

Stolen Study Guide

Stolen by Kelley Armstrong

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Plot Summary

Stolen, by Kelley Armstrong, tells the story of Elena Michaels, the only living female werewolf. Shortly after learning about a mysterious plot to capture and study members of supernatural races, Elena is kidnapped and held prisoner in the underground compound where the investigation is taking place. She has never met vampires, demons or witches before, but now finds herself surrounded by them, and all of them are at the mercy of Internet billionaire Tyrone Winsloe, who funds the bizarre project. Rather than waiting for her boyfriend, fellow werewolf Clayton Danvers, and a small band of other supernatural beings to rescue her, Elena takes matters into her own hands and helps bring down the cruel, sadistic Winsloe and his pseudo-scientific investigation.

The book opens with an unnamed shaman fighting for his life as he is being hunted by a group of guards and attack dogs through a dense forest. The reader then meets Elena Michaels, a young woman who has been bitten by her werewolf lover, Clayton Danvers, and is now the only female werewolf. Elena responds to a mysterious summons to Pittsburgh, where she meets Ruth and Paige Winterbourne. They introduce themselves as witches and ask her to bring the leader of her werewolf pack to a secret meeting in Vermont, where a group of supernatural beings will gather to discuss a situation that threatens all of them. Despite her skepticism, Elena attends the meeting with Clay and his father, Jeremy, the alpha of their pack, and they meet half-demon Adam, vampire Cassandra, and shaman Kenneth. On their first night in Vermont, the three werewolves are attacked by three men intent on kidnapping them, but they escape and decide to head home. On the way, however, Elena is kidnapped and taken to an underground bunker where several other supernatural beings are being held captive.

She learns that the investigation is being funded by Internet billionaire Tyrone Winsloe, a sadistic man who takes pleasure in releasing, hunting and killing his research subjects simply for sport. Elena tries to play along with his mind games while figuring out a way to escape and save her fellow captives, which include a 12-year-old witch named Savannah. While at the compound, Elena is befriended by Sondra Bauer, one of the top staff members, but her real motive is revealed when she steals a vial of Elena's saliva and injects it into herself in an attempt to get the power she thinks werewolves and other supernatural races have. Despite Elena's attempts to help her, Bauer eventually is killed during an escape attempt, but not before she transforms into a wolf for the first time and kills Dr. Carmichael, the compound's physician.

Realizing that Clay will put his own life in danger by trying to rescue her, Elena eventually is able to escape the compound and reunite with the group she met in Vermont. Together, they find their way back to the compound, kill all of the guards, and rescue Savannah and the other captives, with the exception of demon Leah and sorcerer Katzen, who turn out to be behind a series of psychic phenomena that have been taking place on the premises and for which Savannah has been blamed. As the book concludes, Elena and Clay find Winsloe on the property and despite his offer to

give them everything he owns in exchange for his life, they transform into wolf form and hunt and kill him as he has done to so many of his research subjects.



Prologue, Demonic, Tea, Hocus-Pocus, Houdini

Prologue, Demonic, Tea, Hocus-Pocus, Houdini Summary

Stolen is one in a series of books by author Kelley Armstrong that follows the saga of a young werewolf named Elena Michaels. In this installment, Elena meets several members of other supernatural races — witches, half-demons, and vampires among them — who are concerned about a group of humans who pose a danger to all of them. As the group meets in Vermont to discuss the situation, Elena is kidnapped and taken to a hidden compound where young billionaire Tyrone Winsloe has assembled a group of scientists who imprison and study paranormal beings like her. Inside the compound, she learns the extent of the cruelty Winsloe is capable of, but eventually escapes and returns with her friends to bring the experiment to a halt and annihilate everyone involved.

The book opens with an unnamed man running through a thick forest. He has escaped from a compound and now is running away from a group of men and dogs who want to kill him. He knows death is inevitable, but wants to postpone it as long as possible. He receives guidance from Quiona, an unseen spirit who has been with him since childhood, but he trips and is caught by the dogs. Quiona takes his soul out of his body before the dogs begin ripping it apart, but he looks down to see what is happening and is saddened by the idea that his life is over. Back at a secret compound, Tucker, one of the men who chased the now-dead man, reports to Matasumi that the man was killed by the dogs. This is unfortunate because he was a shaman and valuable to the project. The compound includes a number of cell-like rooms in which Tyrone Winsloe, who heads the project, imprisons various witches, sorcerers, and others with supernatural powers for scientific observation. However, Winsloe is disappointed because he is especially anxious to get werewolves and vampires but Katzen, who helps him find his subjects, claims that they don't exist.

The chapter entitled "Demonic" introduces Elena Michaels, a young woman who was bitten by a werewolf 12 years earlier and is now one herself. As part of the Pack — a structured group of werewolves that don't kill humans — she officially works as a journalist, but really is responsible for monitoring the Internet for signs that a mutt - a non-pack, human-eating werewolf - is calling attention to himself. She is now in Pittsburgh to look into such a case, which she found on an eBay-like site for paranormal items. She meets her contact, Paige Winterbourne, who suggests that they go to her hotel to look at the materials she has to offer. This makes Elena nervous, but she agrees.

In the chapter entitled "Tea," Elena goes with Paige to her hotel room, where Paige shows her a photo of a man in his 30s with a long red ponytail. Elena recognizes him as



Tyrone Winsloe, a billionaire computer magnate. Without revealing his connection to werewolves, Paige shocks Elena by saying she knows she is a werewolf and proving it by stating a number of facts about her history. Paige's aunt, Ruth Winterbourne, enters the suite and it is revealed that the two women are witches who say they must speak to Elena.

In "Hocus-Pocus," Elena agrees to stay and hear what Ruth has to say without admitting anything. Ruth tells her that groups of supernatural beings called races meet periodically to keep tabs on each other and discuss their mutual need for protection. The werewolves have stopped participating, but she hopes Elena will convince them to send a representative to an upcoming meeting because they need to discuss a group of humans that currently poses a danger to them. Elena agrees to nothing, but accepts Ruth's card as she leaves. Back at her own hotel, Elena receives a call from Clayton Danvers, her lover and the werewolf who bit her 12 years earlier. She convinces him not to follow her to Pittsburgh, then muses over the fact that he is less controlling than he used to be. Unable to sleep and worrying that Jeremy, Clayton's father and the pack leader, will be upset that she did not call him immediately to report on what she learned from the Winterbournes, Elena goes for a middle-of-the-night run and is followed by someone. She manages to lose him, but overhears him talking to someone on the phone, making it clear that at least two people are specifically after her.

In "Houdini," Elena sees her stalker meet another man and she follows the two to the Winterbournes' hotel. They enter through a side door and as Elena watches, they try unsuccessfully to pick the lock on the Winterbournes' room. When one man leaves to make a call and the other man hides, Paige looks into the hallway. The stalker pulls out a gun, but before he can use it, Elena jumps onto his back and breaks his neck, killing him. She and Paige put his body into an empty room. As Elena is talking with Paige and Ruth, a man appears in the room even though the door is closed and locked. He reveals that the dead man's gun was actually a tranquilizer gun and the women realize he is trying to kidnap them. Elena attacks him, but he has powers of his own and is able to disappear and reappear, so she calls him Houdini. The three women manage to escape into the street, but Houdini and his friends soon trap them in an alley and Elena prepares herself for their attack.

Prologue, Demonic, Tea, Hocus-Pocus, Houdini Analysis

The book's initial chapters establish the beginnings of its plot and introduce a few of the primary characters. Foremost among them is Elena, who leads a double life as a journalist and the only female werewolf in existence. The book makes allusions to the previous volume in the series, in which Elena was bitten by her werewolf boyfriend Clayton, but the plot is completely understandable without the benefit of having read that book. Elena is a strong figure, both mentally and physically, possessing special werewolf powers such as a keen sense of smell and unusual physical prowess, all of which will come to her aide as the plot continues. The reader also begins to get a sense of the complexity of Elena's relationship with Clay. After struggling over many years with



the complicated results of his having turned her into a werewolf, the two have now established a reasonably stable, if difficult, romantic relationship. This section also sets up the structure of the werewolf pack, with Clay's father Jeremy as its head and clearly dominant figure.

