

The Vampire Lestat Study Guide

The Vampire Lestat by Anne Rice

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Plot Summary

The Vampire Lestat is a story of wicked but beautiful beings, good and evil, the quest for knowledge and, ultimately, love. The vampire Lestat recounts his mortal and immortal history as he creates emotional turmoil in his wake. The story also follows as he seeks answers and meanings of the origin of his immortality. The lush imagery abounds from his early days as the marquis' son in the Auvergne, to Paris as the indefatigable Lelio on stage, to his fledgling days as a vampire, to his quest for knowledge from the ancient vampire Marius, and back to Lestat's wild on stage performance in San Francisco.

From the beginning, Lestat, even as a mortal, is seen as impetuous and stubborn. He consistently goes against the natural grain of things. There is not any one thing that occurs to him that he cannot or should not do. As a young man, he hunts a pack of wolves and is victorious. This one event is the catalyst for much of the action that comes after. His life is permanently changed with his relationship with his family. Ultimately, he takes off with his friend Nicholas to the city of Paris to be a big success on the stage.

It is while they are in Paris that things take a different path for Lestat. One night, while on stage, he has his first encounter with a vampire. This vampire, Magnus, later breaks into Lestat's apartment and takes him away to his lair and makes him a vampire. Shortly after, Magnus goes into the fire and kills himself, leaving Lestat on his own to figure things out. When Lestat then gets word that his dying mother is in Paris to see him, he goes to her and reveals his true nature. With her consent, he makes her a vampire as well and saves her from her own death.

While the two of them roam Paris and learn how to use their abilities, they come across a coven of vampires that live beneath les Innocents cemetery. These vampires live by old rules put in place long ago. At Lestat's urging, they abandon the old ways and inhabit a theatre and begin to put on nightly performances. When Lestat makes his friend Nicholas a vampire, he leaves Nicholas with this coven of vampires, headed up by their leader, Armand.

Lestat and Gabrielle travel through various countries until Gabrielle leaves him for the jungles of Africa. Lestat seeks out an ancient vampire, Marius, and visits with him on his Greek island. It is there that he sees Those Who Must Be Kept, who embody the origin of their species. When Lestat disrupts their repose by playing the violin, Marius makes Lestat go. From there, he goes to the New World and settles in New Orleans. Eventually he goes into the earth and slumbers until the year 1984.

When he awakens, he joins a rock band and they become The Vampire Lestat. They are a huge hit. At the end of Lestat's story, the band is scheduled to perform in San Francisco and both Louis and Gabrielle come out to be with him. As they whisk him away from the boisterous throngs after the show, the other vampires that are out to kill Lestat explode into flames. When Lestat goes into the ground for his daytime slumber

he knows he is not alone. After several thousand years of silence, the queen of the vampires, Akasha, has awakened and come to him.



Downtown Saturday Night in the Twentieth Century 1984

Downtown Saturday Night in the Twentieth Century 1984 Summary

The Vampire Lestat is a story of wicked but beautiful beings, good and evil, the quest for knowledge and, ultimately, love. The vampire Lestat recounts his mortal and immortal history as he creates emotional turmoil in his wake. The story also follows as he seeks answers and meanings of the origin of his immortality. The lush imagery abounds from his early days as the marquis' son in the Auvergne, to Paris as the indefatigable Lelio on stage, to his fledgling days as a vampire, to his quest for knowledge from the ancient vampire Marius, and back to *The Vampire Lestat's* wild on stage performance in San Francisco.

It is 1984 and Lestat introduces himself as a rock star by current standards. He recounts the tale of how he went underground for several decades to wake up to the sound of rock music. When he regains his strength and luster, he seeks out members of a band called Satan's Night Out. He convinces them to let him join and the band is renamed *The Vampire Lestat*. While speaking with them he discovers that Louis had a book published called *Interview with the Vampire*. It enrages Lestat that Louis has gone public with his story. After thinking it over for a few days, Lestat lets go of his anger but decides to write his own book, hence the story for *The Vampire Lestat*.

Downtown Saturday Night in the Twentieth Century 1984 Analysis

This opening chapter introduces Lestat to the reader as an impetuous and overconfident individual. It is here that Lestat displays his superior abilities. He explains his ability to read, learn languages and to remember specific details. He also recounts the things he learned while he was underground, and the inventions that have come about. His flair for the dramatic also comes out. All these aspects of him give the reader a taste of the things to come later as he recounts the story of his life and his existence as an immortal.



Part 1, Chapter 1

Part 1, Chapter 1 Summary

It is the last decades before the French Revolution and Lestat is a mortal man of twenty. The family land is overrun by a pack of wolves. Since Lestat is in charge of hunting for the family, he takes it upon himself to find them and kill them. When he goes, he brings his two mastiffs with him, as well as some guns and two ancient weapons he never before had bothered with. Word arrives that there are five wolves in the pack, but when Lestat arrives at the mountain, he discovers eight. After a fierce struggle, Lestat manages to kill all eight wolves. When he returns home and tells his family, his brother Augustin does not believe that Lestat has killed all eight wolves. In that one moment, Lestat's feeling for his brothers and family changes and he goes into his room where he remains alone for several days.

Part 1, Chapter 1 Analysis

In a pivotal moment in young Lestat's life, he kills a pack of eight wolves. This one event changes his life. For starters, Lestat's arrogant nature is revealed when he believes he is invincible against the wolves. His existence as a vampire is punctuated by this belief that he is invincible. Aside from the invincibility, it also shows his stubbornness. Then, this experience with the wolves changes his perspective on his family when his own brother refuses to believe him after he comes back. This makes it easier for him to leave his family later on. Finally, it is this encounter with the wolves that Magnus believes makes him the best candidate to become a vampire.



Part 1, Chapter 2

Part 1, Chapter 2 Summary

It is days after Lestat kills the wolves when his mother goes to see him. Lestat and his mother share an understanding that goes years back when she first sends him to a monastery to receive an education. It goes badly for him when he claims he wants to take vows and his brothers drag him back home. To make him feel better, his mother buys him hunting materials and allows him to pick two dogs, the mastiffs. When he is sixteen, Lestat runs off with a traveling theatre troupe. This too infuriates his family and they come to take him home once again. Gabrielle explains to Lestat that she too knows what it is like to live as a prisoner. She says that she has felt trapped for years and is unhappy with her life. She wants to live free. It is during this talk that his mother admits to him that she is dying.

Part 1, Chapter 2 Analysis

Lestat's unique relationship with his mother is displayed in this chapter. They do not interact with others the way they do with each other. This also carries through to when they are both vampires later on. In this chapter, Lestat tells his mother about a dream he has where he kills his brothers and father and that he feels this desire to murder. This desire foreshadows the reality that befalls him later on in Paris when he becomes a vampire and exists every night with the thirst only for blood.

There is also a sense that his mother deliberately separates herself from him and the family to be alone. He resents the fact that she is absorbed by her books since he cannot read. He feels that these are things that keep her away from him. The moments that she is attentive to him are rare and very precious to him. Later on, when he makes Gabrielle a vampire, her disposition to be alone is only amplified and his resentment toward her need to be alone grows.

Part 1, Chapter 3

Part 1, Chapter 3 Summary

Lestat is feeling recovered from his trial with the wolves when he receives visitors from the village. It is Nicolas de Lenfent and his father who are rich merchants. They bring a gift of a fine red cloak lined with wolf's fur from the wolves that he killed as a thank you. After the visitors leave, Lestat's mother encourages him to visit the young Nicolas in town as she thinks they will have a lot in common. She thinks they will get along splendidly and it will drive his brothers mad and please Nicolas' father who cares about social status. It is also Gabrielle's way of pushing Lestat out into the world. It is the closest he can get to actually leaving home.

Part 1, Chapter 3 Analysis

Lestat's encounter with Nicholas is very telling about their interactions later in Paris. Nicholas jokes about how he is impossible and this becomes all too true once he becomes a vampire. His short-lived experience as an immortal more or less terrorizes those around him who need to baby sit him during their waking hours. When Lestat's mother is alone with him later, she encourages him to seek Nicholas out. She does this in an attempt to make Lestat run away with him since she does not have the freedom to do so herself.



Part 1, Chapter 4

Part 1, Chapter 4 Summary

Lestat takes his mother's advice and goes into the village to see Nicolas. They share a few bottles of wine together and get drunk as they relive their childhood memories. They go on to discuss philosophy and religion. Lestat's mother is correct that they have a lot in common. They talk about their loneliness and where their lives are headed. They both seem to be going nowhere. Lestat cannot go anywhere and Nicolas is giving up a sanctioned career by his father so that he can play the violin. Lestat makes him bring the violin to play it and when he does he becomes overcome with emotion. He is so moved by Nicolas' playing that Nicolas has to carry him home.

Part 1, Chapter 4 Analysis

Nicholas' impulsive nature drives him to play the violin in order to anger his father who already has his life mapped out for him. He uses it as a tool to stir emotions, and this it does. The violin itself stirs a lot of emotions. What Nicholas uses now to as a means to break free, he uses later on to bring other vampires together at the Theatre of the Vampires in Paris. The violin, once his ticket to a new future, becomes his downfall later on.

Part 1, Chapter 5

Part 1, Chapter 5 Summary

Lestat and Nicholas become inseparable. They continue their "conversation" and give the name the "Golden Moment" at that moment of drunkenness when everything makes sense. They discuss the theatre in Paris and debate whether art is good or evil. Nicki offers to take his violin out and play it in the woods for Lestat. It reminds Lestat that he is a prisoner in his own life and he begins to cry again.

Days later, Nicki proposes to Lestat that they run away to Paris and spite their families. It is during another drunken conversation that Lestat realizes that he will never know the meaning of life, even after he has lived it. This begins to take the meaning out of life and he has a difficult time understanding this. Death to Lestat meant finality, not an enlightenment. Although Lestat considered Nicki's music innocent, there was no more true beauty in the world for him.

Part 1, Chapter 5 Analysis

Lestat's breakdown over the inevitability of death and its finality is remarkable. It is remarkable because as a mortal, he fears that there is nothing beyond death and it frightens him. It frightens him to the point of distraction where it takes being attacked by a vampire to shake it from him. Even when he becomes a vampire he is less concerned about what happens after the point of death, but he admits that after two hundred years, the feeling has never truly gone away. He urges Nicholas to continue playing the violin for him since the music is truly innocent. Later in Paris, Nicholas turns and claims that the music he makes is from the devil.

Part 1, Chapter 6

Part 1, Chapter 6 Summary

Lestat's mother comes to see him in his room at home. She believes that it is her failing condition that Lestat has come undone. She offers him gold to take with him and Nicholas into Paris. Although she knows she will not live long, she urges Lestat to take his chances with Nicki. He does not want to leave her while she still lives, but she insists that this is her dying wish to know that he is in Paris. Since Nicki's father heard about their little secret, they need to leave right away.

Part 1, Chapter 6 Analysis

Gabrielle sending Lestat to Paris is how she tries to atone for keeping him home all those years. It is ironic that she does this because in later years she is the one who yearns to be free and away from the trappings of her mortal relationships. While still a mortal, she admits to feeling like a prisoner herself in her own home. In sending Lestat off, she is living her desire to leave as well. When she becomes a vampire, it is clear that she separates herself from Lestat early on. Their eventual separation is inevitable.



Part 1, Chapter 7

Part 1, Chapter 7 Summary

After they arrive in Paris, Lestat has a writer dictate a letter to his mother. He tells her that he now works in a theater to study as an actor. Nicholas is hired in the same theatre to play in the orchestra, as no other orchestra in the city will hire him. They live sparingly and perform for coins on the street when they need to. It is at this time at the theatre that Lestat changes his last name from de Lioncourt to de Valois so that no one will recognize the aristocratic family from which he descends.

Lestat finally gets his chance to perform on stage as Lelio, the lead in the play. Everyone discovers that he has a natural flair for acting and the role becomes his permanently. Lestat and Nicholas were fast becoming a success at the theatre. Lestat was taking on new roles and Nicki was given solos during the intermezzo. They were making enough money so that they did not need to perform on the street any longer. Lestat is happier than ever and says that his cup is full.

Part 1, Chapter 7 Analysis

As Lestat's star is rising, there is a sense of foreboding about him. Things are going so well for him and yet there is a dark lining behind his success. As the cold weather comes, his dark dread continues. Although Nicki attempts to keep Lestat from talking of the eternal and the unknowable, it is never far from Lestat's mind. All the good things that happen for him never take his mind from his "malady of mortality." Yet, by the end of the chapter, the change of the seasons brings with it a sense that there are other, more sinister, changes coming his way.



Part 1, Chapter 8

Part 1, Chapter 8 Summary

It is in October of the first year Lestat and Nicholas are in Paris that Lestat begins to notice a strange face in the audience at the theatre. Lestat feels as though the man is playing tricks on him with his mind. He finally tells Nicki about it and Nicki brushes it off, concerned with his own problems. Nicki is afraid that he will never be recognized as a great violinist while living in Paris. Lestat furiously tries to convince him to stick with it and that what they do is good. Although he and Lestat share a close bond, Nicki is tired of hearing about Lestat's ruminations on good and evil.

