

Wicked Lovely Study Guide

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Plot Summary

Aislinn can see faeries. She was born with the sight, as was her mother and her grandmother before her. Aislinn lives with her Grams, who has taught her how to fool the faeries into believing that she does not know about them. For Aislinn's whole life, her Gram's advice has been to keep her head down and her mouth shut. She has trained in the careful art of not responding to the faery actions going on around her, sometimes even to her. Grams has lived her life in a state of cautious fear. She has remained relatively safe to an old age, but Aislinn knows that Grams is not happy. This is not what the rebellious teen wants for herself. Aislinn wants to finish school, go to college, hang out with her friends and fall in love. She wants a normal life. She wants to be free of the faeries and the knowledge of their existence.

Keenan is the Summer King, a royal faery of the Summer Court. His powers were bound in his infancy by his mother, the evil Winter Queen Beira. Keenan is an unwilling player in his mother's sick game. Keenan must choose a human girl, and hope that she is his Summer Queen, the one who will release his powers and help him to defeat his mother. For nine centuries, Keenan has chosen human girls, and for nine centuries he has been disappointed. They have either chosen not to take the test, or they have failed it and doomed themselves to live with the Winter Queen's chill, never again knowing warmth.

Aislinn notices that she is being followed by two faeries. These two faeries have been following her for a couple of weeks. As Aislinn ducks around a corner and into a comic store, one of the faeries dons a glamour and walks into the store. Usually, the faeries that have followed her in the past keep going, making the stores a safe haven for Aislinn. This one, however, has chosen her.

Over the next few weeks, Keenan tries, in human form, to woo Aislinn, in the hopes that she will be his Summer Queen. He does not know that Aislinn can see him for what he really is or that she can hear his Summer faeries talking about her and that she knows exactly who he is. In the past, no girl has resisted Keenan as Aislinn has. In the past, none of the other girls could see Keenan for what he really was. None of them had a fear and dislike of the faeries in general and most of them did not have a mortal man with whom they were already in love. Despite Aislinn's resistance, she can not help but feel drawn to Keenan and his charms, falling deeper into the faery world and even slowly transforming into a faery herself.

As it becomes clear to everyone involved that Aislinn is the true Summer Queen, the game heats up. Beira wants Aislinn dead, but knows that to interfere directly would be to forfeit her power in the game. Donia, whose job it is to persuade Aislinn not to trust Keenan, is getting ready to betray her part in the game in order to do what she feels is right. Keenan is becoming more and more desperate that his Summer Queen will reject him completely, dooming the faeries and humans alike. Aislinn is faced with a difficult decision. Will she try to ignore what is happening, and eventually fade out from being

too far away from Keenan as a Summer Faery or will she take the test and lose her mortal life forever?



Prologue though Chapter 3

Prologue though Chapter 3 Summary

The Prologue opens with two people in a forest. A girl has fallen in love with a boy who is actually a faery king. He is bound by magic so that only the right girl can set him free. This girl, who is with him in the forest, is not the right girl. As she grasps the Winter Queen's staff, hoping to break the spell, she feels the icy chill penetrate her being. She will now feel only the Winter Queen's chill until another girl either takes her place or sets the boy free.

In Chapter 1, Aislinn is playing pool with her friend Denny. Both are very good at the game, but Aislinn loses a bit of her touch when the faeries come into the pool hall. She can see them, but does not let on. Her Grams has told her from a very early age that she must ignore the faeries and pretend that she does not see them. If they know that she can see them, they'll never leave her alone.

In Chapter 2, Aislinn loses control over herself and runs from Keenan. She heads to Seth's house, a converted train car. They talk for a while, and she eventually tells him about the faeries. Seth does not brush her off, and once he is assured that she is not messing with him, he actually wants to help her. Aislinn tells Seth what faeries are really like.

In Chapter 3, Seth walks Aislinn home, but first they stop by the tattoo shop. Aislinn notices one of her school mates come into the shop with a guy. This guy is not the kind of guy that Leslie usually goes for. He is also a faery. The faery walks into the store and runs his hand along the steel framed glass case, proving that he is one of the strongest faeries that Aislinn has ever seen.

