

# **Vampire Academy Study Guide**

## **Vampire Academy by Richelle Mead**

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## Plot Summary

The novel *Vampire Academy* tells the story of Lissa, a Moroi vampire princess with special healing and mental powers, and her protector, Rose, a dhampir half-vampire who is psychically bound with her best friend Lissa. The two flee their secret vampire school to protect Lissa and when they return, they must navigate the cliques, infighting, and rumors of their classmates, as well as battle the depression and despair that's a side effect of Lissa's powers. On top of that, the two must defeat a secret enemy: a royal vampire secretly plotting to kidnap Lissa to use her healing for his own selfish ends.

The novel begins with Lissa and Rose, who fled the vampire academy two years previously, being caught in Portland by guardians (dhampirs who guard the Moroi) and brought back to the academy in rural Montana. The guardian team is lead by a new guardian at the school, Dimitri. At the school, the headmistress scolds the girls for running away and confines Rose to her room. The girls keep secret their real reasons for running away.

At school, Rose and Lissa try to lay low, hanging out with Lissa's unpopular cousin Natalie, while Rose trains with her attractive instructor Dimitri. Still, they become involved in a war of rumors with Mia, who dislikes Lissa because Lissa's dead brother Andre once slept with her and then dumped her. Mia is now dating Lissa's ex-boyfriend and hanging out with the royal crowd. Meanwhile, Lissa starts finding dead animals and birds left for her by some secret enemy. As the novel progresses, the reader learns that Lissa's family was killed in a car accident. Rose was also killed, but Lissa used her healing power to bring Rose back to life. Later, Lissa also healed a dead raven. The girls ran away because of the dangers of Lissa's new powers.

The rumor war escalates as Mia gets two Moroi boys to say that Rose slept with them and let them bite her. Lissa begins using her compulsion powers to sway the popular opinion in their favor, hanging out with the royal clique. The price is that she becomes more and more depressed, and she drives a wedge between herself and the boy he is attracted to, Christian, who is disliked at school because his parents became evil Strigoi vampires and then were killed.

Events come to a head when Lissa uses her healing powers to heal Rose's broken leg. Lissa is kidnapped by Natalie's father, Victor, a vampire suffering from a chronic disease. Natalie left the dead animals, to see if Lissa would heal them, confirming her powers. He wants to hold Lissa captive, so she can heal his chronic disease, letting him vie for power among the noble vampires. Rose, through her psychic bond with Lissa, is able to lead the guardians to her, and she, Christian, and Dimitri save her friend. However, while Victor is in jail, Natalie turns herself into a Strigoi vampire by killing a teacher, in order to free her father. Dimitri kills her and later Victor is caught again.



# Chapters 1-2

## Chapters 1-2 Summary

In the novel *Vampire Academy*, Lissa and Rose have been best friends since kindergarten. Lissa is a Moire vampire princess, and Rose is her protector, a dhampir half-vampire. For two years, they have been on the run from the people they grew up with, and in the beginning of the novel, they are in Portland, living near the university campus and finishing their last year of high school.

As the novel begins, Lissa has a nightmare, and Rose senses it through their psychic bond and wakes her. Rose comforts Lissa, and their housemate's cat comes in, avoiding Rose, but cuddling with Lissa. Animals love her. Rose notices that Lissa is pale. It's been days since they've done a feeding. Lissa bites into Rose, drinking her blood, and it's a sensuous pleasure rush that leaves Rose dizzy. While Lissa goes to get her something to eat, Rose sees the cat looking out the window, upset. Rose looks out and sees a tall man watching her. She thinks she sees a second figure in the darkness.

Rose finds Lissa in the kitchen and tells her that they have to go. Their housemate Jeremy is there. Lissa uses her hypnotic, entrancing psychic gaze to hold Jeremy in thrall and make him lend them his car. As they head toward the car, they hear footsteps and break into a run.

Ten feet from the car, the tall man steps out in front of them, halting their escape. Rose notices movements in the shadows. Perhaps a dozen guardians are surrounding them. Rose panics and attacks the tall man, but he deflects her and catches her as she begins to fall, noticing the bite mark on her neck. Rose backs toward Lissa, preparing to attack again, but she senses from Lissa that they must resign themselves to being outnumbered. The tall man bows to Lissa, introducing himself as Dimitri Belikov and telling the princess he has come to take her to St. Vladimir's Academy.

In Chapter 2, Dimitri separates the two girls and puts them on a plane to Montana. On the plane, the girls' psychic bond grows especially strong, and through Lissa's eyes, Rose sees that Dimitri has a guardian tattoo on his neck, with symbols marking that he's killed six evil Strigoi vampires.

After the girls arrive on the secluded campus, guardians lead the two to Headmistress Kirova, passing through the commons where all the students are gathered. Rose notes Camille Conta, who is the obnoxious leader of the royal Moroi clique; Lissa's naive near-cousin Natalie; and Lissa's former boyfriend Aaron, who is with a young-looking, jealous-seeming girl.

In the headmistress's office, Lissa's uncle, Prince Victor Dashkov, is present. Lissa runs to him and hugs him, but he looks sick and frail, much worse than when they left. After the greetings, Kirova lectures the girls about running away, alluding to a destructive



incident that happened before they left. When Kirova accuses Rose of endangering Lissa, Rose counters that she was protecting Lissa, when the school wouldn't. Lissa psychically tries to calm Rose's anger, and the girls don't reveal their real reason for running away.

Kirova says Rose is being expelled, but Dimitri points out that the two girls have a bond. They argue about whether Rose should stay, and Dimitri finally agrees to mentor her as a condition of Rose staying. Lissa uses a tiny bit of psychic compulsion, and Kirova agrees for Rose to stay, but puts her on restriction.

## Chapters 1-2 Analysis

Vampire Academy is written in the first person, from the point of view of Rose, a half-vampire guardian in training and protector of her best friend Lissa, a vampire. The author begins the novel by hinting at something that happened in the past, through Lissa's nightmare. A tragedy happened two years ago, and the two girls ran away and have been on the run ever since. By hinting at what happened, the author increases the audience's interest in this mysterious event that drove the girls to run away. A good deal of the story involves the slow revelation of events that occurred in the past. The novel also introduces an involved mythology of Moroi and Strigoi vampires, dhampir guardians, and their structured society. The details of this society are revealed slowly over the course of the novel.

The opening of the novel sets up some of Lissa's magical powers and the unique relationship of the two girls, in Lissa's use of compulsion to take her roommate's car and in Rose's psychic connection to Lissa. It also sets up a sense of danger. The girls are on the run, and they are caught by a group of mysterious men. Though the men don't harm Lissa and Rose, instead bringing them back to the academy they ran away from, the reader is left with the impression that unknown hidden dangers surround the girls, an impression that will grow and develop throughout the novel.

The girls' arrival at St. Vladimir's Academy sets up more important elements of the story. The academy is full of cliques and social class distinctions. There are dhampir and Moroi, and there are royals and non-royals. There is also a division between the teenagers and the authority figures who run the academy. Rose does not trust authority, and the girls don't reveal their reasons for running away.



# Chapters 3-4

## Chapters 3-4 Summary

In Chapter 3, Lissa and Rose are sent to their separate classes. The only classes novice guardians like Rose and Moroi like Lissa take together are in the afternoon, and Rose hopes they have at least one class together. Rose is escorted to the gym, where she sees Mason Ashford, a red-headed former friend who is leading the class. Rose's old friends welcome her back, and then the class gets back to their bodyguard exercises. Rose has fallen behind and gets soundly beaten by Mason.

Stan Alto teaches Rose's second period bodyguard theory class. He makes Rose come to the front of the class to "lecture." Really, it is an excuse to berate her for running away. He quizzes her about guardian techniques she's missed. Rose argues that it's safer in the real world than they teach, and that there aren't Strigoi, their enemy vampires who gain power from drinking Moroi blood, everywhere. Alto lectures on how dangerous the evil, powerful Strigoi are.

On Rose's way to lunch, Dimitri also lectures her about needing to train if she is to protect Lissa. Rose runs into Victor Dashkov. Victor is Natalie's father and is ill with Sandovsky's Syndrome. He is impressed that Rose kept Lissa safe. At one point, she avoided psi-hounds, psychic magical wolves. Dashkov questions Rose about her psychic bond with Lissa. Finally, Lissa gets to the commons for lunch, and sees Lissa with Aaron and his new girlfriend, who is making snide comments. Rose pulls the girl away, saying that her conversation with Lissa is over.

In Chapter 4, Rose examines "Doll Girl," Aaron's petite girlfriend, who is wearing a good-looking designer dress knockoff. Rose taunts her that she belongs in elementary school and intimidates her with a story about having once broken a girl's arm. Then, Rose goes with Lissa to the feeding room, where the Moroi feed on volunteers who are addicted to vampire saliva. Rose and Lissa both feel strange; in the two years they were gone, Lissa only fed on Rose.

The girls go back to the lunchroom. They have three afternoon classes together. Moroi like Lissa take magic classes, and Lissa is in a sophomore class because she hasn't specialized yet, developed a strong link with one element: earth, air, fire, or water. They sit with Natalie, and Rose lies to her about where Lissa got blood while she was away. Rose asks about Aaron's new girlfriend. Her name is Mia Rinaldi, and she got popular by dating Aaron. Jesse Zeklos, a very hot royal Moroi, comes by, and Rose exchanges quips with him. The slimmer, less curvaceous Moroi girls envy Rose's sexy dhampir body.

Lissa is quiet and anxious during school. After class, Rose promises they will escape again, but Lissa isn't sure they should. Rose agrees, as long as Lissa stays away from the royal power clique. Lissa thinks she needs the connections, as the heir to her line



now that her brother Andre is dead, but she agrees to stay away. Dimitri comes to get Rose for practice, but as they walk away, Rose is pulled into Lissa's consciousness. Lissa goes to the Russian Orthodox chapel and sits in the attic, a secret retreat of hers, where she is surprised by Christian Ozera, the son of Strigoi parents.

