

# **Turned (Book #1 in the Vampire Journals) Study Guide**

**Turned (Book #1 in the Vampire Journals) by Morgan Rice**

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## Plot Summary

“Turned” is a young adult novel by Morgan Rice, and the first in her Vampire Journal series. It details the discovery of 18-year-old Caitlin Paine that she is a vampire and her encounters with the vampire underworld of New York. When the novel begins, Caitlin and her brother, Sam, have moved to New York with their mother, who is emotionally and verbally abusive. Caitlin befriends and quickly develops romantic feelings for Jonah, and surprises herself by beating up the bullies who beat up Jonah. Caitlin begins to feel increasingly hungry, and dreams about drinking blood. While on a date with Jonah, Caitlin feeds on an international superstar vocalist. Because of this, she becomes wanted by the police, and captured by the Blacktide Coven of vampires. She is rescued by Caleb, of the White Coven, who believes she is the chosen One who will lead them to a mysterious sword that will save both vampires and mankind from an apocalyptic war. Caleb even goes so far as to turn his back on his own coven, risking banishment, to protect Caitlin. When the novel ends, Caitlin and Caleb know they have a long journey ahead of them.



# Chapter 1 - 4

## Summary

Chapter 1 – Eighteen-year-old Caitlin Paine begins her first day at her new high school in New York City in March, guarded by armed policemen. The only white girl there, she feels out of place for another reason, which she cannot quite place. She does not like living in the city. She carries a journal with her wherever she goes. It is her one escape, and is full of drawings and writing. Caitlin also wear a necklace with a cross on it. Though she is not religious, the cross, which bears a Latin inscription, is from her grandmother, and has been in the family for generations. The incredibly large school is packed with thousands of kids. Despite her being the only white girl, no one seems to notice her. She takes a seat in her first class near a boy everyone calls “Barack Obama” because he looks like Barack Obama. He is part white, black, and Puerto Rican. Caitlin has a crush on him already. The boy’s real name is Jonah.

At lunch, Caitlin sits at table empty except for a sad looking Chinese boy. Caitlin thinks about her brother, Sam, who is fifteen, but might as well be twenty. They have a deep bond, but Sam is hardened from the abandonment of their father and the treatment from their mother. Jonah comes to sit down beside Caitlin. Jonah plays the viola, and Caitlin says she’s always wanted to play the piano. Jonah tells her to go and see Mrs. Lennox in the rehearsal room, and she will give Caitlin lessons for free. At the end of the day, Caitlin heads home and cannot stop thinking about Jonah. She imagines Jonah must have a girlfriend. As she walks home, she hears catcalls from different men. She then sees some older teens beating up Jonah, and destroying his viola. She rushes over to tell them to stop. They push her to the ground, her journal goes flying, and she rushes away to escape but goes down a dead end. She is cornered by attackers, feels rage, and lashes out at them, breaking bones and taking them down. She screams and feels as if she needs to feed on blood. The four kids lay unmoving at her feet.

Chapter 2 – Caitlin feels hollowed out and numb following the attack. Caitlin is angered to see her mom home early from work. Her mother is verbally and emotionally abusive. Caitlin goes into her room and replays the events of the fight in her mind, and worries about Jonah. Sam comes in. Sam tries to be the peacemaker between his mother and his sister. He worries that she will end up fired again. Both siblings are tired of constantly moving around. Sam says Caitlin looks or seems different, but he doesn’t know how, exactly. He talks about going to find their father. Sam has attempted to contact two people on Facebook with the name of their father, but neither one has responded. Sam even considers going back to their last town, in Oakville, and staying with friends. Caitlin snaps and tells him to go, and then instantly regrets it as he leaves. She reflects on a time years before, when she was sixteen, when her mom’s then-boyfriend, Frank, attempted to sexually abuse her, and she had responded in anger with a kick that sent him flying across the house and knocked him out cold. She wonders if something is happening in side of her.



Chapter 3 – Caitlin dreams of being chased by the bullies, and the cement beneath her feet changing to prairie grass. She is running towards her father, but then falls through a hole into an old church, and attacks the priest, where she drinks his blood. Caitlin wakes up late for school. Her mother and Sam have already left. After breakfast, she still feels hungry, but she doesn't know what for. At school, she is chastised for being late, but corrects the teacher about her use of the words "not acceptable", and is ordered out of class. In the hall, she is stopped by a guard who demands to see her hall pass, and she is brought to the principal's office. When no one is looking, she leaves, and goes to see if she can find Jonah. He finds her at her locker at the end of the day. Jonah's face is purple and swollen. He laments the loss of his viola, which he was hoping was his ticket out of the city. Jonah reveals he found the bullies, beaten up worse than him, and he believes it is proof there is a God, and that perhaps he has a guardian angel. He has found her journal and collected all the loose pages, returning it to her. He explains he followed the pages to the bullies, and remembers Caitlin standing over him before blacking out.

Chapter 4 – Caitlin is happy as she walks home, replaying Jonah's words over and over in her mind. He has asked her out on a date to Carnegie Hall. She has agreed. At home, Caitlin's mom calls her names and tells her that Sam is gone, having left a note saying he is going back to his friends. She blames it on Caitlin. Caitlin realizes it her fault. His room is empty. Her mother tells her that she isn't her real daughter, and that she never should have taken Caitlin in. Caitlin is enraged as her mother tries to choke her. She throws her mother off through a wall, and her mother collapses, unconscious. Caitlin then leaves the apartment, vowing never to return.