The Winterbournes are also introduced in this section and while they are secondary to Elena, they are pivotal characters in the book, particularly Paige. The reader immediately gets the sense that Paige is an intelligent but willful young woman who, although she is only an apprentice witch and still developing her powers, takes herself and her powers very seriously.

Rather than immediately bonding over their membership in a supernatural race, witches and werewolves are innately suspicious of each other and werewolves, in particular, try to avoid getting involved with other races. This follows the "lone wolf" idea that wolves are solitary creatures who don't deal well with other animals, and it sets up future plot devices in which the various races, despite their differences, eventually pool their talents to eliminate a force that threatens all of them.

Even though Ruth and Paige do not tell Elena the details of the plot against all of them, the danger becomes evident when Elena is followed by men who later try to break into the Winterbourne's hotel room. That situation establishes other devices that will come into play later, including the fact that Elena kills with ease and no remorse when her life or the life of another is in danger, and Paige's still-developing skills as a witch. As the section ends, even though she instinctively mistrusts them, Elena has already begun to form a sort of bond with the Winterbournes for their mutual benefit and protection.



Legion, Introductions, Agenda, Burned, Dissection, Guests

Legion, Introductions, Agenda, Burned, Dissection, Guests Summary

"Legion" opens in the alley, where Houdini and the other man somehow fail to see Elena, Ruth and Paige. After they leave, Ruth reveals that she cast a spell that enabled them to avoid detection. The three women split up and Ruth says they'll see Elena at the meeting, although Elena doesn't commit. Elena checks out of her hotel and calls Jeremy to brief him on the events of the past 24 hours. When she arrives back home in upstate New York, Jeremy meets her and they drive to the small Vermont town in which the meeting is being held, being cautious in case it is really a trap.

In "Introductions," Jeremy and Elena are introduced to the other people attending the meeting. They include Adam, a half-demon, Kenneth, a shaman, and Cassandra, a vampire. Jeremy and Elena are skeptical, partially because none of the three follow stereotypes for their respective races and show no outward signs of being anything other than ordinary humans, but Cass provides a demonstration that convinces them.

In "Agenda," Jeremy and Elena learn the purpose of the meeting. A shaman named Roger has been kidnapped and taken to a secret compound, where a group of scientists led by Ty Winsloe and psychologist Lawrence Matasumi are studying several species they have kidnapped. Roger has been able to get out limited information and the assembled group is now meeting to decide what to do about the situation. They spend several hours debating whether to inform other members of their races and how to learn more about this new enemy, but there is little agreement, so the group eventually disbands for dinner.

"Burned" begins with the group dining at an Italian restaurant. Cassandra and Elena sit at a separate table and talk openly, satisfying each other's curiosity about their respective species. Cassandra reveals that she does indeed need blood to stay alive but she tries to choose victims who are old or otherwise near death anyway. As they leave the restaurant, Adam becomes furious when a car blocks his Jeep and turns demon-like, burning Elena's arms when he grasps them with his hands before she rushes into a car with Jeremy to leave the premises.

"Dissection" opens with Jeremy and Elena back at their cabin. Jeremy calls Ruth to say they won't be returning to the meeting until tomorrow, then the two settle down and talk, with Jeremy telling stories from his childhood and Clay's. Eventually they decide to go out for a run, but they stop when they realize someone is sneaking up on them in the darkness. The chapter ends with Elena pinned on the ground by an attacker.



As "Guests" opens, it is revealed that the attacker is actually Clay, who has been in Vermont all along, secretly protecting Elena although she makes it clear that she does not need his help. As the three head back toward the cabin, they spot a pickup truck and when they sneak up on a man standing lookout outside their cabin, Elena kills him by snapping his neck, then they find silver bullets in his gun. Going into the house, they kill a second intruder, but a third one escapes into the bog. Jeremy decides that they should change before proceeding further, so Elena finds a secluded spot in the woods and transforms into a wolf.

Legion, Introductions, Agenda, Burned, Dissection, Guests Analysis

This section circles back to the book's prologue in which a man was killed by dogs while trying to escape from a compound, as the author provides the framework for the book's main plot regarding Winsloe's bizarre project. In addition to that, perhaps the most important element of this section is the information about the traits of each of the races represented at the meeting. For example, we learn that witches use their powers only for defense, not offense, and as a werewolf, Elena has the ability to leap and carry others with her. As the plot progresses, various characters will have the opportunity to use their special powers as foreshadowed in these early chapters. One case in point is Adam, the fire-demon, whose power and even his inability to control it when he becomes upset or angry will become pivotal to the plot near the book's end.

The author injects a note of irony in "Introductions" when the werewolves have trouble believing that their new acquaintances actually are supernatural races because they look ordinary; they, too, look normal when they are in human form and do everything in their power to blend in with the rest of the world.

Additional background about some of the characters is also revealed in this section, particularly information on the werewolves in "Dissection." We also meet Clay for the first time in "Guests" and begin to get a better sense of his complicated relationship with the fiercely-independent Elena, who chafes against his controlling nature, and we see again that Elena and the other werewolves do not think twice about killing humans when they deem it necessary. We also learn more about the nature of werewolves when Elena changes forms for the first time in the book.



Amusements, Confrontation, Prison, Exhibition, Savannah

Amusements, Confrontation, Prison, Exhibition, Savannah Summary

In "Amusements," Clay and Elena chase the attacker through a bog. Although they have now changed into wolves and could easily outrun a human, they take their time, enjoying prolonging the chase. When they finally catch him, the man shoots Clay in the arm before they kill him. Clay and Elena change back into human form, then they have sex before Jeremy appears and instructs them to get rid of the bodies of the three dead men. After doing so, they leave the cabin because it is no longer safe and plan to attend the next day's meeting, realizing that only five other people know they are in Vermont and all of them will be at the meeting.

In "Confrontation," Jeremy, Elena and Clay arrive at the meeting of the races, reveal a bag containing the head of one of the men they killed, and demand to know who led the attackers to them. The others claim to have no idea, but the three wolves angrily say that someone must have inadvertently allowed themselves to be followed and they leave the meeting, threatening to kill anyone who tries to interfere with them. Clay and Jeremy take one car and Elena the second one as they leave Vermont, but along the way, Elena is involved in an accident. A woman comes to her aid and takes her into her own car, where Elena feels a needle puncture her arm. Before she blacks out, she sees the half-demon she called Houdini back in Pittsburgh.

"Prison" opens with Elena struggling to regain consciousness and the use of her body after being drugged. She finds herself in a clean, cell-like room with a one-way mirror to the outside hallway and a bathroom that has a glass door so there is no privacy. Eventually she meets some of her captors, including Dr. Matasumi, Sondra Bauer, and Tess, a research assistant, and after binding Elena's hands, they leave for a tour of the facility.

In "Exhibition," Elena learns that the facility is underground and reinforced with several feet of concrete. As they walk around, Bauer and Matasumi show her several other captives, including a male werewolf, a Voodoo priest, and a young half-demon named Leah, who has telekinetic powers. Matasumi explains his theory that all supernatural races are the result of evolutionary anomalies who have developed an ability to survive.

The tour continues in "Savannah," as Elena learns more about her fellow captives. Leah is very social, but another half-demon named Xavier is not and will have nothing to do with her. Elena also is introduced to Savannah, a 12-year-old witch whose mother was also captured, but later killed after she proved too difficult. She also learns that some "guests," as they are called, are invited to become members of the team, and that the



group's goal is to help humans improve themselves by studying the traits of supernatural races.