## Chapters 3-4 Analysis

Rose's return to school forces her to face both positive and negative public opinion. The impact of other people's opinions, both peers and authority figures, is a recurring thematic element throughout the novel. While Rose has old friends who welcome her back, she is also exposed to public ridicule by her teacher. Rose is horrified, but she is also coming to grips with the truth that she was not truly prepared to protect Lissa. Dimitri reinforces this idea with Rose.

Aaron's girlfriend Mia becomes a main element of conflict and an antagonist to Lissa and Rose as the novel develops. There are two types of antagonists the two girls face, open antagonists like Mia, who actively insults and bad-mouths the girls, and hidden antagonists who aren't obvious at the beginning of the novel, but who are working behind the scenes. The hidden antagonists are more dangerous.

Chapter 4 reveals more about how vampires live by introducing the feeders to the reader. The feeders are another element of class divisions and caste-like groups in vampire society. The existence of social divisions is echoed in throughout the novel, and the effects of these divisions are an important thematic element. The academy's social scene is filled with cliques and social backbiting, and much of this is founded in social divisions between royalty and non-royalty, male and female, and Moroi and dhampir. The feeders are a further social underclass, derided by all the vampires and dhampir. Even Rose's distrust of the school authorities is evidence of social class divisions. The authorities and the students are yet another such division.



# Chapters 5-6

## Chapters 5-6 Summary

In Chapter 5, Rose reveals that Christian's Strigoi parents were killed by guardians, and though Christian isn't Strigoi, she doesn't trust him. Lissa tries to leave the attic, but Christian stops her. They talk. Like Lissa, Christian has been using this attic as a place to get away, alone. Lissa tries to leave again, but he guesses that her story about how she fed was a lie, and that she fed on Rose. He promises not to tell, and says she can stay in the attic for a while. He warms the air magically, right before Rose comes out of her link with Lissa's mind.

Dimitri is concerned, but Rose tells him that she was in Lissa's head and that everything is okay. After her workout, Rose asks Dimitri about his past. He was educated in Siberia, and the lord he was guarding was recently killed while Dimitri was away. Then, Rose mentions the psi-hounds that she evaded while the girls were on the run, and Dimitri says they weren't sent by the Academy.

Rose settles into her dorm room and receives a terse email from her mother before going to bed. The next day she is sore but struggles through her training. At lunch, Rose tells Lissa not to hang out with Christian, but Lissa is more concerned that Rose has slipped into her head again. She seems to like Christian. They go to science class, where Jesse asks Rose to tell a story of a fight she started in Ms. Karp's class. Rose remembers Ms. Karp catching her falling out of a dorm window one night, and Ms. Karp magically healing her.

In Chapter 6, Rose asks for permission to attend church. It's boring, but she gets to sit with Lissa. The "shadow-kissed Anna" in the sermon touches Rose, and after, she asks the priest about Anna and the phrase "shadow-kissed." He gives her a book about Moroi saints. When Rose rejoins Lissa she hears the gossip about two dhampire guardians quitting to get married. It is scandalous for guardians to leave their Moroi. Dhampir can only reproduce with Moroi, so dhampir usually stay close to the Moroi and help them survive.

Outside, Rose and Lissa are caught in wet snow falling from the roof. When Mia makes a snide remark, Rose believes that she used magic to pull the prank, but Mia denies it. When they're alone, Rose pushes Lissa to try to date Aaron again to put Mia in her place, but Lissa isn't interested. After Rose leaves Lissa's dorm, she meets up with Mason. They go to the dorm's lounge, though Rose is supposed to go directly to her room. Mason tells her that Mia's parents are maid and gardener for a royal family, something Mia doesn't want the royals to know.

To stay in the lounge, Rose and Mason pretend to be studying. They look up Anna in the book of saints and find that she was a guardian, bound to St. Vladimir when he





saved her life as a child. Rose realizes that Anna probably had a psychic link with St. Vladimir, like she does with Lissa.

## Chapters 5-6 Analysis

In the novel, characters are often not what they seem. Though Christian's parents turned Strigoi, and Christian himself is ostracized for being strange and reserved, he and Lissa form a deep connection. Rose, like much of the rest of the school, doesn't trust Christian, but Lissa clearly responds to him. Both Christian and Lissa have strong emotions, and this is what draws them to the seclusion of the chapel attic, and ultimately to each other. The public perceptions of Christian are faulty, as public perceptions often are in Vampire Academy.

The author hints at the hidden elements of the story, as the reader learns that the psi-hounds that Rose and Lissa evaded were not sent by the academy, and also that Ms. Karp had healing abilities. These hints are part of the slow revelation of the nature of Lissa's powers and her true enemies. The story of "shadow-kissed" Anna during church services is another hint toward the nature of Lissa's powers and her relationship with Rose.

All the Moroi vampires have magical powers, and the adolescents in the academy handle their power with different levels of personal responsibility. Mia uses her powers to drop wet snow on Rose and Lissa; Christian uses his fire-based powers to heat the chilly attic for Lissa. How the characters use their powers reveals their characters.

Rose shows poor judgment when she wants Lissa to date Aaron, who Lissa doesn't really like. Rose is focusing on retaliating against Mia, instead of focusing on what's best for her and her friend. She is using preconceived notions to judge Christian, and she is getting involved in social squabbles.



# Chapters 7-8

## Chapters 7-8 Summary

In Chapter 7, Rose and Lissa settle down at the Academy. They hang around with Natalie, and Rose toughens up with her training. Dimitri has Rose doing a lot of running at practice, and she asks him when they'll start fighting. He questions her about what she would do if Lissa were attacked by a Strigoi. Rose says she would stab him with a silver stake, a deadly weapon, but she doesn't have one yet and isn't trained on them. She's too short to behead a Strigoi and wouldn't have any way to set one on fire. Dimitri points out that her best response would be to run.

Dimitri goes running with Rose, and she beats her best time by two minutes. She is talking with Dimitri, when suddenly she experiences Lissa, in terror, running down a flight of stairs. Rose takes off and finds Lissa near her dorm. Lissa holds Rose and sobs. Later, the girls and the school authorities gather in Lissa's room. A dead fox has been left on Lissa's bed, its throat slit. The dead fox is especially horrible for Lissa, who loves animals. Lissa asks Rose if this could be related to an instance in their past, if someone might know what happened, but Rose says no.

In Chapter 8, Rose brings her anger at the incident to class, fighting better than ever. After, Rose asks Mason if Mia might be responsible for the dead fox, but he doesn't think so. At lunch, Lissa is still upset. As Lissa and Rose head to their next class, Lissa tries to talk about the instance she alluded to before, but Rose wants to forget it. Jesse interrupts them. Rose makes plans to sneak off with him later.

In science class, the teacher talks about wolves, and Rose thinks that the "alpha male and alpha female" pack structure has a lot of similarity to their school. Mia asks about foxes, shocking the class, and Lissa gets more and more upset. Later, a boy teases Lissa, suggesting that she killed the fox herself. As the boy and Rose verbally spar, suddenly he catches fire. Christian set him aflame and then just as quickly put the fire out, leaving no burns. The teacher sends him to the headmistress's office, but the class can't stop talking about the incident. Rose realizes that Lissa is still seeing Christian and warns her against him, but Lissa won't stop seeing him. Later that night, Rose senses that Lissa is doing something sneaky. Rose relaxes and tries to consciously enter Lissa's mind.

## Chapters 7-8 Analysis

Rose is anxious to move forward with her training and start using deadly weapons and learning fighting moves. In fact, she has already taken the responsibility for defending Lissa while the two girls were on the run, and after returning, Rose recognizes that her actions were reckless. Rose is not prepared to fend off Strigoi, and she is reluctant to take the lengthy path of training that is before her, impatient to move forward.



Essentially, Rose is impatient to be grown up, and to already have acquired the skills she needs.

The appearance of the dead fox in Lissa's room is the first concrete indication that real danger exists at the academy for Lissa and Rose. The dead fox itself is horrific, and it reminds the girls of an incident that happened before they left, one that they've kept secret and don't even talk to each other about. They don't think anyone knows about it. The author only hints to the reader about the nature of this secret incident, which builds suspense and increases the reader's curiosity.

Rose acts out after the fox incident. She is angry and frustrated. She takes some of her anger out in class, but arranging to meet Jesse is a way to deal with her emotions, one that shows that Rose still needs to mature. Lissa also has to deal with her emotions, especially when Mia and the boys in science class start taunting her about the incident. She is not aggressive, but Rose is, speaking out and taunting the other kids. Christian is also aggressive. He uses his magic to set one of Rose's tormentors aflame. Though the flames aren't hazardous, the boy is frightened. Christian's response shows his feelings for Lissa, and also shows that he is willing to use magic offensively. He responds to his anger aggressively, without actually endangering anyone.



# Chapters 9-10

## Chapters 9-10 Summary

In Chapter 9, Rose is in Lissa's mind and sees Lissa meet Christian in the chapel attic. Christian tells her that he created the non-burning fire for her. He argues that magic should be used as a weapon, especially against the threat of the Strigoi. He also points out that Lissa uses forbidden magic. She must have used compulsion while she was on the run, and he's seen her use it at school.

Lissa tells Christian that Rose thinks he's dangerous, and suspects he might have killed the fox. Christian denies it, offering to hurt whoever did it. He grabs Lissa's wrists and notices scars there. Christian asks Lissa what secret she's keeping from him, but she won't tell. Then Rose's link with Lissa's mind breaks. What she's seen leaves her angry and brooding.

