plights. Alexia won't stay out of it. Maccon gives in. They become partners in the detection of the problem. They can't keep their hands off the other one as the book progresses. The climax has each of them in peril. They both solve the mystery and find the way to each other.

## Professor Lyall

Professor Lyall is the Beta to Maccon. The Beta is rather like a valet and assistant. Lyall helps Maccon through society and helps with the wolf pack that Maccon keeps under control in the city. Lyall is knowledgeable about everything going on as the mystery is unravelled. Lyall takes care of things so Maccon doesn't have to. Both men are busy with the politics and the ways of the society in order to have the supernaturals

and the naturals able to live together in harmony. Professor Lyall sees the funny side of the things that happen between Maccon and Alexia. He likes his place in the pack and welcomes Alexia to it.

## **Lord Akeldama**

Lord Akeldama is a very old vampire who dresses like a dandy. He seems to enjoy the Victorian style of clothing. He has been through many centuries and many societies. He is a very intelligent man although he looks like one of the flighty Victorians who think of nothing but clothes and shoes. Akeldama are very good friends. Maccon is jealous of him but doesn't realize what is wrong with him. Vampires and werewolves are particularly good friends normally but these have learned to live together in harmony. Akeldama has many drones around him to serve him. One of their biggest chores is information collecting. Akeldama wants to know everything that goes on in London. He has history at his fingertips and can evaluate things by the past. Akeldama will be tortured before Alexia and Maccon can stop it. He calls everyone things like my little buttercup. He rather prances around like a dandy. However, this is one man you can't tell from the outside who he is.

## **Ivy Hisselpenny**

Ivy is Alexia's one lady friend. Ivy isn't quite rich enough or pretty enough to have nabbed a husband during her first seasons. While Alexia has accepted being a spinster, Ivy still hopes. Ivy wears the more elaborate hats, Alexia itches to get her hands on those hats and destroy them. However, Alexia confides in Ivy and they really are good friends. Ivy comes by Alexia's home and meets some of the vampires and werewolves. She starts to wonder if maybe her life is about to change.

## **Floote**

Floote is the butler and old family retainer. He is protective of Alexia and helps her to sneak out and engage in her detective work. He covers for her when she is out and the family doesn't know it. Floote will go with her when she moves in to Woolsey with Maccon.

## **Countess Nadasdy**

The Countess is the queen of the Westminster hive of vampires. Alexia is invited to dinner with her in the hive. Usually no one but vampires are welcomed into the hive. Alexia has the power to destroy the hive because she is a preternatural. The Countess trusts her and hopes that she can tell her when the new vampires are coming from. The queens are the only ones allowed to bite and bring someone into the vampire group. Someone is making new vampires and when they show up at the hive, the hive can't keep them alive.

## **MacDougall**

MacDougall is a young scientist from America who is in London in the hopes of capturing a vampire to take back to America and study. Of course, it would be a dead vampire. MacDougall meets Alexia and is attracted to her and her ability to be of help to him. He recognizes her intelligence. He doesn't know about preternaturals until he sees her at the Hypocras Club. He is in the torture room with them as the climax comes. His weak personality stands out during the battle.

## **Siemons**

Siemons is the scientist who runs the Hypocras Club. Everyone thinks that he is doing legitimate experiments. Instead he is a power hungry man who wants to control London. He wants to be rid of the supernaturals. He wants to study them to see if he can use anything for himself to make him more powerful. He has put Akeldama on the torture machine and drained the blood out of him. He has been killing the vampires. He hopes to get more power from Maccon. He is very pleased to have caught a werewolf. Siemons will be caught and tied up to take justice. Maccon has a hard time not dismembering Siemons because of his touching Alexia.

## **Loontwill Family**

Alexia has a mother and two sisters. She also has a stepfather. The stepfather seems to be a nice enough type of guy but he allows the ladies to walk over him. The women are interested in spending money on dresses and gloves. The mother has no idea that Alexia is a preternatural even though she has been told. The women in the family basically ignore Alexia except when they worry about Alexia's unconventional ways that could destroy them socially.

# **Objects/Places**

## **The Ball**

The book opens at a ball. Alexia is attacked by a vampire. She has to neutralize him and then he dies. No one knows who he is. The reader is shocked that Alexia is more upset that he didn't introduce himself with proper manners than that he had tried to suck her blood.