Amusements, Confrontation, Prison, Exhibition, Savannah Analysis

Clay and Elena's relationship is further revealed through their actions and motivations as they chase their attacker and eventually kill him. It is becoming clear that while they masquerade as normal human beings most of the time, when they are in wolf form they get a certain enjoyment from killing although thus far they have done it only when necessary for their own safety. We also see for the first time the connection they draw between sex and their lives as werewolves. Although they have a great deal of passion for each other, they are completely dispassionate when it comes to killing and disposing of the bodies of those they have killed. It is also clear that their relationship with the other races has taken a backward step as they accuse the others of leading the attackers to them or even being in league with them, and they take a certain pleasure in shocking the others by pulling out the head of one of the men they killed.

The book takes a sharp turn when Elena is captured and taken to Winsloe's compound. There she meets several members of the staff, including Bauer, who will become an important character later in the novel, and learns a bit about some of her fellow captives although she has not met them yet. It is important for the reader to make note of the background information on each of the other captives, as well as their specific powers, because they will come into play as the plot evolves.

Elena is told that the goal of the experiments being carried out at the compound is the betterment of the human species. While this might be true for staff members such as Matasumi and Bauer, the reader will later learn that Winsloe, who funds the project, perhaps has other motives.



Trick, Contact, Party, Ghosts, Rejection, Rebirth

Trick, Contact, Party, Ghosts, Rejection, Rebirth Summary

In "Trick," Elena is taken to the infirmary for a cursory physical exam by Dr. Carmichael, the compound's physician, then to a sitting/interrogation room where her responses continue to mix truth and lies. Matasumi, Bauer, and the guards are called away, leaving Elena alone but manacled to a chair. Xavier/Houdini comes in with Patrick Lake, a mutt werewolf whom Clay had badly beaten in an incident some months earlier. Xavier starts a confrontation, then leaves the room and Elena and Patrick fight. Elena gains control by partially changing one hand into wolf form. When the others return, she realizes it was a set up to test her abilities and record the interaction.

In "Contact," Bauer shows Elena around her cell and she wonders why there is only a single change of clothes. She showers and goes to bed, hoping Jeremy will communicate with her telepathically as she sleeps, but he does not. She has a strange dream in which a woman is calling to her, but she is unable to tell whether it is real or a dream. When Bauer brings her breakfast, Elena decides to try and befriend her so she can pretend to join her captors and escape. Bauer reveals that she has a background of wealth but is unhappy; however, she notes that Elena seems to be happy with her life. When she is taken from her cell to go back to the infirmary, Elena sees Ruth Winterbourne in the cell opposite hers. Ruth doesn't look well and Bauer says Elena can talk with her later if she continues to be cooperative. Elena thinks she and Ruth can combine their powers and escape. Back in the infirmary, Elena endures a long, intrusive physical, then Armen Haig, a human chameleon, is brought in. Dr. Charmichael leaves them alone, but warns them not to try to escape.

In "Party," Elena learns that Haig is a psychiatrist and he offers observations on some of the staff and other captives. Later, Elena learns that Ruth is in the infirmary. Returning to her cell, she finds Leah there, and Elena, Bauer and Leah enjoy some wine and cheese until Bauer is called away.

In "Ghosts," Bauer returns and Elena learns that Leah thinks a poltergeist is present in the compound and is responsible for mysterious things that occur. She also thinks it is possible that Savannah is responsible because the activity increases when she gets upset, but Bauer thinks it is random psychic energy. Later, Elena hears a voice and realizes that Ruth is talking to her, and they discuss spell-casting and the differences between sorcerers and witches. Ruth says she will use telepathy to reach Paige and have her communicate with Elena, since she needs to focus all her energy on helping Savannah develop her skills to enable her to survive. Ruth tells Elena she must focus on getting herself out, but not to worry about her or Savannah. When Elena gets out and returns for Savannah, Ruth instructs her to take her straight to Paige.



"Rejection" opens the following morning with Bauer refusing Elena's request to see Ruth. However, she does warm to Elena's suggestion that seeing Savannah might cheer Ruth up. Bauer presses Elena on the topic of being the only female werewolf. After she leaves, Paige contacts Elena telepathically and puts her in touch with Jeremy through Paige's body. Elena tells him about the place, but when Clay enters, he is cold to Elena because he thinks she is Paige, then Elena blacks out.

In "Rebirth," Clay's rejection takes Elena back to her childhood and her rejection by a series of foster parents. She reflects on her history with Clay and realizes how much his rejection hurts. Later, Bauer comes in with two guards and has them restrain Elena. After the guards leave, she shows Elena a syringe containing Elena's saliva and says she is going to inject herself and become a werewolf so she can have power like Elena does. Elena begs her to stop, but Bauer plunges the needle into her arm, then convulses and collapses as Elena screams for help.

Trick, Contact, Party, Ghosts, Rejection, Rebirth Analysis

Elena begins to get a sense of her situation when she is tricked into engaging in a physical fight with fellow werewolf Patrick Lake. She now realizes that in addition to having her every move subject to observation from behind the glass walls that surround her cell, she is also constantly in danger of being manipulated into exhibiting various kinds of behavior for the benefit of the project. We also see the next phase of her complicated relationship with fellow captive Xavier, who turns out to be the man she called Houdini when she encountered him during her trip to Pittsburgh. She is constantly vexed by both his personality and his maddening ability to appear and disappear at will, but their relationship will evolve and he will become something of an ally in some respects as the plot progresses.

Elena encounters another familiar face when she finds that Ruth Winterbourne has been taken prisoner as well. Elena is trying desperately to soak up knowledge about the compound and its inhabitants with an eye toward eventually finding a way to escape and Ruth seems to be a likely partner, especially since she already is aware of some of her skills that might prove helpful. However, at this stage it is difficult to tell what is real and what is not and who can be trusted. There are various theories about the source of the paranormal activity that takes place periodically, with some believing it is the deliberate work of a ghost or the young witch Savannah and others thinking it is simply a coincidence. Elena also has difficulty distinguishing between reality and fantasy during her attempts to communicate telepathically with Paige, and is unsure about whether the scene she witnesses between Clay and Cassandra is real. Her strong connection to Clay is evident here, as she feels Clay's rejection acutely even though her logical brain tells her that he thought he was speaking to Paige. We also learn more about Elena's own background and get a sense of how her personality and character developed over time. In several chapters in this section, the author sets up instances of both foreshadowing and red herrings that will become important as the plot progresses. One of the book's most subtly surreal scenes occurs when Elena, Leah and Bauer enjoy a



normal wine and cheese party — something that might occur with any three women attending a happy hour event together — but this ordinary event takes place in what is essentially a prison between a captor and two captives.

Bauer's questioning of Elena about her life as a werewolf, as well as her description of her own unhappiness despite having a life of wealth and privilege, foreshadows the horrific events in "Rebirth" when she injects herself with Elena's saliva to become a werewolf. It is becoming clear that there is a great deal of madness among the staff members, who ostensibly appear to be calculating scientific investigators. In a lapse in continuity, even though the reader has been told that every move of the captives is being watched by staff members, it is unclear how this entire incident takes place without anyone apparently hearing the conversation and stepping in to stop Bauer.



Winsloe, Game, Failure, Nurse, Crisis

Winsloe, Game, Failure, Nurse, Crisis Summary

In "Winsloe," Matasumi and Dr. Carmichael question Elena about how to save Bauer's life, but she says she doesn't know what to do. Later, Tyrone Winsloe comes to her cell, makes lewd remarks about her body, and forces her to change into a revealing top. He tells her they are going to release Patrick Lake and hunt him like prey, and Elena will be going along.

"Game" finds Elena accompanying Winsloe and some guards into the woods. She thinks about how she might escape eventually and realizes the outdoors will be her best chance since she has survival skills humans don't have. Trying to track Lake, she realizes he hasn't changed forms and Elena, without thinking first, tells Winsloe that non-pack wolves can't change on demand. She realizes that Winsloe intends to hunt her at some point, so she tells him that Lake will change if he is frightened.