Prologue though Chapter 3 Analysis

In the Prologue, the girl in the forest is in love with Keenan, and he believes that he is in love with her also. He wants her to be the one, but cautions her that if she is not, she will feel no warmth until another takes her place. She will tell all the other girls not to trust him, and until another does trust him, she will be bound by the spell. As the prologue closes, after she is taken by the Winter Queen, she feels foolish for trusting and loving Keenan. Once Keenan sees that she is not the one, he turns and leaves her alone in the forest, without so much as saying goodbye.

In Chapter 1, Aislinn is terrified of letting the faeries know that she knows about them, but she is also angry that she has to see them. She envies the normal people who don't even know that faeries exist, much less have to see and hear them. When Keenan transforms into human shape, she knows that something bad is about to happen. When Keenan approaches Aislinn, she turns him down at every turn. In truth, she wants to accept his offer of a date, but she knows that it would be a bad idea to deal with faeries.



She has to turn him down as if she is not interested in him at all, as she can not let him know that she knows that he is a faery.

In Chapter 2, Aislinn feels safer at Seth's. At first, she was more attracted to the steel and iron of his train car house, but now they are great friends. Aislinn has never told anyone else about the faeries, but now she feels that she can trust Seth. When she tells him about the faeries, her only concern is for his safety.

In Chapter 3, Leslie tries to tell Aislinn that Seth has feelings for her. Aislinn figures that if that were the case, he would say something. Leslie tells Aislinn that Seth is talking, she just isn't hearing it.



Chapters 4 through 7

Chapters 4 through 7 Summary

In Chapter 4, Keenan's mother is Beira, the Winter Queen. She has bound his power as the Summer King so that her own reign may last longer. Keenan is tired of his mother's game, but he knows that the only way to end it is to play along, and hope that the next girl is the right one. Beira keeps a Victorian house on a nice estate, where she keeps up the illusion of a normal family. Keenan tells his mother that one day he'll find the right girl, and he will be free. When that day comes, her reign will be over. Beira touches him and infuses him with the cold of winter, then puts him to sleep. For now, the Winter Queen has the power.

In Chapter 5, Beira stops in at Donia's cabin to visit. She pretends to be pleasant with her, but it is clear that she is mocking her. Beira tells Donia to make certain that Aislinn does not touch the staff. Donia knows the rules. She will try to convince the new girl not to trust Keenan, but this is not good enough for Beira this time. Beira tells Donia that she must lie, cheat, do what ever it takes to make certain that Aislinn does not touch the staff. She even offers to take the chill away from Donia and set her free. On the other hand, if she fails, Beira will make her a shade, leaving her to an eternity of a cold so terrible that even the Winter Girl can not imagine it.

In Chapter 6, Aislinn's grandmother notices her mood, and being worried, asks what is wrong. Aislinn lies to her and tells her that she is upset about her SAT score and is having issues with Seth. She tells her grandmother that she likes Seth, but hasn't asked him out. Grams informs her that this is her own problem, and launches into a lecture. Aislinn keeps her talking long enough to get ready for school. Today, there are even more faeries than usual following her. At the end of the school day, Aislinn leaves school to find the faerie that she calls Deadgirl waiting for her.

In Chapter 7, on her way to the library, Aislinn is attacked in the park. A group of men grab her roughly, and tease her when she asks them to stop. Before anything too terrible can happen, Deadgirl takes on a human glamour, and tells them to leave Aislinn alone. They tell her to mind her own business, so she orders her wolf, Sasha, to attack. The men run, and Deadgirl introduces herself as Donia. Donia walks Aislinn to the library.

Chapters 4 through 7 Analysis

In Chapter 4, Keenan still cares for Donia, who has been the Winter Girl for half a century now. While he cares about her, he knows that she is not the one for him. He hopes that Aislinn will be the one girl who can take the staff of the Winter Queen in hand and not be taken over by the chill.