## Analysis

When Morgan Rice's novel "Turned" begins, Caitlin Paine seems to be an ordinary teenage girl. She is pretty, of average height, and doesn't feel as if she truly fits in anywhere. It isn't because she feels out of place as the only white girl at her new school, however, she believes there is something else that makes her different. Caitlin receives little comfort from home, for her mother is verbally and emotionally abusive. The change Caitlin feels inside her causes her to lash out at her brother, the only one who truly cares for her, causing him to head out of New York in search of their long lost father. Caitlin's mother blames this on her, and attacks Caitlin, who defends herself and leaves her apartment, vowing never to come back. In this respect, readers can see a process of self-discovery beginning: Caitlin understands that she doesn't fit in, and understands that she feels out of place which becomes something of a catalyst driving her on to new places, and to do unexpected things.

At the same time, Caitlin's brother is given relatively little play in the book early on, his experiences compel him to seek out his father. This begins Sam's own journey to discover who he is himself, and what role his father has played in his own life.

Whatever change Caitlin is going through, it is becoming more and more urgent. Apart from a hunger and a thirst which she can never seem to fully satisfy, she begins to



dream about being a vampire. The nightmares startle her, and lead her to wonder if maybe something is wrong with her, let alone different. This is only a concern compounded by her mother's vocalized definition that Caitlin is actually not hers and she should never have taken Caitlin in. This only confuses Caitlin further, driving her deeper to want to figure out who she truly is. At the same time, the lack of love Caitlin experiences from her mother drives her on in pursuit of romantic love and acceptances. Jonah seems to be a possible place she can find acceptance.

## **Discussion Question 1**

What is Caitlin's home life like? Why does she put up with it?

## **Discussion Question 2**

Why is Sam so curious about finding his and Caitlin's father? What does Sam think it will do?

## **Discussion Question 3**

What things does Caitlin do, feel, and encounter that lead her to imagine she is somehow abnormal? Why?

## **Vocabulary**

Jostled, fathom, tentatively, conspicuous, smitten, blurt, defiantly, primal, lackadaisical, immaculate



## Chapter 5 - 8

### Summary

Chapter 5 – Caitlin goes and gets on the subway toward Columbus Circle and believes she sees shadows along the walls. A large, drunk, black man attempts to harass her, but Caitlin gets on the subway just in time. At Columbus Circle, she feels extraordinary pain in her stomach and feels incredibly thirsty. With a bag of clothes in hand, she changes into nice attire, and meets up with Jonah. She throws her old clothes –and her old life – out. Jonah tells Caitlin that she looks beautiful, and it makes Caitlin’s heart race.

Chapter 6 – Caitlin keeps one of the ticket stubs to Carnegie Hall as a sentimental souvenir. Jonah says the tickets are a gift from his viola teacher, because the teacher couldn’t make the show. Sergei Rakov takes the stage. The piece that will be performed is Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, which is about death coming. Caitlin and Jonah hold hands. During the performance, an even greater pain seizes Caitlin. Jonah asks if she is alright. She realizes she wants to sink her teeth into Jonah’s neck. She races away. She ends up in Sergei’s dressing room, and she descends on Sergei, and feeds.

Chapter 7 – New York Homicide Detective Grace Grant responds to the scene of the crime, which is stunning: a young, international star in his American debut, murdered on a break from his performance. Grace, who is never married, feels worn out and alone in life. She chose her career over love. The crime scene is bizarre, because nothing is out of place except for the lack of blood and two holes in Sergei’s throat. Detective Ramos, also on scene, explains that the angle of attack rules out suicide. Grace finds a ticket stub, for Mezzanine Right, Seat 3.

Meanwhile, Kyle, of the Blacktide Coven of Vampires, moves through Carnegie Hall, pushing people aside using mind control. He is more than three thousand years old, and has seen everything from the Crucifixion of Jesus to the French Revolution. Nothing surprises him, except the murder. He wonders what kind of rogue vampire would openly kill a human and leave the body. It violates all rules of the vampire race. Even bad vampires obey the rules. Grace bumps into Kyle, and he realizes she is more strong-minded and strong-willed than most humans. Kyle clears the crime scene. He attempts to feel out information about the vampire killer, but is horrified to be unable to identify the rogue, beyond that it is a female. He contemplates killing Sergei, for Sergei will awake in a few hours as a vampire. He decides not to, choosing to bring Sergei into the coven for his musical talents, and because the rogue vampire’s scent now runs in his veins. He will be able to detect her.

Chapter 8 – Caitlin wakes up in a garbage dumpster with no memories after rushing out on Jonah. Her head hurts. She has no phone and needs a shower, so she reluctantly decides to go back to her home. There, she finds her mother dead on the floor, blood oozing from her neck. Three men in their late twenties, dressed in all black, also appear.



They question her about the feeding at intermission, and what sort of message she was trying to send. They tell her she is in their territory, and she will have to answer for it. Suddenly, the police burst in, and with the attention of the three men taken, Caitlin rushes out onto the fire escape. Down on the ground, she is overtaken.