During the next performance, Lestat notices the presence and sees the strange face again in the audience. He knows there is something amiss about the face he sees but he cannot put his finger on it. Somehow, Lestat is also aware that this person knows about the wolves. As he is recounting this information to Nicki he hears the word "wolfkiller" in his mind and it makes him afraid. Nicki tries to assuage his fear and suggests that they go to bed for the night.

Part 1, Chapter 8 Analysis

Lestat begins to feel a sense of foreboding when he sees the strange face in the crowd. He knows something is wrong. There is also a sense of irony when Nicholas talks about how because they are actors, they are considered outcasts and not permitted to be buried in consecrated ground. It is interesting to note this comment, since they both become vampires who are evil by nature and will never be buried in the traditional sense. Nicki also seems to be tempting fate by saying that he is the opposite of good. This becomes a true statement soon enough when he becomes a vampire shortly thereafter.



Part 2, Chapter 1

Part 2, Chapter 1 Summary

During the night an intruder comes into the room and snatches Lestat out of the window and into the cold night. Again, Lestat hears the word "wolfkiller" come to him. Although he attempts to fight against the creature, he is at his mercy and calling after Nicki for help. The creature sinks his fangs into Lestat and he knows then that it is a vampire that has him. While the vampire drinks from him, Lestat is filled with various dreamlike images that he does not want to end. To him, it is like rapture.

Part 2, Chapter 1 Analysis

Lestat's imprisonment at Magnus' tower, however brief, is very telling. While Magnus attacks him, Lestat has very vivid images that flash before him. Aside from Magnus and Marie Antoinette calling him "wolfkiller," Lestat sees the image of Nicholas before him crying blood tears. It is a sense of foreshadowing what will happen with Nicholas in the future. Although Lestat does not realize it while he is enraptured in the vampire's embrace, Nicholas will indeed take on that same anguished and wild look after he too becomes a vampire. As a vampire, he will also cry blood tears.



Part 2, Chapter 2

Part 2, Chapter 2 Summary

When Lestat awakens the next night, he finds that he is a prisoner in the vampire's tower. After he eats and drinks the food left out for him, he discovers he is not alone. The vampire takes hold of him again and Lestat knows that he is too weak and drunk to fight back. As Lestat calls on God and the saints for help, the vampire strikes him hard and threatens him again if he continues. Magnus drinks from him again and Lestat sees that he stole immortality from the vampire who made him. After he stops, Magnus makes a slash in his throat and makes Lestat drink from him. It is this action that transforms Lestat into a vampire.

Part 2, Chapter 2 Analysis

During Lestat's imprisonment in the tower, it is inevitable what will happen. Either way, death is involved. If Magnus makes him a vampire Lestat will die a mortal death. If Magnus kills him he will just die. Lestat knows though, that something bad will happen to him. For the reader, it is obvious what Magnus' intentions are. If Magnus wanted to torture Lestat or just kill him, he would not have left out good wine for him to drink. Even Lestat recognized that the wine was too good for jail.



Part 2, Chapter 3

Part 2, Chapter 3 Summary

Magnus tells Lestat that he is about to leave him but not before he shows him some things in the tower first. He takes Lestat to where his coffin is and makes sure that he can lift the stones away. Then Magnus shows Lestat the treasure he has so that there will be no need for money. Then he lights a large fire and tells Lestat that he is ending his life. This is too much for Lestat and he gets very upset and tries to convince Magnus to stay with him. Magnus refuses, tells Lestat to scatter his ashes when it is finished and then leaps into the fire. Lestat watches Magnus burn and cries over the loss of a master.

Part 2, Chapter 3 Analysis

Vampires going into the fire is an ongoing theme throughout Lestat's story. Death by fire is one sure way that a vampire can die. A vampire can also die by being exposed to the rays of the sun, however, those that go into the fire share similar characteristics. There is something very ritualistic about going into the fire. It is also those that are going mad that put themselves into the fire to end their existences. Magnus killing himself this way merely sets the stage for this in future chapters by other vampires in similar frames of mind.



Part 2, Chapter 4

Part 2, Chapter 4 Summary

Long after the fire burns out, Lestat sits and continues to cry. He realizes he is no longer human. For a short time he ponders starting another fire and jumping into it, but he knows that he does not want to die. As he calms down, he begins to notice the differences in his body. It does not ache the way it used to and things feel completely different to him. He begins to experience physical death which lasts only a little while. When he gets up, he gathers the ashes he can of Magnus' remains and discards them out the window.

Part 2, Chapter 4 Analysis

When Lestat knows for certain that he will not die, it fills him with a new confidence. He no longer needs to be consumed by his malady of mortality. He only now needs to concern himself with his new powers, strength, and new life. It is interesting to note that he still feels a twinge of despair over being left alone as he recalls the experience he has at the witches' place. At the end of the chapter he says with certainty that he will not ever seek out Nicholas, Gabrielle, or any other mortal he has loved. However, with the way he has only recently felt the sting of abandonment, it leaves the opportunity for him to change his mind as he inevitably will.



Part 2, Chapter 5

Part 2, Chapter 5 Summary

Lestat takes the time to investigate the other rooms of the tower and goes to where the sarcophagus is. In this room he finds his red cloak and a set of fine clothes already laid out for him. After he changes clothes, he sees the treasure chest and opens it. When he sees all the gold, jewels, and other priceless items, he knows that he will always have enough money for anything. He wonders if these are things Magnus has stolen from his victims. Beyond that, he ponders what it will be like to live as a vampire and feed off of the blood of others.

Part 2, Chapter 5 Analysis

As Lestat is abandoned upon his transformation, he is still not sure what he can or cannot do. He does not yet know his capabilities. He does, however, dispel a myth that comes back later as a theme throughout the story. That is, he draws a cross in the dust beside his coffin. He discovers that nothing has happened to him. This is important because there are vampires throughout the globe that hold on to beliefs that they will be struck down if they gaze upon such images - such is the case with the Paris vampires, in particular.



Part 2, Chapter 6

Part 2, Chapter 6 Summary

Lestat continues to explore throughout the tower and comes upon another room that is seemingly empty. Except when he goes in with his lighted torch, he sees a heap of dead bodies and the smell repulses him. Upon further examination, he sees that all of the dead bodies, in various states of decay, have blonde hair and blue eyes. This astonishes and frightens him at the same time. He is alerted to the rising sun when his eyes begin to burn. He races to his sarcophagus to sleep in its dark sanctity.

Part 2, Chapter 6 Analysis

Lestat learns quickly that there is something distinct about his personality, as well as his looks, that made him the perfect candidate for immortality. As he goes exploring throughout the tower, he comes upon a room full of dead bodies in various states of decay. They all have one similar characteristic, and that is they all have blonde hair and blue eyes. However, there is something in Lestat's nature that separates him from the others. It is likely that his impulsiveness and defiance, as when he killed the wolves, made him victorious in Magnus' eyes. Lestat is like Magnus in this way. They are both impetuous and refuse to live by others' rules and expectations of them. This is important since this is key to Lestat's personality that continues to shine through his vampire nature throughout the rest of his story.



Part 2, Chapter 7

Part 2, Chapter 7 Summary

It is the thirst that wakes Lestat up the next night. He quickly discovers that he can read others' thoughts as he senses the presence of a mortal in the tower. It turns out to be Magnus' servant. Lestat encounters him and tells him that Magnus has gone into the fire. Then he kills him. He realizes that the kill makes him stronger than before. Lestat then drags the corpse into the room with the others and leaves him.

Part 2, Chapter 7 Analysis

In this chapter, Lestat learns the thrill of the kill. He knows, as he knew from the night before, that others will have to die in order for him to kill. When Lestat stumbles upon the servant, Lestat sees how easy and luxuriant it is to kill someone who is malicious. Not only is the hunt thrilling for him, but so is drinking the blood of the evildoer. It somehow makes the experience better for him, knowing that he kills an evil person rather than an innocent one. Drinking blood is not an experience that he seems to feel any sense of remorse over.

Part 2, Chapter 8

Part 2, Chapter 8 Summary

Lestat decides it is time to go out and test his new powers. He goes on horseback to a nearby village and moves among the mortals undetected. Eventually, he decides to try an experiment by going into a tavern where there are mortals and orders wine. He is thrilled when he passes unnoticed; he passes as a mortal. As he gets ready to ride home, he senses the presence of other immortals. When he demands to know who it is, he hears nothing in response. Lestat also realizes at this time that he no longer feels fear. He is prepared to face head-on whatever lays in store for him.

Part 2, Chapter 8 Analysis

Once again Lestat dispels the myth that vampires will not be struck down by God in church or outside of church. He tests this theory out again when he goes to the village church all the way up to the altar. When he leaves, he notices that there is a presence and it is not human. The fact that it does not come near him in the churchyard is significant as is the sense that Lestat gets that whatever it is, it fears him. There is something about Lestat and his actions that are feared by this presence. This foreshadows events to come.



Part 2, Chapter 9

Part 2, Chapter 9 Summary

The next night, as Lestat rides into Paris, he is attacked on the road by a cutthroat whom he kills right away. He discovers how much he enjoys the hunt, struggle, and death of the evildoer that he kills. Moving on, Lestat right away finds a lawyer who will handle his finances and personal affairs. Pierre Roget is a young and ambitious lawyer that Lestat sees as trustworthy. The two of them set out right away to purchase lavish furniture and gifts as Lestat commands. The one faux pas he makes is when he catches a rat in the warehouse while selecting furniture. The mortals around him find this alarmingly unusual. Aside from this minor mishap, Lestat knows for certain now that he can move undetected among mortals.

Part 2, Chapter 9 Analysis

Although Lestat had said before that he will never seek out those mortals he loves, he does however shower them with lavish gifts. It is clear that he still has very strong ties to certain mortals. That, coupled with his reiteration that he will never go near the theatre build up a sense that this is unfinished business and he will have to go back at some point to settle everything. By sending gifts to everyone, it is obvious that he is not done with them and something will happen.



Part 2, Chapter 10

Part 2, Chapter 10 Summary

As the nights go by, Lestat more and more enjoys his life as an immortal. He has Roget write letters and send gifts to Lestat's family, the theatre troupe, and Nicholas. Although everyone is happy to hear of Lestat's good fortune, Nicholas is not. Lestat also decides to buy Renaud's House of Thesbians. He also continues to learn more about his abilities. It is during a visit to Roget that he discovers that he now knows how to read and takes all the letters from his mother home with him. Also, there is the intermittent and elusive sense of presence from someone else that he picks up. Time and again, he hears nothing in response to his calls for it to come forward and reveal itself.

Part 2, Chapter 10 Analysis

Lestat makes it a point to say that he could not find any vampires. Either his abilities are still too new to him or he is in a state of denial. Interestingly, right after he makes mention about the lack of vampires, he comments about the presence and how he continues to pick up the sense of it regularly. He also seems to sense the presence just when he is either wondering about the existence of other vampires or convincing himself that the presence is not actually there. This presence that comes in and out the way it does is leading up to future conflict that Lestat knows is inevitable.



Part 2, Chapter 11

Part 2, Chapter 11 Summary

Going against his better instincts, Lestat decides to find out where Nicholas is living so that he may see him. He does not want to show himself, but rather wants to be sure that Nicholas is okay. Lestat climbs the building where he lives and spies on him in his rooms. While Nicki does not see Lestat, he senses his presence. When Lestat refuses to show himself, Nicki takes out his violin and begins to play. Continuing to act against his better instincts, the next night Lestat goes to the House of Thesbians.

Part 2, Chapter 11 Analysis

Nicki's outward appearance is significant. While physically he is the same, he is showing signs of madness. This is a madness that will not go away. Something needs to happen that will either settle it or make it explode into full blown hysteria. While Nicki's disposition has not changed drastically, he has grown angrier since Lestat's departure. He feels abandoned by Lestat and does not understand why. He senses Lestat's presence outside his home the way Lestat senses the nonhuman presence around him from time to time. Nicki uses the violin as a way to rile Lestat's senses. The violin for Nicki is merely an instrument of rebellion and will continue to be that way as Lestat's story unfolds.



Part 2, Chapter 12

Part 2, Chapter 12 Summary

Dressed as though going to Court, Lestat arrives at the theatre and is welcomed by the warm embraces of those he know as a mortal. When Lestat sees Nicki he is attracted to him as a vampire is attracted to any mortal. He wants to drink his blood. Nicki however, is very angry with Lestat for leaving in the first place. In an unplanned stunt, Lestat takes off onstage and performs an acrobatic number that confuses the audience. They do not understand how he moves the way he does. He scares them to the point where they flee the theatre. One man remains in the stands and points a gun at Lestat and shoots him. Nicki, who is standing close by, sees Lestat get shot and sees right away that he is unharmed. Lestat flees the theatre and once again sense the presence that he knows now is more than one entity. Still, they refuse to show themselves to him.