In Chapter 5, Donia is upset with herself for still caring about Keenan after so long. She feels that if he really loved her enough, that she would have been the one and the chill would not have taken her. Beira tries to convince Keenan that Aislinn is not the one, and that he should just leave her alone. Keenan has dreamed of Aislinn, and believes that she is truly the one, but his mother reminds him that he thought the same of each one who came before.

In Chapter 6, Aislinn is avoiding the true issue when she tells Grams that she is upset about Seth, but it is still important. Aislinn does like Seth, and only avoids asking him out because she fears that doing so will jeopardize their friendship. On the way to school, Aislinn's friend asks her to go to a party with her, and tells her that there will be drugs. Aislinn denies, and in her personal thoughts she explains why. Aislinn does indulge some, so long as she is safely at Seth's place, but she is afraid to get high or drunk when she has to walk home, through the city with her defenses down.

In Chapter 7, the fact that Donia intervened in the attempted rape startles Aislinn. She knows that she is to avoid drawing the attention of faeries, but she also knows what would likely have happened if she had not drawn Donia's attention. Aislinn is worried that they have been following her and is even more worried when she sees Donia tell the bone girl faeries to find the men, as Aislinn is to be protected.



Chapters 8 through 11

Chapters 8 through 11 Summary

In Chapter 8, back at Seth's place, he and Aislinn go over his faerie research. Seth has found several books that contain many different wards against faeries. Many of them may not work, but Aislinn does know that some do. Unfortunately, she has to maintain the illusion that she doesn't know they're around. Most of the things that Seth has found are pretty obvious, and would tell the faeries that she knows about them. Finally, Aislinn decides that she is probably just going to have to confront Donia or Keenan and find out what they want. It means breaking all of the rules she has been taught, but she may have no choice. The rules are changing, with or without her. Aislinn and Seth set out to scout the night. They must find out what the faeries are saying.

In Chapter 9, Keenan catches up to Donia to ask her what Beira wanted. He knows that his mother visited her, and is worried about what might have been said. Donia tells him that his mother only stopped by to remind her of her job. She does not tell Keenan about the guys in the park, or her suspicions that his mother had a hand in it. Later, Seth and Aislinn find Donia sitting alone. Aislinn and Donia talk for a short while, then Aislinn and Seth leave. Some of the comments that Aislinn make give Donia pause. Can this mortal see the Fey? Donia decides that Aislinn can not when she does not swerve to avoid them when she walks.

In Chapter 10, when Aislinn gets home, her grandmother notices that something is wrong. They write out their true messages on paper so that the faeries who may be outside can't hear them. Grams is worried about Aislinn, but is willing to allow Aislinn to handle the situation her own way, at least for a few days.

In Chapter 11, when Aislinn gets to school, she finds faeries there, in droves. This is strange, as they usually avoid places where there is so much steel, not to mention religious artifacts. While at her locker, the principal approaches Aislinn. Keenan is with him, posing as a new student. The priest wants Aislinn to show him around. All day Keenan tries to charm her, and all day she resists. During a poetry reading, Aislinn comes dangerously close to admitting that she knows who he is.

Chapters 8 through 11 Analysis

In Chapter 8, Seth is genuinely concerned for Aislinn's safety, and it is plain that he cares about her. Aislinn still does not want to risk their friendship over a one night stand, but it seems that Seth wants more from Aislinn than just sex. Before they leave, Seth takes out some steel bracelets and necklaces. Before going out the door, he kisses Aislinn on the back of her neck.

In Chapter 9, Keenan still cares about Donia, and he would like her forgiveness. Donia feels as if Keenan lied to her and betrayed her. He let her believe that she might be the



one, when she wasn't. Donia is also fiercely jealous of the Summer Girls. Many of the girls who might take the staff do not risk it. Instead, they are able to stay with Keenan as concubines. Donia loved Keenan and can never have him, yet these girls who did not love him enough to risk the chill have him.