## Analysis

Despite the horrors of having to flee home, Caitlin decides that she is going to begin a new life. Even though she has no idea where she will go or what she will do, she nevertheless agrees to go out on a date with Jonah to Carnegie Hall. This is a little confusing to the reader, given that Caitlin might want to figure out what she will do or where she will go rather than going on a date, but Caitlin contends that it is all part of her new life. She will not look back for anything. Unfortunately for Caitlin, she has absolutely no idea just how new her new life will be. This expands tremendously upon the theme of self-discovery, for the process is now well underway. It appears as if much of her old self has either been cast aside or simply put on hold, as Caitlin is open to seeing where her life will next take her.

While heading to the date with Jonah, Caitlin begins feeling horrendous pains of hunger in her stomach, which she barely manages to control. The pain subsides for a while, but while watching the performance at Carnegie, it takes every ounce of will Caitlin has not to attack Jonah. Instead, she rushes into the halls and backstage area of the theater, ultimately coming to feast on Sergei, the performer. Unfortunately, her actions will ultimately lead to both the police and the Blacktide vampire coven coming after her, each for different reasons. Even then, Caitlin still does not truly understand what she is, though she has suspicions. She does, however, have absolutely no memory of feeding on Sergei. She wakes up in a dumpster, completely clueless as to much of the night before. Nevertheless, she is apprehended by Blacktide. These events -moving at a fast speed- make the reader begin to suspect as if there is something else at work, as if Caitlin's vampirism is not an isolated, common, or random incident. The strains of prophecy are being sown, though it will not be revealed directly as prophecy until later.

## Discussion Question 1

Why does Caitlin keep her date with Jonah despite the falling out she has just had with her mother?

## Discussion Question 2

What is the result of the pains that Caitlin feels during the performance at Carnegie Hall? Where does Caitlin end up?





## Discussion Question 3

Why does Kyle become involved in the Carnegie Hall investigation? What interest do he and his coven have in the murder?

## Vocabulary

Sentimental, luxurious, morbid, frivolous, melodious, ravenous, surreal, audacious, immortality, mortified, tentatively, nonchalantly, lithely



# Chapter 9 - 11

## Summary

Chapter 9 – Caitlin wakes up, chained to a wall in a dungeon cell. Kyle enters the cell. He explains he is the deputy leader of the Blacktide Coven. Caitlin says she does not belong to any coven, which makes Kyle suspect she is a lead rogue vampire, testing territory for a shift in control of territory. Kyle explains that Blacktide is the oldest and strongest coven in the land. He questions Caitlin about when her coven intends to invade. Caitlin begins to recall parts of the night before, and explains that anything she did, she did on her own. She says she is sorry. Kyle thinks she is mocking him, so he orders her brought before the Assembly. She is brought before hundreds of vampires, as well as their leader, who seems to be more than ten thousand years old. He questions her, but when she is unable to answer his questions, he directs her attention toward a vampire being tortured for breaking mating rules, by being burned alive with specially-charged Holy Water from the Vatican. When Caitlin still cannot answer questions, she is doused with gallons of Holy Water from a cauldron.

Chapter 10 – Caitlin is not bothered at all by the water. The entire Assembly is stunned. Caitlin bolts from the room, only to be stopped by a handsome vampire about the age of twenty. But rather than blocking her escape, he moves to help her escape. He kills another vampire with a silver-tipped spear. They rush through underground tunnels and halls, and emerge in New York City, near City Hall. The vampires continue to chase them. Caitlin and the other individual head through the sewers. They then take to the streets, and the individual begins flying through the air to escape, with Caitlin holding onto his back.

Chapter 11 – They descend onto the Cloisters, an old church and museum brought over from Europe years before. Caitlin has many questions she wants to ask the mysterious man, including if she herself is a vampire. The man's name is Caleb. Caleb brings Caitlin inside by the hand. She realizes she likes Jonah, but she needs Caleb. They are confronted by several others, including Caleb's brother, Samuel. Samuel tells Caleb he has violated many laws, including by bringing Caitlin along. Caleb announces that war is upon them, and that Caitlin is the One. Caleb says he needs to see the Council. Samuel says Caleb's wife will not be pleased. This hurts Caitlin deeply. Suddenly, a woman arrives. Her name is Sera. She is angry that Caleb has brought along Caitlin. Caleb tells Sera that they have not been married for seven hundred years. A group begins gathering around. Sera tells Caleb that it is ridiculous to think Caitlin is the One, and that Caitlin should be torn apart. Caleb steps between Sera and Caitlin, and Samuel orders the group around them to quiet down.



## Analysis

Caitlin becomes a prisoner of Blacktide. Kyle questions Caitlin about who she is and what she has done, but Caitlin –because she has no memory of the night before, and because she is not yet completely aware of the fact that she is a vampire –cannot answer Kyle’s questions competently. This leads to her being brought before the Assembly. The Assembly continues to interrogate Caitlin, but Caitlin is still unable to answer any of their questions. They believe she is lying, and they are determined to punish her. The cruelty of Blacktide is readily apparent with the use of Holy Water as torture on other vampires. Yet, they are stunned to see Caitlin totally unharmed by covering her with Holy Water. Caitlin realizes that she must be a vampire, but doesn’t understand why the Holy Water does not kill her. It is a paradox -however, the strains of prophecy, which are being sown through events, in combination with Caitlin’s own self-discovery, make the reader aware that there is indeed something unusual and special about Caitlin, beyond being a vampire.