Part 2, Chapter 12 Analysis

Going against his earlier declarations, Lestat decides to go back to the theatre. He is drawn to it like a moth to the flame. He needs to know for himself how everyone is doing, Nicki, in particular. As a mortal, the theatre is the place where Lestat feels loved and feels important. This solidifies his need to be among mortals. He cannot exist fully without them. More importantly, Lestat knows that he needs Nicki. His desire for Nicki is so strong, that it foreshadows Nicki's destiny.



Part 2, Chapter 13

Part 2, Chapter 13 Summary

The next night, at Lestat's urging, Roget goes to the theatre and makes excuses for Lestat's behavior. The actors and Renaud believe the excuses. Nicki however, is not convinced. Lestat also decides that he wants the theatre shut down and the actors gone. He pays to have them go to London and then on to America. For Nicki, he plans a rouse to have him accompany Lestat's dying mother to Italy. When Roget hears this, he stops Lestat and tells him that his mother is in Paris and wants to see him before she dies. Although her condition is worsening, Lestat is unable to go to her since morning is coming. He promises to see her the next day.

Part 2, Chapter 13 Analysis

It is clear that Nicki is troublesome. He knows that something is wrong and is angered by Lestat's silence on what has happened to him. In a way, he knows that Lestat is transformed and involved in some kind of sorcery, though he does not know yet that he is a vampire. Even Roget points this out to Lestat and warns that Nicki is a problem. Nicki's anger toward Lestat and Lestat's desire to have Nicki with him create a recipe for impending disaster. These two situations are coming closer together and are working into some, probably bad, outcome.



Part 3, Chapter 1

Part 3, Chapter 1 Summary

As soon as it is sundown, Lestat rushes into Paris to be with his mother before she dies. When she looks upon him she knows that something is different about him. Seeing how badly deteriorated his mother is, Lestat offers to make her a vampire. He is unsure if the same process will work for Gabrielle as it did for Lestat when Magnus made him, but the thought of losing his mother is too much for him and so he takes the chance. She agrees to go along and become a vampire so that she can cheat death. As she makes the transformation into immortality, Lestat falls into a chair and passes out.

Part 3, Chapter 1 Analysis

Lestat's love for mortals, his mother in particular, shines through here. From his earlier obvious attachment to her, it is clear that something big will happen. From the moment she lays eyes on him, she knows that something is different. Before he even tells her what has happened, she knows that he is transformed, and ultimately, not alive. Almost instantly, the decision is made for him to reveal everything to her. It is a big chance that he takes in doing this, but she reacts very well to his story. The actions in this chapter lead up to the culmination at the end of it where he gives her the gift of immortality.



Part 3, Chapter 2

Part 3, Chapter 2 Summary

When he wakes up, Lestat realizes that he can no longer read Gabrielle's mind. She, on the other hand, is totally transformed by the process. As they were left alone for so long, others started knocking on the door. In order to make a quick getaway, Lestat and Gabrielle sneak out through a window. They escape into the night and Lestat stays with her throughout her mortal death and explains that it is part of the process of becoming immortal. While they move through the night, they both pick up a sense of the presence that has plagued Lestat. Gabrielle hears the voices of the presence calling them outlaws. She knows right away that it is other vampires. Letting it go for the time being, Lestat vows to challenge it another time.

Part 3, Chapter 2 Analysis

Both Lestat and Gabrielle sense the presence now. The timing of the presence is interesting too since it comes out after Lestat makes Gabrielle into a vampire. It is almost as if the action of him doing so has caused an outburst from them. It is Gabrielle that distinguishes the source of the presence. She knows that it is not only another vampire, but several vampires. The fact that it calls them outlaws is telling as well, as though who they are and what they do will be brought into question later.



Part 3, Chapter 3

Part 3, Chapter 3 Summary

Gabrielle's first night as a vampire is a long one. She and Lestat wander throughout Paris and find her the first victim. Lestat explains everything that Magus had told him before he died. Gabrielle's activities begin to exhaust Lestat since he cannot seem to convince her to go home to the tower. She needs to go places, investigate, and test out her powers. Lestat comments that he thinks that Gabrielle does not believe that she will, in fact, live forever. She takes full advantage of this second lease on life. As for the hunt, she takes to it very naturally in a cool manner that unnerves Lestat. It makes him uneasy watching her.

Part 3, Chapter 3 Analysis

Gabrielle's disposition is important. The ferocity with which she embraces this new life is something that she does not let go of. Lestat sees it as her disbelief that she will live forever, but it actually shows how different the two of them are. This is significant because from this early stage it is evident that they cannot live together like this for very long. She has a need to investigate everything and go out into the wild, whereas Lestat likes being close to home and moving amongst mortals. These are two very different personalities.



Part 3, Chapter 4

Part 3, Chapter 4 Summary

Lestat's fears are quelled when he sees Gabrielle rise the next night. He wants to show her the rest of the tower and the jewels. He also insists on going back to Paris to see Roget and offer an explanation as to why Gabrielle has disappeared. She does not understand Lestat's need to connect with mortals. While they are talking, Gabrielle notices with dread that the hair that she had cut off the night before has now fully grown back. This alarms her and she goes into a fit of hysterics. Lestat instead braids the hair for her.

Part 3, Chapter 4 Analysis

Once again, Lestat's feelings for Nicholas come out during a conversation he has with Gabrielle. Lestat is sentimental and Gabrielle picks up on it right away. She questions whether or not he would share his power with other mortals. He declares emphatically that he will not. When she asks if he would share it with Nicki he says absolutely not. However, there is unfinished business between them and as the tension builds and Lestat denies it, it is clear that this is the road that Lestat is going to take with Nicki.

Part 3, Chapter 5

Part 3, Chapter 5 Summary

As Lestat and Gabrielle prepare to go back to the tower, they realize that the presence is at their lair. This infuriates Lestat and he seeks to challenge them. They reach the tower and the vampires are huddled around the windows. Lestat lights a fire to scare them off and they begin to leave. As the intruding vampires depart, they call Lestat and Gabrielle blasphemers. Before they leave the property they kill Lestat's stable boy.

Part 3, Chapter 5 Analysis

The presence finally shows itself to Lestat and Gabrielle. The unanswered questions about Nicki are about to be answered. As the other vampires leave Lestat's property, they dress the dead stable boy in a red frock coat that seems familiar to Lestat. Right away he knows that something is wrong but cannot put his finger on it. This red coat can only belong to Nicki. If the red coat is placed on the dead stable boy, it foreshadows that the vampires are planning to go after Nicki next and kill him.



Part 3, Chapter 6

Part 3, Chapter 6 Summary

The vampires' intrusion startles and scares Gabrielle. She and Lestat agree that the tower is no longer a safe place for them to stay during the daylight hours. Lestat suggests going to the nearby village and sleeping in the church since the other vampires would not step foot inside it. They reach the church as the sunrise begins to burn Gabrielle. Lestat brings her to an old burial crypt that has not been used in years. They climb in and are safe from the oncoming sunrise.

Part 3, Chapter 6 Analysis

Once again, Lestat defies the myths about vampires and churches by taking Gabrielle there in order to find a resting place during the daylight hours. As Lestat knew, they would not be followed into the church. A key to Lestat's thinking is that he does not fear to go into the church or anywhere else. He is the thing that others fear. He does not know why the others are afraid to follow him there, though it is becoming evident that it has to do with the name calling and hatred toward them.



Part 3, Chapter 7

Part 3, Chapter 7 Summary

The next night as Lestat and Gabrielle awaken, they hear the sound of music and singing. There is a mass being celebrated. Lestat tries to keep Gabrielle quiet so that they can wait until the mass is over but she is having none of it. Eventually, Lestat gives in and agrees that they should break free and escape, but he explains that they need to do it as proper vampires, as fiends. They burst forth from the crypt screaming as they terrify the entire congregation. On their way out of the church, Lestat tosses gold coins at the people.

Part 3, Chapter 7 Analysis

Once again, the image of the red frock coat comes to Lestat. He knows for certain that something is wrong with Nicki. Although vampires need to imitate mortals in order to pass unnoticed, in this particular chapter, Lestat and Gabrielle need to act like complete fiends in order to escape their grave in the church crypt. To use Lestat's words, they need to act like proper vampires. It is ironic since they spend a lot of their time trying to fit in, rather than acting out to appear like the fiends that they are.



Part 3, Chapter 8

Part 3, Chapter 8 Summary

Lestat and Gabrielle press on toward Paris with no clear plan on how to proceed. As they are riding, Gabrielle reminds Lestat that the red frock coat placed on the stable boy was Nicki's coat. They know that the vampires are holding Nicki prisoner. As they approach Notre Dame, they go in, knowing that the others will not follow them in there. They seek out a dark corner and rest. Lestat, listening to their anguished cries just outside, is angered by the ambush.

Part 3, Chapter 8 Analysis

It is clear now that these other vampires want something of Lestat and Gabrielle, although it is not clear if they will kill them. With the way Lestat and Gabrielle are chased, it seems that there is more curiosity than pure malice behind their intentions. If these others truly wanted them dead they could have done so long before, especially since their numbers are obviously greater than just Lestat and Gabrielle. As Lestat says at the end of the chapter that they have been ambushed, this leads up to further action that will explain the reason behind the chase.



Part 3, Chapter 9

Part 3, Chapter 9 Summary

Lestat and Gabrielle continue to sit in the cathedral and decide what to do. They know that the vampires outside can hear their thoughts so they close their minds to them to keep them shut out. The others are trying vainly, to get them to come out and surrender. This they will not do. Lestat knows from reading their thoughts that Nicholas is still alive and is being used as bait to bring him in. After several moments, one of the vampires, Armand, enters the church to bring them out. They fight with each other for some time before Lestat takes a blow that sends him reeling.

Part 3, Chapter 9 Analysis

When Armand goes into the church to talk to Lestat and Gabrielle, he tries to lure them out by use of mind control. This however does not work as they are both too strong for him. Armand's lack of control over them foreshadows events where he seeks to others. His entire existence is kept in check by his use of control. In this chapter he is clearly alarmed when he sees that he cannot control them. This only increases in the future when he seeks to control more and cannot.



Part 4, Chapter 1

Part 4, Chapter 1 Summary

Lestat and Gabrielle now go as Armand's prisoners to his underground lair in the catacombs beneath les Innocents cemetery. When they reach their destination, Lestat and Gabrielle are surrounded by the fiends that have sought them out and they find they are being tried for blasphemy. The vampires argue with Lestat that they are not supposed to live amongst mortals and it is a sin that he and Gabrielle defy the old rules and do as they please. Lestat sees that Nicki is being held in a cage and frantically tries to figure out a way to break him free.

Part 4, Chapter 1 Analysis

Armand's control over others is seen more in this chapter when the other vampires in his coven appear. He keeps everyone in check with the implementation of old rules. When Lestat and Gabrielle appear on the scene living by their own rules, it creates unrest in Armand's coven and he seeks to do something about it. He does this in order to keep control over his world and those in it. These other vampires have never known an existence without Armand in it. They look to him as their leader and protector. He now needs to make a show of it and bring Lestat and Gabrielle under his spell as well.



Part 4, Chapter 2

Part 4, Chapter 2 Summary

Armand approaches with another, older female vampire. She taunts Armand and tells him that she had predicted the day would come when other vampires would live among mortals. Now that it is happening, she is having her laugh. Armand and his followers explain to Lestat why they follow the old rules and how it keeps them together. Armand tells them that they should not walk the earth freely since they are evil beings. They also feel that Lestat has broken the rules by creating another vampire outside of their rituals and also by making himself known to mortals as he had done the night on stage at the theatre when he was shot. Armand, knowing he is defeated, sends away the other vampires.

Part 4, Chapter 2 Analysis

The ancient vampire queen who comes out with Armand taunts him. She tells him that she knew there would come a day when his power would be questioned by others. There would come a time when others would come from the outside and threaten to turn his world upside down. It was not going to be possible for them to continue as they had been anymore. Once the vampires see that it is possible to have a life outside in the everyday world and conquer it, there would be very little to keep them with him, which is what he desperately needs.



Part 4, Chapter 3

Part 4, Chapter 3 Summary

Lestat and Gabrielle meet privately with Armand and the old vampire queen as Armand admits defeat. He further explains to Lestat the way they lived with all of their rules. Lestat scoffs at their rules and it is this that they do not like. Lestat says to Armand that times change and that he and Gabrielle are modern vampires. They are not shackled by the rituals of the past that do not affect them. Lestat leaves Armand and the vampire queen behind as he carries Gabrielle and Nicholas with him.