In Chapter 10, Aislinn's grandmother does not live a happy life, and never has. She has always followed her rules for living with the sight, but she has not been able to really enjoy life. Aislinn does not want to be confined to that same life. She knows the dangers of being able to see the faeries, but she still longs for the normal life. When she calls Seth, he flirts with her a bit more. He always flirts with her, but now he is doing it more often. Aislinn still resists him.

In Chapter 11, Keenan's new plan to woo Aislinn is to pose as a new student at her school. Now he is with her all day, and she has no real respite from the power of his presence. She knows that he is trying to woo her, but does not know why. Despite her constant rejections, Keenan does not give up. He even recruits some of Aislinn's friends to help wear her down.



Chapters 12 through 15

Chapters 12 through 15 Summary

In Chapter 12, Donia finds Seth in the library. She does not yet know that Seth knows about her, but she can see that he is fiercely trying to protect Aislinn. When Seth leaves after their brief conversation, Donia pulls up his search history on the library computer. She finds that he was researching faeries and the herbs that give mortals faery sight. Keenan returns to his loft to find his advisers waiting for him. One advises that he be more forceful in his approach, and one says that he must keep it casual for a bit at first.

In Chapter 13, on her way to Seth's, Aislinn passes a few faeries who are talking about her and Seth. She becomes worried when she hears one mention her being with Keenan for eternity. She frantically tries to call Seth, only to hear his phone ringing behind her. Seth and Aislinn talk in the train car, and he kisses her. Seth tells her that he will not let the faeries take her away from him.

In Chapter 14, Aislinn does not think that she can stand another day of Keenan's influence, so she decides to take another approach. Instead of running or resisting, which only heightens his desire for the chase, she decides to give in, just a little. Aislinn is much nicer to Keenan today, even allowing them to "start over", but she admits that she still doesn't like him. Keenan asks her to accompany him to the carnival, and she agrees. Aislinn will go with Keenan to the carnival, but only as friends.

In Chapter 15, when Donia returns home, Beira is waiting for her. She informs Donia that Keenan has enrolled in Aislinn's school, and is making more progress than Donia is. Agatha, finding Donia's plight amusing, laughs. Beira thinks that the hag is laughing at her, and kills her, turning her into a shade. After several hours standing weeping over Agatha's shell, one of Keenan's guards offers to take the body away. She allows it, and does not tell him that she is not crying for Agatha.

Chapters 12 through 15 Analysis

In Chapter 12, in his conversation with Donia, Seth demonstrates his strong feelings for Aislinn. Donia is sure that he loves Aislinn, and will do everything he can to protect her. Keenan does not know what he must do to woo Aislinn, but his advisers do try to give him some advice. Keenan worries about his faeries, who need a strong king. The king that he can not be unless his powers are unbound. Keenan desperately needs Aislinn to be the one.

In Chapter 13, Aislinn is drawn to Seth just as much as she is drawn to Keenan. The difference is that she actually cares about Seth, and Keenan is just using a glamour. While they kiss, Aislinn considers this the perfect kiss. Then she remembers that it is Seth who she is kissing. Seth has waited for her, and abstained from other women for

the last seven months. Aislinn feels bad when she hears this, but Seth promises to wait as long as it takes.

In Chapter 14, Aislinn feels herself being pulled in two directions. On the one hand, she has Seth. She cares about Seth, but she is worried that if she gives in to Seth, that it will destroy their friendship. She is clearly in love with him, but she knows that Seth doesn't date, and she still doesn't believe that he is looking for a permanent, real relationship. On the other hand, Keenan is still trying to woo her, and apparently wants her for eternity. Aislinn does not know how to solve either situation, but she knows that she has to do something about both. First, Aislinn decides that she must deal with her faery problem.

In Chapter 15, Donia is sure that Beira will kill her and turn her into a shade. She spends hours weeping for herself, but denies Evan's offer to bring in more guards. Back at his loft, Keenan prepares for the carnival. One of the faeries tries to tell him something about Seth, but Keenan is not worried about him. Keenan has sent someone to deal with Seth, so that he can not get in the way.