It is also a situation that a man named Caleb sees to be a paradox. He helps Caitlin escape from Blacktide’s headquarters, nestled deep beneath New York’s City Hall. Caleb is stunned by the fact that Caitlin, clearly a vampire, is not burned to death by the Holy Water. He sees something important in her, so much so that he is willing to risk his life to help her escape. Caleb suspects that Caitlin might have something to do with a prophecy, though both the idea and the prophecy itself are not yet revealed to the reader. He has never met her before, so his actions are all the more startling. When Caitlin travels with Caleb to his coven’s home, he begins explaining to others that he believes she is the One. Caitlin is totally clueless as to what Caleb is talking about, but likes the protection that he offers her. Already, she has seemingly forgotten about Jonah, as Caleb has invaded her mind and her heart.

### Discussion Question 1

Why is Caitlin unable to answer any of Kyle or the Assembly’s questions?

### Discussion Question 2

What is unusual about Caleb’s coven and their ability to be around crosses? Why is this unusual?

### Discussion Question 3

What news does Caleb bring to the White Coven upon his return with Caitlin? How do the vampires respond to this? Why?

## Vocabulary

Grotesque, subordinates, vaguely, strikingly, concurring



## Chapter 12 - 14

### Summary

Chapter 12 – As Caleb brings Caitlin through the Cloisters, more questions begin racing through her mind about who the people in the building are. She is especially confused as to how these vampires can live in a place full of crosses. Caleb explains that the forces of good vampires are not affected by crosses. In fact, they guard not only the church, but the bishop's staff –the crozier –inside. Caleb brings Caitlin into a room full of vampires dressed all in black. The Council Members among them call a session to order. They accuse Caleb of abandoning his post, but he says that war has come, and so he has not abandoned his post. He explains that Caitlin is immune to Holy weapons. He says that Doctrine reveals the One is impervious to their weapons. They can be nothing without her. The Council explains that centuries before, another vampire, immune to weaponry, was believed to be the Messiah, but he was merely a half-breed, a vampire by birth, not a vampire who becomes a vampire by being turned. They ask Caitlin who her father is. She says she does not know. Caleb argues that she is the One and will lead them to the sword. The Council believes the sword does not exist, and if it did, a half-breed would not lead them to it. Furthermore, a half-breed would bring the Messiah, not be the Messiah. Caleb disagrees, but the Council has had enough. They order him to remove Caitlin, and then he will be confined for fifty years.

Chapter 13 – Outside the Cloisters, Caitlin asks Caleb what is going on, and why he saved her. He explains he is a member of the White Coven, that he is more than three thousand years old, and has been with the White Coven for eight hundred years. Vampire covens are always at war over territory. Caitlin has tumbled into the middle of another one. Caleb reveals that she sparked the war by feeding at Carnegie Hall. Caleb thinks it might be her destiny. Caleb says she is something between a vampire and a human, but not a half-breed, either. Interbreeding between humans and vampires is considered a crime punishable by death. In order for one vampire to turn a human into a vampire, they must have special permission from the Mater Council.

Caleb reveals that Doctrine says that a messenger, a Messiah, will arrive to bring them to a sword which will save them all from an apocalypse. It will be a war so deadly it will even drag humans into it. Caleb explains he believed her to be the One, but now is not so sure. Caleb admits he feels something for her, which is another reason he saved her. But he cannot act on his feelings because she is not a true vampire, and the penalty would be his death. He cannot risk anything for her, and this hurts Caitlin deeply. She leaves.

Chapter 14 – Kyle is summoned before Rexus, the supreme leader. Rexus demands answers. Kyle says they believe Caitlin is nothing more than a rogue vampire. Rexus is angered that Caleb is a spy, having been embedded with them for two hundred years. Rexus reveals that he has been forced by Kyle now to initiate the war. Rexus also reveals he has been summoned by the Supreme Council, the governing body of all



vampires to whom even Rexus must answer. Kyle promises to find Caitlin, and make her pay.

## Analysis

Caleb's decision to save Caitlin and bring her back does not seem to have ended well at all. The White Coven Council is angered that he has sabotaged his own mission of espionage with Blacktide, meaning that Caleb will not be able to alert them when war begins. Caleb, however, says that war has already begun. He presents Caitlin as the chosen One, who will avert an apocalypse. It is the prophecy that has been both hinted at and spoken about, but until now, not revealed. The Council scoffs at this notion, because Caitlin is not a true vampire, and there is a fundamental disagreement over doctrinal interpretation. Caleb is silenced by the Council for his actions, and he is sentenced to fifty years of confinement for what he has done. Caitlin herself wonders about the prophecy, and her own true identity, as her life has been saved due to Caleb's belief in the prophecy.

Apart from the White Coven, meetings are also going on at the Blacktide Coven. Rexus is furious that Caleb has been spying on them for two hundred years, totally unbeknownst to Kyle or any of the others. Kyle vows that he will make Caitlin pay for everything that has happened. However, what the Blacktide does not know is that Caleb believes that Caitlin is the One, and that the White Coven is even involved in the search for the One at all. It is one slim advantage the White Coven has over the Blacktide Coven. They will need all the advantages that they can get.

## Discussion Question 1

Why does the White Coven Council doubt that Caitlin is the One? What evidence do they offer to the contrary?