Part 4, Chapter 3 Analysis

After he has Nicholas safely with him back at the tower, Lestat gets the sense of a warning from Gabrielle. The warning he hears is *do not do this thing!* This refers to Lestat giving in to his love for Nicki and making him a vampire. Even before his incarceration with the Armand's coven, Nicki's madness was starting to shine through. Now that he is out of their grip, he is even madder, since he has been exposed to their true nature and they fed upon him. Lestat knows that it is no longer possible for Nicholas to lead a normal life.



Part 4, Chapter 4

Part 4, Chapter 4 Summary

When Lestat wakes up the next night, he hears Nicki's cries. He goes to him and faces the anger and accusations. Lestat knows he should send Nicki away somewhere and get him out of Paris. Lestat's heart breaks when he listens to Nicki carry on with his rant about how Lestat kept the secret and power from him. Lestat gives him the opportunity to flee with his life but he does not take it. Eventually Lestat gives in and makes him a vampire as well. After his transformation, Nicki refuses to speak to anyone. Gabrielle knows from the beginning that it is a mistake. Lestat sees it as well when he realizes that he can no longer stand the sight of him.

Part 4, Chapter 4 Analysis

Lestat gives in to Nicki and makes him a vampire. However, as soon as the transformation is complete, it is clear that Nicki is permanently changed in mind as well as body. He refuses to speak to them or do anything. From the beginning, his existence as an immortal comes into question. There seems to be little future for a vampire who does not have the will to do anything on his own.



Part 4, Chapter 5

Part 4, Chapter 5 Summary

When Lestat wakes up the next night, he seeks to find Nicki's violin and bring it to him, in hopes that it will shake him from his silence. On his way to Nicki's residence, Lestat passes the theatre and sees some of the vampires from the catacombs. They tell him that the old vampire queen has gone into the fire and Armand burned many of the others. Only they managed to escape. They plead with Lestat to let them stay in the theatre which he allows them to do. Lestat goes on to Nicki's apartment and finds Armand there. Armand is going through Nicki's belongings, trying to understand the modern world they live in. He warns Lestat that his fledglings will come to resent him and he will be on his own. Now that Armand's coven is reduced to cinders, he attempts to reach out to Lestat for companionship.

Part 4, Chapter 5 Analysis

The business between Lestat and Armand is not complete. Armand sees Lestat as nothing other than an upstart who knows nothing about his vampire powers. He resents Lestat for showing those in his coven that there is a life to be had outside in the world with mortals. Once again, Armand is up to his usual trick of trying to control the situation and those in it. He tries to manipulate Lestat into being with him by using fear. In his anger he warns Lestat that those he makes into vampires will never give him anything other than silence. Lestat, however, sees right through the act and sees that Armand is trying to get one up on him. It is this reason that Lestat cannot be with Armand. This lays the foundation for a dislike that comes back to haunt the both of them years down the road.



Part 4, Chapter 6

Part 4, Chapter 6 Summary

Lestat and Gabrielle take Nicki into Paris to find his violin. As Lestat pays Roget a visit, Nicki manages to flee from Gabrielle. They track him down to Renaud's theatre where the other vampires are taking refuge. Nicki plays his violin and the others begin to dance. Nicki declares that the theatre is now the Theatre of the Vampires and they should do nightly plays and acts for mortals to come and see. Lestat agrees to this and hands the deed to the theatre to Nicki. He is then lost permanently to Lestat and Gabrielle convinces him that the others will now care for Nicki.

Part 4, Chapter 6 Analysis

The vampires of the old coven reconvene in Renaud's theatre. As Nicki leads them, they become the Theatre of the Vampires. As Armand predicts will happen, Nicki separates himself from Lestat and leaves him almost immediately. His hatred of Lestat is pure and complete. Even as Lestat urges the others toward Nicki, they are hesitant and slightly afraid of him. This is something about Nicki that will unfortunately not change in the future.



Part 5, Chapter 1

Part 5, Chapter 1 Summary

Lestat goes to a ball packed with mortals and sees Armand there. Armand tricks him and drinks from him without his permission. Lestat lashes out and proceeds to beat the life out of Armand. As he is about to sever Armand's head, he stops himself. Lestat realizes that his anger is nothing compared to Armand's despair. They move off into the night and see that Gabrielle is waiting for them. They go back to the tower together.

Part 5, Chapter 1 Analysis

The heated battle between Armand and Lestat goes beyond their physical altercation. Once again, Armand's need to control comes shining through. He cannot seem to get over the fact that he is defeated and alone once again in his existence. Armand thinks that the vampires in the theatre will not succeed in the day and age in which they live. He thinks that vampires exist best away from mortals. More than that, Armand is lonely. This becomes a recurrent theme with him.



Part 5, Chapter 2

Part 5, Chapter 2 Summary

As they arrive back at Lestat's lair, Armand is almost completely healed. He tries to reach out to both Gabrielle and Lestat. He longs for their love and companionship. He seeks to form a new coven with them, but they refuse. Armand's defeat with his coven has left him feeling lost. He attempts to manipulate them by telling them that he has the answers they seek. They find out that he does not.

Part 5, Chapter 2 Analysis

Armand continues his plea to have them join him but they again refuse. In an instance of foreshadowing, Armand warns them that they will separate one day in the not-too-distant future. He tells Lestat how even now, Gabrielle wonders how she will ever get free of him. In turn, Lestat offers Armand the theatre to take care of. The vampires there will need him to take care of them, to lead them. Although he is reluctant to join them in their modern day existence, it does give him the opportunity to be in control.



Part 5, Chapter 3

Part 5, Chapter 3 Summary

Armand's story begins when he is a young child, kidnapped by Tatars in his homeland of Russia, and auctioned off as a slave in Venice. He is trained as an apprentice painter and his patron is a vampire who is quite taken with Armand. It is years before his master makes him a vampire. There are secrets that his master keeps from him and Armand does not understand. A few months after he is made immortal, other vampires come, kidnap Armand, and burn Marius and his whole house down. These vampires attempt to get answers from Armand about Marius's secret of Those Who Must Be Kept, but Armand knows nothing that can help them. He joins their coven and learns their satanic rituals. Years later, Armand goes abroad to teach other covens the rituals to live by. All during this time he never hears anything about Marius and assumes he is dead.

Part 5, Chapter 3 Analysis

This chapter is the first time Those Who Must Be Kept is mentioned. There is no hint of what is or they are, but as Marius says, it is a burden to bear. The secrecy surrounding them is evident and it also foreshadows the secrecy that continues to be around them as Lestat will find out. From the time they are mentioned, there is the sense that there are those who want to expose Those Who Must Be Kept. Again, this hints at what is to come and why there needs to be such secrecy around them.



Part 5, Chapter 4

Part 5, Chapter 4 Summary

After listening to Armand's story, Lestat is convinced that Marius is still alive. Gabrielle, on the other hand, believes that the story is a fairy tale. They both see Armand's attempts to manipulate them into staying with him. He is a creature of habit and needs to live with a coven in order to exist. Lestat suggests that he learn the new age they live in and go to the theatre with the other vampires. There he would be able to live among other immortals and he would still be their leader. He ultimately sees that they are right and reluctantly agrees to go to them. He also agrees not to harm Nicki.

Part 5, Chapter 4 Analysis

Lestat is immediately intrigued by the mere mention of Marius in Armand's story. There is something about him that attracts him. Thus begins Lestat's obsession to seek Marius out in order to get answers to the questions he now has. Meeting Armand and hearing his story has piqued Lestat's interest in the history of their kind. While Gabrielle thinks Marius is just a made up figment of Armand's imagination, Lestat insists that Marius still exists and will one day find him.



Part 5, Chapter 5

Part 5, Chapter 5 Summary

When Lestat and Gabrielle discuss Armand's story, Lestat is filled with a desire to reach out to Marius. Gabrielle believes that this is a waste of his time and that Marius does not exist. Their differences become evident as Gabrielle expresses her desire to be free and live in the jungles. Lestat, who always has believed himself to be free, wishes to seek Marius out. As Gabrielle retires into the earth for the day, Lestat goes out and carves a message to Marius in a stone.

Part 5, Chapter 5 Analysis

The disparity between Lestat's and Gabrielle's personalities becomes more evident in this chapter. Their encounter with Armand has set them both further along their individual paths. Gabrielle makes it clear that she has no interest in seeking out any other vampires, while Lestat leaves the first of many messages for Marius. Gabrielle reminds Lestat that there is no place that they cannot go. It is clear from this that they will one day part from each other.



Part 6, Chapter 1

Part 6, Chapter 1 Summary

Lestat and Gabrielle leave Armand and the others at the theatre behind as they depart from Paris. They travel to other countries and visit with other vampires who know of them and have heard about what happened in Paris. Roget keeps Lestat informed about the goings on in Paris as well as Eleni as she keeps Lestat filled in on the theatre details. It is clear that Nicki is mad and the others need to keep a constant eye on him for fear of what he will do.

Part 6, Chapter 1 Analysis

Roget's letters unsettle Lestat. This is because it becomes more and more evident that making Nicki a vampire was a big mistake. When Eleni writes to Lestat, she tells him the maddening tales about how difficult he is to work with. More and more he is out of control. He frightens mortals and they are afraid that he will reveal himself and expose all of them. It is clear that this behavior can only last so long before it has to come to a stop. His madness shows no sign of stopping or improving.



Part 6, Chapter 2

Part 6, Chapter 2 Summary

From the beginning of their journey, Gabrielle takes off for several nights and breaks the journey. Each time she comes back, Lestat tells her of the news from home but she is not interested. She does not understand why Lestat cannot let go of mortal things from his past life. The distance between them grows. As they continue on through Istanbul and Greece, Lestat continues to leave messages for Marius and Gabrielle explores places on her own and is rarely by Lestat's side.

Part 6, Chapter 2 Analysis

Gabrielle makes an interesting comment about the vampires being ripe for a new leader. This new leader, she says, should be someone who truly disrupts the order of things. She says this as though Lestat could not possibly be this type of being she describes. However, it is clear by forming a rock band and writing an autobiography, that Lestat is exactly this type of being. He does not live by any rules other than his own and he seeks to push other's buttons. Lestat's whole existence is punctuated by seeing what will happen if he upsets the apple cart.



Part 6, Chapter 3

Part 6, Chapter 3 Summary

When Lestat hears how tumultuous things are in Paris, he wonders if he should go back. Roget tells him to stay out of Paris and Eleni suggests that Nicki will not be helped by Lestat coming back. As he and Gabrielle reach Cairo, there is a package that awaits Lestat. When he opens it he finds Nicki's Stradivarius violin. As a punishment for his erratic behavior, Armand cuts Nicki's hands off. Nicki, who has thoroughly lost his mind, kills himself by going into the fire.

Gabrielle stays with Lestat while he mourns Nicki's loss. She tries to persuade him to go with her into Africa and he declines. She later shows Lestat a letter from Roget that she had deliberately hidden. In it, he says that the peasants and tenant farmers rose against the family and killed everyone save for his father. Gabrielle pleads with Lestat not to go to him in New Orleans, but Lestat will not listen to her.

Part 6, Chapter 3 Analysis

Nicki finally goes the way of the mad vampires and throws himself into the fire to die. In an ironic twist before he dies, Armand imprisons Nicki with his violin but he cuts his hands off. Years before he left for Paris, Nicki had received threats from his father who wanted to cut his hands off for ever playing the violin. Lestat also realizes the irony of the situation as well. He begins to believe that regardless of whether you are human or immortal; your destiny follows you until it has come to fruition.



Part 6, Chapter 4

Part 6, Chapter 4 Summary

Lestat dreams of his family. In it, he is still a vampire but he has made his whole family vampires too. They are all accepting of him and thrilled that he has saved them by making them all immortal. In the dream, they are not affected by the political unrest of the Revolution which is going on. His brother, who had scorned him when he was still a mortal, now celebrates that they are still alive, thanks to the Dark Trick.

Part 6, Chapter 4 Analysis

This chapter only solidifies the belief that Lestat is indeed still closely tied with the mortals in his life. It is clear that the path of his future will be closely intertwined with mortals. This also signifies the now clear distinction between him and his mother, who is very upset with him for agreeing to go to his father in New Orleans. She wants nothing to do with the family, while Lestat is ready to run to them.



Part 6, Chapter 5

Part 6, Chapter 5 Summary

Lestat prepares to set sail for the New World and Gabrielle prepares to go into the jungles of Africa. Before she leaves, she makes Lestat promise that he will find her if he ever decides to put an end to his existence. He tells her that he will never put an end to it. He goes on to tell her where he can be reached and before he knows it, she is gone into the night. Later that same night, Lestat chases down a mortal who made their way into his home. After terrorizing him, Lestat claws his way into the earth shortly before dawn and buries himself.

Part 6, Chapter 5 Analysis

While Lestat thinks that it is impossible to subvert destiny, he seeks to triumph over it in preventing Gabrielle from leaving him. The differences between them now are too great and they need to separate. However Lestat, feeling bitter about their impending departure from one another, does nothing to stop Gabrielle from leaving when she finally says her good byes to him. Although Lestat is convinced that he will never put an end to his existence, Gabrielle is not so sure. What he does instead is bury himself deep in the earth.