Chapters 16 through 19

Chapters 16 through 19 Summary

In Chapter 16, Seth and Aislinn work on picking a recipe that will give Seth the faery sight. Aislinn tells Seth that she will go with Keenan to the carnival, which of course has him worried. Aislinn assures Seth that she is only playing along so that she can find out what Keenan wants. She promises him that if this doesn't work, they'll try something else. Some of Seth's friends show up with an extra girl, wanting Seth to go out with them. The third girl, the one that is supposed to be for Seth, is a faery. Aislinn takes her by the wrist and leads her out of the house and tells her to leave. The others leave with her.

In Chapter 17, Aislinn finds Keenan waiting for him at the carnival. Once he takes her hand, Aislinn's sight grows stronger. Aislinn can see now that all of the carnies, and most of the guests are actually faeries. Keenan asks Aislinn to dance, and promises that he'll do anything she wants, just for one dance. Aislinn makes him swear in front of all of the witnesses that he will do so, and he swears that, so long as it is in his power, her every request will be his command. So they dance. Aislinn has a few drinks, and loses her control. After dancing for a while, the carnival disappears, and Aislinn admits to Keenan that she knows he is a faery.

In Chapter 18, Donia sends for Keenan to come to her. Keenan comes to her cabin, and she tells him about Beira's visits and what she has been doing. Donia tells Keenan that she has to do her part, but she still hopes that she loses, so that Keenan can be free, and so that Keenan can kill Beira.

In Chapter 19, Keenan wonders around the city, trying to digest the information that Donia has given him. His mother, for the first time that he knows of, is breaking the rules of their games. Keenan now has doubts that Aislinn is the one. Perhaps the fortune teller was only talking about Aislinn's sight, which does make her special and unlike any other girls that he's met before. Beira approaches Keenan, and as usual pretends to care about him. Keenan tells his mother that he is not making much progress, as he is now worried that she might break the rules even more and do something to Aislinn directly. After their conversation, Keenan sets Beira's canopy on fire. It isn't much, as he does not have the power to defeat her yet, but it does make him feel better.

Chapters 16 through 19 Analysis

In Chapter 16, Aislinn finally breaks down and asks Seth what he wants. Seth assures her that he wants a real relationship. He says that they are definitely dating, not some fling. When Seth's friends and the girls show up with the faery, Seth stands behind Aislinn when she throws the girl out for coming on to Seth. When the others leave,



Aislinn admits that she might be more the jealous type than she thought. Seth seems alright with that. Already, the nature of their relationship has changed dramatically.

In Chapter 17, Aislinn is losing herself to Keenan. She has eaten faery food and drink, and has been dancing all night with Keenan. Aislinn is not so wary now as she has been, and when she drunkenly lets on that she knows about Keenan, he pretends as if he doesn't know what she's talking about. Aislinn passes out in his arms. Aislinn has broken every rule that she has so far lived by. Her change from human to faery is happening faster than any before, but Keenan is not too surprised by this, as the fortune tellers have assured him that she is the one.

In Chapter 18, Donia is hurt when she finds out that Aislinn is the one. Donia knows what her job is, but she still hopes that she loses. Donia would rather become a shade, so long as Keenan and Aislinn could be together and kill Beira. Donia still loves Keenan, and he still cares for her. Keenan is not as strong as Donia needs him to be, and she must deny his offers of protection. Keenan is ready to throw caution to the wind, and forsake the rules, as his mother has. However, Donia remains adamant that they play the game as they must, and hopes that she fails.

In Chapter 19, when one of Aislinn's friends stops Keenan, he is presented with another issue, one he has not ever considered before. Aislinn's friend says that she thinks that Keenan is good for Aislinn. Keenan wonders briefly about this. He knows that she is good for him, or will be if she is really the Summer Queen. However, he is not so sure that he is good for her. In fact, he muses that he probably is not good for her.



