

Sweetblood Study Guide

Sweetblood by Pete Hautman

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Plot Summary

Sweet Blood by Pete Hautman is a fiction novel written for young adults. Sweet blood tells the story of a diabetic girl named Lucy who is not only dealing with the everyday struggles of being a teenager, but she is also struggling to control her disease. Lucy turns to a vampire chat room for an escape from her life where she feels everyone thinks she is crazy. However, the chat room turns into more than an escape when Draco, one of the chat room participants finds her.

Lucy used to be like everyone else until she was diagnosed with diabetes. Even then, Lucy is able to lead a normal life until she started to lose control of her diabetes. As Lucy's diabetes spirals out of control, her life starts to spiral downwards also. Lucy loses interest in school and struggles with the relationships of those around her. Lucy dresses like a goth but calls herself a vampire. She starts going to a vampire chat room where she discusses her theory about vampires with fellow vampires. Though Lucy does not actually believe anyone in the chat room is actually a vampire, there is one participant named Draco that makes her change her mind. Lucy is convinced that Draco is a real "blood sucking" vampire. Lucy has a theory that vampires do exist, they are simply diabetics. Additionally, vampire stories were actually based on diabetics but because people didn't know what diabetes was back then they labeled these people as vampires.

Lucy writes a paper about her theory and per parents are called into a meeting which results in her being referred to receive psychological help. Meanwhile, Lucy meets a new student in her class named Dylan. Dylan seems to be a confident and intriguing guy who is Lucy's type. Lucy and Dylan begin to hang out and he introduces her to a man named Wayne who calls himself a real vampire. Wayne is a middle aged man who has wild parties at his house with college and high school students much younger than him. Wayne seems to be an open minded father-like figure who is more than willing to offer advice and guidance to his "friends" that come to his house. Lucy is intrigued by Wayne when she meets him, he raises butterflies in his home and seems to know so much about everything, especially about her.

Lucy's diabetes is out of control. She is not testing her blood and taking her medicine like she should be. Lucy keeps having more and more diabetic episodes and they are getting worse. Lucy's behavior is also changing negatively. Lucy is fighting with her parents, teachers, and even treating Mark, her close childhood friend, badly. Lucy keeps getting more angry at everyone and getting her computer taken away makes things worse.

Finally, at one of the parties, Lucy realizes that Wayne is Draco and he is just a creepy man who likes young girls. Wayne was able to piece together the information that Lucy provided and find her. Wanye used Dylan to bring Lucy to the party. When Lucy finds out she is furious and is able to see Dylan, Wayne, and the party scene for what they truly are. Lucy has a reaction and leaves the party. She passes out and Mark finds her and saves her life.

Lucy realizes that she needs to change and she decides she is going to change and make her life better because everything she is doing is not working out for her. Lucy discovers that those who love her the most are her family and Mark.

Chapter 1. Blood

Chapter 1. Blood Summary

Lucy Szabo is a teenage girl who is convinced that she is a vampire. She does not think she is the blood-sucking kind of vampire, she is a diabetic. Lucy begins to lose control of her diabetes, and with that she also loses control of her life in every aspect. Lucy needs help, and if she doesn't get the help she needs she is going to lose her life.

The protagonist, Lucy, describes how she needs blood in order to live and that she depends on it with her life. She then recounts the time when she was six years old on vacation and she found a bat. She brings home the bat and her father starts demanding if the bat bit her or not. Her parents make her get rabies shots, however, she can not recall getting the shots. She then recalls the visit to her endocrinologist after her parents found that she was drinking so much orange juice that she was wetting the bed. It was at this visit that the doctor diagnosed her with diabetes mellitus. She has told her doctor "Fish," short for Dr. Fishburn, that she believes that there is a correlation between her rabies shots and diabetes.

Chapter 1. Blood Analysis

In this chapter, the main character's name is unknown. She starts by saying that blood is her friend and is describing her thoughts, the sound of blood in her head, and the "whirring" sound of her thoughts and how she needs blood. She then concludes that part of her narrative by saying that she never shared her thoughts with her friends or anyone because they would think that she is crazy. She recounts the story of the bat and being diagnosed with diabetes and concludes the stories by saying that blood is her enemy. This statement is the complete opposite of her opening statement in the chapter.

Chapter 2. Friendship

Chapter 2. Friendship Summary

Lucy does not have any best friends. She used to have a friend named Kathy who moved away and though trying to stay friends, she has lost touch over the last few months. Her closest person to a best friend is a boy she has grown up with named Mark. Lucy is dressed in mostly black clothing matched with dark sunglasses and military boots. She is pretending to read while fantasizing about what her life will be like once she is eighteen and has moved out of the house. She pictures herself smoking and hanging out in a coffee shop. Her fantasy is interrupted by Mark asking her if she is coming to the block party on Sunday. Lucy says no and mocks the idea of going to a block party. Mark calls her "Skeeter" and Lucy calls him "Monkey boy". Mark tells her that he misses what she used to be like before she became "goth", "punk", or "something". He wasn't really able pinpoint exactly what she is so "something" is the word he finally uses to describe her. Lucy is pleased that Mark thinks that she is "something" but she is confused because she doesn't know if she should feel bad about possibly hurting his feelings. Lucy reads part of a poem by Walt Whitman she has by her bed that states, "Do I contradict myself? Very well then I contradict myself. (I am large, I contain multitudes)."

Chapter 2. Friendship Analysis

Lucy may not have any best friends but it seems that she likes Mark enough to seem pleased when he comes to talk to her. Lucy is dressed in all black in an effort to portray herself to be something that she really is not. It seems that everything she says and does is just for show. She is dressed in all black and wearing glasses that she can hardly see through. However, she is pretending to read and even goes out of her way to make it seem like she is being interrupted when Mark approaches her to talk to her. Lucy is happy that Mark considers her to be "something" but she doesn't seem to notice that Mark did mean it in a good way.

Chapter 3. Undead

Chapter 3. Undead Summary

Lucy starts by saying "I am not cool. Dead people are cool. I am not dead. I am undead". She then defines what undead means by explaining that her father is undead because his life was saved when his appendix burst. She is undead because she was saved from her diabetes when she was younger. She explains the Chinese saying that "If you save a man's life, you are responsible for him". If the person was meant to die and you intervene by keeping them alive then you are responsible for their actions from that moment on. She wonders who is responsible for her actions. Lucy's mother asks her if she is going to the block party. Lucy makes up an excuse about writing a paper and doesn't go. Lucy's mother worries about her having a hypoglycemic reaction because when she does she tends to get angry, act erratically, and has even passed out. Lucy tells a story about a time her mom found her in the kitchen with all the drawers open and passed out on some cereal and cans of tuna and they had to call 911.

A few weeks before in her art class, Lucy drew a self portrait in which she painted herself as a smiling blond with gray eyes. The teacher pointed out that it was not a self portrait because she has black hair and doesn't look like the girl in the painting. Lucy was painting herself the way she viewed herself because she is a natural blond with a nice smile. Lucy covers up the blond hair with an excessive amount of black paint and ended up getting a D.

Lucy's dad walks in her room and points out the self portrait is strange, this makes Lucy smile. Her father asks if she is going to the block party and she makes up an excuse about being on her period so she doesn't have to go.

Chapter 3. Undead Analysis

In this chapter, the seriousness of Lucy's diabetes is discussed. Lucy is not only affected physically by her disease, but her behavior is also affected. She even makes her mother nervous because of her tendency to act up when her blood sugar gets low.

When Lucy describes the self portrait that she painted of herself, it shows that under her black clothing and dyed black hair, she still sees herself as the happy blonde girl that she truly is. She seems to have a fear that her disease is going to cause her to be blind if she doesn't take care of it and that is manifested in the gray eyes that painted on the portrait.

Lucy seems to be close with her father, this is seen when she asks him about his golf game. Lucy doesn't ask because she is interested, she simply asks because she knows he likes her to.