Rose meets Jesse secretly in an unused dorm lounge. She tells him about Mia's family being servants of the royal Drozdovs, exaggerating the situation. Then, Rose and Jesse start to make out. She tells him she won't have sex, but he realizes she gets excited when his fangs are near her neck. He guesses that she's been bitten before, while she and Lissa were on the run, though Rose denies it.

Rose is trying to distract Jesse from the idea of biting her when Dimitri walks in on them and runs Jesse off. He scolds Rose about making out with a Moroi and making herself cheap. He says she can't afford distractions. In a year, someone's life will be in her hands, and Rose sees his pain at the death of his former charge, Ivan Zeklos. Dimitri promises to teach Rose to fight, if she promises to stay dedicated.

In Chapter 10, Mia turns Rose and Lissa in for passing notes in class. Their teacher, Mr. Nagy, reads the note aloud. In it, Rose tells about making out with Jesse the previous night. The teacher gives Lissa two detentions, since Rose is already confined to her dorm room. As Rose heads back to her dorm, she overhears Camille Conta, one of the royals, gossiping about Mia's parents' lowly position. She also overhears people gossiping about the fox, though.

Rose remembers the incident two years ago. Lissa and Rose were out in the woods, drinking. Lissa told Rose about her first time having sex, with Aaron. Then, the two heard a noise and started to head back. They ran into Ms. Karp, who took their alcohol away. On the way back, they found a large black bird, and as they watched it died. Lissa knelt down and caressed it, and then suddenly, it came back to life. Ms. Karp insists that they can't tell anyone what happened and that Lissa must never do it again.

When Mason calls her name, Rose comes to herself again. He starts berating her about wasting herself on Jesse but then apologizes when she gets upset. He's done some research on St. Vladimir, who supposedly could heal people and bring them back from



the edge of death. Mason says she should look for books written at the time Vladimir was alive.

## Chapters 9-10 Analysis

Rose starts to master her mental connection with Lissa. She is able to enter Lissa's mind, not only in times of severe stress for Lissa, but at other times. This allows Rose to spy on Lissa, on her actions and feelings. Rose puts aside Lissa's feelings about being spied on, believing that her actions are for Lissa's own good. She is invading Lissa's privacy completely, but she justifies her methods because her end goal is keeping Lissa safe. In a similar way, when Lissa uses her powers of coercion, she takes away other people's freedom of choice, enforcing her will on them. She uses her compulsion powers when she feels she needs to, so she is putting her judgment before the desires or needs of those she is affecting. Rose, similarly, puts her own judgment before her friend's desires.

The scars on Lissa's wrists are another hint to the reader about events that haven't yet been revealed. Like the mysterious incident Lissa and Rose refuse to discuss, the scars are a clue to part of Lissa's life.

Rose's meeting with Jesse contrasts with Lissa's meeting with Christian. Lissa and Christian have an emotional connection, while Rose has only a physical encounter with Jesse. She's willing to make out with him and use her body to get what she wants, but she doesn't have any emotional connection with him. Instead, she gets him to spread the rumor about Mia's parents.

The war between Mia, Rose, and Lissa is an important element in the plot. The girls start escalating rumors about each other, trying to control thought among the influential royal clique. The rumors will get worse and worse, as each faction tries to hurt the other.

In Chapter 10, the author reveals the incident that happened before the girls ran away. Lissa raised a bird from the dead, or at least healed it from near death. This power parallels those ascribed to St. Vladimir. Ms. Karp was alarmed at Lissa's power, reacting as if it puts Lissa in danger. Lissa and Rose don't understand themselves yet how Lissa's power is endangering her, but they are concerned enough that they ran away.



# Chapters 11-12

## Chapters 11-12 Summary

In Chapter 11, the girls are waiting for Mr. Nagy's art class, and Rose is listening to Mia trying to spin the rumors about her parents, painting them as advisors, not servants. Queen Tatiana is visiting the school that night, All Saints' Day, and the girls plan to go, though Rose has nothing to wear.

Rose is now taking four hours a day of training with Dimitri, in addition to classes. He teaches her techniques for fighting someone bigger and stronger, but Dimitri is still more adept than she is. As they are leaving, she tries to attack him by surprise, but he quickly turns the tables. After he tackles her, there is a moment of sexual tension.

The cafeteria is decorated elegantly for the assembly. The visiting royals enter and sit at the main table in the front of the room. Queen Tatiana enters last, followed by four guardians. She speaks to Lissa, saying that she's sorry Lissa's family is dead and that she's glad Lissa is back. She praises Lissa's name and heritage but then implies Lissa isn't living up to it.

After the dinner, Lissa hurries out, and Rose follows. She hears Natalie tell Lissa that the queen was wrong, but Lissa disagrees, accusing herself of being stupid and irresponsible. Rose joins them, and Natalie leaves. Rose agrees that the queen was wrong, and threatens to kill her, but Lissa says she'd be charged with treason just for saying that. Mia approaches with some friends and starts trading insults with Lissa and Rose. Before the conflict escalates, Dimitri breaks it up and brings Rose back to the dorm. Christian comes by, and Rose takes out her anger by telling him to leave Lissa alone and saying that Lissa thinks he's a freak.

In Chapter 12, Rose wakes from her sleep because of frightened emotions coming from Lissa. She gets the dorm matron to call Dimitri, and they head to Lissa's dorm. Lissa is in the bathroom, and Rose goes in alone. Lissa is covered in blood. Her wrists are cut, but not enough to endanger her life. Rose helps her wash off and bandages her wrists, hiding the cuts before Dimitri enters. Not all the blood is Lissa's though. This time, a dead rabbit was left for her. She cleaned it up, but then she panicked and cut her own wrists. Lissa shows Dimitri a threatening note she found with the rabbit. The matron goes to get the headmistress, and Dimitri and Rose bring Lissa to the clinic. Rose keeps Lissa's cutting a secret, but she doesn't like it or understand it.

Rose wants to leave. She thinks the Academy isn't safe for them. After Lissa finally falls asleep, Rose lies awake. An hour later, the nurse sends Rose back to her room, where she falls fast asleep. The next day, word of the rabbit has not gotten around, but people are still gossiping and staring at the two. In their last class, a boy makes a lewd remark to Rose, and Rose realizes a new rumor is going around: that Rose let Lissa feed on her. Rose thinks Christian spread the tale. They confront Christian. He is angry,



believing that Lissa thinks he's a freak, but he reveals that Jesse spread the rumor that Rose slept with him and let him drink her blood. Another boy, Ralf, says she did it with him, too.

Rose confronts the two boys. She's afraid to hit them, because she'll be kicked out, and Ralf knows it. Rose walks away from the fight, but suffers ridicule for it. That night, Dimitri, who's heard the rumors, brings Lissa to see Rose. Lissa says that she thinks Mia is responsible for the rumors, and Lissa feels bad that Rose is suffering. She wants to protect Rose, and plans to use compulsion to turn the royals against Mia.

## Chapters 11-12 Analysis

Rose has been attracted to Dimitri from the beginning of the novel, but as they work together more and more, she becomes increasingly attracted to him. The physical contact of their training enhances that attraction, and it is likely also enhanced by the forbidden nature of their relationship. Dimitri is, after all, Rose's teacher, and he is older than her.

At the dinner for Queen Tatiana, Lissa is publically humiliated by the queen, the leader of the vampires. In a way, the queen is no more mature than the girls at Lissa's school. She makes a judgment about Lissa without much information and publically condemns her through slighting remarks. Is this behavior any more mature than Mia's? The cliquish and gossipy nature of the academy's nobles seems to carry over into the adult world of nobles.

In Chapter 12, the cuts on Lissa's arm are explained. She cuts herself when she is upset, to try to relieve her emotions. This is an outward sign of Lissa's inner turmoil. Another dead animal left for her, this time a rabbit, has taken its toll on Lissa's emotions. Rose keeps Lissa's cutting a secret, even though she knows that it's a serious symptom of emotional problems. This parallels Rose's action in running away with Lissa. Instead of trying to find help, Rose tried to deal with all of her and Lissa's problems on her own. Rose wants to do the same thing again, since she says that the academy isn't safe and wants to leave.

Meanwhile, Mia escalates the rumor conflict by spreading the rumor that Rose slept with Jesse and Ralf and let them feed on her. Rose can't fight back with her fists, for fear of being kicked out of school, so she feels cornered. She doesn't have the emotional and social tools she needs to deal with this problem. Lissa steps in. She plans to use compulsion, a subtler form of aggression, but still an aggressive act, to turn the rumor mill in her and Rose's favor. Lissa's use of compulsion may not be as overt as Rose's tactics of starting rumors against Mia and punching out her enemies, but it has its own "violence." Lissa takes away her enemies' and friends' free will, changing their minds without them even being aware of it.





# Chapters 13-14

## Chapters 13-14 Summary

In Chapter 13, Lissa starts using compulsion to slowly turn the royals in her favor, but only when Rose isn't around. Rose decides to try to enter Lissa's mind to see what's happening. She sees Lissa talking to Camille Conta and using compulsion to make Camille think it wasn't a big deal that Rose fed on Lissa while they were on the road, and that Jesse was lying. She also gets Camille to invite her to study with Camille and another girl that night.

After Camille leaves, Christian comes up behind Lissa, helping with her ponytail, and she pulls away. He knows she's been using compulsion. Lissa accuses Christian of ignoring her. Ever since Rose told Christian that Lissa was only pretending to like him, their relationship has deteriorated. Rose comes back to herself.

The next morning, Rose trains with Dimitri as usual. He notices her hands are raw, blistered, and bleeding. She doesn't have any gloves. As Dimitri wraps her hands, Rose worries that being a guardian will destroy her looks. They start talking about Rose's mother, and Dimitri defends her decision to give up Rose's care to remain a guardian. Dimitri says he grew up in a dhampir commune, and that though Rose characterizes the women there as "blood whores," the communes are about family and love. Dimitri's Moroi father, though, would come around and abuse his mother. When Dimitri was thirteen, he beat up his abusive father.