## **Hyde Park**

Ivy and Alexia walk in the park and seeing things that are being invented. Ivy and Alexia watch people landing in the dirigible the first time. Later MacDougall will drive Alexia to the park in his carriage that is full of inventions.

## **Pink Slurp**

Pink Slurp is the drink of blood and champagne that vampires enjoy.

## **Canterbury Office**

Lyall is checking on the missing vampires all around the district. Canterbury Office is the first on his list. He meets a werewolf there who tells him that werewolves are being killed also.

## **Bitch Dance**

Lyall tries to explain a courtship dance that happens in the wolfpack to Alexia. It is called the Bitch Dance and the female make the choice of mate.

## **parlor of the Loontwills**

Several scenes with Alexia and Maccon compromising each other happen in the parlor. Mrs. Loontwill will become hysterical about Alexia's ruin there. Later she will faint in the parlor when Queen Victoria comes to visit Alexia.

## **Westminster hive**

This is the headquarters for the vampire. Alexia goes to dinner and talks to the Countess about what is happening with the new vampires appearing.

## **Lord Akeldama's home**

Lord Akeldama's home is totally ornate. His home matches his own style of dressing. It is colorful and flashy. Akeldama and Alexia will be kidnapped from the house later in the evening.

## **Hypocras Club**

The Hypocras Club is a club for the scientists of the time. It looks like a regular home from the outside but inside it proves to be a basement with torture chambers. The final climax happens in the basement of the Club. It is disbanded as the truth comes out.

## **Woolsey Castle**

Woolsey Castle is Lord Maccon's home which houses the wolfpack. Alexia will live in Woolsey after the marriage.

# Themes

## Love Conquers All

Love conquers all. When Maccon is able to stop the attack on Alexia when he is a full blooded werewolf proves the strength of love. The reader has been told that he has to be alone in his cell during the full moon because no one is safe. They can't even leave furniture in the cell with him, or he will use it to fight his way out. Love for Alexia overcame his animal instincts to kill. Although his animal side saw her as food, he controlled the instincts to attack her.

## Women are equal to men.

Women are intelligent human beings and are equal to men. Alexia is an example of a woman who can think and act. She can be independent and help her country. She is recognized when she is named to the Shadow Panel. Every male in the book admits her intelligence. Her unconventional actions which do not fit into the era are accepted. She moves through society as freely as the males.

## Peace is always under attack.

Peace and harmony are always under attack. London has found its own way of accepting others who are different. They have learned to have their own rules that allows the populace to develop more inventions for the good of mankind. When people don't have to fight, they can build. The scientists who have a name for being intelligent are the very ones to threaten the peace because they want to rule. Carriger points to the scientists who start out wanting to do good but often create destructive elements into the harmony of the world. Looking for something new often leads to destruction when there is no thought of the havoc it might cause.



# Style

## Point of View

The novel is third person- omniscient point of view. Alexia Tabatti is the main speaker throughout the novel. She says anything she wants when she talks to other characters. She does some thinking which is usually highly inappropriate for the age. She wonders about parts of a body that the Victorians are not supposed to have heard of. The chapters usually have about three parts. Carriger moves about in her different genres and different cultures within a chapter. Professor Lyall seems to be the most informative of the other characters when Carriger is in his point of view. He tells us more about werewolves and the hero as well as the plot. Lord Akeldama is the other important spokesperson in the different chapters. He acts in the same position as Lyall in helping in the understanding of the plot. Maccon has his own point of view but he is rather aloof and always acts within the werewolf/man characteristics.

## Setting

The overall setting for the novel is London, England. The different scenes move from one home to another. Alexia Tabatti lives with her mother, two sisters, and stepfather. Alexia visits the BUR which is an office on the order of Scotland Yard for the supernaturals in London. She also visits the vampires' hive to meet with the queen vampire and some of her council members. Alexia attends a few balls which are simply a vehicle for a conversation to move the story along.

Lord Maccon owns his family home, Woolsby Castle. The pack of young werewolves inhabit the grounds and building with him. It is set up with cells to cage the werewolves during the full moon to keep the citizens of London safe.

Hyde Park is used as a setting for some of the inventions of the day. We see all kinds of contraptions added to a carriage for the person's comfort. The characters watch dirigibles from the hillsides.