Chapter 4. Sblood

Chapter 4. Sblood Summary

Lucy discusses why she believes people use the supernatural to explain the unexplainable. They do it because they don't have anything else to explain it so they resort to the supernatural. She believes that the first vampire was the man who first extracted insulin from a cow pancreas and injected into a man who needed the insulin. She calls him a "would be vampire". Lucy's last name is revealed as Szabo. She discusses how much she knows about vampires and what they are really like. Her mother leaves her some beans and she checks her blood then eats. She explains that if she doesn't get enough insulin that her glucose levels get to high and she can die. Furthermore, if she gets too much insulin, her blood sugar gets too low and she can also die.

Lucy goes into a chat room called Transylvania. In this chat room she chats with 2tooth and Vlad714 who claim to be vampires like her. She goes by the name Sblood which stands for Sweet blood. In the chat room they discuss a book she is reading "The Queen of the Damned" and how she doesn't like it. She then becomes inspired and writes about a theory she has and plans on turning it in to her teacher for her essay assignment.

Chapter 4. Sblood Analysis

Lucy is very well read on her vampire facts and she talks about "would be vampires" like herself. She makes this reference after discussing the discovery of insulin but implies that the need for insulin is what makes one a "would be vampire." Lucy talks about a person names Draco that is sometimes online in the Transylvania chat room. She believes that this person may actually be a true vampire. Lucy has not yet discussed what she actually believes a true vampire is but she decides to write out her theory for her essay and the author uses foreshadowing to let the reader know that the essay is going to be disturbing to the teacher when she reads it.

Chapter 5. Blue Eyes

Chapter 5. Blue Eyes Summary

There is only one other person at Lucy's school that has diabetes and her name is Sandy Steiner. She seems to be the complete opposite of Lucy, she is outgoing, loves to educate everyone about her diabetes, she is always in control of her diabetes, and she has only had diabetes for about one year. As much as Lucy tries to avoid her Sandy always finds her to talk about her diabetes. Sandy is hoping to get on a pump but Lucy tells her that Fish only prescribes them to people who can't control their diabetes.

Lucy is failing two of her classes, chemistry and French. In her French class she meets a new boy named Dylan. He has black hair and blue eyes and catches her attention the second she sees him. At lunch Dylan comes and sits with Lucy and asks her why she eats alone. She tells him that the reason she eats alone is that she is a Vampire.

Chapter 5. Blue Eyes Analysis

In this chapter, the contrast between Lucy and Sandy goes deeper than personality types. Lucy states that she usually drags herself into classes and cannot concentrate or pay attention. The reader starts to wonder if there is more to Lucy's dark behavior and if her out of control diabetes is to blame.

Chapter 6. The Sad Truth About Bloodsucking Demons

Chapter 6. The Sad Truth About Bloodsucking Demons Summary

"The Sad Truth About Bloodsucking Demons" is the title of the essay Lucy writes. In this essay she discusses her theory about vampires. She believes that real vampires, not the ones that are said to turn into bats and are based on Dracula who was just a sick lunatic, could have been diabetics. She tells the hypothetical story of a teenage girl in the middle ages who is suffering from uncontrolled diabetes. She describes the symptoms of the girl as having pale skin, weight loss, delirium, ravenous hunger, uncontrollable thirst, wetting the bed, comas, smelling sweet, smelling acrid, and receding gums which make her teeth appear longer. She then argues that if a family had experienced a daughter with all of these symptoms they would have jumped to the conclusion that she was a vampire out of ignorance because didn't know anything about diabetes.

Chapter 6. The Sad Truth About Bloodsucking Demons Analysis

Lucy has a serious disease and though it may seem like she doesn't care about it. She knows all about diabetes and she is aware of what could happen if she fails to control it. This essay that Lucy writes sheds light to her daily struggles and fears and most of all, allows the reader to see that there is a connection between her dress and obsession with vampires and her disease.

Chapter 7. Draco

Chapter 7. Draco Summary

Lucy goes to her school counselor, Ms. Butkus "Buttface", and warns her that she might be hearing about her essay from her teacher and that her teacher is going to think she is crazy. When Lucy gets home she goes to her usual chat room. While she is arguing with some of the other users about how much blood a vampire would need in order to survive. Draco suddenly joins the conversation and answers their questions. He states that he has recently been tested for HIV because that is one of the risks of consuming blood. Draco has recently started to raise his own pigs in order to get his blood and to avoid the risk of contracting AIDS. Lucy asks him if he has been tested for diabetes but Draco insists that he is a real vampire. Lucy isn't quite sure she actually believes in real blood-sucking vampires because she knows that most are what she calls "posers".

Chapter 7. Draco Analysis

At school Lucy does not seem to do well. In the chat room it is obvious that Lucy is actually very intelligent and is very good at writing. In her argument with the users in the chatroom she points out that they don't even know how to write. Lucy seems to be intrigued at the possibility that Draco may be a real vampire. She knows that there are many out there that claim to be vampires but their definition of a vampire is far different from that of a real vampire who is dependant on blood to survive like Draco.

Chapter 8. Femmes Fatale

Chapter 8. Femmes Fatale Summary

At school, Dylan gives Lucy a present. It is a little box with a chrysalis in it. He explains that it is alive and is going to turn into a butterfly. Though Lucy has never received a "bug" as a present, she is pleased with it and keeps it.

That Saturday, Ms. Butkus, Mrs. Graham, and Lucy are all in a meeting because of the paper Lucy wrote. Though she was invited, Lucy decides not to go to the meeting and goes to the mall instead. Lucy wears extra makeup and dresses more vampire-like than usual as she makes the walk to the mall. Lucy tells the story of how her and Mark used to play on the train tracks until one day she was alone and she fell asleep on them. At the mall Lucy runs into two goth girls from her school, Marquissa and Fiona. Lucy points out that they are goth which is not what she is and that she dresses and acts different from the Goths and would never want to be called one. Marquissa is smoking a cigarette in an attempt to get the attention of the cute security guard. Marquissa questions Lucy about Dylan she suddenly becomes defensive and doesn't like that Marquissa thinks that he is cute. Lucy tells Fiona and Marquissa about her parents going to the meeting because of her essay. When Lucy tells them what the essay is about they start talking about vampires and Marquissa claims she has met some before.

Chapter 8. Femmes Fatale Analysis

Lucy doesn't want to go to the meeting not only because she doesn't want to see her parent's reaction, but because she seems to be afraid of what they will think of her. When she goes to the mall it seem like the extra clothing and makeup are a way of covering up what she is feeling. When Lucy talks to Fiona and Marquissa she makes it clear that she is different than them and would never be a goth. Although she does tell them about the paper, she doesn't get into the details of her beliefs on vampires because she doesn't want them to think she is crazy. Lucy seems to be very concerned with how people view her and what they think about her. For someone who tries to act like she doesn't care, she really does a lot to try and keep others from thinking she is completely insane.

Chapter 9. Low

Chapter 9. Low Summary

As Lucy is walking home, she is thinking about her conversation with Fiona about the vampires she claims she knows. She is also thinking about how she wanted to eat pizza with Fiona and Marquissa but wasn't able to because she had forgotten her insulin. Lucy begins to feel like she is going to pass out and has to sit down and eat her granola bar before she loses consciousness. She finally feels better and arrives at her house where her mother informs her that her father is upset and out looking for her. Lucy goes to her room to avoid her mother when she realizes that her computer is gone.

Chapter 9. Low Analysis

Lucy knows that she made a mistake by not eating and recognizes that she is in trouble. When Lucy gets home, she quickly realizes that she is in trouble so she quickly avoids any confrontation by going to her room.

Chapter 10. BLAH BLAH BLAH

Chapter 10. BLAH BLAH BLAH Summary

Lucy tries to avoid talking to her parents for a full 24 hours but realizing that she needs to get her computer back, she decides to give in and talk. Lucy's mother tries to talk to her and calls her "Sweetie" Lucy lashes out and tells her to stop calling her "Sweetie, Honey, and Sugar." Lucy then tells her father to stop calling her sport and to just call her by her name, Lucy. Lucy's father is very serious and tells her that he loves her but is worried about the websites that she has been visiting. He has done some research on the sites and is concerned with the predators that may be lurking on the sites. Lucy's father is not actually worried about the essay that Lucy wrote because he knows that she doesn't really believe she is a vampire (although she actually does). Lucy's parents tell Lucy that she is going to have to start counseling. At this, Lucy becomes angered and refuses to talk to any doctor other than Fish. Lucy asks to talk to Fish first, and if he believes that she needs to speak to a therapist that she will.