Dimitri tells Rose that he knows Jesse's rumors about her are lies. He also says she'll make a great guardian, though she says she doesn't want to cut her hair short. He touches her hair, and tells her not to cut it. She can wear it up.

In Chapter 14, Rose continues spying on Lissa, as Lissa works her way back into the royal clique, advocating for Rose. One day, Rose sees Lissa and Natalie in their room. Lissa turns down Natalie's invitation to watch a movie with her and a friend that night. Natalie comments on how odd it is that the royals like Lissa now and defend Rose. Lissa sidetracks her by accepting the movie invitation after all.

One day in church, two boys start laughing and staring at Rose. Lissa uses compulsion to make them apologize. Rose is worried about Lissa's use of the power. The preacher's sermon is about St. Vladimir, and it reminds Rose about Vladimir's healing power and his "shadow-kissed" guardian, so reminiscent of Lissa's healing power and Rose's bond. Rose doesn't get a chance to tell Lissa her suspicion that Vladimir and Anna had similar powers to the two girls.

Rose researches Vladimir but finds nothing. Then, she remembers Christian mentioning that there is a box full of Vladimir's writings in the chapel attic. She thinks maybe Christian can help her get a look at them. On Rose's way out to practice, two boys start





making lewd remarks to her. One of them touches her bottom. Mason interrupts, threatening them. He punches one of them, who is about to call Rose a blood whore. After they leave, Rose snaps at Mason defensively, but then repents. Mason clearly likes Rose, but she's got a crush on Dimitri. Still, she flirts with him to get him to sneak a message to Christian, asking him to bring Rose St. Vladimir's writings.

## Chapters 13-14 Analysis

While Lissa uses her compulsion, invading the privacy of the minds of her schoolmates, Rose invades the privacy of Lissa's mind. Both actions drive a wedge between the two girls. Lissa knows that Rose doesn't approve of her using compulsion, and so she hides her actions from Rose. She draws away, and she begins hanging out with the royal crowd. Rose also must hide her use of her psychic connection from Lissa, who would not approve of being spied on in this way.

The two girls are not the only ones separated by their secrets. Christian pulls away from Lissa without even confronting her about Rose's accusation that Lissa thinks he's a freak. His insecurity is part of the reason he pulls away, but he is also hurt by Lissa immersing herself in the royal clique, where Christian is despised.

All of the characters in the novel have preconceptions and stereotypes that interfere with how they relate to each other. The royals dislike Christian because he is weird. His parents turned Strigoi, and so the royals turn on him, relating him to the Strigoi, though his parents' actions were not his fault. Similarly, the vampires have distain for any "feeder" and especially anyone who lets them feed in a sexual context. The rumors about Rose are so effective because of the judgmental attitude of the vampires toward "feeders." Dimitri's story about his mother emphasizes how harmful these stereotypes and judgmental attitudes are. His mother suffered at the violent hands of someone who considered her unworthy of being treated well.

The negative stereotypes in the novel aren't just about feeders and social class. They are also about women. Rose, as a woman, is looked down upon if she acts and dresses sexually, and yet, that is what men want from her. She is judged for supposedly having sex with Jesse and Ralf, while Jesse and Ralf receive no harsh judgment from the rumor mill.



# Chapters 15-16

## Chapters 15-16 Summary

In Chapter 15, Mason brings Rose the box of Vladimir's books. There is one journal by Vladimir, some books about Vladimir written while he was alive, and some written after he died. Rose wants the earliest sources. She reads Vladimir's writings about healing. It makes him ill, crazy, and depressed, and he is thankful for Anna, who helps get him through it. She finds that Vladimir once tried to kill himself, and also finds evidence of him using compulsion on a large scale.

The reason the term "shadow-kissed" is so important to Rose is that one night, Ms. Karp had come to her, hysterical, telling Rose she was shadow-kissed and must look after Lissa, stop her from using her powers, and take her away before "they" get her. Though Ms. Karp used compulsion to plant the idea of getting Rose away from the Academy. Then strange guardians came and took Ms. Karp away.

Mason knocks on Rose's door. He's set a fire in a trash can as a distraction and come to get her on Lissa's orders. He brings her to a royal party in Lissa's room. Lissa is drunk and unhappy but smiling, and the others treat her like a goddess. Aaron hangs on her, entranced without the need of compulsion. Rose, uncomfortable, goes and sits with Natalie, who is on the outskirts, as the crowd gets drunker. Then, a boy named Xander asks her what it's like to get bitten. They know Lissa fed on her after the girls ran away.

As Lissa's emotions rise, Rose remembers another party a couple years ago. Rose was making out with a senior boy and drinking, and another boy, Wade, brought a feeder to the party. A group of boys started feeding on her and making lewd remarks, and Lissa asked Rose to intervene. Rose succeeded in driving Wade and the drugged girl away, but Lissa was still concerned what would happen in his room.

Later, Rose realized that Lissa was gone. Lissa followed Wade and used compulsion to make him break furniture all over his room with a baseball bat. She was about to have him bash his own skull, when Rose talked her down. When the dorm workers come, Rose claims she caused the damage, in defense of the feeder girl. That was the last night Rose ever drank. At the current party, Rose is concerned Lissa might lose it again. She deflects Xander's remarks by calling him pretty and claiming that he buys French hair gel.

In Chapter 16, Aaron breaks up with Mia to be with Lissa. Mia and Christian are both miserable. Meanwhile, Rose asks the magic teacher what element St. Vladimir specialized in. The teacher guesses that Rose is really interested in Lissa, who still hasn't specialized in an element. Sometimes it never happens, and the teacher says that was true of Ms. Karp.



Rose wants Lissa to stop her crusade to be friends with the royals, because it's making Lissa unhappy. Rose tells Lissa she's like Ms. Karp and talks about Ms. Karp's healing and use of compulsion and hurting herself. Then she tells about St. Vladimir. Lissa thinks it sounds crazy. She doesn't want to stop hanging out with the royals, since she feels it's her responsibility to make contacts among the future leaders. Instead, she offers to stop using her powers.

Rose is also concerned that Lissa is dating Aaron, who she doesn't really like. Rose worries that she's misjudged Christian and driven the two apart. On her way to practice, Rose runs into Christian. She stops him and tells him she's lied about what Lissa felt and that she thinks Christian and Lissa should hang out again. She thinks he's good for Lissa. Christian, though, doesn't like the new "Princess Lissa." Rose points out that both Christian and Lissa saw their parents die, and Christian talks about his parents' death and the "army of Death," the guardians, who came to kill them.

## Chapters 15-16 Analysis

The more Rose finds out about Vladimir, the more similar he seems to Lissa, giving Rose insight into who Lissa is and what her abilities mean. Like Lissa, Vladimir was a healer who became depressed and mentally ill through the use of his powers. Ms. Karp also had abilities similar to Lissa's, as well as no magic specialty, and she was taken away due to mental illness. These incidents give Rose reasons to worry about Lissa and her mental health. Rose also sees parallels between herself and Vladimir's companion Anna. Ms. Karp called Rose "shadow kissed." Rose connects the term with Anna and also with her psychic connection with Lissa.

As the novel goes on, Rose matures and takes her training and guardianship of Lissa more and more seriously. When she goes to Lissa's party, Rose refuses to get drunk. She wants to be clear-headed so that she can look out for Lissa. This is a sign of her growing sense of responsibility as she grows up.

The incident with Wade and the feeder brings up the thematic issues of gender and class social distinctions. Wade is from the highest social class, a royal Moroi, and he is also from the favored male gender. The girl he brings is from the lowest social class, a human feeder, and she is also female. By virtue of her class and gender, she is a victim that Wade can abuse without repercussions. Lissa is horrified by the incident. Her sense of values won't allow her to accept Wade's abusive treatment of the helpless feeder.

One class that's demonized in the novel as evil, but rarely seen or explored, is the Strigoi. Christian's parents turned Strigoi, and to him, they seemed that they were still themselves. They did not appear evil. The guardians who came, emotionlessly, to strike them down, seemed far more chilling. The Strigoi must kill (or be turned by another Strigoi) to become Strigoi, so they originate with an evil act. They also are known to kill Moroi to enhance their powers. Does this mean that all Strigoi are evil, and that everything the guardians and Moroi learn about them is true? And is it right for an army

of guardians to come after them and kill them, as Christian describes? The experienced scarred Christian, as does his ostracism by his association with his Strigoi parents.



# Chapters 17-18

## Chapters 17-18 Summary

In Chapter 17, Lissa is trying to arrange for Rose to come with her, Camille, Natalie, and Uncle Victor to a mall. Dimitri will guard Lissa. While Lissa is talking about it, though, she opens her backpack and finds a dead dove. She instinctively reaches for it, but Rose stops her. Natalie walks in on them, and Rose goes to report the incident.

Rose gets permission to go on the trip, as a training exercise to guard Lissa as Dimitri's partner. Rose complains about not having a stake, and Dimitri asks if she would really be ready to kill a Strigoi, maybe even someone she'd known before they turned. Dimitri asks what she would want, if someone was going to turn her into a Strigoi, and Rose admits that she'd want someone to kill her. Victor says it reminds him of Mikhail and Sonya. He means Sonya Karp and Rose reveals that Ms. Karp became Strigoi. Her lover, Mikhail, a guardian from the school, is hunting her.

The mood is lighter at the mall, where the girls shop for clothes. Lissa asks Rose about Ms. Karp, and Rose remembers two guards telling her how Ms. Karp went crazy, became Strigoi, and escaped, killing patients and nurses at the hospital where she was. Just after she found out, she joined up with Lissa, who was still upset with Wade. She wanted revenge. Rose was suddenly concerned about Lissa's powerful negative feelings, and afraid she'd end up like Ms. Karp. She told Lissa they were leaving, and got Lissa to use compulsion to get a chauffeur to let them hide in his trunk as he drives out.