In "Failure," the guards set off grenades to frighten Lake, then they pursue him. When they find him, he is trying to change forms but gets stuck between human and wolf. Elena begs Winsloe to give him privacy but he wants to watch. He orders the guards not to fire, but when Lake lunges at one of them, he shoots and kills him. An infuriated Winsloe kills the guard and sends Elena and the remaining guards back to the compound.

In "Nurse," Elena is back in her cell and realizes she'll be Winsloe's next prey so she must act rather than wait to be rescued. She formulates a plan but is unable to telepathically contact Paige to get Jeremy's help, so she decides to proceed on her own. She talks Matasumi into taking her to the infirmary, where she tries to instruct them on helping Bauer, who is convulsing and in much distress. Back in her cell, Elena receives a visit from Xavier, who says he thinks Winsloe's plan will fail because humans will want to become other races to get their powers, just as Bauer has done. When the guards take Elena back to see Dr. Carmichael, she notices that Ruth's cell is empty.

In "Crisis," Xavier takes Elena to Savannah's cell, where Ruth is working with her. Ruth telepathically tells Elena to keep trying to reach Paige. On the way to the infirmary, Elena overhears Matasumi and another man talking about Winsloe's directive to bring in a vampire. Dr. Carmichael decides to move Elena into the infirmary and she agrees, but insists on having her manacles removed so she can defend herself when Bauer wakes up. Soon everyone begins treating Elena less like an inmate and she is able to hear their conversations and learn more about the layout of the compound and various procedures. She also begins to communicate more with Armen Haig, who knows a great deal about the place, and plans to use him as her escape partner.



Winsloe, Game, Failure, Nurse, Crisis Analysis

Winsloe's true nature is revealed in this section. Rather than seemingly-altruistic desires to enable the human race to better itself, he is funding this venture solely for the sadistic fun he derives from it. Elena learns that Patrick Lake is not the first captive he has hunted for sport and rightly assumes that she will become his prey at some point. This causes her to be torn between her natural instincts to refuse cooperation and treat Winsloe as he deserves to be treated, and her survival instincts that tell her it is wise to pretend to play along to the extent that she can stomach it. Winsloe's disregard for life is further demonstrated when he kills the guard for refusing to obey his instructions and cutting short his fun by killing Lake.

Meanwhile, Elena's situation is becoming increasingly precarious and she knows it. Still, she is not yet in a position to formulate a specific escape plan so she dabbles in several areas, including ingratiating herself with staff members such as Dr. Carmichael and joining forces with Armen Haig, who seems to have an escape plan in which she can share.

Elena's luck seems to be turning when she gets an opportunity to move to the infirmary, where she quickly becomes part of the background scenery and is able to overhear conversations that normally would not take place in front of a captive. However, the infirmary that now seems like a place offering some degree of sanctuary soon will become a place of horror.



Exit, Changes, Bloodhound, Sacrifice, Exile

Exit, Changes, Bloodhound, Sacrifice, Exile Summary

In "Exit," Dr. Carmichael notices that Elena is restless and asks if it's time for her to change but Elena, noting that werewolves typically need to change about once a week, says she can wait a little longer. Dr. Carmichael recommends exercise and Winsloe takes her to the weight room, where he gets an erection as he watches her use a punching bag. Back in the infirmary, Elena learns that the paranormal activity has increased, especially around Savannah's cell. During the night, a commotion ensues and Elena follows Dr. Carmichael when she is summoned to Savannah's cell. They find Ruth dead, her head having been bashed in by a clock. Savannah turns to Elena for comfort and confides that she might have done it but did not mean to.

"Changes" finds Elena back in the infirmary and wondering whether Ruth's death was indeed Savannah's fault and whether she could have prevented it. Bauer regains consciousness and attacks everyone in the room, then begins to change forms, but it reverses when the doctor gives her a sedative. Armen fakes a migraine and comes to the infirmary, where he continues to subtly work with Elena on an escape plan. During the night, Elena has disturbing dreams and thinks Paige is trying to contact her but is unable to connect with her. She sees a scene in which Cassandra comes on to Clay and suggests that they should let Elena escape on her own without trying to rescue her, but he rejects her advances. At 3 a.m., Winsloe wakes Elena and tells her there has been a breakout and he needs her help.

In "Bloodhound," Elena learns that Armen has escaped and Winsloe wants Elena to use her powers to track him down. They are accompanied by Ryman and Jolliffe, Winsloe's pet guards who are exceptionally cruel. When they find Armen, it is clear that he did not escape but was brought into the woods by the guards. He is beaten by a guard in another of Winsloe's sick games, and Winsloe orders Elena to kill him.

"Sacrifice" opens with Elena refusing to hunt and kill Armen, even when Winsloe threatens that he and his guards will rape and eventually kill her if she refuses. Armen lunges and a guard kills him, but before he dies, he tells Elena that this outcome is more merciful for both of them. As the guards take Elena back to the compound, they torment and threaten her until Xavier shows up and stops them. Back at the infirmary, Dr. Carmichael asks if there is anything she wants to talk about, but Elena is unable to unburden her guilt. She also realizes that she is now in Xavier's debt.

In "Exile," Bauer awakens and blames Elena for what has happened to her. Matasumi believes Bauer's claim that Elena turned her into a werewolf and she is returned to her cell, realizing that only if Bauer has a crisis will Dr. Carmichael fight to have her returned to the infirmary. Left alone in her cell, Elena receives flowers from Winsloe with a note



saying he will try to help her and she realizes she needs to play along with his mind games. Eventually some guards arrive, say her help is needed and take her to the infirmary, where Bauer has fully changed and killed and dismembered Dr. Carmichael. The guards say that all the tranquilizers are in the infirmary and they shove Elena into the room to handle the problem alone.

Exit, Changes, Bloodhound, Sacrifice, Exile Analysis

In this section, we learn more about Savannah, her background and her growing powers. Her mother, who apparently was killed during her stay at the compound, is said to have had a very dark side and several of the characters now wonder whether Savannah shares that trait. She is only a child, but her powers appear to be very strong and she has not yet learned to control them, so it is easy for others to assume that she is indeed the source of the increasing paranormal activity that occurs in or near her cell. Still, her personality is that of a typical 12-year-old girl — chafing at authority but still a child who needs comfort from a trusted adult when she is upset. Ruth had hinted to Elena that the work she planned to do with Savannah would unleash powerful, perhaps negative forces, so when Ruth ends up dead, it is logical to assume, as most of the characters do, that Savannah is responsible, even if she caused the clock to hit Ruth unintentionally. However, the author leaves a few clues that might help the reader determine who is really responsible for the paranormal events that seem to surround Savannah.

Elena's relationship with Clay comes into the picture again in "Changes" when she thinks she has a dream about him. In fact, it is not a dream, but a mental connection facilitated by Paige that enables Elena to observe a conversation in which Cassandra suggests that they simply abandon Elena. Elena should receive some comfort from Clay's rejection of Cassandra's advances and his determination to rescue her, but since she has no previous experience with the telepathy now being introduced to her — and as such, she has difficulty using it successfully — she is still unsure whether she is dreaming or not.

Elena's escape plan falls apart when Armen is killed, and she finally learns the full force of Winsloe's sadistic nature when she realizes that he has purposefully taken Armen into the woods and plans to have Elena hunt and kill him.

Elena's feelings about one of her captors — Dr. Carmichael — becomes more conflicted in this section. The doctor has given her a major advantage by letting her stay in the infirmary and has shown her several kindnesses, but Elena is unable to get past the fact that she remains a staff member and partially responsible for her captivity. For that reason, she is unable to confide in Dr. Carmichael about the incident with Armen, Winsloe and the guards, and this exacerbates her feelings of guilt when the doctor is brutally killed by Bauer.