Later that night, Lucy finds the box containing the chrysalis in the pocket of her jeans. She remembers catching fireflies with Mark when she was younger and getting play-married with him. She wonders if Dylan is the one and if he giving her the chrysalis is the "teenage version" of getting play-married with fireflies. She hangs the chrysalis in her room above where her computer used to be.

Chapter 10. BLAH BLAH BLAH Analysis

Lucy is determined to avoid talking to her parents but them taking her computer has forces her to talk to them. She no longer wants her parents to call her by the nicknames they usually call her; she wants them to call by her actual name. This may be the first step in Lucy discovering her true identity.

When Lucy finds the chrysalis, she begins to wonder about the person who will complete her. Whenever Lucy is alone, her thoughts reveal a softer more sensitive side that she doesn't usually let anyone see.

Chapter 11. French Cuisine

Chapter 11. French Cuisine Summary

Lucy is in mourning and is showing it by dressing in more black than she usually does. On the way to school Mark joins her as they talk about why she is in trouble with her parents and grades. Mark is surprised she is failing two classes and points out that she hasn't been herself lately and seems really sad. He offers to help her by sharing his notes but Lucy declines.

Through out the day, Lucy is in a bad mood and this gets worse when she starts to have a hypoglycemic episode and gets in trouble with her teacher for eating a granola bar in class. The teacher tells Lucy to go to the school nurse but she goes to the auditorium for the rest of the class period instead.

Lucy goes to her French class and on her way she sees Dylan talking to Marquissa. Lucy is so upset by this that she stops walking and gets the books bumped out of her arms. Dylan helps her pick them up but she is too angry to speak to him. In French class, Dylan asks Lucy if she wants to go to get some coffee with him after school. Lucy says she can't and tells him to ask Marquissa to go instead. Dylan responds by asking her why he would want to ask Marquissa to go with him. Lucy then feels bad and explains that the reason she can't go is because she is grounded and under house arrest by her parents.

Chapter 11. French Cuisine Analysis

During her conversation with Mark on her way to school it seems that Mark is genuinely shocked that Lucy is failing two classes. It seems that it is not just the teachers that know Lucy's potential.

When Lucy sees Marquissa talking to Dylan at school, she is obviously jealous. When Dylan asks Lucy to go to get coffee she lets him know that she is not happy but when he makes it clear that he only wants to go with Lucy she lets it go. Lucy really likes Dylan and it is starting to seem like the feeling is mutual. During their group discussion it is apparent that Lucy knows more French than she lets on to knowing and she is actually quite smart.

Chapter 12. Poisson

Chapter 12. Poisson Summary

At her appointment, Fish checks Lucy and her diabetes, he seems to be concerned. Lucy talks to Fish about the problems she is having in school and with her parents. Lucy has already told Fish about her theory on vampires so it isn't anything new to him. Fish tries to reason with Lucy by pointing out if school is already so boring to her that maybe she should just do her homework because it wouldn't hurt. Lucy begins to vent to Fish that her life is being a teenager who has to deal with not having her computer, dealing with her parents, and worrying about her insulin reactions. Knowing that her parents don't have anymore children because they don't want to bring another diabetic child into the world only makes things worse. Lucy breaks down into tears and is convinced that Fish now thinks she is crazy.

Lucy leaves her appointment. Instead of going back to school she heads to the coffee shop Mark had asked her to go to. Lucy stops by a tattoo parlor on the way and browses through all the tattoos. She talks to the woman who seems to know her from always browsing. The woman points out that she seems like she is "pissed off". Lucy clarifies that she is not "pissed off" she is angry. Lucy stays at the coffee shop hoping that Dylan shows up even though she had declined his offer to go with him. Lucy finally leaves and heads home knowing that she is going to be in trouble for being late.

Chapter 12. Poisson Analysis

Lucy respects and trusts Fish so she talks to him about what is bothering her. She breaks into tears and is able to vent about everything that is bothering her. It seems that more than being angry, Lucy is actually hurting. After crying Lucy begins to wonder if Fish thinks she is crazy. This seems to be a recurring fear Lucy seems to have when she opens up and shows what she is truly feeling and who she really is.

Lucy goes to the coffee shop hoping that she will see Dylan. Despite turning down Dylan's offer to go to coffee with him she obviously wants to see him. This action goes back to the poem in her room about contradictions.

Chapter 13. Night Creature

Chapter 13. Night Creature Summary

Lucy gets home and observes that her chrysalis is starting to change and become brighter. She starts to imagine that she is a bug but soon realizes that her strange thoughts may be caused by her blood sugar. She does not take her blood sugar but instead writes what she wants it to be on a piece of paper and tells herself that her blood sugar is what she wrote. Lucy drifts off but is suddenly woken up by her parents who are worried she isn't feeling well because she didn't wake up when they called her or knocked on her door.

At dinner, Lucy's dad informs her that Fish recommended she see a psychologist named Dr. Carlson. Lucy goes up to her room and sneaks her father's phone to call Dylan. She is upset with Dylan for not showing up at the coffee shop even though she knows it wasn't his fault because she told him she wasn't going to be there. Lucy and Dylan go to meet at the coffee shop but Lucy has to sneak out since she is grounded.

Chapter 13. Night Creature Analysis

Lucy realizes that her blood sugar is probably too low or high by the way she is thinking. Instead of testing her blood sugar Lucy writes what she wants it to be at on a piece of paper and doesn't test her blood. She likes that the glucose meter is straight forward with her and tells her how she is doing. It does not seem like she wants to really know how she is doing in any aspect of her life because Lucy keeps avoiding any form of evaluation whether it is by the glucose meter or a psychologist.

Lucy knows that she can sometimes act in a way that hurts those around her so she has to keep reminding her that she is being unreasonable. Lucy does this when she gets mad at Dylan for something that he didn't really do. She also responds rudely when he asks her to go to the coffee shop. Lucy knows that something isn't right with how she is acting but she does not want to address the cause and avoids any confrontation.

Chapter 14. Espresso Yourself

Chapter 14. Espresso Yourself Summary

Lucy goes to the coffee shop where the barista seems to be pissed-off. Lucy can't find Dylan so she finds a seat and watches two women in blue lipstick perform a musical number on their oboe and bass. Lucy closes her eyes and is enjoying the scene and music while letting her imagination run wild. When she opens her eyes Dylan is sitting across from her. As they are talking, a friend of his whom he calls Weevil invites them to a party. Lucy is impressed with Dylan and the people he knows and though she is nervous about the idea, she is considering going to the party.

Chapter 14. Espresso Yourself Analysis

As Lucy considers what could be making her barista so pissed off, her focus turns to the barista's bone she has pierced into her nose. She suggests that the barista just acts pissed off and wears the bone because she "doesn't know how to act". Lucy identifies with how the barista feels.

During the performance, it seems that Lucy may be having a diabetic reaction based on how strange her thoughts are. This may suggest that she is not thinking clearly and this may affect the rest of her night.

Chapter 15. Butterflies and Beer

Chapter 15. Butterflies and Beer Summary

Dylan and Lucy go to the party at the Carfax Arms complex. They see Marquissa and proceed to work their way through the maze of the apartment. The party is filled with Goths and Lucy feels that she is very different from them as she observes the piercings and clothing they are wearing. Lucy sees everyone is drinking a dark red thick drink and finds that it is flavored beer which they call "snakebite". She is repulsed by the sight of the drink but takes a sip of Dylan's straight beer so that she doesn't give him the impression that she is a "prude." The apartment is filled with butterflies because the owner, Wayne, raises them. This is where Dylan got Lucy her chrysalis. They go to the back of the apartment in the greenhouse and find Wayne there. Wayne is an older man who is far from goth. He is sitting and talking to a young girl.