Rose comes out of her memory, and tries to assure Lissa that she won't go crazy and turn Strigoi. They find the perfect sexy black dress for Rose. Lissa wants to buy her a rose necklace too, but Rose hates wearing roses. Besides, it's too expensive. The girls are exhausted on the trip home, and Rose falls asleep on Dimitri's shoulder. When they are back on campus, Rose is playing around on a wood bench, and it breaks. Her leg is shattered.

In Chapter 18, Rose wakes in the clinic, but finds her leg isn't injured. Uncle Victor has sent her a gift, the rose necklace the girls saw at the mall. Dimitri also gives her a present, lip gloss, and Rose hugs him, sparking sexual tension. Then, the doctor comes back and confirms that Rose's leg is fine. As Rose gets ready to go, Dimitri asks her about the car accident she was in before the girls ran away, when Lissa's family died. The car hit a tree, and Rose should have been badly injured or even killed. She wasn't, though. She and Lissa both walked away.

Rose suddenly realizes that Lissa must have healed her broken leg, and healed her in the car accident, too. That's when Lissa's depression started. Rose reaches out to Lissa's mind, and finds her in the chapel attic, crying. Christian walks in. At first they argue. Then Christian starts telling her about Mia. She hates Lissa because Lissa's



brother Andre had a secret fling with her and then dumped her. Suddenly Christian kisses her, passionately. She tells him he's lying about Andre and throws him out, saying she hates him. When she is alone, Lissa's misery overcomes her, and she begins cutting herself. Rose breaks out of her link with Lissa, and tells Dimitri they have to help her.

## Chapters 17-18 Analysis

Dimitri's question to Rose about whether she would be able to kill a Strigoi shows how the guardians must dehumanize Strigoi in order to defeat them. In part, it is because the Strigoi are powerful that they must categorically be treated as evil and given no chance for redemption. Though the Strigoi are characterized as completely evil, but the reader sees little of them, and from Christian's description of his parents' death, from the Strigoi point of view, the guardians must seem merciless. Despite the evil reputation of Strigoi, Ms. Karp made a choice to become Strigoi and is being hunted down by a guardian. Knowing that Ms. Karp became Strigoi makes Rose even more worried about Lissa's sanity.

Rose removed Lissa from the academy because she worried about Rose's sanity and ability to control her emotions. However, Ms. Karp also used compulsion on Rose, suggesting that she and Lissa run away. The decision to leave the academy may not have been wholly Rose's. She might have been influenced by Ms. Karp's mind control.

Just as Rose's primary goal is to protect Lissa, Lissa is driven to protect Rose. When Rose injures herself falling off the bench, Lissa uses her powers to heal her friend, even though she knows it is dangerous. Similarly, Chapter 18 reveals that Rose should have been killed in the car accident that killed Lissa's parents. Lissa used her healing powers to save Rose's life, endangering her own mental health. Rose shows that she is maturing by calling on Dimitri for help when she realizes that Lissa is cutting herself. In the past, she has kept this symptom of Lissa's precarious mental state a secret, instead of trying to get help.



# Chapters 19-20

## Chapters 19-20 Summary

In Chapter 19, Dimitri goes to the chapel and brings Lissa back to the clinic, unconscious. When she's well enough for Rose to see her, Lissa is angry that Rose told about her cutting. Rose also wants to reveal her powers. Lissa turns away and tells Rose to get out. Lissa is released from the clinic, as long as she goes to counseling and takes medicine for depression. Word gets around about Lissa being brought to the clinic, and Lissa isn't speaking to Rose. Tongues wag. Stories go around that Rose stopped Lissa from running away and that Lissa is pregnant, among others. Mia tries to drag the truth from Rose, to use against Lissa, but Rose remains loyal.

When the dance comes, Rose decides not to go. In her dorm room, she feels Lissa's anxiety and excitement. Rose has just come out of the shower when Mason shows up. She tells him she's not going out, but he invites her to an after-party Lissa won't be at. Rose gets dressed and goes with him. On the way, they run into Dimitri and Alberta, one of the other guardians. Dimitri stares at Rose in her black dress.

At the dance, Mason leads Rose to Jesse and Ralf, the boys who spread rumors about her. They confess that Mia told them to lie and apologize. They also say that Mia slept with them to get them to lie.

In Chapter 20, Rose reels with the news that Mia slept with Jesse and Ralf. She was even dating Aaron at the time. She is anticipating getting the news out when she sees Lissa across the room, looking like a princess. Christian is watching her. Mason tells Rose not to worry about Lissa.

Rose and Mason start the rumor mill going about Mia, but as the night wears on, Rose feels Lissa getting more anxious. Aaron is whispering to her, and then Mia walks up. Rose runs over. Mia is accusing Lissa of spreading the rumors and reveals Lissa's cutting. From what Mia says, Rose thinks Mia has seen the medical records. Rose punches Mia in the nose and gets in one more punch before the guardians drag her away.

Rose doesn't care what happens to her, but Lissa's despair floods into her mind. Rose calls to Christian to go after Lissa, who has fled the dance. Rose is brought to her room, under guard. Lissa's emotions seem calmer. Then, suddenly, Rose gets the impression that Christian is hurt. She is in Lissa's mind. A group has attacked her and Christian in the attic. Christian tries to use fire for defense but is beaten. The attackers are guardians, and they bind and gag her.

Rose comes to herself. She knows something is wrong with Lissa, but can't remember what happened. Rose goes to Dimitri, but she's so distracted by his body when she



sees him that she starts to kiss his chest. He tries to send her away, but he is caught up in their chemistry, too. He kisses her, then pulls off her dress and takes her to the bed.

## Chapters 19-20 Analysis

One of the major factors that stops Rose and Lissa from getting help for Lissa's depression is the impact of public opinion on the two girls. When Lissa is in the school clinic, everyone starts gossiping about her and what's wrong with her. Though Lissa needs help, the negative public opinion stands in her way. Though the perception of the Strigoi as evil in Lissa and Rose's culture might be justified, other negative perceptions are not, such as the negativity associated with Lissa's mental problems, female sexuality, and the social status of Mia's parents. The attitude of the gossips seems to be condemnation of any perceived or possible flaw.

Anyone who doesn't fit into the narrow definitions of what the nobles find acceptable is criticized. More than that, when the students don't know what the true story is, the gossip mill starts going. Stories, whether started maliciously or not, are unreliable. Yet, they affect public opinion of the characters. Mia is able to manipulate this rumor mill with lies about Rose sleeping with Jesse and Ralf, but the reason those lies hurt so much is that Rose cares about public opinion. She cares what the other students think of her, as does Lissa. This causes the girls to get entangled in the melodrama of noble cliques at the academy and causes the escalation of rumor-mongering that goes on throughout the novel.

As hurt as Rose is by the lies Mia instigates, Rose is willing to use similar tactics against her enemy. She will not stop at spreading the word that Mia slept with Jesse and Ralf to start a rumor, despite the fact that it will hurt Mia just as much as Mia has hurt Rose. Further, it keeps the cycle of competing rumors going, escalating the conflict instead of ending it. The next target is Lissa, and the reason for her stay in the school clinic. In the midst of this crisis of ongoing revenge, where the girls needlessly hurt each other through public opinion and gossip, Lissa is kidnapped. This contrasts a true life-and-death situation with the self-perpetuated and needless conflict between the girls.

The teens at the academy aren't learning to deal with their conflicts, to be empathic toward each other, and to feel comfortable with themselves and accepting toward each other. Instead, they live in a dog-eat-dog world of backbiting and in-fighting, of popularity and condemnation. Because of this environment, they are in danger of growing up to be the kind of adults who create the truly dangerous situations in the book, like Lissa's kidnapping and the threatening conflicts with the Strigoi.





# Chapters 21-22

## Chapters 21-22 Summary

In Chapter 21, Rose and Dimitri make out, and voices in Rose's head seem to push her to be distracted by him. She asks about his tattoos that indicate he's killed six Strigoi. The killings make him sad, but not really guilty. They start kissing again, and he takes Rose's gold rose necklace off. Suddenly Rose feels as if she's waking up from a long sleep. Dimitri touches the necklace again, and the two are overcome with lust. Dimitri pushes away and throws the necklace out the window. Once the necklace is gone, Rose remembers about Lissa. She and Dimitri rush to dress and report that Lissa's been kidnapped. Headmistress Kirova finds it hard to believe that the attackers were guardians.

Rose identifies the guardians as working for Victor Dashkov. Dimitri says there was a compulsion spell on Rose's necklace, hiding the sexual nature of their encounter, and Rose tells that Lissa is in a car on highway 83. Rose sets out with the guardians and leads them on the kidnappers' path. The kidnappers come to a halt outside a small cabin. Rose snaps into Lissa's mind.

The guardians bring Lissa to Victor inside the cabin. Victor says he'd not meant to hurt Christian and hoped to find her alone, so people would think she'd run away. He is responsible, through Natalie, for the rumors that Lissa had tried to run away again. Now, with Christian as witness, Rose is Victor's biggest problem. Lissa asks why Victor has kidnapped her. He says that he needs her to heal him.

In Chapter 22, Victor reveals that Natalie has been following Lissa and saw her heal the raven. Victor knows Lissa healed Rose. In fact, he says Lissa raised Rose from the dead during the car accident. Victor and Natalie are responsible for the dead animals, which Victor hoped she'd heal to prove her powers. Victor reveals that Lissa's power is called spirit, a fifth magic specialty, one that Vladimir and Ms. Karp both possessed.