With Bauer's transformation complete, she is learning that the power she has as a werewolf is not what she thought it would be. Rather than taking responsibility for her

own actions, she places the blame on Elena and when she changes forms for the first time, she turns on the one person who has tried to help her by killing Dr. Carmichael.



Rampage, Torture, Alliance, Break, Cornered

Rampage, Torture, Alliance, Break, Cornered Summary

"Rampage" opens with Elena entering the infirmary and being attacked by Bauer, but she is able to get a syringe and sedate her with Xavier's help. Back in her cell, Xavier arrives and tells her he has saved her twice and she owes him. He also says that both of them are in trouble with Winsloe and should escape soon, but they are interrupted when Winsloe appears with two guards. Xavier leaves and Winsloe makes it clear that he wishes Elena had fought Bauer.

In "Torture," Winsloe returns to Elena's cell and tells her he has sent some men to find Jeremy, Clay and the rest of their group. He says they encountered a werewolf, who killed all but one of his party, and then the last one killed the wolf. He shows her photos and it is Clay. Elena feels that he must be lying in an attempt to punish her, but she can't be sure. Her strong emotions cause her to change, but she falls asleep and wakes up human again, then finds that Bauer has been placed in the next cell and the hole in the wall between the rooms has not been repaired. Winsloe returns and shows her photos of her friends, but Clay is missing and she realizes he has left the group and is coming for her. Knowing she must escape now to keep Clay out of danger, she decides to enlist Bauer and notices that the guards usually don't close her cell door completely when they bring her meals.

In "Alliance," Elena tries in vain to communicate with Bauer. She thinks back on her own transformation and the fact that in her initial rage, she had killed and eaten two people. Later, Elena tells Bauer about what her future will be like if she gets out and lives as a mutt, but offers to help her join the pack if they escape together and Bauer agrees.

"Break" finds Elena and Bauer planning to escape that night, and Elena decides to take Savannah also. Before the time arrives, the cell doors open inexplicably, so they get Savannah and start to leave, but suddenly the lights go out, broken glass swirls around them and chaos ensues. They manage to get through the first set of doors, but bullets fly and the guards begin shooting at each other so they go back inside for safety.

In "Cornered," the three go into an empty cell where they are joined by Leah and begin to plan what to do next. They insist that Savannah hide in Leah's cell, where they lock her in because they fear that she is unintentionally responsible for the flying glass and other paranormal activity. As the guards break down the door, there is much confusion and Bauer runs down the hall, turns into a wolf and kills a couple of guards before one shoots and kills her. In the chaos, Elena sees an opportunity to escape through an open exit door and gets onto the elevator.



Rampage, Torture, Alliance, Break, Cornered Analysis

Elena's isolation in her current situation becomes clear when she is forced to face the enraged Bauer on her own. This highlights the complex nature of Winsloe's experiment. He and his staff are determined enough to have a werewolf among their subjects to track down Elena and kidnap her, but like all of the other "guests" on the compound, she is considered expendable. Since Winsloe presumably will eventually tire of her anyway and use her as prey in one of his hunts, it does not matter much to the staff if she is killed by Bauer so they send her in alone rather than risk their own lives.

The strength of the relationship between Elena and Clay is clear in the chapter entitled "Torture." Elena is devastated when Winsloe shows her photos that appear to demonstrate that Clay has been killed. In fact, her emotions are so strong that she changes into wolf form without intending to do so. However, she soon realizes that her mental and physical connection to Clay is so strong that she would know if he were dead and she becomes fully convinced that Winsloe is lying. She is also familiar enough with his personality and his loyalty to her that when she sees that he is not in the photos of the rest of their group, she realizes he is on his way to rescue her. Her own love for him is strong enough that she decides to risk her own life by trying to escape rather than have him risk his in an attempt to save her.

In "Break," it appears that Savannah is once again responsible for the paranormal chaos that ensues, but despite everyone else's opinion, Elena continues to have doubts and feels enormous guilt when she is unable to take the child with her when she has an opportunity to get out of the building. Again, the author has left subtle clues about who is actually responsible for these events.

Bauer's life as a werewolf is short and painful. It becomes clear that she had not thought the matter through before injecting herself with Elena's saliva when Elena describes in detail what her life will be like if she is not a member of a pack. However, in the chapter entitled "Cornered," there is a slip in the author's logic when Bauer is able to transform almost instantly although it has been made clear that the process of changing takes several minutes. In this case, the author takes poetic license to make the scene more dramatic and exciting.



Gone, Getaway, Recuperation, Loyalties, Coronation

Gone, Getaway, Recuperation, Loyalties, Coronation Summary

As "Gone" opens, Leah runs for the elevator but Elena is unable to keep the door from closing. The elevator begins moving erratically but eventually Elena is able to get off at the top floor and after killing two guards, escapes into the forest. She begins to flee on foot but her knee is injured and slows her down, so she changes to wolf form and tries to find the river while evading several attack dogs and guards who are chasing her.

In "Getaway," Clay appears and they kill all the dogs that are pursuing Elena, then change back into human form after they are comfortable that they have lost the remaining guards. Elena is afraid she will see rejection in Clay's eyes, but he is very loving toward her. She learns that they are in a remote area of northern Maine, and they cross the border into Canada where Jeremy and the others have been waiting at a hotel in New Brunswick.

"Recuperation" finds Elena at the motel, where she enjoys food, a hot shower, and sex with Clay. Eventually she talks with Paige and tells her that Ruth has died, then the group gathers for a meeting.

"Loyalties" opens with Elena telling the group about the events at the compound, including a description of Savannah's apparent role in the paranormal chaos, but Paige assures the group that a witch isn't capable of all that. As the group talks, it becomes clear that only a telekinetic half-demon, which describes Leah, would be capable of such activity and Elena realizes that she left Savannah alone with her. Elena wants to invade the compound immediately to rescue Savannah but Jeremy says she must be patient.

In "Coronation," Elena has nightmares about leaving Savannah behind. She hears a noise and sees Paige going into the parking lot with a suitcase. Following her, Elena learns that she is leaving to save Savannah, and she reveals that Ruth was actually not her aunt but her mother, making her now the head of the coven, so she has a responsibility to save the young witch. Paige thinks that Leah has teamed up with Katzen, the sorcerer Elena never met at the compound, and that Savannah is expendable since Winsloe does not care about witches. Jeremy convinces Paige to stay and ensures her that they will form a plan quickly.



Gone, Getaway, Recuperation, Loyalties, Coronation Analysis

Elena initially feels guilty for being unable to rescue Leah, but soon learns that she, in fact, is likely the one responsible for the paranormal events that have taken place inside the compound and that she has been manipulating everyone to place blame on Savannah. The author never clarifies Leah's motivations for her behavior or her overall plan for Savannah, so that is left to the reader's imagination.

The relationship between Elena and Clay comes back around when they meet again. Still unsure about what happened during the telepathic sessions, she is afraid the rejection she saw in his eyes when he thought she was Paige might be real, but is assured that it was not and they work like a well-oiled machine as they escape from the compound. They are able to communicate completely with each other even when they are in wolf form and are unable to use words or normal human gestures. Clay even takes time during the escape to lick and soothe her wounds.

The character of Paige takes a turn in this section. Previously, she has been seen as a headstrong, argumentative young woman, but her maturity level rises immediately when she learns that Ruth is dead, thereby making her head of their coven. She also begins to get more respect for her skills as a witch when her knowledge leads to the realization that Leah is the culprit behind the paranormal activity. Her impulsivity returns when she tries to sneak away from the group on her own to save Savannah, but knowing that she has the responsibility of the entire coven on her shoulders now, as well as the welfare of Savannah, she agrees to stay until a plan is in place.