Chapter 15. Butterflies and Beer Analysis

The whole time Lucy is at the party she has an uncomfortable feeling that she should go home. Lucy can see through Dylan's confidence when he is knocking on the door to get into the party and Marquissa points out that the door is unlocked. Lucy describes the party as one that the reader would imagine she would feel comfortable in. The scene, however, is one that makes Lucy completely uncomfortable and she has to keep fighting the urge to leave and go home. The recurring feeling that Lucy has that is telling her that she needs to go home may be the author's way of foreshadowing events that may follow. For a person who calls herself a vampire, the fact that Lucy is repulsed by the sight of people drinking a drink that resembles blood seems to be a contradiction.

Chapter 16. Wine Red

Chapter 16. Wine Red Summary

He has a very deep soothing voice and seems to know a lot about Lucy, even that her name is Lucinda. Wayne reads Lucy's cards and tells her that she is mature beyond her years. Lucy realizes that Dylan has left and is no longer with them. The tarot card Wayne draws for Lucy is a card with a man wearing a cloak with three cups in front of him and two cups behind him. The two cups behind him are upright and she can't see what they contain. Two of the cups in front of the man are on their side spilling out a red liquid. The cup that remains standing contains a green liquid. The sky on the card is gloomy and there is a river running next to the man with a bridge over it. On the other side of the river is a castle. Wayne says it is the "Card of five cups" and it is a very powerful card like her. The clocked man's red cheeks indicate that he is ashamed that he rejects the two spilled cups of blood which represent life. The man he also rejects the green cup (which is poison) because of he is afraid of dying. The river represents the barrier between him and his home which is the castle. The two cups behind the man represent his false hopes. The bridge is the man's dream. Wayne tells Lucy that she is mature and that she is a "thinker." The second card Wayne draws is "The Hermit". It is a man standing on a mountain which is covered in snow. The man is holding a staff and a lantern that has a star in it. Wayne says that this is his card and that he seeks the truth. Wayne then offers Lucy a glass of wine for the second time and Lucy accepts it. She drinks this wine that tastes very different from the wine her parents have at home. Wayne talks to Lucy like she is an adult and he tells her that she is intelligent and lets her know that she is always welcome at his house. Wayne draws another card for her reading and it is a tower being struck by lightning. The tower has fire and smoke coming out of the windows with a woman and a man falling from it. The top of the tower is a crown which seems to be slipping off the top of it. This card is "The tower" he says that it is "chaos, upheaval, revelation" and very dangerous. He tells her "Insight, crisis, eruption. You are entering into a period of great change." As Wayne is telling her this Lucy starts to feel dizzy and can feel the wine she was drinking in her chest. Wayne tells her that she must promise him that if she ever needs help, that she will go to him. Dylan is talking Marquissa when Lucy tells him that she needs to go home. Dylan asks Lucy what is wrong but Lucy just makes up an excuse about being tired because she doesn't want to tell him about her diabetes. Lucy tells Dylan that she thought that he was going to introduce her to some vampires. Dylan tells her that he did, Wayne. Lucy is not convinced that Wayne is a vampire at all. Lucy finally gets home and sneaks back in without any problem. While she is lying in bed she tells herself that she should test her blood sugar. As she is lying there starts to recall some of the words that Wayne used "Chaos, upheaval, revelation". Lucy has heard these words before but can't remember where she heard them. Finally she remembers that she heard these same words from Draco, in the vampire chat room. Lucy wonders if Wayne is Draco.

Chapter 16. Wine Red Analysis

In this chapter, Wayne in a sense analyzes Lucy during her Tarot card reading. The reading makes the reader see how applicable many of the symbols in the card can be to Lucy's life and current struggles. Though Wayne doesn't necessarily do anything wrong, the author keeps the reader from completely trusting Wayne. When Lucy begins to have a reaction she begins to panic and tells Dylan that she needs to go home. Lucy is in such a panic that she doesn't even care that Dylan is talking to Marquissa. On her way home Dylan asks Lucy what is wrong and she lies to him by telling him that she is just tired. This draws a parallel to the symbol in "the card of five cups" where the man is ashamed. Lucy finally gets home and is able to pinpoint where she heard the words "Chaos, upheaval, revelation" and begins to wonder if the man she spoke with at the party could possibly be Draco. If he is, it could actually mean that she did meet a real vampire. Lucy should test her glucose level but she falls asleep before she is able to.

Chapter 17. Fuzz

Chapter 17. Fuzz Summary

Lucy wakes up feeling extremely sick, she stumbles and tests her blood sugar and finds that it is at an all time high of 494. She quickly gives herself 30 ml of fast acting insulin hoping that it will help. She tests again a few minutes later and finds that it is lowering her glucose a little bit. Lucy notices that the chrysalis is changing and getting darker. She can see the caterpillar inside is changing. Instead of staying home, Lucy goes to school and tells herself that it will be better than staying home with her mother. In class Lucy continues to be sick and is having crazy thoughts which indicate she is having a reaction. The teacher notices that something is not right and asks her if she is okay. Lucy stands up and ends up passing out.

Chapter 17. Fuzz Analysis

Lucy knows that she is terribly sick but she continues to be stubborn and do anything to avoid her parents or even let them know how sick she is and what she is going through. In class when she starts having strange thoughts, her first reaction to the teacher asking her if she is okay is to think about the whole class watching her. Lucy is in a position where she needs help but she continues resist letting anyone help her.

Chapter 18. Bad Girl

Chapter 18. Bad Girl Summary

Lucy wakes up in the nurse's office and is informed that an ambulance is on its way to take her to the hospital. Lucy tells the nurse that she is not going to the hospital and runs away. As she is approaching the front door the vice principal, Mr. Gruber, blocks her from leaving and Lucy becomes enraged and tries to push through him as he physically prevents her from leaving the school. Lucy starts to scream threats to him and calls him a pervert in an effort to get him to let her go. Students, including Dylan, are beginning to gather and watch this spectacle. Despite her attempt to run away, Lucy is taken to the hospital where they seem to do what they always do. They tell her to control her blood sugar levels better then let her go home. Lucy's mother tells her that it may be time for her to get a permanent insulin pump. Lucy knows that her mother must have spoken to Sandy Steiner's mother.

Chapter 18. Bad Girl Analysis

Lucy is once again resisting any sort of help. Instead of addressing her problem she is running away from it. This time she is physically running away. She is so desperate to run away that she causes a huge scene which draws the attention of her classmates. Lucy usually avoids letting her classmates and others from knowing about her diabetes but this time she will do anything to avoid going to the hospital.

Chapter 19. Shrink-Wrap

Chapter 19. Shrink-Wrap Summary

Lucy goes to her appointment with Dr. Richard Carlson whom she calls "Dr. Rick". Lucy is resistant to answering his questions but decides to be upfront with him and tell him that she is only there because she is being forced to be there. In turn, Dr. Rick tells her that he gets paid whether she decides to be helped or not. Lucy gets the feeling that Dr. Rick is just trying to "evaluate" her and she is not going to let him dissect her. Dr. Rick suggests that Lucy help the people around her by adjusting her behavior because it is her behavior that influences how people perceive her.

At her home Mark Murphy comes to visit her because he is genuinely worried about her. As they are talking he reminds her of the last time that she was hospitalized for her diabetes. Lucy remembers that it was when they were eight years old and they were playing Sleeping Beauty in the woods. Mark sheepishly confesses that when she fell asleep that day and would not wake up he did not immediately seek help like everyone thought. Instead, when Lucy was not waking up Mark just watched her sleep. Finally, when he got hungry and she still wasn't waking, he went home and had lunch. Mark did not go back to Lucy until a couple of hours had passed and Lucy's mother was looking for her. When Lucy still didn't wake up he kissed her hoping that she would wake up like Sleeping Beauty. Mark tells Lucy that he has always felt bad about this and had always hoped that he could one day save her life to make up for leaving her in the woods when they were little. Lucy feels embarrassed for Mark but she also feels bad that he is so embarrassed. She asks him what he is doing that night around eleven and asks him if she can come over.