Part 6, Chapter 6

Part 6, Chapter 6 Summary

Lestat stays in the ground. Lestat is not motivated to come out of the ground, even though he feels as though he is dying from lack of sustenance. His starvation leads him to daydreams and illusions. As an immortal, he knows he can live for eternity this way, although he knows that his body has shrunken down to their bones and he is severely weakened.

Part 6, Chapter 6 Analysis

While Lestat lays in the ground, he is reminded that he left Nicki's violin in his house. Lestat feels very strongly that he needs to get it and do something with it. He thinks about giving it to a mortal or someone who will do something with it. The violin itself seems to have its own destiny laid out for it. There is a great deal of volatility surrounding this instrument and Lestat's fixation on it suggests that something else will happen involving it.



Part 6, Chapter 7

Part 6, Chapter 7 Summary

Time goes by, and Lestat does not know how many days he has been underground. He hears a strange beating sound from above. The deafening sound grows closer to him. Lestat feels as though it is calling to him, but he is too weak to get up. The power behind it draws him up and out of the earth. He discovers that it is another vampire. To Lestat's surprise, it is Marius who comes for him and lets him feed on his blood to strengthen him.

Part 6, Chapter 7 Analysis

Marius's appearance suggests that Lestat may yet receive answers to his many questions. He senses Marius's age and also his compassion. When Lestat whispers that he knows the secret to eternity it makes Marius laugh. It makes him laugh because it jumps ahead of the story in a moment of foreshadowing, where Marius believes that he is truly immortal and knows what it takes to live forever. However, since Marius is considered ancient, it is likely that he does indeed know the secret to immortality.

Part 7, Chapter 1

Part 7, Chapter 1 Summary

Lestat awakens to find himself aboard Marius' boat. He is feeling very strong from the blood that Marius gave him. They go to his secret abode which is high atop a mountaintop. Marius shows Lestat to his rooms and sees a nice sarcophagus waiting for him, complete with mask, blanket and gloves for extra protection. After Lestat cleans himself up and changes his clothes, he sets out to explore the rest of the house.

Part 7, Chapter 1 Analysis

When Marius leads Lestat to his home, it is clear that there is a great deal of secrecy surrounding him. Although his demeanor suggests an inviting and warm individual, there is a lot about Marius that is quite guarded. Even Lestat finds it odd that the entrance to his home is so far above and removed from mortals. It seems as though Marius needs to live completely protected from an imperceptible danger. Lestat knows from Armand's tale that Marius has been sought after before and attempts made on his life, and the way Marius lives now, suggests that he has not forgotten this. There is clearly something that he is hiding and protecting.



Part 7, Chapter 2

Part 7, Chapter 2 Summary

There are torches lit throughout the house that is lavishly decorated with the things an immortal may want. There is a vast art collection and painted murals everywhere. Lestat is amazed by all he sees and finds the experience dizzying. As he continues to search for Marius, he sees a forest of bird cages with exotic birds in them. Eventually, he moves toward the sound of Marius and finds him waiting.

Part 7, Chapter 2 Analysis

From the appearance of Marius's home, it seems as though he and Lestat share their connection to mortals. Although Marius's home has all nature of mortal things in it, they are all things that would appeal to a vampire's meticulous nature. Right away, Lestat feels comfortable in the surroundings and find them as welcoming as Marius is. It seems as though these two are going to hit it off very well.

Part 7, Chapter 3

Part 7, Chapter 3 Summary

Lestat finds Marius dressed as he is, in proper eighteenth century clothing. Marius tells Lestat that it is not uncommon for vampires to go into the earth as Lestat had done. Those that survive throughout the ages do this. Lestat wonders how Marius found him and Marius tells him that he either read the messages, or saw them through other means. Marius agrees to tell Lestat what he knows but does not promise that he can answer his questions. Before he begins his tale, he urges Lestat to go with him into another part of the house so that he may show him Those Who Must Be Kept.

Part 7, Chapter 3 Analysis

The recurrent theme in this chapter is Marius's connection to all things human. From the beginning, Lestat notices that Marius is dressed as Lestat is, as a modern gentleman. He does not dress in the apparel of someone from ancient Rome. Lestat comments that his appearance and facial gestures are entirely human. He even remarks how Marius sits and when he rises from his seat, he does so slowly, as a mortal might.



Part 7, Chapter 4

Part 7, Chapter 4 Summary

Marius leads Lestat into a chapel deep down in the mountain itself. Those Who Must Be Kept appear to be a pair of statues dressed in Egyptian clothing. Upon closer examination, Lestat discovers that they are alive and they are vampires. The thought that they are alive and unmoving frightens Lestat and he wants Marius to take him out of there. Marius recounts tales of when he had seen them move, though he admits they have not moved in several years. Before they leave, Lestat approaches the female. Using the power of thought, she tells him her name, Akasha.

Part 7, Chapter 4 Analysis

When Marius takes Lestat to see Those Who Must Be Kept, he comments that they can hear and they can move, though they do not care enough to do either. He says that if they cared, they would move. However, with Lestat now in the picture with his impulsive nature, there is an element of foreshadowing. Their stillness unnerves him to the point that he feels he needs to leave. Before he does though, he is drawn into Akasha and she tells him her name. This also moves him significantly. When he walks away it is almost as if his mind continues to work and wonder what would make them care, what would make them move?



Part 7, Chapter 5

Part 7, Chapter 5 Summary

Marius' existence as a vampire begins when he is forty years old. He encounters a Keltoi in a tavern whom he has a debate with over the ancient ways of the Egyptians. Marius is intrigued by the stranger and expresses interest in learning these ancient ways that are otherwise lost to humanity. This druid then knocks Marius unconscious and kidnaps him. When he wakes up, he has no idea where he is. The only thing he knows for certain is that he is beyond receiving help from anyone or anything that he knows.

Part 7, Chapter 5 Analysis

Marius's inquisitive and thorough nature is the reason he was picked, as well as for his appearance, to be made the next god of the Druid grove. When Mael seeks Marius out, he tells Marius that the gods of the grove are good and separate out that which is evil. Little does Mael know that the gods he serves are vampires. This is interesting for two reasons. First, vampires cannot truly be good since they bring death upon others in order to live, and second, there is something further to this story of which Mael is unaware.



Part 7, Chapter 6

Part 7, Chapter 6 Summary

Mael comes to Marius, who is now held captive, and tells him that he will partake in the ritual of the sacred grove and that he will become immortal. Marius does not understand this and thinks that he will die. During his incarceration, Marius learns the ways of the Druid and learns more about the ritual in which he will take part. The old god chooses Marius to be the new god. A great calamity has befallen the old god but no one will give Marius any more details than that. When it is time for Samhain, they prepare Marius for the ritual. The ancient god approves Marius and calls him forth into the grove. Once inside, Marius sees that this old god is nothing but a helpless creature, unable to move.

Part 7, Chapter 6 Analysis

Although Marius does not yet know it, he is being groomed to become a vampire. Throughout his imprisonment, it is suggested that he will go to Egypt to get answers about the old religion. This merely foreshadows future events with Those Who Must Be Kept. The concern about Marius going down into Egypt is about finding answers to what has happened to the old gods. The only hint given about what will happen to Marius comes when he stands before the great oak and the voice from within it calls out that he will drink the Divine Blood.



Part 7, Chapter 7

Part 7, Chapter 7 Summary

Marius sees that the creature before him is badly burnt and realizes right away that he could not be mortal. No mortal would have survived burns such as these. The creature explains to Marius what will take place with the giving and receiving of the blood drink and how he will become immortal. He also tells Marius that his mission is to go down into Egypt and find out why he and so many others were burned. Others who were burned were not as lucky and did not survive. The lessons unfold for Marius as he drinks the blood from the elder vampire so he knows what he then needs to do.

Part 7, Chapter 7 Analysis

While Marius drinks the Divine Blood and is undergoing the transformation into immortality, he sees the figures of Those Who Must Be Kept. Although he does not know yet who they are or what their significance is, it is clear that they will play a large role in what he will do. What he hears at that time foreshadows what his life will be like for almost the next two thousand years: serve the Mother, take the blood of the sacrifice, preside over the worship that is the only worship, the eternal worship of the grove. That eventually translates into caring for the Mother and the Father, since all vampires are connected to them. This is what Marius is about to learn.



Part 7, Chapter 8

Part 7, Chapter 8 Summary

A while after his transformation, Marius emerges from the oak and begins to drink from the evildoers who are condemned to death. He drinks his fill from countless victims before the end of the night. As the ceremony draws to a close, the Druids go into the oak and take the ancient god out and throw him on the fire. Marius is reminded of his warning to run and not be kept prisoner by the Druids. After a fierce struggle, Marius breaks free and flees through the forest. Days later, he arrives at his home in Rome and packs up his belongings and heads to Alexandria in search of answers.

Part 7, Chapter 8 Analysis

All the questions that arise while Marius is in the oak with the burned vampire are going to be answered once he flees the grove. His feelings at the end of the chapter suggest that he will be successful finding answers. He will either find the answers he needs or he will perish trying. Since he is telling this story to Lestat, it is obvious that he finds the answers as well as the origin of their species in Those Who Must Be Kept.



Part 7, Chapter 9

Part 7, Chapter 9 Summary

Marius searches Alexandria and one night answers a voice that beckons to him to come. He follows the voice into an underground temple and sees a blackened figure similar to the vampire who made him immortal in the grove. This blackened vampire asks how Marius came into being and he tells him about the grove. Marius follows him further into the temple and he is shown bodies of those vampires burned beyond saving. He encounters another ancient vampire burned by the disaster who tells him that their kind started by accident four thousand years ago. He goes on to explain that they were left in the sun, which is how all the others were burnt. Since they are all descended from the Mother and Father, what happens to them, happens to everyone else.

Part 7, Chapter 9 Analysis

Marius discovers that there is treachery in the ranks when he discovers that the reason so many vampires are burned or dead from being burned is because someone purposely left the Mother and the Father in the sun. Marius also discovers the story of how the vampires were created. He also learns the burden of caring for the Mother and the Father. It is a burden because they do not move or speak. After so much time with no response, it begins to feel like a futile task to care for them at all. As Marius tells Lestat the tale, he must by now, understand what this feels like. This becomes something that he communicates to Lestat. Lestat also sees first hand Marius's reaction when Akasha reveals her name to him. She is clearly attracted enough to Lestat to reveal this information, which has to make Marius jealous because he has cared for them for so long with no response.



Part 7, Chapter 10

Part 7, Chapter 10 Summary

This ancient and burnt vampire proceeds to tell Marius the story of how the vampires were created. When the king and queen ruled, they sought to put an end to demonic possession of a house. The king emerged and said the spirit wanted to possess a body and was angry because it did not. The king went back in, followed by the queen. A group of assassins went in after them and stabbed them both. The spirit then had a way of entering their bodies. The king and queen were healed but discovered that they needed to drink blood and had to sleep in darkness during the day. Eventually others were created and thus started the vampires. Marius hears this story and refuses to believe it.

Part 7, Chapter 10 Analysis

The reason that Those Who Must Be Kept are kept is revealed. They are the source of all vampires. Anything that happens to them will also happen to all the other vampires. This is the case when they are left out in the sun. When this happens, all the other vampires are burned to a crisp or incinerated. Initially, Marius does not believe this story. However, something must happen for this attitude to change because he has them now and has cared for them for almost two thousand years.



Part 7, Chapter 11

Part 7, Chapter 11 Summary

Once Marius decides that the story must be true, he also decides that he must see the Mother and the Father and make sure that they are safe. As he sits in bed one night, he senses another vampire's presence and discovers that the Mother has come to see him. Without words, she tells him to take them out of Egypt. She disappears as quickly as she appears, but he is able to follow her presence into an underground chamber. Marius finds them both in disarray when he gets to them and is startled when another burnt vampire appears in the chamber. Marius suggests to this vampire that he drink from them but Enkil quickly knocks him back before he can get too close. Marius then agrees to let the burned one drink from him.

Part 7, Chapter 11 Analysis

Marius's change of heart comes about when Akasha herself comes to his door and sends the silent message to take them out of Egypt. The sight of her at his door sends him reeling. He instantly falls for her beauty and vows to do whatever he needs to in order to protect them. In this case, he needs to take them out of Egypt into safety. Since he now knows that the story is real and they are all interconnected, he will do anything to protect them. He does this not only because of his feelings for Akasha, but because he does not want to die.



Part 7, Chapter 12

Part 7, Chapter 12 Summary

Marius goes back to the chamber with wooden coffins to hide them in. He takes them back to his home and temporarily buries them in the garden. As he expects, the Elder comes to him and demands to know what he has done with the Mother and the Father. As the two of them struggle in a fight, Akasha bursts forth from the garden and appears in the house. She goes after the Elder and kills him quickly. In order to heal Marius, she allows him to drink from her.