Return, Infiltration, Annihilation, Emancipation, Demonstration, Retaliation, Cleanup

Return, Infiltration, Annihilation, Emancipation, Demonstration, Retaliation, Cleanup Summary

"Return" opens with Elena and the others going to the compound in two groups. Elena, Paige, Clay and Adam plan to enter first to clear the way, then Jeremy, Cassandra and Kenneth will follow. Jeremy warns Elena to stay with Clay because if they separate they will worry about the other and lose focus. Once on the grounds, the first group kills the dogs, disables the vehicles, kills two guards who have come out to smoke, and remove the head and hand of one of them to use on the scanners so they can enter the building.

In "Infiltration," they arrive at the door but realize they need an access code in addition to the eye scan and hand print. Adam incinerates the door with his fire-demon powers and they enter. They kill guards Ryman and Jolliffe, along with Matasumi, who is found backing up files and planning to escape. Adam dismantles the security system, but as Clay creeps up on Tucker to kill him, two guards emerge and put their guns to his head.

"Annihilation" begins with Paige casting a binding spell, causing one guard to become immobile and they are able to kill all of them. Everyone is mentally exhausted from all the killing, especially Paige and Adam, who are not accustomed to it. They summon Jeremy and the others to join them so they can finish the job, but there is no sign of Winsloe yet.

In "Emancipation," they open Savannah's cell and introduce her to Paige, who is slated to adopt her, then they go to free the other captives. The first is Curtis Zaid, who turns out to be the sorcerer Katzen. As he and Paige do battle, he opens Leah's cell and she steps out.

In "Demonstration," Leah continues trying to convince Savannah that she is her only friend, but Elena convinces the girl that Leah has been responsible for all the chaos that Savannah has been blamed for. Paige and Savannah both cast spells enabling Elena and Clay to kill Katzen but Leah escapes. Jeremy and the others arrive and begin looking for Winsloe.

"Retaliation" opens with Clay and Elena finding Winsloe in an outbuilding. He offers them millions of dollars to let him go, but they insist on hunting him. As they take time to change form, Winsloe goes into the woods and gets some weapons from an equipment



locker, but they trick him into using all his ammo. After Elena takes pleasure in taunting him, Clay kills him.

In the book's final chapter, entitled "Cleanup," the group members dispose of Winsloe's body and get rid of any evidence of supernatural forces before leaving the compound.

Return, Infiltration, Annihilation, Emancipation, Demonstration, Retaliation, Cleanup Analysis

Adam, the young fire-demon, has been a minor character thus far, used primarily as a foil for Paige. Like Paige and Savannah, he is too young to be in full control of his powers at this point and this has been an issue in the past, including an earlier incident in which he burned Elena's arms simply by touching her after he became angry. As the book nears its conclusion, his power — and his lack of control over his emotions — turn into an advantage when he accidentally incinerates the door to the compound, thereby enabling the group to enter. In a small way, the book has become a coming-of-age story as the younger characters are maturing and coming into their own powers as a result of the experiences they have had together.

The differences between the various races is brought into focus when the group enters the compound. Clay and Elena immediately begin to kill anyone and everyone they meet, including kitchen staff, knowing that they can leave no one alive to reveal the existence of the supernatural races. As werewolves, they are accustomed to killing, but Paige and Adam are not, so despite the necessity of the wolves' actions, they become squeamish as the gore mounts. This continues the author's effort throughout the book to draw clear pictures of each race and point out the differences between them and the ways in which she writes them against their normal stereotypes.

In the final chapters, Winsloe, who has been portrayed as a cruel sadist, takes a cowardly turn and offers Elena and Clay everything he has in return for his life. They also turn the tables on him by hunting him as he has hunted others, and tormenting him until the last moment before they kill him.



Characters

Elena Michaels

Bitten's main character is Elena Michaels, a woman in her early 30s who is the world's only female werewolf. After an unhappy childhood in a series of foster homes, Elena entered into a relationship with werewolf Clayton Danvers, who eventually bit her, turning her into a werewolf also. After years of struggle, she has now accepted her status and somewhat embraced it. She lives with Clay, his father Jeremy, and the other members of their pack, serving in the role of investigator when the group receives reports of non-pack, or mutt werewolves, causing trouble.

Elena's life is going along relatively normally until she is taken prisoner by a group of pseudo-scientists led by Internet billionaire Tyler Winsloe and forced to take part in their study of supernatural races. During her time on the compound, she has to use all her wits to avoid getting caught up in Winsloe's sadistic mind games while at the same time mentally working through her complicated relationship with Clay. She possesses normal human traits along with those specific to werewolves, including great physical strength, the ability to run very fast and leap high, and a voracious appetite.

Clayton Danvers

Clayton Danvers is a young werewolf and the lover of Elena. He works as an anthropologist, researcher and part-time college professor, but also helps protect his werewolf pack. He is a complicated character who is fiercely protective of Elena and the other members of his pack, but admittedly does not concern himself with others and would not stop to help an accident victim unless it would please Elena.

Clayton has a strong personality and is suspicious of others. He takes an immediate dislike to Paige, for example, and even her efforts to help Elena fail to soften him toward her.

After being involved with Elena for some time prior to the book's opening, Clayton bit her and turned her into a werewolf like himself. His motives are not clear in this novel but probably relate to his extreme possessiveness of her.

Tyrone Winsloe

Tyrone Winsloe is a young entrepreneur who made billions through Internet-based businesses. He maintains a respectable public profile, but secretly funds and controls an underground compound where he is conducting a bogus investigation of supernatural races and their powers.



While some of his staff members are serious scientists, Winsloe runs the investigation according to his own whims and ruthlessly forces others to bend to his way of thinking. He is controlling and sadistic, and when he tires of a particular research subject, he takes them into the woods and hunts them for sport. He enjoys playing mind games, particularly with Elena, such as sending her flowers after threatening to gang rape and kill her. In the end, he reveals that he is a coward, offering his entire estate to Elena and Clay in exchange for his life.

Sondra Bauer

Sondra Bauer is a high-level employee at Winsloe's compound. She comes from a wealthy, privileged background, but reveals to Elena that she has never been able to find happiness. What she really seeks is power, though, so after befriending Elena, she steals some of her saliva from the infirmary and injects it into herself, hoping that being one of only two female werewolves will provide her with power she cannot get anywhere else. It doesn't go well and she is soon shot and killed, but not until she has horrifically killed and dismembered the compound's physician.

Lawrence Matasumi

Lawrence Matasumi is a scientist and the primary investigator in the studies taking place at the compound.

Paige Winterbourne

Paige Winterbourne is an apprentice witch in her young 20s and the daughter of Ruth Winterbourne.

Ruth Winterbourne

Ruth Winterbourne is a witch and the head of her coven. She is instrumental in getting Elena and others involved in the effort to stop Winsloe's research.

Jeremy Danvers

Jeremy Danvers is the alpha, or head, of the werewolf pack to which Elena and his son Clayton also belong.

Savannah

Savannah is a 12-year-old witch who is one of the captives at the compound.



Leah

Leah is a half-demon with telekinetic powers and one of the captives at the compound.

Xavier/Houdini

Xavier is a half-demon who is both a research subject at the compound and a member of the investigative team. When she first meets him, Elena dubs him Houdini because of his ability to appear and disappear at will.

Armen Haig

Armen Haig is a psychiatrist and human chameleon with the ability to change his facial features. While he is a research subject at the compound, the staff members have not been able to pinpoint which supernatural race he belongs to.

Dr. Carmichael

Dr. Carmichael is the staff physician at the compound.

Patrick Lake

Patrick Lake is a mutt werewolf — not a member of a pack — and one of Winsloe's captives.

Ryman and Jolliffe

Ryman and Jolliffe are two of the compound's many security guards. They are Winsloe's favorites because they share his cruel streak.

Curtis Zaid

Curtis Zaid is a captive at the compound and thought to be a Vodoun priest, but in the end he turns out to be Katzen, the sorcerer none of the other captives have ever met.

Adam

Adam is a half-demon with the ability to mentally set things on fire and a member of the group trying to stop Winsloe's research.



Cassandra

Cassandra is a vampire and a member of the group trying to stop Winsloe's research.