Chapter 19. Shrink-Wrap Analysis

Lucy does not want to talk to Dr. Rick so she is honest in telling him that much. Dr. Rick tries to reason with her and talks to her like an adult but not like Wayne talked to her. Lucy does not like the feeling Dr. Rick gives her and that he doesn't seem to care so she doesn't make it easy for him to get any answers from her.

Mark comes over to see Lucy and though it seems she likes his friendship, she admits that her mother likes Mark and that in itself is a strike against him. When Mark is confessing what really happened the day Lucy was hospitalized when she was eight, the reader can tell that there may be another reason as to why Mark has stayed around Lucy despite her negative changes. It seems that Mark may have feelings for Lucy or may just be sticking around her because he feels a sense of responsibility for her. Either way, Lucy can see that he cares about her and wants to make him feel better about what happened by letting him help her. The fact that she feels lets him help her shows that she knows that allowing others in is a way of letting them know you care about them.

Chapter 20. Studying

Chapter 20. Studying Summary

In Mark's basement Lucy is using his computer to get on the Transylvania website. Mark and Lucy have to be quiet so that his mother who has amazing hearing doesn't catch her over there. Mark and Lucy are huddled over the computer only inches away from each other. Lucy asks the people in the chat room if anyone one knows where Draco lives. No there seems to know where Draco lives. As Mark and Lucy joke around Lucy punches him she notices how muscular Mark has become. Mark asks Lucy who Draco is and if she is dating him. Lucy explains who Draco is but notices that Mark is jealous which flatters her. As they continue to joke around they both start laughing a little too loudly and almost get caught by his mother. As Lucy realizes how close her face is to Mark's and wonders if he is going to kiss her she quickly leaves.

Chapter 20. Studying Analysis

When Lucy is with Mark he is able to bring out the happy Lucy it seems she used to be. Mark and Lucy joke around and it seems that Mark has always seen the same Lucy. Lucy is comfortable with Mark and lets her guard down with him. Mark sets off feelings in Lucy that she hasn't felt before and she notices that he has turned into the handsome guy she used to occasionally catch glimpses of when they were younger.

Chapter 21. Adrift

Chapter 21. Adrift Summary

Lucy goes to the coffee shop where she reads her book *The Stranger*. She seems to identify with book as she reads about the man who is at his mother's funeral and seems to be breaking all the rules. As Lucy reads Weevil joins her and she notices this time that Weevil is older than she remembered. Lucy finds out that Weevil's name is actually Andy Anderson. Weevil invites her to go to Wayne's Halloween party where instead of dressing in costume everyone dresses the way normal well-dressed people should dress. Weevil tells her that Wayne really liked her.

At home Lucy notices that the chrysalis is changing into a gray, as she inspects she sees that she can actually see the folded up butterfly inside and its transformation is almost complete. Lucy checks her blood and it is at 474 which is incredibly high and she wonders how it could possibly be that high especially since she hardly ate anything for dinner. Lucy isn't feeling well and lies in bed wondering what the "Seven sisters" (the specks of blood on her ceiling which she has named) are talking about. Lucy's thoughts drift into memories of when she was young and used to imagine herself marrying Mark. She thinks of herself and him now as a couple and can't imagine it with how much she has changed in her physical appearance. She starts to wonder what would happen if she were to do what her parents wanted and started being "good" like Sandy Steiner. Lucy wonders if Sandy is just as miserable as her but simply puts on an act. Lucy thinks about the Halloween party and how funny it would be if she brought Sandy.

Chapter 21. Adrift Analysis

At the coffee shop the fact that Lucy notices that Weevil is older than she originally thought may indicate that her view on what she once thought was amazing and so appealing is not as appealing as she originally thought.

As Lucy sees that the butterfly is forming in the chrysalis, it becomes very clear that the chrysalis is a metaphor and the butterfly and the change it is going through is a symbol for the changes that she is starting to go through. Though the chrysalis was at one point dark, she can not see through its outer shell and the butterfly within is starting to show through. Just like the old Lucy is starting to show through and she is letting Mark and even herself catch glimpses of her inner Lucy, the same blonde girl she painted in her self portrait. Lucy remembers that in her fantasies of marrying Mark when she was younger, she always imagined herself with long blonde hair. Lucy knows that she could not be with Mark in her current state.

Chapter 22. Angst

Chapter 22. Angst Summary

Lucy wakes up feeling sick but her father tells her that if she wants to get her computer back she needs to go to school. No one at school even talks to Lucy until she gets to French where Dylan tries to talk to her. Lucy tells Dylan she is mad at him for leaving her with a vampire and for not calling her after her reaction. Dylan ask her if she is going to Wayne's Halloween party and is surprised to know that she was already invited to the party by Weevil.

Lucy goes to her appointment with Dr. Rick and he tells her that he has read her paper and that she is very intelligent. Lucy tells Dr. Rick that she is going to go to better in school, see him, and stay off the chat room in order to get her computer back. Dr. Rick asks her why she is Angry. Lucy tells him that she is not angry; she is "pissed off".

Lucy stops by the tattoo parlor and is looking at the tattoos in the window when Antoinette, the owner, comes out. Lucy asks Antoinette what the difference is between angry and pissed off. Antoinette tells Lucy that being pissed off is only temporary. Lucy asks Antoinette if she knows Wayne. Antoinette says she does and any girl that hangs out with him is stupid.

Lucy goes home and finds that her chrysalis has shriveled up. Thinking that it has died she starts to cry until she realizes that the butterfly has left the cocoon and is flying around her room. Lucy finds an invitation to the Halloween party on her bed; it is addressed to "Sweetblood".

Chapter 22. Angst Analysis

In this chapter it is noticeable how different Lucy is when she is at school and when she isn't feeling well. At the appointment with Dr. Rick, Lucy contradicts herself by saying that she is not Angry and that she is pissed off. Earlier, Lucy corrects Antoinette by telling her that she is not pissed off, she is angry.

Lucy talks to Antoinette and finds out that she knows who Wayne is and she thinks the girls that hang out with him are stupid, it confirms that Wayne is bad news. When Lucy gets the invitation to the party and it is addressed to "Sweetblood" it confirms Lucy's suspicions that Wayne is actually Draco. Now Lucy is left to question how Draco knew who she was.

Chapter 23. Trick of Treat

Chapter 23. Trick of Treat Summary

Lucy calls Dylan and asks him for a ride to the party. Dylan asks her if she is going to be mean to him again then agrees to take her. Lucy finds her outfit for the party and puts it on. Lucy's parents see her in her "dorky" outfit and think she looks really nice. Dylan calls her to tell her he doesn't have a jacket for the party and Lucy tells him she knows where she could find him a dorky jacket. After Lucy's parents go to sleep she sneaks out and Dylan is waiting in for her in his car. Dylan asks Lucy what she has in her shoebox and she tells him it is the butterfly she got from him. Dylan clarifies that it was from Wayne. Lucy has Dylan stop by Mark's house where she borrows his letterman jacket so that Dylan can wear it to the party.

Chapter 23. Trick of Treat Analysis

Lucy is still mad at Dylan but she knows that she needs to get the butterfly back to Wayne so that it will survive. When Dylan points out to Lucy that the butterfly was actually from Wayne, it makes her feel uneasy. Although Lucy hasn't said it, it seems like she has a gut feeling that something isn't right about Wayne and she even seems a little scared.

Chapter 24. Bizarro

Chapter 24. Bizarro Summary

At the party Weevil is almost unrecognizable in his "costume" as he is greeting everyone that enters. Everyone at the party looks "normal" but it is obvious that no one is really comfortable in the clothing they are wearing. Wayne enters the room dressed like a vampire and introduces himself as Draconious Mundo. Lucy asks Dylan what he meant when he told her that the butterfly was actually from Wayne. Dylan explains that Wayne knew who she was and gave him the butterfly to give to her. As Dylan is talking to Lucy she notices that the tattoo she noticed on him is actually fake. Lucy suddenly sees Dylan as an immature high school kid and is furious. Lucy begins to feel paranoid as she wonders how Wayne was able to find her and how he knew her real name.

Chapter 24. Bizarro Analysis

In this chapter the intriguing and confident Dylan that Lucy thought him to be is no longer. She is able to see him for who he really is, an immature high school boy. Dylan is a poser, his tattoo is even fake.