Part 7, Chapter 12 Analysis

Marius makes the eternal promise to Akasha and Enkil that he will take them all through the world to safe places. In a prediction of sorts, Marius knows that caring for them will likely make him mad. He does not know what part of the dialogue is actually from her or if he is making it up. He also knows that this nightmare will not end unless he too goes into the fire. Nothing will quiet his fears or dull his pains other than death. This is a big reason why what happened with Lestat rattles him. Telling Lestat all of this also leads up to something else that will further shake his feelings.



Part 7, Chapter 13

Part 7, Chapter 13 Summary

As Marius drinks from Akasha he is privy to the images that she passes to him, which includes their history. When he wakes up, he sees that Akasha is still standing motionless in the middle of the room. He whisks them away to safety in Antioch and remarks on the little changes that have occurred over the years he has kept them. Marius talks of his history and how he has lived with the Mother and the Father. He admits how he too had gone into the earth on several occasions to be brought out by them again and again. Ultimately, he tells Lestat that as vampires, they have to true place in the world.

Part 7, Chapter 13 Analysis

Marius makes it evident that he is not only protective of Akasha and Enkil, but he foreshadows great jealousy. He fantasizes about the two of them snapping out of their reverie and regaining all of the vitality that was stolen from them. At that point, he envisions knowing them in astonishing and intimate ways. Again, this sets the stage for something grave to occur that will fully expose his jealousy. It is clear that this incident will somehow involve Lestat.



Part 7, Chapter 14

Part 7, Chapter 14 Summary

Marius finishes his story and tells Lestat that he must leave soon. He will not allow Lestat to stay with him until he has lived at least one mortal lifetime. He regrets making Armand a vampire at such a young age and tells Lestat that he cannot teach him what living a lifetime could. Additionally, he makes Lestat promise never to tell anyone about Those Who Must Be Kept or of him. He needs to be sure that no one will ever come to find him or hunt Those Who Must Be Kept. Marius then takes leave of Lestat and allows him the run of the house as long as he does not go into the chapel where Those Who Must Be Kept remain.

Part 7, Chapter 14 Analysis

Lestat knows just from his one experience with Akasha, that she is the one who moves and effects changes, not Enkil. Marius agrees that Enkil is covetous of Akasha and only moves to protect her. In conversation, there is the hint that Akasha may be the one who calls the shots, not Enkil as they have suspected all along. This plants a seed of doubt as to the truth of the tale. Before the end of the night, Marius swears Lestat to secrecy that he is never to tell anyone about Those Who Must Be Kept. While Lestat has the best of intentions, it has been made clear that he does not follow anyone's rules.



Part 7, Chapter 15

Part 7, Chapter 15 Summary

When Lestat wakes up the following night the only thought that is in his head is to go into the sanctuary. He knows Marius has forbidden him to go, but he is irresistibly drawn to it. Taking Nicki's violin with him, he goes down into the sanctuary. As Lestat plays the violin for them, he notices that Akasha moves off the altar toward him. She allows him to drink from her and she in turn, drinks from him. Enkil comes between them and tries to crush Lestat's head when Marius comes into the room in time to restore order. Lestat takes the opportunity to run away.

Part 7, Chapter 15 Analysis

When Lestat wakes up the next night, he finds himself drawn to the chapel to see Those Who Must Be Kept. He goes against his better instincts and takes with him Nicki's violin. From the beginning, there is the sense that something will go awry. When Lestat plays for them and Akasha gets up he has clearly woken something up within her to make her move. Additionally, since she let him drink from her and she drank from him, there is an obvious connection between them.



Part 7, Chapter 16

Part 7, Chapter 16 Summary

As Lestat expects, Marius is furious with him for breaking his cardinal rule. Lestat tries to explain what happened and why he went down in the first place. Marius wants to hear nothing of it. He knows that Lestat did it to provoke some kind of change in them. With Enkil riled up, Marius sends Lestat away from the island immediately. Lestat, brokenhearted, has no choice but to leave.

Part 7, Chapter 16 Analysis

When Marius comes out to Lestat on the terrace it is obvious that he is hurt by the night's events. After thousands of years of caring for them, Akasha moves for Lestat. Not only does she move for him, she allows him to drink from her and she in turn drinks from him. He is very jealous of Lestat and needs to send him away immediately. Although Marius uses the excuse that Enkil may come after him, the real reason he sends Lestat away is because of his wounded pride.



Part 7, Chapter 17

Part 7, Chapter 17 Summary

Lestat travels to New Orleans and accepts it with open arms. He knows that he is the first of his kind to undertake a cross-Atlantic trip. He wanders about the waterfront and sees the differences between this new place and the places that he has been in his life. As Lestat calls it, New Orleans is the most forsaken outpost of the Savage Garden. He welcomes it as his new home where he will remain.

Part 7, Chapter 17 Analysis

Lestat finally makes the Atlantic crossing into the New World. He treats it as though it is a new beginning for him, and it is. He goes about unchallenged among the dangerous waterfront gambling houses and other dingy areas of New Orleans. He reaches the New World and once again his love of the world reawakens. Lestat reflects upon his experiences as lessons that he gained to get him where he is at this point in time. Given his personality and his flair for the dramatic and impulsive, it is only a matter of time before he will be up to his old tricks again.



Epilogue, Chapter 1

Epilogue, Chapter 1 Summary

Lestat recounts the tale of his years with Louis and with Claudia. Although they did not know it then, they spent more years together than most vampires do with their own kind. When Claudia makes the attempt on Lestat's life, he travels to Paris to seek Armand. He asks him for his healing blood. Before he consents, Armand makes Lestat hold Claudia accountable for what she has done to him. Despite the time that has passed, there is still the old animosity between Lestat and Armand.

Epilogue, Chapter 1 Analysis

After so many years, Armand gets his revenge on Lestat. He does this in two ways. First, he refuses to give him healing blood which will help him, and second, he makes Lestat hold Claudia accountable for what happened according to the old laws. These old laws were ended during the time that Lestat was a fledgling. Although Louis and Claudia never knew about the old laws and Lestat never believed in them, he had no choice but to go along with it. In the end, Armand still refused to help him.



Epilogue, Chapter 2

Epilogue, Chapter 2 Summary

Lestat eventually goes home to New Orleans and hides more and more from mortals. He sits inside one of his many homes and reads. After a while, Armand comes and visits him though Lestat pays him no mind. He even begins to believe that he imagines Armand's visits. In the year 1929 Lestat makes the choice to go into the earth for the second time of his immortal existence. While he is underground, he sees images of Marius and Those Who Must Be Kept over the years. He wonders if these are true images or whether they are a part of his imagination.

Epilogue, Chapter 2 Analysis

It finally comes out that Lestat does indeed love Armand, though he will not admit it to him. For Lestat however, it is time for him to heal himself in the ground and be at peace. Whatever transpired between them is apparently forgiven on his side of things. When Lestat sees the images of Marius and Those Who Must Be Kept, it does not occur to him that it is Akasha that sends the images. Lestat thinks that it is either Marius or his imagination. However, when Lestat sees the image of Akasha telling him to come, he does not believe that it is real. This is a telling sign that there is a new era about to begin, and she is the one that will be taking the lead.



Dionysus in San Francisco Chapter 1

Dionysus in San Francisco Chapter 1 Summary

It is the day before The Vampire Lestat is scheduled to appear in San Francisco. Louis comes back to Lestat and they share a happy, but small, reunion. Louis expresses concern that if Lestat goes through with his plan he will be in danger. He suggests that Marius may be the one to put an end to things at the concert. Lestat however, pays him no mind and has no intention of cancelling anything. He is, at this point, completely confident and ready to challenge those who are up for it. He is ready to put down all the old rules once and for all.

Dionysus in San Francisco Chapter 1 Analysis

Louis's sense of dread over the next night's concert is foreshadowing things to come. Lestat's antics have so many vampires riled up that it is inevitable that something will happen. Lestat himself unwittingly sends out the invitation to all to rise up against him and destroy everything. He sends out the challenge as though he is untouchable. Interestingly, something will happen. His confidence is not completely unfounded as there will be something emerging that will protect him. He has come too far now to be taken down so quickly. It is just a question of what form that protection will take.



Dionysus in San Francisco Chapter 2

Dionysus in San Francisco Chapter 2 Summary

The next night, The Vampire Lestat performs as scheduled to a sold-out crowd. Lestat feels the familiar sensation of stepping out on a stage though it has been centuries since he has done so. The songs they perform are all about the history of the vampires. During the show, Lestat taunts the real vampires and dares them to show themselves. After the concert, he attempts a quick getaway with Louis. Lestat is delighted to also be reunited with Gabrielle. As they try to make their escape on the freeway they realize they are pursued by other vampires who appear to be exploding into flames.

Dionysus in San Francisco Chapter 2 Analysis

When the vampires challenging Lestat start to explode into flames, Louis and Gabrielle know that there is evil afoot. They know that it has to be an ancient vampire but Lestat feels that Marius is too civilized for such barbarism. Gabrielle and Louis tell Lestat about the sense of danger they feel and he does not seem to believe them. Lestat seems to forget the warning he has been receiving about danger to them all. Something that dangerous can only be coming from one source.



Dionysus in San Francisco Chapter 3

Dionysus in San Francisco Chapter 3 Summary

Gabrielle, Louis, and Lestat continue their reunion and try to determine the source of the power behind all the other vampires bursting into flames. Lestat begins to fear that aside from putting himself in danger, he might be inadvertently putting those he loves in danger's path as well. After Gabrielle and Louis leave for dawn, Lestat again gets the message about danger. He catches unrecognizable images of snow and ice. He cannot put the pieces together to figure out what it all means. As he goes out into the rising sun to bury himself for the day he finally recognizes that it is Akasha that has risen. When he lies down in his underground crypt, he feels a cold hand close upon his and he knows that she is with him.

Dionysus in San Francisco Chapter 3 Analysis

Before he goes into his crypt there are clear signs that Akasha has woken up and gone to him. Gabrielle makes a comment that the presence she feels is menacing and savage. Even Louis agrees that it is utterly barbaric. These characteristics can only belong to a creature as old as Akasha is. These feelings, combined with the message that Lestat receives about danger to them all, contributes to an overall sense of drama and foreboding of things to come beyond this book.



Characters

Lestat

Lestat is a vampire who comes into immortality towards the end of the eighteenth century. He is a twenty-year-old male when he is taken from his mortal life and made a vampire. By the standards of his day, Lestat is tall at six feet. He has thick blond hair that goes to his shoulders and his eyes are gray. He is impetuous by nature, and is never content unless he is creating havoc somewhere. As a new vampire, his first offense to the vampire coven in Paris comes when they discover that he lives among mortals.

Never one to live by any rules, he has a natural ability to break those rules established by others. Not only does he live among mortals, but he enters churches, which goes against the early covens. Later on, he breaks other rules at Marius's home when he goes into the sanctuary alone and disturbs Those Who Must Be Kept. Not only that, when Marius swears him to secrecy, Lestat then publishes his autobiography for all the world to read, which includes the story of Marius and Those Who Must Be Kept. During the nineteenth century after he has lived with Louis and Gabrielle, Armand punishes him when he discovers that Claudia is a child vampire which also goes against their rules. Further still, he exposes himself and all of his kind, to the entire world by going public with his image with the band The Vampire Lestat.

One of the reasons Lestat always breaks rules is because, from his early vampire days, there was never anything that frightened him. As a mortal, he is seen as impetuous, stubborn, mischievous and impulsive. As a vampire, he is still those things, only now he has no need to fear anything; rather he is the thing that needs to be feared. There is not any one thing that occurs to him that he cannot - or should not - do. Even against the advice of those he loves, he continues to challenge fate. He always seems to be up for a decent fight. On the other hand, he is also capable of affection and love. He will go to the ends of the earth for those he truly loves.

Gabrielle de Lioncourt

Gabrielle is Lestat's mortal mother. She goes to Paris when her illness advances to the point of death. Just before she is about to die, Lestat makes her a vampire. Unlike Nicki, Gabrielle takes to her new existence very well. She views her immortality as a means of being completely free of everything. Unlike Lestat, however, she does not feel the need to remain connected to mortals or anything related to mortals.

From the beginning, the differences between her and Lestat emerge. She is extremely adventurous and wants to wander through the forest whereas Lestat likes to roam the streets of Paris and attend the fashionable balls. She is strong and fiercely independent. It is Armand who predicts that Gabrielle will one day leave Lestat and it will not be that



far into the future. Although they stay together for about ten years, it is not considered a great deal of time for immortals. She chooses to go her way into the jungles of Africa while Lestat continues his search for Marius and then moves onward to New Orleans. Years later when she comes back for the reunion on the night of Lestat's concert, she looks as though she has just come out of the jungle. She is as Lestat remembers her; boyish, petite, cold, and independent.