Kenneth

Kenneth is a shaman and a member of the group trying to stop Winsloe's research.



Objects/Places

Pittsburgh, PA

Pittsburgh is a city in Pennsylvania and the place to which Ruth and Paige summon Elena to tell her about the threat to the supernatural races.

Sparta, VT

Sparta is a small town in Vermont where the meeting of the supernatural races takes place.

The Compound

The compound is a secret underground facility in rural Maine where Tyrone Winsloe has set up a pseudo-scientific study of supernatural races.

New Brunswick

New Brunswick is a Canadian city in which Jeremy, Clay, Paige, Adam, Cassandra and Kenneth gather to figure out how to rescue Elena from Winsloe's compound.

Clock

When Ruth is talking with Savannah in her cell, psychic energy suddenly causes a clock to fly through the air and kill Ruth.

Syringe

Elena fills a syringe with a sedative and uses it to sedate Bauer after she changes into wolf form and kills Dr. Carmichael.

Cells

The captives at the compound are held in private cells with glass walls through which all their behavior can be monitored.



Light Bulbs

As Elena, Bauer and Savannah try to escape the compound, Leah causes all the light bulbs to break and the glass shards to fly wildly through the air.

Infirmary

The infirmary is the compound's hospital where examinations and medical care take place.

Wine and Cheese

In a somewhat surreal event, Elena shares a wine and cheese party with Bauer and Leah while being held captive at the compound.



Themes

The Supernatural

The primary theme of *Stolen* is the idea of supernatural creatures as reality. In the novel, a wide variety of supernatural races exist and live undetected among ordinary humans, typically appearing normal for the most part. This is possible because they have adapted in ways that enable them to hold down ordinary jobs while secretly leading parallel lives as werewolves, vampires, and witches.

Stolen's main character, Elena, works as a journalist and her boyfriend, Clay, is an anthropologist and college professor. Half-demon Leah is a sheriff's deputy in Wisconsin. No one who knows them in those roles suspects that they have supernatural powers, just as Ruth and Paige practice witchcraft while carrying on seemingly ordinary lives. Elena manages to keep her identity secret by living in Stonehaven, a fairly remote enclave in Canada, with Clay and the other members of their werewolf pack. They have set up a living situation that enables them to support each other and meet the special needs of their race, such as having thickly wooded areas in which to run when they change form on a routine basis, without calling attention to themselves.

The various supernatural races depicted in the book have somewhat limited knowledge of each other's existence. Several of the races — witches, vampires, and demons, for example — have a loosely-organized group that meets periodically to discuss issues of importance to all of them, but the werewolves have stopped participating and prefer to exist on their own. The author also describes specific traits of each race, some of which fit literary stereotypes about them and some of which do not. It is also interesting to note that although they themselves are members of a supernatural race and therefore subject to stereotyping, several of the book's characters are surprised when they meet members of other races and find that they, too, appear normal and counter to stereotype. Each race is somewhat competitive and suspicious of the others, but learn to use their specific powers to help each other as the plot progresses.

Loyalty

Loyalty emerges as a theme of *Stolen* in several respects. The werewolf pack to which Elena, Clay and Jeremy belong prizes loyalty above all other traits. They live together in a secluded area in order to protect their identities and they stick together against not only the human world, but also against mutt wolves who are not members of their pack, going so far as to monitor their behavior and discretely handle anyone who gets out of control. Members of the other races — vampires, witches, demons — are also loyal to their own kind, but not to the degree of the wolves, who truly represent a pack mentality.

There is also a strong sense of loyalty between Elena and Clay. She loves him despite the fact that he dramatically altered her life by biting her and changing her into a



werewolf and she will protect him against any danger. If possible, Clay is even more loyal to her, even leaving on his own to attempt to rescue her from the compound. Elena, in turn, decides to escape on her own once she realizes Clay is coming for her because keeping him out of danger is more important than her own life. Paige exhibits similar behavior when she tries to go to the compound on her own to save Savannah because she learns that a young member of her own race is in grave danger.

As the plot progresses, the various supernatural races learn to feel loyalty to each other and work together for their own protection against the humans who are placing them in danger.

Power

Power is a theme that runs throughout *Stolen*. Some characters have it, some want it, and some get it and live to regret it.

As supernatural beings, many of the book's characters possess special powers that humans can only dream of. The werewolves have not only the ability to change forms, but even in human form they can run faster and leap higher than regular humans, and their sense of smell is extremely heightened. The witches can cast spells to freeze people where they stand, catapult through the air, and many other things. Others have powers of telekinesis, fire starting, and other such traits. All of these powers can be developed and strengthened with time and practice.

While the supernatural beings' powers come simply from being members of a specific race, Tyrone Winsloe's power comes from his money. His multi-billion-dollar fortune has given him the ability to set up the bizarre investigations taking place at the compound and he wields his power with tremendous cruelty, even to the point of hunting and killing his subjects when he gets tired of them or annoyed by them. In the end, however, even though he tries to exert his power one last time by offering Elena and Clay his entire fortune in exchange for his life, their power is stronger and they kill him.

Sondra Bauer is a woman who appears to have power as a result of her position in a wealthy family, but by her estimation, she is essentially powerless. Although she works for her family's business, as a woman she is given no real authority and her frustration with the situation is primarily what has drawn her into Winsloe's investigation. While she wields power over the subjects being held captive, this is not enough. She wants the kind of power she thinks Elena has as the only female werewolf and she is so obsessed with obtaining it that she injects Elena's saliva into herself to become a werewolf too. However, the power is not at all what she expected and her final days are lived out in torment and eventual death.

Style

Point of View

Stolen is told in the first person by the book's main character, Elena Michaels. The only exception is the prologue, which is written in the third person by an omniscient narrator who describes the circumstances in which Roger, a shaman who has been held captive at Winsloe's compound, is killed. The narrator's ability to relay Roger's thoughts and feelings helps the reader begin to get a sense of the supernatural forces that will be prevalent throughout the novel.

Elena's narration of the remainder of the book serves the plot well. She is able to convey the horror she witnesses, such as the gruesome deaths of Dr. Carmichael and the mutt werewolf Patrick Lake, as well as her own feelings about being a werewolf and the conflicting emotions and behaviors that status brings. Since Elena has never met anyone from other supernatural races before, the reader learns about their traits as she does, and we also get personal glimpses into her own troubled past and her complex but evolving relationship with Clay and with his father, Jeremy.

Setting

The book takes place in several locations in the Northeastern part of the United States and Canada. When we meet Elena, she is in Pittsburgh, PA, where she has been summoned by Paige and Ruth and where she gets her initial glimpse into the plot against the supernatural races. These scenes take place in a hotel and on the streets as the women are pursued by men intending to kidnap them.

The next section takes place in Sparta, VT, where the various races meet to discuss the threat against them. The area includes cabins and a large area of surrounding woods where Elena, Jeremy and Clay overcome the men who are pursuing them. It is on the drive back from Sparta that Elena is kidnapped.

Most of the book from this point takes place at the compound where Winsloe conducts his investigations. It is painted as a clean, bright but isolated place consisting of several underground floors which we later learn is located in rural Maine. Captives are kept in cells with glass walls so they can be observed at all times, and there is a sitting room that actually serves as an interrogation facility. The compound's infirmary also plays an important role, since it is the location in which Bauer is treated after she becomes a werewolf, Elena is able to overhear conversations that aid in her escape, and Bauer kills and dismembers Dr. Carmichael. The compound is surrounded by a large, desolate wooded area in which Winsloe hunts and kills his research subjects when he tires of them.



After Elena escapes, the story moves briefly to New Brunswick, Canada, where the other members of her group have gathered, before the final scenes move back to the compound for the final confrontation with Winsloe and his staff.

Language and Meaning

The book is written in a casual, informal style. It contains an appropriate mixture of exposition and dialogue, and although the narration is first person, the reader gets a great deal of insight into the minds of other characters through their dialogue and the descriptions provided by Elena's narration.