Lucy finds out that Wayne is Draco and this begins to scare her. The chat room Lucy was on was supposed to be anonymous but somehow Wayne was able to find her. It doesn't help that Antoinette told her that girls that hang out with Wayne are stupid.

Chapter 25. Wine and Chocolate

Chapter 25. Wine and Chocolate Summary

Lucy does not like games and that Wayne has deceived her. She wants to leave the party but she decides to put the butterfly in the greenhouse before she leaves. In the greenhouse Wayne approaches her and apologizes for startling her and deceiving her. She asks him if he really drinks blood and he tells her that he doesn't. everything that she asks Wayne is answered in a very cryptic manner. Lucy demands to know how he found her. Draco explains how easy it was to find her because of the clues she gave in the chat room. She mentioned locations she would visit, events in her town, what she was like, and other clues that made it easy for him to find her. Wayne gets her to drink wine and even though she tries to leave several times he gets her to stay longer. The more Lucy drinks, the more Wayne touches her and makes her feel uncomfortable. Lucy is getting very sick and tries to leave but ends up stumbling and almost passing out. She forces her way out and finds Dylan but he is too drunk to give her a ride home. Lucy finds Mark's Jacket and tries to stumble out of the party. As she is walking out of the front door, Wayne blocks her and creepily asks her to join him for dinner the following Friday. Lucy does not want to go to dinner with Wayne and as she tries push him away and tells him to let go of her he touches her lips with his fingers then presses his fingers to his lips. This completely repulses Lucy and Wayne can tell but it doesn't seem to bother him. Lucy runs out of the apartment and heads home.

Chapter 25. Wine and Chocolate Analysis

In this chapter Lucy is able to see Dylan and Wayne for who they really are. As Lucy looks at Dylan drunk and bleeding she realizes that he is just a drunk that is at the house because he likes to drink. As Lucy talks to Wayne she looks at him and his makeup and bitten nails and sees a middle aged man who went out of his way to meet a high school girl. Wayne makes Lucy sick. He is trying to seduce her by treating her like he is there to help her. However, he is attracted to her and wants to date her.

Chapter 26. Snail

Chapter 26. Snail Summary

Lucy stumbles home in the sleet. She is becoming sicker and more disoriented with every step. Lucy is uncontrollably thirsty and delusional. As she is walking she sees an open Laundromat and buys herself a drink, she begins to vomit and ends up vomiting on Mark's jacket. Lucy continues on her way with the intention of giving Mark's jacket back but her thoughts get more and more confused and delusional she becomes. She is eating the sleet and repeating her address to herself along with portions of her paper describing the symptoms of ketoacidosis, though she doesn't remember why exactly she is remembering those words and where they came from.

Chapter 26. Snail Analysis

Lucy is completely delusional, she knows she needs help and is desperately trying to get home. When she stops at the Laundromat and vomits on Mark's jacket she tries to clean it off the jacket despite how sick she is. This action shows how much Lucy truly cares about Mark. As Lucy begins to lose consciousness her mind becomes a chaotic mess and she starts reciting words from her own paper describing the symptoms of ketoacidosis.

Chapter 27. Logic

Chapter 27. Logic Summary

Lucy wakes up in the hospital. Lucy's parents and Mark are there when she wakes up. They inform her that she had lost consciousness in Mark's backyard. Mark found Lucy, brought her into the house and called 911. Lucy had been out in the snow for hours and got some frostbite on her toes. Lucy thanks Mark for liking her for who she actually is and not being scared of her. Mark admits that sometimes he is a little scared of her.

Fish comes in the room and tells her that her glucose levels were over 800 when they found her. Fish is there at the hospital and Lucy confides in him by telling him the truth about what happened and that she had been drinking. Fish informs her that she has made an amazing recovery but had ketoacidosis and actually died for about two minutes. Lucy is going to have to take a class to help her control her diabetes.

On the way home Lucy can tell how upset her parents are. When she gets to her room and sees her frostbitten toes the reality of her almost dying kicks in and she starts crying. Lucy is able to get some insights on dying: 1. Though she could be dead, she is not; she is still undead, twice. 2. Your life does not flash before your eyes when you die so she should live knowing that she would only see things once. 3. After dying, those that love the person the most are the ones that are there when that person wakes up

Chapter 27. Logic Analysis

Lucy has almost died and this experience has scared her to the point that she knows that she does not want to be dead. Lucy is angry at Dylan for being drunk and not being able to drive her home. Lucy is also mad at Mark for giving her the letterman jacket like she asked with out asking her any questions. It is interesting that Lucy is not mad at Wayne though he was the one that got her to drink all the wine and had ulterior motives. Lucy hasn't really thought about how creepy Wayne actually really is.

Lucy begins to cry when the reality that she almost died it is one of the few times that she shows any vulnerability in the book.

Chapter 28. Me

Chapter 28. Me Summary

Lucy is finally able to get her shoes on and is recovering from the whole incident. She goes to school where Marquissa and Fiona ask her about her Halloween. Sandy finds her in the hall and asks her what happened. Lucy pretends it was nothing and blows her off.

Lucy considers telling Dr. Rick everything that happened on Halloween but then changes her mind at the realization that he really doesn't care, he just wants to be entertained so she tells him empty insignificant things like she usually does.

Lucy goes to the tattoo shop and finds Antoinette. She tells Antoinette everything that happened on Halloween and explains her predicament with feeling that the Lucy she is now is not working for anyone. Antoinette doesn't see the problem, she simply tells her to change. Antoinette explains that every tattoo she has represents a change she has made in her life. She explains that people are constantly changing and it is a good thing.

As Lucy leaves, she runs into Dylan. She yells at him and tells him that he is just a messenger boy for creepy Wayne and that liked him until she got to know who he actually was. As she storms away she starts to feel bad about being hypocritical and apologizes. She explains to him that she has changed.

Chapter 28. Me Analysis

Lucy is at a point in her life where she knows that the person she has become does not represent who she really is. Lucy feels trapped in her image and doesn't know what to do about the person she has become.

At school she continues to dress in all black, but she knows that she is no longer feeling the image she has portrayed for herself. Lucy considers talking to her therapist but doesn't tell him anything realizing that he has no desire to actually help her.

Lucy talks to Antoinette and tells her the whole story, including the party and almost dying. Antoinette tells Lucy that the answer is as simple as changing. She explains that she has changed many times and every time it has been a change for the better. Lucy knows what she needs to do.

When Lucy tells Dylan that she has changed, it symbolizes the close of this chapter in her life. She is no longer the depressed goth-dressing Lucy that everyone has gotten used to.

Chapter 29. Blue Sky

Chapter 29. Blue Sky Summary

Lucy strips off all the color from her hair and goes back to being blonde. Because it got so damaged, she also ended up cutting her hair dramatically. Lucy shows her parents her new hair and they love it.

As Lucy is studying, she gets a phone call from Wayne. She simply puts the phone down and continues to look at the clouds like she was doing before he called.

Lucy goes to the sporting good store and buys Mark a new jacket to replace the one she vomited on. They go on a walk and start teasing each other like they used to. Lucy tells Mark that she has changed but she is still Lucy, Skeeter, and Sweetblood, only different. Mark tells her that he likes all of them.

Chapter 29. Blue Sky Analysis

Starting with her diabetes, Lucy has completely taken control of her life. Lucy realized that it was going to take a lot of change to make things better so she has made an effort to positively change her hair, relationship with her parents, relationship with Mark, her approach to school, and getting rid of Wayne. Lucy is finally the same person inside and out.

Characters

Lucy

Lucy Szabo is the main character in his novel. Lucy has had diabetes since she was six years old. Her parents discovered that she had diabetes when she started to develop an unquenchable thirst and started to wet the bed. After having the disease under control for so many years, Lucy decides that she is fed up with the disease and stops taking care of herself. Lucy no longer watches what she eats and how much she exercises. Recently she has developed a theory about vampires. Lucy believes that vampires are real and that they are actually diabetics. She believes that she is one of these vampires. She is not taking her insulin shots like she should be and she is not testing her blood glucose levels either. Lucy's life begins to fall apart. Lucy's grades drop, her relationships with her teachers, school mates, family, and Mark begin to deteriorate and it is all caused by her diabetes being out of control. Lucy has always been indecisive, but the indecisiveness is worse when she is not thinking straight and acting moody because of her diabetes. Lucy hits rock bottom and she knows that in order to survive she needs to do something different.