One important setting is the Hypcras Club. It is supposed to be a club for gentleman scientists. It turns out that it is a torture chamber where men are draining the blood from the supernaturals to see if they can make their own vampires and werewolves to do their bidding and give the scientist the power he wants over the world. An elevator is the invention of the moment in the Club.

## Language and Meaning

Carriger uses a more formal language than most books. The vocabulary is more academic. The characters discuss the fashion of the day and unimportant gossip. The society ladies don't think of anything but fashion.

Lord Akelkama's speech is sprinkled with blossom and honey dew and other affective endearments. His speech patterns match his dandy-look in clothing. It is easy to imagine his pinkie stuck out as he holds his teacup.

Lord Maccon has his own way of cursing. The words would not be considered swearing by the modern reader but in the Victorian time the suggestion of rougher language while someone was angry was considered swearing. One did not swear in a lady's presence.

Alexia was the bluestocking. She was too intelligent and didn't hide it. Her language was learned. She wasn't one to giggle but to think.

## Structure

The book is broken into fourteen chapters and an epilogue. Each chapter has approximately three sections that touch on three different genres that complete the book. Alexia jumps from one culture or genre to another to keep the reader in touch with all the parts of the plot. The romance is the main part of the plot. Carriger has many sub-plots moving throughout and she keeps all the balls in the air to juggle them well. The reader isn't allowed to get too involved with one culture before the story moves into another aspect of the book. The inventions being such a part of the supernatural characters make the reader like them and want to know more about them. The reader learns more about the supernatural, and they are not seen as such freaks. Jumping from one part of the book to another without making the reader impatient is truly an art. Carriger has chosen a good way to make the reader see that intelligence isn't enough.

The epilogue ties everything together and explains all the loose ends. Alexia and Maccon have their wedding, and it is implied that they will live happily everafter.

# Quotes

"Supernatural creatures, be they vampires, werewolves, or ghosts, owed their existence to an overabundance of soul, an excess that refused to die." Chapter One P. 1% Kindle

"Simply got a jot more backbone than most females this century. There must be plenty of discerning gentlemen who'd cop to her value." Chapter One, P. 7% Kindle

"Miss Tarabotti studied Lord Akeldama's face closely. He was a rove—a hiveless vampire. Roves were rare among the bloodsucking set." Chapter Two, P. 15% Kindle

"Miss Tarabotti now knew the real source of her friend's trepidation. Lord Akeldama had no idea what was going on. For years, he had held the trump card in every major London political situation." Chapter Two, P. 16% Kindle

"Lord Maccon scrubbed his face with his hand, reached desperately for a nearby teapot, and drained it through the spout." Chapter Three, P. 16% Kindle

"The man hooked his finger in his cravat to pull it down and expose his neck defensively. 'Sorry, sir, but I am the only one left.'" Chapter Three, P. 18% Kindle

"'You mean, aside from my dignity?' Alexia suspected Lord Maccon's handling was a tad more than was strictly called for under the circumstances, but she secretly enjoyed the sensation.'" Chapter Four, P. 28% Kindle

"'And somehow you think it is a good idea for a were-wolf and a preternatural to show up at the front door of the most notorious vampire club in London looking for a hackney?'" Chapter Four, P. 29% Kindle

"She proceeded to give the hapless Mr. MacDougall the full force of her attention for the remainder of supper. A situation he seemed to regard with mixed terror and delight." Chapter Five, P. 35% Kindle

"Lord Conall Maccon, Earl of Woolsey, paced his office like a caged, well, wolf." Chapter Five, P. 35% Kindle

"Uh, my lord, I am not actually food. You do realize this, yes?" Chapter Six, P. 43% Kindle

"Because I am a foolish old wolf who has been too long in the company of the pack and too little in the company of the rest of the world." Chapter Six, P. 43% Kindle

"She did not finish, having finally spotted Lord Maccon,. Her large red and white striped shepherdess hat, with a curved yellow ostrich feather, quivered in agitation." Chapter Seven, P. 46% Kindle



"If we do, simply have her chop it small and serve it raw," Miss Tarabotti double-checked with a glance at Professor Lyall, who nodded gratefully. Chapter Seven, P. 47% Kindle

"And what new dress will you be wearing, Mama?" she asked sharply. "Something appropriate, or your customary style—a gown better suited to a lady half your age?" Chapter Eight, P. 50% Kindle