## Discussion Question 2

Why does Caleb begin to doubt whether or not Caitlin is the One? Why does he refuse to help her after she is cast out of the Cloisters?

## Discussion Question 3

Are there any advantages that the White Coven has over the Blacktide Coven? If so, what are they? Why are they important? If not, why not?

## Vocabulary

Benevolent, medieval, magnificent, gravelly, jeopardized, doctrine, impervious, condescension, paradox, infiltrated, rebuked



## Chapter 15 - 17

### Summary

Chapter 15 – Jonah, his dad, and Jonah’s lawyer are at the police station. Apart from Sergei, four cops have been killed, and Jonah is the only lead the NYPD has. Jonah cannot understand how Caitlin could be a murderer. Grace Grant questions Jonah about the evening. Jonah wonders if Caitlin could be a vampire. He feels oddly protective of her. The police believe Jonah knows where Caitlin is hiding, but Jonah denies this. The lawyer says such accusations are conjecture. Just then, Caitlin texts Jonah.

Chapter 16 – It is one a.m., and Caitlin worries about not hearing back from Jonah. She feels guilty for liking Caleb. Her phone then dies. She decides to head to Penn Station and leave New York.

Chapter 17 – Caitlin wakes up in Central Park, too tired to have gone to the train station. She feels hunger pains once more. The sunlight is harsh, but bearable. She believes this gives her an edge over other vampires. She stops herself from mauling a child nearby. She decides to continue on to Penn Station. Caitlin is then apprehended by police –but the police themselves are attacked by Blacktide vampires, led by Kyle. Caitlin attempts to escape. But Caleb throws Kyle aside, and rushes off with Caitlin. They fly away, and Caleb accepts that he will be banished for his actions.

### Analysis

As the novel draws to a close, Caitlin finds herself seemingly with nowhere to go, and with no one to call a friend. She comes to discover soon after her leaving the Cloisters that she is wanted by the police, and is being tracked by Kyle and his Black Coven agents. Caitlin is first apprehended by the police, who are themselves ripped to shreds by Kyle and his henchmen. Just as it seems Caitlin will fall into the clutches of Kyle once more, Caleb arrives to save the day. He pushes away Kyle, and escapes with Caitlin. Caleb’s choice to protect and defend Caitlin is very clear. He will risk banishment for his actions, but he is obviously being guided by some deeper impulse to want to protect Caitlin.

Whether or not the Blacktide Coven accepts that Caitlin is part of the prophecy, or the center of it, they are not taking any chances. Between Caleb's espionage and the potential for Caitlin being the prophecy, they go to great lengths to apprehend her. Whereas Caitlin's process of self-discovery becomes central to her existence, the attempt to get to the bottom of the prophecy becomes all-encompassing for Blacktide. The themes of prophecy and self-discovery are set to follow through in the next installment of Rice's series.





## Discussion Question 1

Why is Jonah questioned by the police about the murder at Carnegie Hall? Why does Jonah not tell Grace Grant everything he knows?

## Discussion Question 2

Why does Caitlin feel guilty about liking Caleb?

## Discussion Question 3

Why does Caleb ultimately turn his back on the White Coven, risk banishment, and go to help Caitlin? Provide evidence to support your claim.

## Vocabulary

Conjecture, groggily, invincibility, grisly



# Characters

## Caitlin Paine

Caitlin Paine is the eighteen year-old principle protagonist and main character of the novel “Turned” by Morgan Rice. When the book begins, Caitlin has moved to New York with her abusive mother, and her caring brother, Sam. She begins class at a new high school, and feels very out of place, though she does not know exactly why. She meets and befriends Jonah, a thin and talented senior, and she quickly develops romantic feelings for him. She comes to defend him against four bullies much bigger than she is, and ends up beating them all up with strength she does not know she has. She begins having severe hunger pains that cannot be sated with normal food or drink, and she begins dreaming about drinking blood. While on a date with Jonah at Carnegie Hall, Caitlin ends up attacking and feeding on the star of the performance backstage.

Caitlin’s feeding causes her to be wanted not only by the New York Police Department, but by the Blacktide Coven of vampires. Blacktide captures Caitlin and interrogates her about the feeding, believing her to be a rogue vampire and trying to provoke a war. When Blacktide attempts to execute her by Holy Water, Caitlin is miraculously unharmed, and whisked away by Caleb of the White Coven, who had been embedded with Blacktide as a spy. Caleb believes Caitlin is the chosen One who will lead their coven to the sword that will help avoid an apocalypse. Caleb even chooses to turn his back on his own coven in order to protect and defend Caitlin. The two quickly develop romantic feelings for one another as a result.

## Caleb

Caleb is a three-thousand year old vampire of the White Coven, who has been embedded as a spy against the Blacktide Coven for the past several hundred years. Caleb watches Caitlin’s trial before the Assembly, and upon seeing her unharmed in the least by Holy Water, believes she is the chosen One that Doctrine declares will lead them to the sword which will prevent an apocalyptic scenario. As such, he helps her to escape and brings her to the White Coven, which refuses to accept Caleb’s arguments for Caitlin. He is sentenced to fifty years of confinement for abandoning his espionage post, but turns his back on the White Coven in order to stay with Caitlin and protect her.