Dylan/Guy

Dylan is the new kid in school. Dylan was transferred into Lucy's French class where the teacher gave him the name of Guy. From the second Lucy sees Dylan with his blue eyes and black hair she is attracted to him. Lucy likes the way Dylan dresses, his hair, and she especially likes that he has a tattoo on his wrist. Lucy talks to him and they begin to hang out at school and even at the coffee shop. Dylan gives Lucy a chrysalis. Lucy takes care of this chrysalis hoping and waiting for it to become a butterfly. Dylan invites Lucy to a party where she meets Wayne. Lucy finds out that Dylan got the chrysalis from Wayne who is a butterfly breeder. This is what started Lucy thinking and was the key in figuring out that Draco was Wayne and that Wayne was using Dylan to get to her. Dylan turned out to be a complete poser; everything about him that Lucy liked was fake, even the tattoo on his wrist was fake. When Dylan is discovered for who he really is, he doesn't care and tries to continue his friendship with Lucy.

Mark

Mark is Lucy's childhood friend. They were best friends until Lucy started to change. Even though they are no longer friends, Lucy still considers him the closest thing to best friend considering that she doesn't have any. Mark used to be chubby, but now that he is growing up he is starting to transform into a handsome young man. When Lucy and Mark start hanging out again, she takes note that he is changing and she is actually very attracted to him. The more that Mark hangs out with Lucy, the more she starts to put down the wall of anger and revert to the old Lucy that she used to be. Mark



sincerely cares about Lucy and misses hanging out with her. Mark confesses to Lucy about the time that they were in the woods and she had a reaction that sent her to the hospital and how he didn't immediately seek help like she thought. Mark tells her how he watched her sleep and then kissed her in hopes that she would wake up since they were playing sleeping beauty.

Marquissa

Marquissa is one of Lucy's classmates. She is boy crazy and does everything to try and be cool. Marquissa likes Dylan and makes it a point to talk to him whenever she can, even if it bothers Lucy.

Wayne/ Draco

Wayne is Draco. He is introduced to Lucy by Dylan. Wayne meets Lucy online and is able to use the information that she provides on the website and put the information together enough to find her. Wayne has an apartment that is the place where teens and college students like to go to party. Wayne provides all the alcohol and acts like a father like figure to them. At first Lucy thinks that Wayne is a nice man that just wants to be her friend and help her however she can. However, Lucy realizes that Wayne is just a creepy middle aged man who likes young girls like herself and tries to lure them to him by telling them that they are special and that he finds them to be interesting. Wayne is the only one at his parties that is never dressed like a goth. The only time that he dresses like a goth is at the Halloween party where everyone is supposed to dress like the opposite of who they really are. It is at this party that Lucy is finally able to see past the nice Wayne she knows and see the old creepy man that he really is.

Fiona

Fiona is one of Lucy's goth classmates. She used to be a cheerleader the year before but decided that she wanted to be a goth instead.

Mom

Lucy's mother has always been overprotective over Lucy because of her diabetes. She tiptoes around her so that she doesn't upset her. She spends so much of her life worrying about Lucy.

Dad

Lucy's father is a nice man who likes to golf and has always been close with Lucy until she starts acting out and he has to take her computer from her.

Dr. Richards/ Dr. Rick

This is the psychologist Lucy's parents send her to see after her episode.

Mr. Boreass

This is Lucy's homeroom teacher. Lucy is in his class when she passes out.

Ms. Buttface

Lucy's School Counselor, she is an even-keeled woman that seems to always keep her cool no matter what Lucy tells her.

Antoinnette

This is the local tattoo parlor owner. She is very wise and talks gives Lucy advice.

Mr. Gruber

This is the vice principal of the school that used to be a football player and tackles Lucy as she tries to escape.

Weevil

Weevil is one of Dylan and Wayne's mutual friend. The first time that Lucy meets him at the coffee shop she is impressed that Dylan would know an older guy that is inviting him to a college party.

Sandy

Sandy is one of Lucy's classmates who also has diabetes. She is the opposite of Lucy, she is blonde, happy, open about her diabetes, and actually in control of her diabetes. Sandy follows Lucy around because she sees her as her diabetes sister and wants them to work together to raise awareness about diabetes. Lucy avoids Sandy at all costs because she does not want anyone to know about her disease and she finds Sandy annoying.

Dr. Fisher/Fish

Fish is Lucy's endocrinologist. Lucy looks up to him and can identify with him because he too has diabetes and has had it his whole life. Fish knows how Lucy feels and Lucy trusts him as someone who is there to help her.

Objects/Places

Transylvania Chat Room

The Transylvania chat room is a chat room for vampires where Lucy meets Draco. Draco uses the information that she reveals in the chat room to find her in real life.

Seward High School

Lucy is a Student at Seward high school. It is here that Lucy meets Dylan.

The Carfax

The Carfax is the apartment complex in which Wayne throws parties for all his "friends" Wayne uses his apartment and the free alcohol to attract young people like Lucy whom he believes he can "help."

Harker Village

Lucy likes to go to Harker Village because it is an area filled with college and little shops. Lucy likes to hang out in places where there are older people because she cannot wait until she is older and independent.

The Sacred Bean

The sacred bean is the coffee shop in the middle of Harker Village. This is the coffee shop that Dylan asks her to go to. During the day it is a quiet coffee shop littered with normal-looking college students. At night it transforms into a bustling coffee joint with bands playing and filled with people wearing black leather and goths.

Antoinette's Body Art

Lucy likes to go to Antoinette's Body Art to look at Antoinette's display of tattoos, and talk to Antoinette, the owner.

The Chrysalis

The chrysalis and the change it undergoes is a symbol of the change that Lucy is undergoing. The chrysalis starts off as a cocoon and ends up being a beautiful butterfly just as Lucy has reached her point of realization and is able to see Dylan and Wayne for who they really are.

Rail Road Tracks

The rail road tracks seem to be a recurring danger for Lucy. She was forbidden to be anywhere around them when she was a little girl because she once fell asleep on them and could have been killed. As Lucy is walking home from the mall on the rail road tracks, she has a diabetic reaction and almost loses consciousness on them again.

Insulin

Lucy goes into a narrative where she describes her love/hate relationship with insulin. She knows that if she doesn't have enough insulin in her blood, she will die. However, she points out that if she has too much insulin in her blood, she will also die.

Laundromat

Lucy stumbles into a laundromat as she is trying to make her way home from the Halloween party. Lucy vomits all over the floor and on Mark's letter jacket he lent her. Lucy is barely conscious but she still goes out of her way to wash the vomit off the sleeve.

The Woods

Mark recounts the time that Lucy lost consciousness when they were playing Sleeping Beauty in the woods by their house. When Lucy wouldn't wake up he just watched her sleep until he got hungry and went home for lunch. After lunch he came back and she was still sleeping so he kissed her in hopes that she would wake. It wasn't until Lucy's mother asked for Lucy that Mark got help.

Themes

Diabetes in Teens

Diabetes is the theme of the whole novel. The author knows a lot about the subject, and because the protagonist is a diabetic, the reader learns about the disease and all of the risks associated with it. Although the reader may be familiar with how diabetes works in adults, it is completely different for a teenager to have it. There are actually two characters in the novel that have diabetes, Sandy and Lucy. The author uses Sandy as a contrast to Lucy. Unlike Lucy, Sandy is in control of her diabetes and isn't afraid to talk about it. Sandy is not scared of people judging her because of her illness because she knows that most people just don't know anything about the disease. Sandy takes every opportunity she has to inform everyone about diabetes. Lucy is the polar opposite of Sandy in every way. Lucy does not want anyone to know about her disease. She is scared that everyone thinks she is crazy and that they are going to treat her differently if they know that she has diabetes. Because Lucy is so concerned with what people think of her, she puts on a costume of sorts and tries to hide behind her anger.