Chapters 20 through 23

Chapters 20 through 23 Summary

In Chapter 20, Aislinn wakes up in her room. She has no memory of what happened after the dance, or how she got home. Grams notices that something is wrong, but Aislinn convinces her to give her another day. When she gets to Seth's, Aislinn tells him everything that she remembers. She tells him about the dance, about the kiss, and about waking up at home. She is not able to answer whether they did anything else or went anywhere else. Seth tells Aislinn that he is not mad at her, but he is furious with Keenan. If he got Aislinn drunk on faery booze, and then did something, then Keenan is the one in the wrong.

In Chapter 21, Donia bears the pain of the iron to go see Aislinn at Seth's. When Seth opens the door, he is somewhat hostile with Donia. Aislinn exclaims at this, but Donia tells her that it is alright. She just wants to talk. Donia makes a quick attack at one of the faeries who gets too close, and she screams. Seth does not react, but Donia sees that Aislinn flinches. Now Donia knows of Aislinn's sight. Aislinn confirms that she knows, and that so does Seth, though he can not see. Donia invites them to her home, and begins to explain about the game. She tells Seth a recipe for a salve that will give him the sight. She tells him that it would be unfair to allow him to go blind into what was about to happen.

In Chapter 22, Aislinn talks to her grandmother about the faeries, but does not tell her that they are court faeries and a faery king. She allows her grandmother to make the incorrect assumption that they faeries can not reach her at school or Seth's, and so retains at least that much of her freedom. After school, she sees Keenan in his faery form. When she goes to him, she proves to him that she really does have the sight. Keenan explains as much of the nature of the game as he is allowed. He tells her that her mortal life is over, and that like it or not she is turning into a faery. She can either be one of the Summer Girls, or she can choose him.

In Chapter 23, Aislinn pounds furiously on Donia's door. Donia knows exactly who it must be, as none of the fey are brave enough to pound so insistently. Donia tells Aislinn more of the game, and gives her some advice. Donia tells Aislinn that she is becoming a Summer Girl, and that there are only two ways to avoid that. She can either take the test or she can die. If she takes the test and fails, she will become like Donia.

Chapters 20 through 23 Analysis

In Chapter 20, Aislinn is worried about what will happen now that she told Keenan that she knows. She is even more worried, however, about her virginity. She wanted to wait, and have her first time with someone special. She does not remember doing anything with Keenan, but she does not feel certain that nothing happened, either. Seth does not



blame her for what happened. Aislinn just wants Seth to hold her, but when she adds the "if you still want to" part, it is clear that she does not feel like he will want to. Seth assures her that he always wants to hold her, and that nothing will change that.

In Chapter 21, Donia is torn between her love for Keenan and her duty. She also feels a great respect for Seth, the mortal who dares to stand against the Summer King. Aislinn has resisted Keenan so far, but Donia is worried that it is all about to change. Now that Keenan knows that Aislinn has the sight, he is free to be himself around her, and Donia believes this will make it harder for her to resist.

In Chapter 22, Donia was right. Now that Keenan is free to be himself around Aislinn, it is much harder for her to resist him. Keenan assures Aislinn that he and his fey are honorable, and don't take anyone who isn't willing. Despite the fact that her mortal life is over, or the risk to her life by dealing with faeries, Aislinn is far more concerned by her virginity. She is still a virgin, and this is more important to her than any other point in the conversation.

In Chapter 23, Donia feels pity at Aislinn, but she has a job to do. Donia tells Aislinn that she must command Keenan's attention and demand to negotiate with him. Donia advises Aislinn to make sure that Keenan knows that she is not one of the normal Summer Girls, who he can control.



Chapters 24 through 27

Chapters 24 through 27 Summary

In Chapter 24, Aislinn follows Donia's advice and calls Keenan, demanding an audience. She goes to the faery club that Keenan owns. When she arrives a tusked guard faery wearing a glamour tells her that the club is members only. She responds by telling him that she is there for the Summer King, and that Keenan will want to talk to her. The bouncer is surprised by this, but not nearly as surprised as he is when she comments on his tusks, showing that she can see through his glamour.