## Jonah

Jonah is a senior at the New York City high school where Caitlin attends. Jonah is tall, thin, and well-cultured. He plays the viola very well, and hopes it will get him out of the city. He is part white, black, and Puerto Rican, and takes an instant romantic liking to Caitlin, and she to him. He is jumped by bullies after school one day, and Caitlin comes to his rescue. He asks her out on a date to Carnegie Hall, which she agrees to. Jonah is later shocked to learn that Caitlin is suspected of murder, but for some reason, he



refuses to fully cooperate with the police by telling them everything they want to know about Caitlin. He feels protective of her, and his romantic feelings strengthen that resolve.

## Kyle

Kyle is one of the leaders of the Blacktide Coven. At more than three thousand years old, he is incredibly handsome, intelligent, and powerful, but cold and calculating as well. He makes it his personal mission to hunt down and destroy Caitlin following her public feeding at Carnegie Hall, and following her escape from the Blacktide Coven headquarters beneath New York City Hall. He, and other members of the Blacktide Coven, begin to wonder if she has something to do with the prophecy.

## Rexus

Rexus is the Supreme Leader of the Blacktide Coven. He is impatient, incredibly powerful, and ruthless. He is enraged to learn that Caleb has been spying on them for centuries, and is enraged that Caitlin has escaped. He orders Kyle to find her and deal with her, for he has been called to the Supreme Council, the governing body of all vampires in the world.

## Sam Paine

Sam Paine is the fifteen year-old brother of Caitlin Paine. He looks and acts older than he really is, and deeply loves his sister, often serving as a peacemaker between her and their abusive mother. Sam longs to leave the city, and to go and find his and Caitlin's father. In a moment of anger, Caitlin tells Sam to leave her room. Sam instead packs up and leaves the apartment, taking everything he owns with him. Their mother blames his leaving on Caitlin.

## Grace Grant

Grace Grant is a homicide detective for the New York Police Department. She regrets that she has chosen her career over a personal life and now cannot go back, for she considers herself to be too old to make a new start. She is tasked with solving the murder of Sergei Rakov, and discovers a ticket stub which leads her to Jonah. She questions Jonah throughout the end of the novel, dissatisfied with the answers that he gives. She believes he is hiding something. Grace is incredibly strong-willed, and Kyle believes she may pose a problem in the future.



## Caitlin's Mother

Caitlin's mother is an angry and abusive woman, emotionally and physically. She constantly puts down her children, especially Caitlin. She lives hard, and as a result, ends up shuffling jobs frequently. She brings her family to New York City for her latest job, and when Sam runs away, she blames Caitlin for it. She attempts to strangle Caitlin, but Caitlin battles back. Caitlin's mother is later found dead, bleeding from the neck, presumably from members of the Blacktide Coven.

## Caitlin's father

Caitlin's father is spoken about but never seen in the novel. He is believed to perhaps be a vampire, and left so long before that neither Caitlin nor Sam have any real memories of him. Sam messages two men on Facebook whom he believes may be their father, but neither man responds. Who Caitlin's father is will provide an important set of clues about who Caitlin is.



# Symbols and Symbolism

## Blood

Blood is what is sought after and consumed by Caitlin and the other vampires in the novel. Blood flows through the veins of human beings, and it is on this blood that Caitlin is desirous of feeding. The night of Carnegie Hall, she cannot help herself from devouring and feeding on Sergei Rakov, but a few days later, in the park, she is able to stop herself from feeding on a small child.

## The Sword

The sword is a supposedly mythical object spoken about for millennia by vampire lore and Doctrine. Doctrine holds that this sword shall be found by the chosen One, whom Caleb believes is Caitlin. It is believed that the discovery and use of the sword will avert a catastrophe of apocalyptic proportions for both vampires and humans alike. Caleb fervently believes the sword exists, while most in his coven believe it to be only a legend.

## Journal

A journal is what is kept and carried by Caitlin throughout the novel. She fills her journal with drawings, writings, and her innermost thoughts. It is her emotional outlet. When she defends Jonah, she loses the journal, but Jonah later returns it to her.

## Note

A note is left by Sam for his mother and Caitlin when he runs away. The note explains that he has run away to search for his father and to return to his old life. Caitlin's mother reads parts of the note aloud to her, and blames her for Sam's disappearance.

## Viola

A viola is a musical instrument carried and played by Jonah. Jonah hopes his skills with the viola will get him out of New York one day. When Jonah is jumped by bullies, they take particular delight in crushing Jonah's viola. Jonah's father is unable to afford a new one, and refuses to even consider helping Jonah purchase a new one.

## Cell Phone

A cell phone is carried by Caitlin throughout the novel. She uses it to contact different people, including Jonah. She often forgets to charge the phone, leading to the phone dying often. She uses the cell phone to text Jonah the night he is being questioned by the police.



# Settings

## New York

New York is the primary setting for the novel "Turned" by Morgan Rice. New York City is the home of millions of people, and a race of vampires who live underground and walk among the people of the city. The city is divided into vampire territories, with each territory belonging to a different clan. It is to New York that Caitlin, her mother, and her brother move for her mother's job. It is where Caitlin attends high school and meets Jonah. It is also where the Cloisters, Blacktide Coven Headquarters, and the Hudson River are located.

## Blacktide Coven Headquarters

Blacktide Coven Headquarters is located directly beneath the streets and city hall of New York City. It is where Rexus, the Assembly, and the Blacktide Coven hold sway over their territory and domain. Blacktide Coven Headquarters is where Caitlin is brought to be interrogated for her feeding at Carnegie Hall. It is from Blacktide Coven Headquarters, where Caleb is serving as a spy, that Caitlin and Caleb escape.