Nicholas de Lenfant

Nicki is a childhood friend of Lestat who becomes close with him after Lestat kills the wolves. He is the son of a successful merchant in the town. His father expects him to follow in his footsteps, but upsets the household when he vows to play the violin instead. Nicki does this to challenge his father. When Lestat tells him they are going to Paris, Nicki is fearful that he will truly never be as successful with the violin as Lestat is with the acting.

Unfortunately, there is not enough time for him to worry about that as Lestat is taken from him and becomes a vampire. He only discovers this when he himself is taken prisoner by Armand and his coven. Afterward, Lestat despairs for Nicki and out of love and a fear of losing him, makes him a vampire. Immediately, this is nothing but a mistake since Nicki does not take well to his immortality. From that point on, he is mad. He leaves Lestat quickly and goes to live with the new coven at the Theatre of the Vampires. Eventually, he becomes too erratic for even Armand to handle, and he insists on ending his existence by going into the fire.

Armand

Although he is several hundred years old by Lestat's estimate, Armand has the body of a young teenage boy. He has a youthful appearance to him yet has the ability to control other vampires in his coven and be a solid leader. His power is incongruous with his outward appearance. Lestat describes him as angelic, though he seems to have quite a demonic demeanor that is always just below the surface.

Marius is his vampire master. However, he is only with Armand for a short period of time. A coven of vampires in Rome kidnaps Armand and sets his home ablaze with Marius in it. He stays with the coven and follows their ways, although he never truly believes in them. Armand likes the structure, company, and authority that accompany being in a coven. He is a controlling and manipulative individual that does not appreciate rebellion. When Lestat comes along and puts an end to the Paris coven, it nearly destroys Armand as it then leaves him lonely and aimless. Armand is only happy when he can live and control others.



Marius

Marius is an ancient vampire who hails from Rome before he is made a vampire. In Lestat's description of him, he has a warm expression about him which gives him a human quality, despite his age. There are many things about Marius that suggest a human connection. When Lestat goes into his home, he finds all the amenities in it that would appeal to a human. It seems as though it is the human connection that keeps a vampire sane and gives the ability to live forever.

Marius is also the keeper of Those Who Must Be Kept, the Mother and Father of the vampires. He inherits this great responsibility as a fledgling vampire when Akasha comes to him and instructs him to take her and Enkil out of Egypt. By the time Lestat comes to visit him on the Greek island, Marius has kept them for almost two thousand years. Although he does not admit it outwardly, it is clear that he is extremely protective of them. He is also jealous of Lestat when he gets Akasha to move and allows him to drink her blood. It is because of this one event that Marius sends Lestat away.

Magnus

Magnus is a three-hundred-year-old vampire when he snatches Lestat from his mortal life. When Lestat drinks from him, he catches images of him stealing the dark gift. He somehow does this by imprisoning a vampire and taking the necessary blood. He is an alchemist and does not live by the strict rules of others, or by anyone. He does, however, go into the fire shortly after he makes Lestat a vampire. It is suggested by Armand that Magnus does this because he has gone mad. He gives Lestat only the lessons that he absolutely needs to know about fire and the sun and how he needs to bury himself during the daylight hours. Lestat is otherwise orphaned and left to his own devices to figure out his new powers.

Akasha

Akasha is the Egyptian queen of the vampires. At the time of Lestat's story, she and her husband the king, Enkil, live in silence and very rarely, if ever, move. They are under Marius's protection. The old legend goes that the spirit enters her first and she in turn gives the gift to Enkil. There is something within her that is stirred up by Lestat when he plays the violin for her. She allows him to drink from her and she then drinks from him. At the end of the story, the other vampires get a sense of another, more savage vampire. They do not realize that it is her and she has woken up from her eternal slumber.

Enkil

Enkil is the Egyptian king of all vampires as well as Akasha's husband. As the legend goes, Enkil is the first vampire and all others are his descendents. Whatever befalls him



befalls all the other vampires. Always at Akasha's side, he is, as Marius puts it, very protective of Akasha. The only times in the story that he makes any move is because she has moved or done something first. While Akasha seems more inclined to move or speak with her mind, Enkil is a blank slate, completely unreadable.

Pierre Roget

Pierre is a young lawyer that Lestat seeks out as a fledgling vampire. He is completely trustworthy and Lestat places a great deal of his wealth and family matters in his hands to handle. He helps Lestat furnish his home, send gifts to his family, and keeps correspondence between him and his mother. When Gabrielle comes to Paris as a dying mortal, Pierre becomes very agitated when Lestat refuses to go to her right away. Roget continues to be Lestat's connection to his mortal world when he leaves Paris for other parts of the world.

Eleni

Eleni is one of the vampires that manage to escape from Armand's coven beneath les Innocents cemetery. She is someone that Lestat trusts enough to stay at the abandoned theatre before it becomes the Theatre of the Vampires. While Roget is Lestat's connection to his mortal world, Eleni is Lestat's connection to his immortal world in Paris. It is through her that he hears the news about Armand and Nicki and the power struggle at the theatre after Lestat leaves Paris.



Objects/Places

Satan's Night Out/The Vampire Lestat

Satan's Night Out is a rock band that Lestat hears while he is still in the earth in 1984. When he emerges, he goes to them and joins their band and they change their name to The Vampire Lestat. They record a best-selling album and perform at a sold-out concert in San Francisco.

Auvergne

This is the countryside of France where Lestat grew up and spent his mortal youth.

Les Innocents

Les Innocents is a famous cemetery in Paris where Armand's coven of vampires lived beneath.

Renaud's House of Thesbians

This theatre is where Lestat gets his start as an actor on the stage. Although it is not legitimate theatre, it is the pinnacle of his mortal life. This is also the place that he first sees Magnus.

Theatre of Vampires

Formerly Renaud's House of Thesbians, it changes names only after Nicki goes into the fire and ends his life. This is where the Paris vampires live as a coven and earn a living.

Druid Oak Grove

This is a place in Gaul that Marius is taken to as a mortal prisoner and becomes a vampire. He does this as part of a Druid ritual.

Alexandria

Marius goes to Alexandria shortly after becoming a vampire in order to learn the secrets of his kind. While there, he uncovers the truth about the burnt ancient vampires as well as Those Who Must Be Kept. He takes them out of Alexandria and into his possession for safekeeping for almost two thousand years.



The Vampire Connection

These are places where vampires come together to exchange information. These are places that use humans as a ruse, but are truly for the immortal. They are bars. They are in most major cities.

The Witches' Place

This is a place in the woods near where Lestat lives as a mortal where witches were once burned. As a child, he goes there on a trip with his peers and it leaves a lasting mark on him. He goes back as an adult with Nicki to drink and play the violin. It always holds an air of mystery and death for him.

Those Who Must Be Kept

Those Who Must Be Kept are Akasha and Enkil, the queen and king of all the vampires. They are almost six thousand years old, alive during a time even before the pyramids were constructed. After many battles over so many years, they ceased to move or speak. Due to their lack of mobility, they need to be cared for, and Marius inherits this responsibility.



Social Sensitivity

With *The Vampire Lestat*, Rice continues her scrutiny of the decline of religion and its effect on society. In the early pages of the novel she comments that in the 1990s "the Christian god was as dead as he had been in the 1700s. And no new mythological religion had risen to take the place of the old." Through her depiction of the vampire covens of the eighteenth century, she parodies their often mindless adherence to dogma in a way that clearly approximates the way she seems to feel some adherents unquestioningly accept the teachings of Catholicism. She shows that those who blindly follow the teachings of their religion cannot enjoy the many rewards of living in the secular world. Yet she makes clear that people need to believe in something, and when religion lets them down, they find a substitute.

Homosexuality is addressed subtly in the relationships between Lestat and Nicholas, and Lestat and Louis. While their initial relationship seems platonic, friendly camaraderie, a kind of love develops between them which goes beyond what is generally considered "normal" between "normal" men.

Then when Lestat makes Nicholas a vampire, the relationship shifts again.

Writing in the 1980s and 1990s, when gay and lesbian lifestyles are an important issue, Rice shines a light of understanding and acceptance that says basically that any kind of love is precious.

Techniques

Story within story within story, Rice constructs a convoluted tale that begins in the present as Lestat awakes from a long period of sleep to find himself in the 1980s. But she quickly flashes back to the eighteenth century to tell of Lestat's beginnings as the son of an impoverished French nobleman. She tells his story chronologically until he becomes a vampire and meets the vampire Armand. After an unfriendly confrontation, Armand tells his story to Lestat. Then later when Lestat finally meets Marius, Marius tells his story and then the story of Enkil and Akasha.

Rice's style is often talky, with some passages belaboring a scene or an idea until one wearies of it. Yet she handles description in a way to make her characters and scenes vivid and believable.

At times a sense of humor is apparent when characters react to something in an unexpected way.



Themes

Themes

Some of the themes dealt with in her previous books continue in Lestat.

Always interested in the outcast, she has a major concern with alienation and how those alienated ones act. Vampires are alienated from everyone because, according to her, for them to love mortals is to court death or madness, and to love other vampires is to court death since there can be little life-sustaining exchange between them.

She shows Lestat as one who wishes to be a part of the mortal life and bring other vampires out of the shadows into the mortal world, showing who and what they are and thus allowing them to be a part of life. But he is thwarted on all sides because other vampires feel he is a danger to them, for they have always preferred anonymity. And of course he is feared, with reason, by humans. Thus Lestat finds himself alone, unable to be a part of any "society."

Another Rice theme is that there must be rules if there is to be order.

Lestat soon learns this when his "maker" Magnus tells him what he can and cannot do as a vampire. Or perhaps one should say, what he must and must not do. But Lestat is an individualist who seems to feel that rules are made to be broken, or that rules do not apply to him, or that it would be both fascinating and enlightening to see what would happen if he did break the rules. So in most instances when he is told the rules and even agrees to follow them, he in fact follows his own directives and, being the "hero" of the novel, triumphs in spite of himself. But because he breaks the rules, calamities befall him and others, which he regrets, but not enough.

Everyone needs or wants love, and everyone needs to believe in something. Love may be manifested in many ways, according to Rice, and love in one culture may be quite different from its concept in another culture. But ultimately it always comes down to filling the need for companionship, an emotional or even intellectual connection between individuals. Lestat looks for love and finds it occasionally. The one time he feels totally devoid of it and alone, he literally buries himself in the earth and more or less gives up on his existence for several decades.

Rice's continuing personal conflict with organized religion does not, however, negate the fact that she believes everyone needs to believe in something. And even as Lestat questions the existence of the Christian god because he cannot find an acceptable answer to his unanswerable questions, he ultimately creates a code of conduct for himself by which he can be in harmony with himself.



A Vampire's Preference for Love and Companionship

Each vampire that is portrayed in *The Vampire Lestat* has a different feeling on love and companionship. Although they each have a different perspective on these things, they feel very strongly about them and some of them share common characteristics. For instance, Lestat, Armand, and Marius all want the love and companionship of others. However, they want it on their terms - which are distinctly different. Lestat wants someone to love and who will love him back unconditionally. He wants someone to live with someone who shares his love of mortals and who will want to be out with them constantly.

Marius's desire is similar to Lestat's - as long as it does not stand in the way of any affection that he may instead receive from Akasha. Any individual that poses a threat to Marius for Akasha's affection, as Lestat does, he does not want them around. His jealousy is clear when he sends Lestat from his island after the encounter with Akasha. Armand wants constant companionship, although he equates love for others as having control over them.

On the other side of the coin, there exist those vampires that do not seem to want love or companionship of any kind. Representing this group are Gabrielle, Nicki, and Akasha. The fact that these three vampires are loved makes little impression upon them. At no time do they express the need to be with others of their kind in order to carry on. Gabrielle is the best example of this since, from the beginning of her immortality, she expresses a desire to be free of the shackles of society and to explore the wilderness. Her eventual departure from Lestat is indicative of her true nature.

Nicki, although completely mad by the time he becomes a vampire, pushes love aside and merely exists to taunt those around him who do love him. He is tortured to the point of madness and it matters not to him whether he lives or dies and if he does so alone or not. Lastly, Akasha does not seem to be one who cares whether she has love or companionship or not. As Marius comments, if she cared she would move or speak, but she does not. So, although her husband is at her side, she never moves or speaks to him or Marius, which leads to the conclusion that she simply does not care whether they are there or not.

Immortality and Madness

It is suggested several times throughout Lestat's story that not all vampires are able to cope with immortality. Those that cannot deal with eternity eventually go mad. This first evidence of this is seen in Magnus when he imprisons Lestat and makes him a vampire. From the beginning it is clear that there is something wrong with Magnus. After he makes Lestat a vampire, he passes on the lessons that Lestat must have as if he is in a frenzy, and then he immediately goes into the fire to end his life. When Lestat encounters Armand and his coven with the ancient queen, they also concur that Magnus was mad. The ancient queen in Armand's coven is another example of an old vampire who no longer has a solid hold on reality. Shortly after the coven scatters, she



puts herself into the fire to end her existence. Nicki is another one, although he is never old by vampire standards, to end his life by going into the fire. He is almost completely mad before he even becomes a vampire and is never able to grapple with his transformation into immortality.