Victor's condition will require constant healings. He kidnapped her to avoid ethical questions about his use of her powers. Victor knows Lissa's power will drain her very being, her spirit. It will destroy her, and he says she won't be able to stop herself from using it. He sees his life as more important than Lissa's. He hopes that, once cured, he will be Tatiana's heir, and then he can start a war to kill the Strigoi, using Moroi magic as a weapon. When Rose refuses to heal Victor, another Moroi, Kenneth, tortures her with his air elemental magic. Finally, she gives in and heals him. Then she passes out.

The guardians finally arrive at the cabin, and Dimitri tells Rose to stay in the van. When Lissa wakes, Rose is in her head again. Lissa sits up from the couch she's on and uses compulsion on her guard. Then she sneaks out the window, despite her exhausted condition. In the van, Rose swears aloud, upset that Lissa is endangering herself when rescue is on the way. Christian reveals that he's stowed away in the van and asks what



she saw. She tells him what Lissa is doing, and then Rose and Christian head out to find Lissa.

## Chapters 21-22 Analysis

The necklace from Victor turns out to be a charm that distracts Rose and Dimitri with their mutual sexual attraction. This charm is another example of power that is used irresponsibly, in this case by an adult. Just as it's irresponsible for Lissa to use compulsion to take away her fellow students' freedom of thought and sway public opinion in her own favor, it is irresponsible at least (evil is a more apt term) for Victor to use magic charms to manipulate Rose and Dimitri in this way. The incident of the rose charm is an escalation of the misuse of powers. It shows why misuse of power is dangerous and where it can lead.

In Chapter 21, Victor Dashkov is revealed as the true villain in the novel, working behind the scenes and pretending to be the girls' friend. This marks the beginning of the book's climactic end. Rose must rescue her friend from real danger, proving herself a worthy guardian. To do this, Rose's powers aren't enough. She has to get help from the authorities, something that shows how much she has changed from the beginning of the novel.

Lissa has true power. She can heal, and she can influence minds. This means she has great responsibilities for how she uses her power. She can do great damage, if she doesn't care about others. It also makes her vulnerable. Because her powers are strong, others want them for their own selfish gains. This is what puts Lissa in danger. Victor wants Lissa's healing power, and he also wants political power for himself. He considers himself more important than others, just as Wade considers himself more important than the feeder he brings to the party.



# Chapters 23-24

## Chapters 23-24 Summary

In Chapter 23, Rose and Christian run through the woods, and Rose outpaces him. When Rose gets close, she calls Lissa's name and is answered with howls: the psi-hounds. Rose finds Lissa near collapse, surrounded by four of the beasts. Rose calls the wolves to her and picks up a tree branch as a weapon. She sends one of the hounds to the ground and is fighting another one when Christian appears. He uses a branch and his fire power to attack one of the hounds, but another comes at him from behind.

Rose fights off a second hound and then goes to fight the two attacking Christian. She doesn't have to. Alberta, one of the guardians, comes and shoots them. Christian isn't dead, but he's horribly mangled. Lissa is too drained to heal him, but Rose offers her blood. Lissa is revived enough to heal Christian.

Rose passes out and awakes again in the Academy clinic. The girls tell Kirova about Lissa's powers, and the administrators agree to keep them a secret. The students only know that Victor kidnapped Lissa, and Victor is being guarded at the school until royal guardians can come for him. Natalie is responsible for the dead animals and for rotting the bench that Rose fell through. The Academy doesn't know what to do with her, and they are awaiting a royal command.

Lissa and Rose's friendship is fully recovered, and Lissa breaks up with Aaron. She starts dating Christian. Meanwhile, Rose doesn't see Dimitri at all while she's in the clinic, and practices are cancelled for the time being. One day, though, Rose runs into him in the gym. Dimitri wants her to report what happened the night of the kidnapping. He feels he's taken advantage of her and tells her it only happened because of the spell.

Rose visits Victor in his jail cell and tells him to take the spell off her that makes her want Dimitri, but he says that isn't the spell. It wouldn't have worked unless she and Dimitri were already attracted to each other. Victor is unrepentant, and he tells Rose that she's "shadow-kissed," meaning that she's come back from the dead. That experience also bound her to Lissa. Victor implies that he has many Moroi followers and could stage a revolution. Then Natalie bursts in and frees her father. She has turned Strigoi.

In Chapter 24, Rose tries to fight Natalie but is overpowered. Then she tries to talk to her, to buy time. Natalie throws her against a wall, and Rose thinks she's doomed. Then Dimitri shows up. He is far more skilled than Natalie and kills her with a silver stake. He carries Rose to the clinic. He admits Victor is right, he does care for her, but he can't be with her. He has to focus on guarding Lissa.



Rose learns that Dimitri had known there was a Strigoi on campus when Mr. Nagy was found dead, Natalie's victim. That's why he came to the jail. Victor is recaptured. Lissa starts taking medicine for depression and stops cutting. She comes to terms with the idea that her brother might not have been the hero she imagined. Queen Tatiana denounces Lissa, and Mia makes progress again with the shallow royals, gossiping about Lissa and Christian. Lissa doesn't care. She and Christian are good for each other, and their social circle grows. Dimitri treats Rose as nothing but a trainee.

Lissa misses her magical gifts and thinks Victor is right, that she can't give it up. She wants to help people, but the cost would be her sanity. Rose realizes that Mrs. Karp must have gone Strigoi to rid herself of her magic gifts and keep her sanity. Rose doesn't think Lissa would do that. Still, Rose wants to know more. She asks the priest how St. Vladimir died and finds that he died of old age, peacefully. Anna had helped him keep his sanity. As Rose leaves the priest, she sees the raven that Lissa cured. Rose thinks it's shadow-kissed, too.

## Chapters 23-24 Analysis

Rose and Christian rescue Lissa, battling psi-hounds at the climax of the novel. Rose and Christian are still students, though, and they are not strong enough to battle the psi-hounds by themselves. Still, Rose shows her fighting ability by battling the hounds, and Lissa's abilities are the most impressive of all. She is able to save Christian's life, though she, too, needs help to do it. Rose provides the help that Lissa needs, by providing her blood. Just as Lissa uses her life-force to heal others, Rose's blood is a life-force that heals Lissa.

After the girls' life-and-death experience, the in-fighting of the cliques at school seems less important. Both girls focus more on what will make them happy, but their ordeal isn't over yet. In a final sequence, Natalie turns herself into a Strigoi to try to rescue her father from jail. Like her father, Natalie is putting herself and her own desires ahead of others'. She is willing to take another's life to get what she wants. The question remains at the end of the novel whether power can be used judiciously and well, to help others without hurting one's self or others. Abuses of power abound in the novel. Can Lissa use her powers without abusing them? In the end of the novel, Rose is beginning to believe that she can, because she finds out that Vladimir died peacefully, of old age. He had Anna to help him. Just as Rose reached out for help to save Lissa, Lissa must reach out for help to use her powers without harming herself.



# Characters

## Rosemarie (Rose) Hathaway

Rose is the narrator of the novel. She is a teenaged dhampir, half-vampire and half-human, and she is studying to become a guardian, a bodyguard to protect a Moroi vampire. Her best friend Lissa is a Moroi vampire, and Rose feels a desire to protect Lissa. Rose died in a car accident, along with Lissa's parents and brother, but Lissa bought Rose back to life magically. This makes Rose "shadow-kissed," and it binds her psychically to Lissa. Rose can feel what Lissa is feeling, and she can enter Lissa's mind without Lissa's knowledge, which means Rose can see and experience everything Lissa does.

Rose's main goal is to protect Lissa, and she becomes both more skilled as a guardian and more serious about her duties as the novel progresses. Though in the beginning of the novel, Rose has run away with Lissa and is trying to protect her on her own, Rose learns the value of help from others. She gets help for Lissa from the headmistress of the academy as well as from Dimitri.

Rose is also a teenage girl, growing up. She is attracted to her mentor and trainer, Dimitri, an under a lust spell, she nearly sleeps with him. Rose's attraction only grows stronger, but she agrees to suppress that attraction, for the sake of Lissa's safety. Rose's first duty is to Lissa, and she rejects her own pleasure, whether it's getting drunk or dating Dimitri, for Lissa.

## Vasilisa (Lissa) Drogomir

Lissa is a teenaged Moroi vampire and Rose's best friend. She is a member of the royal Drogomir family, which gives her the title of princess. She is the last Drogomir, since her parents and brother were killed in a car accident. At the time of the accident, Lissa's friend Rose was also killed, and Lissa's magical spirit powers emerged. She used her healing power to bring Rose back from death, something which the girls keep a secret. This incident gave the girls a psychic bond. In addition to healing, Lissa has the ability to use compulsion, a psychic power that allows her to charm others into following her will.

Lissa's powers throw her into a deep depression and when she feels that her feelings overwhelm her, she cuts herself to release her emotions. She has very powerful empathy, and her feelings for the girl that Wade is abusing cause her emotions to get out of control. Lissa is attracted to Christian, who also saw his parents die, but she lets a divide grow between them when she thinks he is ignoring her. She also stays away from him when she is trying to make Rose's life easier by manipulating the royal clique, but in the end of the novel, she rejects the politics and in-fighting of the in-crowd and starts dating Christian. In the end of the novel, Lissa gets help by letting the



headmistress and others know about her powers and taking medicine for her depression.

## **Dimitri Belikov**

Dimitri Belikov is a dark, brooding, and handsome guardian who works at the academy. He is the leader of the group of guardians who bring Rose and Lissa back to the academy. He becomes Rose's instructor before and after school, and the two become attracted to each other. Dimitri has killed six Strigoi, as evidenced by the tattoo on his neck, and he takes his duties very seriously. He understands that the Strigoi he may be called upon to kill might once have been his friends, and he also understands the consequences of failing at his job. Dimitri was once a bodyguard to a royal Moroi who was killed while Dimitri was away. He feels guilt over the vampire's death.