## The Cloisters

The Cloisters is a medieval church brought to the United States from Europe, and reassembled in New York where it now also serves as a museum. It is the headquarters and home of the White Coven of vampires, to which Caleb belongs. There, Caleb attempts to convince the White Coven that Caitlin is the chosen One, but he is unable to do so successfully.

## The Hudson River

Cutting through New York, the Hudson River is a body of water which flows down from upstate. It is along the banks of the Hudson River that the Cloisters is located, and the White Coven makes their home.

## Caitlin's Apartment

Located in a poor section of New York, this is where Caitlin, her mother, and her brother live. It is a dingy place with peeling paint, and Caitlin hates it. Her apartment is where Caitlin is choked by her mother, and later broken into by members of the Blacktide Coven, who presumably kill her mother. Caitlin vows she will never again return to the apartment.



# Themes and Motifs

## Self-Discovery

Self-discovery is a major and overarching theme in the novel “Turned” by Morgan Rice. Self-discovery has to do with learning and coming better to understand oneself, and who one truly is. In the novel, self-discovery deals primarily with Caitlin, in two very distinct ways, but with both ways supporting one another. Both forms of self-discovery Caitlin undergoes leads to her growth and maturation as an individual.

When the novel begins, Caitlin is a shy, self-conscious girl, who has no friends, an abusive home life, and only has the emotional outlet of a journal which she keeps clutched against her like a security blanket. She is unsure of herself, doesn't find herself attractive, and feels different somehow. Her relatively quick romance with Jonah, and later Caleb, along with her coming to terms with the effects of vampirism, ultimately improve her. She becomes a brave, confident young woman, who is not afraid to back down from a challenge, be it a bully or her abusive mother. She strikes out on her own following a fight with her mother, and still keeps a date with Jonah despite the emotional turmoil she has just been through. She becomes a very independent young woman, capable of taking care of, and believing in, herself.

Caitlin comes to a process of self-discovery in a second way as well. She not only discovers who she is, but what she is. She is a vampire, though not a true vampire. She has immense physical strength and reflexes, as well as incredibly demanding hunger for blood. She comes to grips with these overwhelming urges by doing everything she can to fight them and restrain herself. In the end, Caitlin is able to do so, as she chooses not to kill a small child in order to feed on him. Thus she is able to understand that, although she is a vampire, she is not an animal and does not have to give in to her urges. She would rather die than harm anyone else. As such, Caitlin becomes a stronger person.

## Love

Love is a major, dominant, and overarching theme in the novel “Turned” by Morgan Rice. Love in the novel appears in two distinct forms: that of familial love, and that of romantic love, with both ways revolving around Caitlin. In terms of romantic love, Caitlin has feelings for two different men, each for different reasons, but with similar consequences for her.

Familial love occurs between Caitlin and her younger brother, Sam. There is no love lost between Caitlin and her mother, who is physically and emotionally abusive. As such, Sam steps in between mother and daughter as the peacemaker. He often comforts and reassures Caitlin, as he knows Caitlin takes the brunt of their mother's anger and abusiveness. Sam and Caitlin clearly love one another dearly, but Caitlin snaps on Sam





when Sam speaks about their old life and wanting to find their father. Because of this, Sam ends up leaving home.

Romantic love occurs between Caitlin and Jonah, and between Caitlin and Caleb. Caitlin has feelings for both Jonah and Caleb, but for different reasons. She loves Jonah because Jonah is kind, patient, and talented. He is warm and loving, and Caitlin is sorely lacking this in her home life. Caleb, on the other hand, is strong and powerful, as well as athletic and full of convictions. She quickly falls for Caleb, though she feels guilty about it, because she also loves Jonah. However, in the end, both Jonah and Caleb are willing to risk their own security in order to protect Caitlin. Jonah refuses to tell the police everything he knows about Caitlin, while Caleb refuses to let Caitlin wander around the world on her own, turning his back on his own coven to protect her.

## Prophecy

Prophecy is a major and underlying theme in the novel "Turned" by Morgan Rice. Prophecy has to do with events, situations, or circumstances that are predicted or foretold, often centuries or thousands of years before. Prophecy usually has to do with the foretelling of evil, and how evil may be averted through one or more individuals seeking to do good, or who are intrinsically good themselves.

In the novel, Vampire Doctrine holds that there will one day be a war so terrible and so bad that it will pit all the vampires of the world against one another, and will even drag in the human race. It will lead to terrible death and destruction. But the Doctrine states that there will be a chosen One, a half-breed, impervious to vampiric weaponry, who will either lead the vampires to, or will wield a sword which will avert catastrophe. The sword itself may or may not be a myth, as no one knows where it is if it does exist.

Caleb believes Caitlin is the chosen One. He witnesses her survive a dousing with Holy Water, untouched, and learns that she is indeed a half-breed. He believes that she is the one that will lead them to the sword at the very least, and will wield the sword at the very most. Caitlin, however, has no idea what Caleb is talking about, and is completely unaware of the vampire prophecies about who she may or may not be. While Caleb believes Caitlin is the One, the White Coven Council does not believe she is the One, nor do they accept the existence of the sword.