On the flip side, there are vampires such as Marius and Lestat who seem to have what it takes to be a true immortal. Marius is a self-proclaimed "true immortal". By this he means that he has mastered the ability to transcend time and live for several mortal lifetimes without going mad. From his perspective, the key to true immortality is to have an ongoing cycle of living several mortal lifetimes and then going into the earth for several years. Lestat seems to have the makings of a true immortal, such as Marius describes, since he also has gone into the earth.

Lestat's Rebellious Nature

Many times throughout the story, vampires seem to live their lives according to strict rules. Lestat is never someone who lives by anybody's rules other than his own. Aside from the rule of seeking shelter during daylight hours, he plays the rest by ear which infuriates other immortals. For starters, when he encounters Armand and then coven, they are furious that he lives the way he does. He insists on living amongst mortals, walks in and out of churches, and makes new vampires of his own volition. Their coven does the exact opposite; they only live underground, they are not allowed in churches, and they can only create new vampires as part of a highly ritualized process. As a result, Lestat obliterates the old coven which takes Armand centuries to forgive him for. On top of that, Lestat breaks another rule years later by making Claudia a vampire, a child of no more than six years.

Later, when Lestat visits with Marius he breaks more rules. Marius lets Lestat in on his secrets with Those Who Must Be Kept and swears Lestat to absolute secrecy over it. Then he tells Lestat he can roam anywhere in the house except for the sanctuary. As soon as Lestat is alone, the first thing he does is go into the sanctuary where he disrupts the silence and tranquility of the room. To make matters worse, in the modern day Lestat does what Louis did, which is publish a book telling everything. However, Lestat takes it several steps farther by joining a famous rock band and singing songs that reveal all of the vampire secrets, and appearing in videos that are shown all over the world. This bold move on his part makes the blood boil for vampires around the globe.



Style

Point of View

The story is primarily told in the first person by the vampire Lestat. This is one chapter told by the vampire Armand who briefly talks about how he became a vampire and his tales that lead up to leading the Paris coven. There are also chapters dedicated to Marius' story of how he became a vampire as well as how he came to accept the responsibility of Those Who Must Be kept. Otherwise, they are all from Lestat as he tells the story of his mortal life and his long immortal existence.

Lestat's point of view is distinctive from Armand and Marius. Lestat has a clearly defined personality that in no way clashes with the others. It is clear when Lestat is telling a story. There is a particular flair for the dramatic that consistently comes across. When Armand tells his story there is a definitive air of hostility with a hint of scorn thrown in. When Marius tells his story, he has a gentler manner about him. He takes the time to describe things in meticulous detail, which seems to fall in line with his overall personality.

Setting

The setting of the story varies greatly, as the events take place over a period of several years. The very beginning and ending of Lestat's story are in the modern day. Life is as the reader knows it, along with all the creature comforts that go with it. As a vampire who was created in the late eighteenth century, there are many things that are alien to him, or only recently new to him. Inventions such as the telephone and television are still quite unique to him. This clearly comes across when he talks about them. He views them in a way that is different from those who have lived their whole lives with these things.

Lestat takes the story back in time to when he was a mortal in Auvergne, France. The time is the mid-eighteenth century, years before the French Revolution. The time is very simple and the needs of the people are very basic. Lestat lives his life primarily as a hunter. When he goes to Paris to work as an actor, his popularity soars as though he were a modern day movie star. The setting changes yet again as the story follows him throughout Europe, Asia, Egypt, and finally into the New World where he starts his life over in New Orleans when it is still owned by the French.

Language and Meaning

Lestat is an eighteenth century man, who is also the son of a marquis. The language he uses suggests that this is the upbringing he had, though as a mortal, he was not highly educated. Only after he became a vampire did he learn how to read and write, and only then it was because of his preternatural abilities. The differences in his language are



most distinct in the beginning and ending of his story when it is the modern day. It is then that his language sounds antiquated and too proper for the times. Not only that, there is the suggestion that his French background alters the way he lays the story out in English.

However, as Lestat goes back in time to recount his story, the differences are not as obvious to the reader. The use of language and its meaning seems to fit in quite naturally with the times in which he lives. Even after he becomes a vampire, his use of spoken language does not change dramatically. However, once he does become a vampire, he sometimes uses silent means to convey messages or feelings to others. Vampires possess the ability to speak to each other with their minds, with the exception of masters and their "offspring." For example, Lestat is not able to speak silently with Gabrielle once she becomes a vampire. The wall of silence comes down once that transformation is made.

Structure

The story is broken out into several sections as appropriate to Lestat's story. Each era of his existence is told separately so the reader knows that it is a new or different part of his life. In the story are other's stories as well, such as Marius and how he became a vampire. Additionally, the story begins and ends in the present day and is clearly separated from the other parts of Lestat's story.

There are clear distinctions between the various parts of Lestat's story. Each section signifies a different meaning for him. Over the course of his story, it is easy to see the graduation of details and his growth and education as an immortal individual. Although Lestat is notoriously impulsive and stubborn, these qualities are portrayed in a more immature manner in the beginning of the story. By the end of his story, he has become a seasoned vampire and, while still impulsive, comes across as more restrained.



Quotes

"Her heart and soul split open. There was no age to her, no single moment. My knowledge dimmed and flickered and there was no mother anymore, no petty need and petty terror; she was simply who she was. She was Gabrielle" (Part 3, Chapter 1, page 139).

"We were the same terrible and deadly beings, the two of us, we were wandering in the Savage Garden and I tried to make it real for her with images, the meaning of the Savage Garden, but it didn't matter if she didn't understand" (Part 3, Chapter 2, page 143).

"And though I said her name over and over, to make it natural, she wasn't really Gabrielle yet to me. She was simply she, the one I had needed all of my life with all of my being. The only woman I had ever loved" (Part 3, Chapter 3, page 147).

"They clung to the iron grating like so many bats, but they weren't bats. They were vampires, and vampires as we were vampires, in human form" (Part 3, Chapter 5, page 162).

"You waste your gifts!" I said. "And worse, you waste your immortality! Nothing in all the world is so nonsensical and contradictory, save mortals, that is, who live in the grip of the superstitions of the past" (Part 4, Chapter 2, page 194).

"Why did Magnus go into the flames? It's an age-old truth among us, and you haven't even guessed it. Live among men, and the passing years will drive you to madness. To see others grow old and die, to see kingdoms rise and fall, to lose all you understand and cherish - who can endure it?" (Part 4, Chapter 3, page 201).

"The citadel against time. Even in my ignorance the words had their power. And the fear in me expanded, reached out to compass a thousand other causes" (Part 5, Chapter 2, page 249).

"But a millennium of nights will be yours to see light as no mortal has ever seen it, to snatch from the distant stars as if you were Prometheus an endless illumination by which to understand all things" (Part 5, Chapter 3, page 267).

"But for me, there was no going back to Paris, no matter how lonely I might become. The world around me had become my lover and my teacher. I was enraptured with the cathedrals and castles, the museums and palaces that I saw" (Part 6, Chapter 1, page 288).

"And so even then you see, more than seventeen hundred years ago, we were questing, we were rejecting the explanations given us, we were loving the magic and the power for its own sake" (Part 7, Chapter 8, page 371).



"But the Father and the Mother do not care for their children. And now it seems they do not care for themselves. Maybe after four thousand nights, they merely wished to see the sun!" (Part 7, Chapter 9, page 378).

"And then it even made sense that we could all be connected to the Mother and the Father because this thing was spiritual, and had no bodily limits except the limits of the individual bodies in which it had gained control. It was the vine, this thing, and we were the flowers, scattered over great distances, but connected by the twining tendrils that could reach all over the world" (Part 7, Chapter 11, page 388).

"Outcast. We know what you are doing. We are ordering you to stop." "Come out where we can see you. We dare you to come out" (Dionysus in San Francisco, 1985, Chapter 1, page 453).

Adaptations

The Vampire Lestat has been recorded on audio cassette and has been optioned for a theatrical movie.



Key Questions

Anne Rice makes no secret of her desire to do more than simply spin a good yarn. Her often wordy philosophical passages and her theorizing about everything from alienation to Zeitgeist fill her books with ideas that sometimes obscure the plot.

Her attitude about religions and their often detrimental effect on society and on individuals threads through nearly every chapter. Her aberrant characters — the vampire, mummies, and witches — personify her interest in the social outcast. They reflect her notion that those who question established religion may well be seen as being as alien in human society as are her vampires.

1. What are some similarities and differences between Lestat's rejection of Christianity and Rice's rejection of Catholicism?
2. What are some parallels between the collapse of the vampire covens and the breakdown of traditional religions?
3. Lestat says at one point that the twentieth century is a time when "the value of human life was greater than it had ever been before." Explain this.

Given the social and political conditions today, do you agree or disagree?

4. Is Lestat being ironic or ignorant when he says that in the 1980s "murderers to feed upon were scarce . . . the common cutthroat thieves of the past and their dangerous waterfront hangouts were almost gone?"
5. "Mortals will accept almost any 'natural explanation' offered" for unnatural occurrences "rather than the obvious supernatural one, for what is going on." How does Rice show this with her mortal characters? How true is it in real life?
6. Rice sets forth five rules of conduct, or great laws of vampirism, which have much in common with the rules of behavior for any civilized community. Discuss the similarities and differences you see between them and the rules of some organization you are familiar with.



Topics for Discussion

Lestat's nature is impulsive and rebellious. Do you think it would be possible for him to live in harmony with anyone? Explain.

Lestat and Armand seem to have a love-hate relationship that spans centuries. What are some similarities they share and differences between the two of them? Do you think they are more alike or different? Explain.

Marius comments that he knows the key to true immortality. Do you think that it is possible for all vampires to live this way? Why or why not?

For thousands of years Akasha and Enkil sit side by side in silence. Why do you think they chose not to move when they were left in the sun? Thousands of years later when Lestat comes to see them, what is it about his presence that causes them to stir after such a prolonged period of time?

Lestat comments that destiny catches up with them and will eventually play itself out as it is supposed to. What do you think is Lestat's destiny? Do you think that destiny has played out with him yet? Why or why not?

Throughout the story many vampires seek out others for companionship. Do you think it is possible for vampires to happily coexist with each other for eternity? Explain.

Do you think it is possible for Lestat to live out his life anonymously? As a mortal he is enamored by life on the stage in Paris, and then years later on stage as a world famous rock star. Would he still be content to live quietly amongst his kind? Why or why not?

Literary Precedents

Rice's Gothic tale is more like Chelsea Quinn Yarbro's work than Bram Stoker's. Written from the vampire's point of view rather than from that of the victim, both Yarbro and Rice portray vampires as more human than monstrous. On the other hand, where Yarbro's vampire Count Saint-Germain is absolutely heroic in the traditional sense, Lestat has many shortcomings and is even unlikable at times, more Dracula than St. Germain.

John Lindquist's Tabitha Ffloukes shows yet another kind of humane vampire. This one is such an unlucky victim himself that he is positively lovable. Unlike Rice, who constantly reminds the reader of Lestat's evil side, Lindquist presents a vampire who does not have such a side.



Related Titles

The Vampire Chronicles include *Interview with the Vampire* (1979), *The Vampire Lestat*, *The Queen of the Damned* and *The Tale of the Body Thief* (1992). *The Vampire Lestat* tells the story of the vampire who "made" the vampire interviewed in the first novel. *The Queen of the Damned* embellishes the part of the historical background of Lestat's story, giving much more detail about the original two vampires and the now aroused and dangerous Akasha. *The Tale of the Body Thief* follows Lestat's adventures as he takes over the body of a mortal to explore once more the human realm.

The Vampire Lestat recalls several of the characters from *Interview with the Vampire* (such as Daniel the mortal interviewer, Louis, and Armand) and fleshes out their descriptions considerably. This prepares the reader for *The Queen of the Damned*, which further develops the stories of Akasha, Daniel, and of course Lestat.



Copyright Information

Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults

Editor - Kirk H. Beetz, Ph.D.

Library of Congress
Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults

Includes bibliographical references.

Summary: A multi-volume compilation of analytical essays on and study activities for fiction, nonfiction, and biographies written for young adults.

Includes a short biography for the author of each analyzed work.

1. Young adults—Books and reading. 2. Young adult literature—History and criticism. 3.

Young adult literature—Bio-bibliography. 4. Biography—Bio-bibliography.

[1. Literature—History and criticism. 2. Literature—Bio-bibliography]

I. Beetz, Kirk H., 1952

Z1037.A1G85 1994 028.1'62 94-18048 ISBN 0-933833-32-6

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Printed in the United States of America First Printing, November 1994