Dimitri finds himself attracted to Rose, though he knows he can't have a relationship with her. He suppresses his emotions, but because of his feelings, he falls under the lust spell placed on Rose's necklace. He won't start a relationship with Rose, in part because of their age difference, but mainly because of their status as guardians. He does not want to grow so attached to Rose, who will probably be his partner in guarding Lissa in the future, that he chooses to protect her instead of Lissa in a moment of weakness. Dimitri does not want to ever lose another Moroi who is under his charge.

## **Headmistress Ellen Kirova**

Headmistress Kirova is the head of St. Vladimir Academy. She lectures Lissa and Rose for running away and she at first threatens to expel Rose. She allows Rose to stay, if she will take extra training and stay grounded in her room when not in class.

## **Ms. Sonya Karp**

Ms. Karp is a former teacher at the academy. Like Lissa, she had spirit powers that allowed her to heal and to use compulsion. She was also crazy, known as "Crazy Karp" to the kids. Ms. Karp was paranoid and knew the psychological dangers of her powers. She advised Lissa to stop using her powers and used her compulsion on Rose to plant the idea of the two girls running away.

## **Mr. Nagy**

Mr. Nagy is an art teacher at the academy, and he is a secret drinker. The kids break into his classroom to steal his liquor. In the end of the novel, Mr. Nagy is killed by Natalie, so that she can turn into a Strigoi.



## **Aaron**

Aaron is Lissa's ex-boyfriend and one of the royal clique of vampires at the academy. Though Lissa isn't really interested in him, she steals him away from Mia to dislodge Mia from the royal in-crowd.

## **Mia Rinaldi**

Mia is a non-royal Moroi vampire whose parents work for one of the royals. When Lissa returns to the academy, Mia is dating Lissa's ex-boyfriend Aaron, but Mia's hatred of Lissa goes beyond her relationship with Aaron. Mia was in a brief, secret relationship with Lissa's brother Andre before he was killed in a car accident. He slept with her and then dumped her. Mia and Lissa get into a political war that culminates in Mia spreading the false rumor that Rose slept with two boys and let them drink her blood.

## **Christian Ozera**

Christian is a Moroi vampire, the son of parents who turned Strigoi and were killed in front of him by guardians. Christian is an outcast at the academy, but he and Lissa make a connection and end up dating.

## **Mason Ashcroft**

Mason is a red-headed dhampir who is a friend of Rose's. He has a crush on Rose, and he helps her with her plans against Mia.

## **Jesse Zeklos**

Jesse is one of the royal Moroi at the academy. Rose makes out with him and tells him the rumor about Mia's parents being servants. Later, Mia sleeps with him to get Jesse to spread the false rumor that Rose let him bite her while they were having sex.

## **Andre Drogomir**

Andre is Lissa's older brother, who died in a car accident along with Lissa's parents before Lissa ran away. He ran with the popular royal clique before he died. Lissa idolizes Andre and wants to be like him, but she must come to the realization that he hurt Mia by sleeping with her and then dumping her.



## **Natalie Dashkov**

Natalie is one of the royals at the academy, but she is not popular. She becomes Lissa's roommate when Lissa returns to the academy. Secretly, she is helping her father Victor and plants dead animals in Lissa's room to see if Lissa will heal them. In the end of the novel, Natalie turns into a Strigoi to help her father break out of jail and is killed by Dimitri.

## **Camille Conta**

Camille is one of the royals at the academy, and she is one of the most powerful girls in the royal clique.

## **Wade**

Wade is one of the Moroi at the academy. He brings a feeder to a party and then takes advantage of her sexually while she is under the influence of vampire saliva. Lissa is horrified by his assault and uses compulsion to force him to break his own possessions with a baseball bat. Rose takes the blame to cover up what's happened.

## **Xander**

Xander is one of the Moroi at the academy. He presses Rose about the experience of being bitten.

## **Prince Victor Dashkov**

Prince Dashkov is a friend of Lissa's family, and she calls him Uncle Victor. He is Natalie's father, and he suffers from a degenerative disease that will soon cause his death. Victor is responsible for the dead animals left for Lissa, since he wants to get proof that Lissa has the healing power. Ultimately, he kidnaps Lissa to try to force her to heal him.

## **St. Vladimir**

St. Vladimir is one of the few Moroi vampire saints, and Rose investigates him because she sees similarities between him and Lissa. St. Vladimir had the power to heal and to use compulsion.





## **Anna**

Anna was a dhampir, similar to Rose, who was raised from the dead by St. Vladimir and became bonded to him. This is why she is called "shadow-kissed." She helped Vladimir deal with his depression and the other effects of his magical gift.

## **Queen Tatiana**

Queen Tatiana is the queen of the vampires, and she will appoint her successor from among the vampire royalty. After Lissa returns from running away, the queen publically condemns her.

## **Moroi**

Moroi are vampires with magical powers. They do not kill their victims, but they must drink blood to survive. The Moroi have a class-driven society with a royal heirarchy.

## **Dhampir**

Dhampir are half-vampires. They cannot have children with other dhampirs or with humans, so they can only breed with vampires. This is why the dhampirs have become integrated into Moroi society as guardians.

## **Strigoi**

Strigoi are evil, undead vampires. They have no magical powers, and they have no morality. They gain strength by drinking Moroi blood, and so they are the enemy of the Moroi. The Strigoi are turned undead by killing a victim, or a Moroi can be turned Strigoi by another Strigoi.

## **Feeders**

Feeders are humans who are supported by the Moroi vampires, and who allow the vampires to drink their blood. Feeders are addicted to the opiate-like chemicals in vampire saliva, and they are looked down on by the Moroi and dhampir as addicts.



# Objects/Places

## St. Vladimir's Academy

St. Vladimir's Academy is a boarding school for Moroi vampires and dhampir guardians in rural Montana.

## The Chapel Attic

The chapel attic is where Lissa goes to be alone, but she finds that Christian has started coming to the attic in her absence. Lissa and Christian spend time in the attic and develop feelings for each other there.

## The Raven

Before Lissa and Rose ran away from school, Lissa healed a dead raven. Ms. Karp saw the instance and warned Lissa against using her powers.

## The Fox

After Lissa and Rose return to school, someone leaves a dead fox on Lissa's bed. The culprit turns out to be Natalie, who is working for her father.

## The Book of Saints

The priest at the chapel gives Rose a book of saints when she asks questions about "shadow-kissed" Anna and St. Vladimir. Rose finds indications that Anna and Vladimir were similar to her and Lissa.

## The Box of Books

Rose gets Christian and Mason to help her get a box of books about St. Vladimir from the chapel attic, including a translation of Vladimir's journal. Based on the information she finds, Rose comes to believe that St. Vladimir had powers similar to Lissa's and that Anna was bound to Vladimir as Rose is bound to Lissa.

## Silver Stake

A silver stake is a weapon that can be used to defeat a Strigoi. Rose wants to train with a silver stake, but Dimitri doesn't think she's ready.



## **Psi-Hounds**

Psi-hounds are wolf-like magical animals with psychic powers that allow them to communicate as a pack.

## **Compulsion**

Compulsion is a magical ability that all Moroi have, but they are discouraged from using it because it's considered immoral. Compulsion allows Moroi to charm and psychically control others with suggestion. Lissa has a strong ability to use compulsion as part of her spirit powers.

## **Earth, Air, Fire, and Water**

Earth, air, fire, and water are the main areas of magic, and each Moroi vampire naturally specializes in an area of magic when they start exhibiting strong powers in that area during adolescence.

## **Spirit**

Spirit is the fifth area of magic, and knowledge of it has been forgotten by most Moroi. It is very uncommon for vampires to have spirit powers, and most vampires with spirit powers are thought to have no specialization. Spirit is the element that gives Lissa, Ms. Karp, and St. Vladimir their powers of healing and compulsion.

## **The Rose Necklace**

Victor gives Rose a gold and diamond necklace in the shape of a rose, supposedly in thanks for guarding Lissa. The necklace turns out to have a magic charm on it, which puts a lust spell on Rose and Dimitri.

## **Dhampir Compounds**

Dhampir compounds are where dhampirs who aren't guardians live. They are mostly populated by single mothers, since dhampirs can only breed with Moroi but Moroi men seldom marry a dhampir. The dhampir women in the compounds are often disparaged and thought of as prostitutes.



# Themes

## Gender and Class Divisions

The society of the Moroi vampires is filled with class divisions. These are exacerbated by the physical differences between those in different classes. Vampires need to feed on humans or dhampir, and their saliva is addictive. That creates a symbiotic relationship between Moroi and others, but in this symbiotic relationship, the vampires look down on those addicted to their saliva. The dhampir cannot reproduce except with Moroi, so dhampir are dependent on the Moroi. Moroi look down on dhampir, distaining to marry them and looking down on the women as sex toys while relying on them to be guardians and protectors.

The class-based society of the Moroi, dhampir, and humans seems to extend beyond these physical differences. The Moroi are divided into nobles and non-nobles. They look down on those not in the noble class. There is no explanation for this division; it is merely the structure of society. Mia is abused by Andre because she is not a noble, just as dhampir women are taken advantage of by Moroi men.

The gender divisions in the novel go hand-in-hand with class divisions. Women's sexuality is looked down on. Wade is willing to sexually abuse an addicted feeder, and Rose is ostracized for having supposedly slept with Jesse and Ralf and allowed them to bite her. The boys don't get the same treatment for having supposedly participated in the same act. Though Rose is a virgin, the rumor mill is more than willing to characterize her as a slut and worse, merely because she is shapely and outspoken. The distinctions of gender and class create an uneven society, where royal male Moroi are privileged, at the top of the class structure, and addicted female feeders are beyond contempt, though they are kept addicted by the Moroi society.