# Styles

## Point of View

Morgan Rice tells her novel “Turned” from the point of view of the third-person limited omniscient perspective. This is done for several reasons. There are several influential characters in the novel, with different backgrounds and different agendas. The third-person narrative acts as a unifying strand between each of these characters, allowing the reader to traverse the events and situations these characters are involved in with ease. The third person itself is told in limited omniscience because it allows the readers to learn and understand only as much as the characters themselves learn and understand. Grace Grant, for example, has no idea that the murderer she is looking for is actually a vampire, while Caitlin herself knows precious little about vampirism or vampire prophecy. This allows the writer to build mystery, suspense, and advance the plot.

## Language and Meaning

Morgan Rice tells her novel “Turned” in language that is simple and straightforward. This is done for a couple reasons: The first is that the novel is about a young adult, and is aimed toward an audience of young adults. As such, the language used by the characters and by the narrators needs to reflect both the characters and the target audience. The simple and straightforward language also allows a brisk pace for the plot, allowing the reader to keep up with events as they quickly unfold. This lends a sense of urgency and haste to the plot, making it that much more engrossing.

## Structure

Morgan Rice divides her novel “Turned” into seventeen numbered, chronological, and linear chapters. This orderly and straightforward layout focuses the reader’s attention on the plot itself, rather than the structure of the novel. Because of this, the reader is able to easily follow along with the plot, especially given that the point of view, though third-person, changes characters and scenes frequently throughout the novel. The third person, in addition to the straightforward layout of the novel, keeps the reader grounded and allows for a wide-ranging plot with diverse people and elements.



## Quotes

Caitlin was on cloud nine as she walked home from school, clutching her journal. She hadn't been this happy in she didn't know when.

-- Narrator (Chapter 4 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** On the way home from school, Caitlin is thrilled and happier than she has been in a very long time. Jonah has asked her out to a concert that very night at Carnegie Hall, and it makes Caitlin feel wanted. It is one of the few bright spots in her life.

But she now felt completely disoriented. And something else... Hunger. It wasn't a normal hunger, but a deep, unquenchable thirst.

-- Narrator (Chapter 5 paragraph 42)

**Importance:** The night of the concert with Jonah, things escalate beyond Caitlin's control. She is unable to keep her hunger in check, and it consumes her, leading her to feed on Sergei in his dressing room. This single act paves the way for the rest of the novel.

She could not let him see her like this. More importantly, she could not allow him anywhere near her. She felt like an animal.

-- Narrator (Chapter 6 paragraph 53)

**Importance:** As Caitlin flees from Jonah, she feels like a hideous animal. She cannot let Jonah see her that way, and so she rushes away as fast as she can, ultimately coming upon Sergei in his dressing room.

What sort of rogue vampire would be so audacious as to openly kill a human? Would choose to do so in such a public way, leaving no other possibility but for the body to be found? It went against every rule of their race.

-- Narrator (Chapter 7 paragraph 54)

**Importance:** Kyle is the first vampire of the Blacktide Coven who comes upon the butchered form of Sergei. He is stunned by the brazen attitude of whatever rogue vampire decided to feed in public, in the middle of a performance, as well as to have left the body of Sergei in the open. Kyle believes this is the initial territorial challenge of a coming war. He must track down whatever vampire committed the atrocity.

Did vampires really exist, right here in New York City? And was she one of them?

-- Narrator (Chapter 11 paragraph 7)

**Importance:** Caitlin finally comes to accept what she has been suspecting all along: the she is a vampire. Not only that, but she has come to accept that vampires do indeed exist, and there is indeed an entire vampire civilization in New York. Her life is changed



forever by this realization –not only because it changes her perception about herself, but about the world and what she thought she knew about it.

You are not a true vampire. But you are not a true human, either. You are somewhere in between.

-- Caleb (Chapter 13 paragraph 28)

**Importance:** Caitlin, attempting to figure out just who she is, is told by Caleb that she is not a true vampire, or a true human. She is also not exactly a half-breed. It intrigues Caleb, because he can't figure out what exactly she is, either. This is part of why he believes she could very well be the chosen One.

Despite everything, he felt protective of her. He couldn't really understand what had happened.

-- Narrator (Chapter 15 paragraph 26)

**Importance:** Jonah is the only link Grace Grant and the NYPD have to Caitlin. As such, they bring him in for questioning, keeping him late into the night. Jonah, however, refuses to tell the police everything he knows about Caitlin, because he feels protective of her. It is possible that he may indeed have serious romantic feelings for her in a way he had not previously considered.

But somewhere, some part of her stopped herself. She knew that she would starve if she didn't feed, and that she would die shortly. But she would rather die than harm him. She let him go.

-- Narrator (Chapter 17 paragraph 8)

**Importance:** Caitlin, seeking to head to Penn Station to escape New York and begin a new life, discovers that she once more has the urge to feed. But unlike the night at Carnegie Hall, Caitlin uses every ounce of willpower to fight the urge to feed, and manages to head it off, right before she attacks a small child. She decides that she would rather die than harm the kid, and so learns as well that there is hope for her.

What exactly had happened? How did she get such strength?

-- Narrator (Chapter 2 paragraph 21)

**Importance:** Caitlin, following her defense of Jonah, and her showdown with the bullies, is amazed by her ability to take down four opponents. She wonders how she has come into such strength, and why. It is the first sign that something is not quite right with her.