At the end of the novel, Dr. Fish tells Lucy that he wants her to go and take a class on how to manage her diabetes. Dr. Fish knows how much Lucy knows about her disease but he also knows that if Lucy knew better and what she was doing, her diabetes would be under control.

Online Predators

Lucy is always online on her Transylvania chat room for vampires. Lucy is always cautious with the information she gives out online. Lucy has the nickname "Sblood" this is what she uses so that no one knows who she is. When Lucy gets her computer taken away because she is going to a chat room which he does not believe is safe, she is furious. Lucy's father explains that the chat room that she was on is not safe and she can get herself in trouble by being on those dangerous websites. As the reader, one is able to see what Lucy has discussed with the others in the chat room and it seems that she is being safe and using proper precautions. So when Lucy's father says that it is dangerous, the reader dismisses it as him being an overprotective father.

At the end of the novel it is revealed that Wayne was able to find Lucy using the information she gave out in the chat conversation the reader saw. It did not seem like Lucy was giving out any personal information, but the information she did give was enough for Wayne to use to track her down. Lucy is lucky that Wayne did not kill her or do something horrible to her.

What Others Think

Much of this story is about what Lucy thinks others are thinking about her. Lucy starts off the story by sharing her thoughts and feelings about the blood that fills her body, she then adds that she would never share what she is saying with anyone because they would think that she is crazy. Lucy describes what she is wearing the day she is sitting outside on her steps. Lucy is wearing glasses so dark that she can hardly see out of them. She is pretending to read when she is really just daydreaming, and when Mark comes up to her to start a conversation, she makes a point of acting like he was bothering her and she was really into her book. Lucy does all of this and puts on a show to try and manipulate what people think of her, yet she doesn't have the confidence to tell people about her diabetes. Lucy wants to make sure that she lets every one know that she is not a goth, she doesn't want to be identified as one of them even though she looks exactly like a goth. Lucy needs to figure out what she thinks of herself instead of worrying about what others think of her. In the end of the novel, Lucy finally figures out that the only people she needs to impress are those that truly love her.

Style

Point of View

This novel is written from the point of view of the Lucy, the main character. Lucy tells the story in first person and the reader is able to read into Lucy's thoughts. One of the unique qualities that Lucy has as a narrator is that she is a diabetic. Because her diabetes is not under control, she begins to lose the ability to think clearly. The reader is able to tell when Lucy's diabetes is completely out of control because of the thoughts and perspectives Lucy begins to have. The worse Lucy's blood glucose level is, the more negative and pessimistic her point of view is. The ability to read into Lucy's thoughts and feelings is essential to the reader because the reader is able to tell when Lucy is starting to show symptoms of a diabetic reaction before Lucy is able to see it for herself. Lucy will start to wonder about things that don't make any sense, or she will make decisions that are not necessarily something that she would do if she weren't having a reaction, she will even have hallucinations. Lucy is an interesting person to be telling the story because she changes her mind and contradicts herself so often that from chapter to chapter she changes completely. Lucy is an intelligent teenage girl, but often her perspective is clouded by her emotions.

Setting

The setting is in modern day. Because the novel is set in modern day, there are several dimensions such as the internet and internet predators that play a big roll in the story. The story starts at Lucy's house. Lucy is at her house and online when she is chatting with her vampire friends. The other place that much of this story takes place in is Lucy's high school and at the coffee shop. Finally, the last setting is at Wayne's apartment. The description of the apartment's setting is a symbol for what Wayne represents. It is an dark apartment filled with misfits that are lost in what they want in life. Like Wayne says himself, they are mostly posers. The setting of the novel changes through out the day. Usually the Lucy's day starts off at home, then she goes to school. After school she usually goes to either therapy, the doctor's office or sometimes she just goes home. As the story changes, the places she goes to and the time that she does them changes. Toward the end of the novel, Lucy is spending more time at home with her family doing the things that she needs to do.

Language and Meaning

The language used in the novel is language that most teenagers would understand. One of the interesting things that the author uses is computer abbreviations that one would find in a chat room. The teens are always talking online and they often don't spell out the words in their entirety or they simply use abbreviations and acronyms. For anyone that uses chat rooms it would be easy to understand what everyone is talking

about. When Alice and her friends speak, they use language that is appropriate for their age group and they often include slang words. Alice doesn't like people to know how intelligent she actually is, but the language she uses that she is actually a bright well-spoken person. Even if she tends to contradict herself. Lucy will change what she says so often that it is clear that she does not know what she wants in her life. When she goes into the narrative about how much she loves blood, then she ends the chapter by saying that she hates blood, the reader can see that something is not right with her thought process.

One thing about the language used is how it describes Lucy's mental state and her glucose levels. She sometimes has delusions and crazy thoughts and it is through the language she uses that the reader can tell what is really going on inside her body.

Structure

The structure of the novel is simple. The novel is written in paragraph form with all of the narrative being from Lucy and any dialogue is included in between the narration. The reader is able to see what Lucy is thinking by her narrative and is able to see what everyone else is doing by their body language as described by Lucy, and their dialogue. At times between the narrative, Alice has random thoughts that have nothing to do with the storyline, but for the most part her thoughts are usually relevant unless she is having a diabetic reaction.

There are several occasions where the dialogue included is from the chat room. In these cases it is written out exactly as it would appear to a person who is using a computer. The author includes letters in the novel several times. This is seen in the invitation that Draco sends Lucy and the essay that Lucy writes. The book is organized into chapters. Each chapter has a number and it also has a name that has to do with the events or themes that particular chapter has.

Quotes

"You know, Lucy, I liked you a lot better before you got all punk" (Chapter 2, p. 10).

"Maybe I'll get an armlet. A chain design wrapped around my arm. You know-to symbolize my enslavement" (Chapter 12, p. 92).

"Insight, crisis, eruption. You are entering a period of great change" (Chapter 16, p. 128).

"Maybe she doesn't know how to act, so she sticks a turkey bone in her nostril and acts pissed off. I've been there. Only without the bone" (Chapter 14, p. 104).

"I'm talking about the poses we adopt. Why do you believe you embrace the goth lifestyle" (Chapter 25, p. 202).

"Every time you visited the chat room you revealed yourself" (Chapter 25, p. 203).

"It's not my behavior that's bothering them. It's who I am" (Chapter 19, p. 147).

"Everything they know about who you are is based on what you do" (Chapter 19, p. 147).

"Be nice,' I tell him. 'It belongs to a good friend of mine'" (Chapter 24, p. 190).

"You are more powerful than you know. The world that surrounds you is what you make of it" (Chapter 16, p. 125).

"I'm still the same twisted individual. Just different" (Chapter 29, p. 242).

"I meant...I guess I've changed. I'm somebody else now" (Chapter 28, p. 236).

"Every morning you check the mirror to see who you are. And every morning your see somebody new. You don't like what you see? Change" (Chapter 28, p. 233).

Topics for Discussion

Discuss Diabetes. Lucy refers to the ignorance of those in the middle ages as being the reason they didn't understand diabetes. Do you believe things have dramatically changed and that Diabetes is something most people know about?

Lucy is warned by her father that the chat room she was on was dangerous. Do you agree? Why or why not?

What are some precautions teenagers should take when using chat rooms? What advice would you give to teenagers that may be using these chat rooms?

This novel uses many medical terminology associated with diabetes. What do you think you have learned about diabetes by reading this novel?

Lucy is struggling with life in general. Do you believe that she is acting this way because of her illness or because she is a teenager? Explain.

Mark and Dylan are two complete opposites. Do you believe that Mark and Lucy are a good match? Why or why not?

What role do you believe the chrysalis plays in this novel? What do you believe the chrysalis symbolizes?

Lucy seems to go back and forth between trusting and not trusting Wayne. At what point in the novel, if at all, did you begin to see red flags? What were they?

Do you believe that Lucy's teachers could have approached her differently? What would you have done if you were a teacher and one of your students had a diabetic reaction like Lucy did?