## Public Opinion

Public opinion drives many of the characters' actions in the novel. The war of rumors between Mia, Rose, and Lissa is only possible because all of them care about public opinion and the whispered comments among their peers. Rose attacks Mia's reputation by spreading the news that Mia's parents are essentially servants, while Mia attacks Rose's reputation by spreading a lie that Rose slept with Jesse and Ralf and let them bite her. These rumors reveal the values of the kids at the school. They look down their noses at non-nobles, at women's sexuality, and at feeders. Of course, part of the dynamic is that Mia, Rose, and Lissa all care about others' opinions.

Public opinion is where all the characters are tried. Lissa gives up Christian and dangerously uses her compulsion power because she is trying to sway public opinion. The queen is able to hurt Lissa with the weapon of public opinion. Even Rose's teacher, by publically humiliating her before the class, is using public opinion as a weapon.



The terror of public opinion is one of the reasons why Lissa and Rose don't seek help for their problems, such as Lissa's cutting. They're not only worried about people who may want to exploit Lissa's power. They're worried about what people will think and say. The root of discrimination in the novel is also public opinion. Wade would not be able to get away with abusing the feeder if public opinion of feeders were not so negative.

## Power and Responsibility

The characters in the novel have both magical and non-magical powers that allow them to manipulate and potentially harm others, and often, the characters use these powers irresponsibly. Lissa has the power to manipulate others' thoughts and minds. In the beginning of the novel, she uses her compulsion to take her roommate's car. She also uses this power to turn the royals' opinions in her and Rose's favor. The power of compulsion is considered unethical among the Moroi, for good reason. Mind control is invasive and manipulative. Lissa uses it when she thinks she has good reason, but it is a power that is easily abused. It overrides others' rights to their own thoughts.

Christian also uses his fire magic to attack a boy who is harassing Lissa. He believes in using magic aggressively against the Strigoi. When is it okay to use magic powers, like the Moroi have? The teens must grapple with these questions as they grow up and become more powerful. They will need to learn to make choices about when and how to use magic.

Rose also has a unique power, to enter Lissa's mind. She spies on her friend, something she knows Lissa disapproves of. Much as Lissa can invade and manipulate others' minds, Rose can invade Lissa's mind. While she can't control Lissa's thoughts, she keeps her actions secret. Can she use this power responsibly? Ultimately, she is able to help Lissa through her power, but as she matures, she needs to be responsible in her use of the power in order to maintain her friendship with Lissa.

Though the characters have magical powers, they also have power over others non-magically. Mia has the power to start rumors. Wade has power to take advantage of feeders. When characters abuse these powers, they harm other. As they grow up, they need to learn to use their power over others responsibly.



# Style

## Point of View

Vampire Academy is told in the first-person point of view, from the perspective of Rose. Though Lissa is an important character, and the one with the special spirit abilities that allow her to heal and sway minds, Rose is the protagonist of the story. She investigates Lissa's powers and learns to ask for help to deal with the fallout from those problems. She begins to grow up through her training and experiences in the novel.

Because the novel is from Rose's point of view, the reader can experience Rose's train of thought and impressions of what is going on. Rose matures throughout the novel. She has her own prejudices, such as those against the dhampir communes largely occupied by single mothers, and she only begins to learn that her thinking might be flawed, as when Dimitri tells Rose about his experiences growing up in such a commune with an abusive, occasionally visiting father.

Rose's psychic bond also allows her to see through Lissa's eyes, so that the reader, as well as Rose, can see events that go on in Lissa's life while Rose is not physically present, and can glimpse Lissa's feelings. Rose is able to experience Lissa's depression and the negative emotions that lead her to cut herself. However, the reader also has Rose's commentary on Lissa's feelings. While Lissa is attracted to Christian, Rose is critical of him, and when Rose relates Lissa and Christian's first encounter, the reader is away of Rose's prejudices.

## Setting

Most of the novel is set in St. Vladimir's Academy, a secluded school in rural Montana. The story doesn't take place amid normal humans in the normal world. Instead, it is completely isolated from normal human life. All of the characters are either Moroi vampires, dhampir half-vampires, evil Stringoi vampires, or feeder humans, who are addicted to being bitten by vampires and are consumed only by their addiction. These last characters are so addled by their addictions that they are barely characters at all.

The societal stratification between these groups creates the setting for the novel. The reader is immersed in a new world, one that is full of social stratification, secrecy, and back-biting politics. The Moroi themselves are divided into royals and non-royals, so that the vampire society is stratified. The fact that there are royal vampires means that there is a good deal of power at play, power that can be grabbed by being favored by the current queen or by staging an insurrection, as Victor hopes to do. Lissa's desire to be accepted by the royals is, in part, a desire to gain power in the vampire society for her family. This setting of manipulation and power creates a backdrop where Lissa's magical power can endanger her.



Magic is another important aspect of setting in the novel. The characters have supernatural powers. Lissa can heal and manipulate minds. Christian can manipulate fire. Rose is able to experience Lissa's emotions and enter her mind. The fantasy setting makes the characters special and brings them outside of the normal world, but at the same time, these special characters experience common teenage problems such as depression, cliques, and rumor-mongering.

## Language and Meaning

Because the novel is told in the first person from Rose's point of view, the language is Rose's language. She is well-spoken and intelligent, with a broad vocabulary. Rose is able to express herself well. Her language is also casual, the language of a teenager. In Chapter 7, she talks about "making smartass comments in class," an example of her casual language, a sentence before describing Lissa's position at school as an "incognito role," an example of intelligent, accurate vocabulary.

Rose's choice of language also shows her feelings. She calls the headmistress "beyond cruel" to send the girls straight to class, and says Natalie is "one of the most uninteresting people I knew." Rose doesn't hold back her opinions about the people and events around her, and they show in her language.

During the most emotional parts of the story, Rose uses terse incomplete sentences to convey heightened emotion, especially the emotions that invade her mind psychically from Lissa. Fragments like "More terror. Intense terror," convey the strength of the waves of emotion that Rose experiences. Rose's language is always in the moment. Though the story is told in the past tense, Rose's language reflects what she is feeling at the time, as well as what is happening around her at the time that she's describing.

## Structure

The novel begins two years after an important series of events in Rose and Lissa's life, when the two girls are on the run from both the Moroi vampires in their culture and the Strigoi vampires who hunt the Moroi. The girls are drawn back into the world of the Moroi when they are caught by dhampir guardians and brought back to St. Vladimir's Academy. When the girls return to the academy, they are embroiled in the rumors, cliques, and drama of teenage life, while the underlying story is slowly revealed. The appearance of dead animals where Lissa will find them shows that there is a hidden danger that threatens the girls.

Over the course of the story, the reader learns about Lissa's powers to heal and to control minds. The reader also learns about the car accident that killed Lissa's family, and the fact that Lissa brought Rose back from the dead after that accident, psychically binding the two girls. The reader also learns about the incident when Lissa brought a raven back from the dead, and about Ms. Karp's tragic story and powers. In addition to revealing Lissa and Rose's past, the story reveals the details of vampire society to the reader, including the relationships between Strigoi, Moroi, dhampir, and humans.



The novel reaches a climax when the hidden villain is revealed. Lissa is kidnapped by Victor, and Rose goes to save her, with the help of the academy's guardians and Christian. The children all use their powers in the climax. Lissa uses her healing to save Christian. Christian uses his magic, and Rose uses her fighting ability as well as her psychic connection with Lissa. The novel has a secondary climax where Natalie turns Strigoi and rescues Victor from the prison, only to be killed by Dimitri.





## Quotes

"Her fear poured into me though our psychic bond, but there was something else too: her complete faith that I would take care of everything, that we would be safe" (Chapter 1, p. 9).

"The class engulfed me, and I found myself laughing and seeing those I'd nearly forgotten about" (Chapter 3, p. 24).

"As I'd just been reminded, feeders were vampire-bite addicts. We accepted that as part of life but still looked down on them for it" (Chapter 5, p. 46).

"Sharp and biting, terror exploded in my body and in my head. Small razors of pain" (Chapter 7, p. 67).

"His face darkened, his eyes grew hard. To most people, he might have appeared scary and intimidating, but as Lissa studied and admired his features, he suddenly seemed very, very vulnerable" (Chapter 9, p. 78).

"I briefly contemplated and then dismissed any attempts at jumping into the aisle and tackling the queen" (Chapter 11, p. 101).

"I only saw her for a small part of the day, and since she knew I didn't approve, she only worked her power when I was away" (Chapter 13, p. 119).

"It just seemed wrong to let myself go wild when Lissa was in such a vulnerable state lately" (Chapter 15, p. 137).

"A moment of funny silence fell, probably not noticeable to anyone except Dimitri and me. Our eyes met" (Chapter 17, p. 155).

"I'd held on to so many secrets for so long, doing what I believed best protected Lissa. But hiding her cutting did nothing to protect her" (Chapter 19, p. 173).

"It all came back, the memories and the emotions. And, in fact, her held-back emotions suddenly poured into me—at staggering levels" (Chapter 21, p. 190).

"Claws and teeth bit into m, but I held my own surprisingly well as I tried to remember everything I'd learned in the last two months about fighting bigger and stronger opponents" (Chapter 23, p. 203).



## Topics for Discussion

What are the causes of social class distinctions in the novel? What are the results of those class distinctions?

What are the discrepancies between what characters seem like on the surface and what they are actually like?

Is authority in the novel trustworthy? Is Rose right to distrust authority?

How does the society of the novel treat women differently than men? What causes the differences between women and men in the vampire society?

How are Queen Tatiana and the headmistress portrayed in the novel, as examples of women in power?

How do the characters use their magical and natural powers? What does how a character uses his or her powers say about that person as a character?

How does Rose's sense of responsibility toward Lissa change throughout the novel?