Elena's narration reflects the fact that she is a strong, independent woman in her early 30s. She provides humor primarily through sarcasm and snide remarks both to other characters and to the reader in the course of her narration. She also provides a considerable amount of background material on werewolves and the various other supernatural races portrayed in the book by weaving in descriptive material at appropriate points in the story.

The author chooses to capitalize a few words that are important to the werewolf race. For example, the word "change" is capitalized when referring to the process the wolves go through to transform from one form to the other, and the word "pack" is capitalized when referring to the family-style group in which Elena, Clay and Jeremy live.

Structure

Stolen is divided into 49 chapters. The chapters are not numbered but each has a one-word title that is descriptive of the events that occur in that chapter. For example, the chapter called "Bloodhound" finds Elena being forced to track Armen Haig through the woods that surround the compound, and in "Rebirth" Bauer injects Elena's saliva into herself to become a werewolf. Chapters are fairly short, typically around 10 pages each.

The plot is straightforward and well structured, but given the subject matter, obviously requires readers to suspend a certain amount of belief. The book includes a mixture of horror such as graphic descriptions of the scene in which Dr. Carmichael is brutally murdered and dismembered, and gentler content such as Elena's loving relationship with Clay. Sex scenes are included but are not explicit.

The book's prologue sets up the novel as one in which the supernatural will play a major part. It is written in a way to get the reader hooked on the story, providing just enough information to build curiosity about who the mysterious shaman is and what he is running away from. The rest of the book moves at a steady pace and wraps up quickly in the last few chapters when Elena and her group return to the compound. However, the author leaves some room for speculation at the end, including what happened to Leah and the future of Samantha and Paige, that could provide material for a sequel.



Quotes

"I glanced at Adam. So this was a half-demon. Uh-huh. I'd never heard of half-demons before Pittsburgh, but I was sure if such things existed, they shouldn't look like this guy."

Page 62

"'We aren't clear on their motives,' Ruth said. 'That wasn't something Roger — the kidnapped shaman — was able to determine. From what he observed, we gather that they're studying us, trying to get to the root of our powers.'"

Page 69

"'Other parents warn their kids not to talk to strangers. I had to warn mine not to eat them.'"

Page 89

"Someone had told these men where to find us. Only five other people knew we were in Vermont. All five of them would be at the meeting in a few hours. So would we."

Page 112

"Bauer headed for the door. My picture of the power structure here was developing fast. Research assistant, guards, half-demon, all roughly equal — the hired help. Scientist above them, mystery woman above scientist. And Ty Winsloe? Where did he fit in? Was he even involved?"

Page 129

"'My hypothesis is that all supernatural races — the true races, the major races — are the result of evolutionary anomalies.'"

Page 135

"'What we propose to do here is return a sense of power to humanity. A new wave of improvement. Not technological improvement. Improvement from within. Improvement of the mind and the body. Through studying the supernatural, we can affect those changes.'"

Page 145

"Werewolf fights were 70 percent bravado. These days, Clay won most of his battles simply by showing up. His reputation was enough. At least it worked for male werewolves. I wasn't so lucky. No matter how many bouts I won, mutts still figured I was helpless without Clay to protect me."

Page 153

"She was trying to be nice. I knew I should reciprocate. Knowing and doing were two different things. What was I supposed to say? Thanks for caring? If she cared, she wouldn't have kidnapped me in the first place, right? But as she watched me eat, her look of concern seemed genuine."

Page 158



"But you are entrusted with the power to speak for the Alpha. Immense power in your world. The trusted aide of the most important werewolf and the lover of the second most important. All because you're the only female."

Page 186

"I heard voices, the drone of a television, my small body held tight against the wall, barely daring to breathe for fear of being overheard, listening to them talk, waiting for 'The Conversation.' The Conversation. Admitting to each other that it wasn't working out, that I was 'more than they bargained for.'"

Page 195

"Even when I'd tried to start a new life in Toronto, I'd always known that, if I needed him, Clay would be there for me. No matter how badly I fucked up or how badly fucked up I was, he'd never leave me. Never turn his back on me. Never reject me. And now, after more than a decade of learning that lesson, all it took was one look from him, one single look, and I was curled up on the floor, doubled over in pain. All the logic and reasoning in the world didn't change how I felt. As much as I wanted to believe I'd overcome my childhood, I hadn't. I probably never would."

Page 197

"How long had she been watching the parade of inmates, waiting for the one who could give her the power she craved?"

Page 199

"Yes, she was my enemy, but she'd brought this on herself. So why did I feel responsible? I wasn't. Yet part of me wished I could help, at least alleviate her suffering. Why? Because I understood that suffering."

Page 205

Every werewolf's subconscious nightmare was to become stuck between forms, caught in this monstrous, misshapen body, unable to change either way. The ultimate horror.

Page 225

"But when humans see what the other races can do, they'll want it. That's the rotten core of this whole plan. No matter how high-minded their motives, they'll all eventually want a piece."

Page 237

"A lesson here. Winsloe liked me tough, so long as that toughness wasn't directed at him."

Page 251

"To me, the idea of being raped was more terrifying than that of dying. Ghosts of my childhood filled my brain, voices that said I'd promised such a thing would never happen again, that I was too strong, that I could never again be forced to submit to anyone."

Page 284



"I'd killed two people before Jeremy rescued me. Unlike what Bauer had done with Carmichael, I hadn't known my victims and I hadn't tormented them or torn them to pieces. Yet I had done one thing I would never forget. I'd eaten my victims. Was I that different from Bauer?"

Page 328

"Clay was the only person with whom I ever felt completely comfortable. And now I felt as if I were confronting a stranger? What kind of bullshit was that?"

Page 363

"I was afraid, afraid that by admitting how much he meant to me, I'd give him the power to hurt me even worse than he had by biting me."

Page 373

"But the point would be moot because Clay would never take any risk to save a stranger. He'd throw himself in front of a bullet to protect his Pack, but he wouldn't stop to help an accident victim."

Page 391

"Telepathic liaisons. The phrase slid so easily from my mental tongue. Scary, really. Binding spells, sorcery, astral projection, telepathy, telekinesis, teleportation — did I ever expect to hear those words outside of an X-Files episode? Now I was standing in a forest grove with a witch, a half-demon, a vampire, and a shaman, planning to put an end to a nefarious plot to usurp our powers and alter the path of humankind."

Page 402

"The unpleasant truth was that we had to kill everyone. No matter how harmless they might seem, even the lowliest staff member possessed the most dangerous weapon of all: knowledge. They knew we existed and for that, they couldn't be allowed to leave the compound."

Page 417



Topics for Discussion

When Elena and Jeremy meet members of the other races for the first time, they are surprised by how normal the others seem. Discuss the stereotypes of various specific paranormal species such as werewolves, witches, and vampires. How do the characters in the book compare with those common conceptions?

Discuss Elena's relationship with Clay. How has it been affected by the fact that he bit her 12 years earlier? What aspects of their individual personalities make them suited for each other? What aspects make them unsuited? How do her childhood experiences affect her relationship with Clay?

Discuss the concept of personal power in the novel. Who has power? How do the characters use their power? How do they abuse it? How does their use of power impact their lives and the lives of others? This question involves personal power, not the supernatural powers of some of the characters.

Why does Sondra Bauer think she has no power despite her wealth and position? Why does she feel the need to become a werewolf? What is the result of her power grab?

Discuss the concept of violence in the book. How do Elena, Paige and Cassandra differ in their attitudes toward violence and killing? How do the werewolves justify the number of people they kill within the book's plot and in other circumstances Elena describes?

What role does Xavier play in the novel? Do you think he is someone Elena should trust? Why or why not?

How is the concept of loyalty important to the plot? Which characters display the most loyalty toward each other and why? How do various characters' loyalties change over the course of the book? Include at least four characters in your response.