"The wax-faced man reached the Loontwills' house and began to climb up the brick side. Unhindered spider like, he oozed up the wall. That utterly expressionless face of his remained tilted up at Alexia." Chapter Eight, P. 52% Kindle

"Can you see with some frippery young thing whom I could push around at any opportunity and cow into accepting all my decisions?" Chapter Nine, P. 48% Kindle

"The duke contents himself mainly with attempting to rule the world and other suchlike nonsense." Chapter Nine, P. 61% Kindle

"There you go with the thinking thing. What have I told you?" Chapter Ten, P. 64% Kindle

"The low tones of the Alpha's voice were immeasurable mournful. For he had finally recognized the smell wafting down into the dungeon. Too late to say anything in human tongue. Too late to warn his clavigers." Chapter Ten, P. 65% Kindle

"Of course, you must acknowledge that in order to eliminate the supernatural threat, we must first understand it." Chapter Eleven, P. 69% Kindle

"Great, Alexia thought, I have gone from soul-sucker to electrical ground. The epithets just get sweeter and sweeter." Chapter Eleven, P. 73%

"In an apparent state of confusion, the great beast circled to one side of the cell, then the other, weaving about Alexia and sniffing the air." Chapter Twelve, P. 78% Kindle

"Why, Lord Maccon, you are stark naked!" Alexia said. She was appalled beyond all reason by this last in the long string of indignities she had had to suffer in the space of one torturous evening." Chapter Twelve, P. 79% Kindle

"I do so hate to intrude, my little lovebirds, but if you could see your way clear to maybe releasing me?" came a soft voice, interrupting their embrace. "And your business here, it is not quite finished." Chapter Thirteen, P. 86% Kindle

'Eyes riveted on the line of congealed blood across the lower part of her neck, he wheedled, "Just a short visit, enough for a mild dismemberment?" Chapter Fourteen, P. 90% Kindle

"Miss Tarabotti, rather callously, figured her mama's tears were more for the loss of her butler than for the loss of her daughter. Floote had given notice and moved along with Alexia's father's entire library, into Woolsey Castle that very morning. Both were settling in nicely." Epilogue, P. 94% Kindle

# Topics for Discussion

Discuss the scientific inventions which are happening in this book? Can you identify them today as a part of something? Do you believe that one was more important than all the rest? Give examples and explain.

Do you think vampires and werewolves are really in our midst in another dimension? Were the characters living together believable? Could you use the supernatural characters to represent another culture?

Discuss the mixture of genre in this book. Does it work? Should a person only deal with one genre?

Did you find humor in the book? Give examples. If you found humor, did it work?

Describe the conversion of a werewolf to a human. How did Carriger explain the needs of a man changing from an animal being fulfilled?

Discuss the protocol of the den. Did Carriger use this as an indication that Lyall was more than had been suggested previously in the book?

Were you expecting a new creature to be introduced? Can you see the almost worship of science in this age? Do you think that Maccon's suggestion that the wax-faced thing could be a medical experiment was too accepting? Do you see dissecting someone to find out what they are and what they can do an acceptable process? Would just the parts of a person tell one what he needed to know?

Would you agree with the idea that in this age of scientific experimentation and invention, science was worshipped?

Discuss less soul and more soul. Does it have to do with a person's passion for life? Does it indicate their intelligence? Their creativity?

Did the electricity theory sound plausible? How would Alexia fit into that theory?

In Soulless, the tests are done on human beings. In our time, tests are done on animals or things like stem cells. Do you think this is a matter of the era? Is it fair to compare this with the experiments in the book?

Do you see science as a power to take over the world? If Soulless was set in the present and the werewolves and vampires were accepted as they are in the book, what would be the plot? Would we have a man attempting to take over the world?

Compare our technology with internet and all it entails with the steam engine of the Victorian age.

Were you surprised at the sex scenes in this book? When you think of Victorian England, do you think that sex is more prevalent than society wants anyone to believe? Did the Queen really have a relationship with Mr. Brown? Is this fact of fiction?

How many inventions can you find that happened in the time period of this book? Can you imagine a world without trains and other inventions that simply were forerunners of our current era? Do you remember the week after September 11 when no planes were flying to or from the United States or within the United States? Can you make a comparison?