Inside the club, Keenan is waiting for her. He is happy that his queen is coming to him, but as soon as she arrives, Keenan can see that he was wrong. Aislinn has come to confront him. She tells Keenan that she will not be a Summer Girl, and that she does not want to suffer like Donia either. He tells her that he believes that she is his queen, and that she will not have to suffer either fate. Keenan tells Aislinn that if she does not free him, that the Summer Fey will die. The Earth will freeze and the humans will starve. He can not tell her more, due to the rules of the game. When they leave to go talk, Beira shows up. Keenan's mother kisses him on the cheek, which bruises and freezes at her touch. Aislinn kisses Keenan on the cheek and tells Beira that she can't stand a bully. When Beira leaves, the guards and Keenan's advisers arrive. The cheek has heal where Aislinn kissed him, proving that she truly is the Summer Queen. When Keenan and the faeries kneel to her, she runs.

In Chapter 25, Aislinn runs from Keenan all the way to Seth's train. She bursts inside to see a group of Seth's friends having a party. They don't seem to notice her. Seth takes her to the bathroom to clean up, and gets rid of everyone. When Aislinn comes out, she realizes that she is invisible like the faeries now. She sits by Seth and touches his arm. He tells her that he can see her thanks to Donia's salve, but that she looks all shadowy like the faeries outside. Aislinn tells Seth about the whole Summer Queen story. Seth insists that she stay the night, but not to have sex. They lay in bed and kiss and talk. She tells Seth that she wants to stay normal, and to stay with him, but she knows that she is the Summer Queen. Seth points out that the other faeries pretend to have normal human lives, so why can't she.

In Chapter 26, Beira comes to Donia's home in a fury. She tells Donia that she can not kill Aislinn herself, as that was one of the rules when Keenan was bound. She orders Donia to kill her instead, and tells her that if she does this, she will be free of the Winter Queen's chill. Donia tells her that she will do what needs be done, and Beira leaves. Donia goes to Keenan and tells him what his mother is doing. Donia warns Keenan that she only bought them a couple of days, and that if Keenan is unable to convince Aislinn by tomorrow, that they will all lose.

In Chapter 27, Aislinn wakes up comfortable in Seth's arms. However, she knows that two very uncomfortable conversations await her. She has to tell Grams everything, and



she has to reason with Keenan. When she leaves Seth's place, the faeries bow to her and follow her as a guard. When she arrives home, she finds Keenan waiting for her in the hallway. He refuses to leave until she talks to him, but she just wants him gone before Grams sees him. Before she can convince him to walk with her, Grams comes out and immediately recognizes Keenan. Keenan recognizes her too. Grams becomes furious at his presence, and blames him for her daughter's death. Aislinn's mother was one of Keenan's Summer Girls, a chosen human who did not have the courage to take the test. She ran from Keenan and lay with mortal men, becoming pregnant. When Keenan pursued her, she took her own life. Keenan tells Grams that if he had known that Moira would turn out to be Aislinn's mother, that he would never have chosen Moira. Aislinn demands that Keenan leaves.

Chapters 24 through 27 Analysis

In Chapter 24, when Keenan tells Aislinn that there is no way back to being mortal, she begins to accept it. Aislinn begins to worry about understanding the faery world instead of avoiding it. Aislinn has seen the faeries her whole life, doing terrible things. Keenan assures her that when she is the queen, she can help him to rule them better. Outside, when Beira bullies her son as she usually does, Aislinn feels compelled to help him. When she give her hand to Keenan willingly, he becomes stronger. When she kisses the bruise from his mother's kiss, it heals. Keenan now knows that she is truly the one. After Aislinn runs from him, he is confused and hurt. He tells his advisers that she knew she was the queen, and yet she left him. His adviser tells him to give her a little time for it to sink in.

In Chapter 25, Aislinn does not want to be the Summer Queen, but she knows that she is. She loves Seth, and even offers to give him her virginity. Seth refuses her, as he wants her to be with him because she loves him, not because of this faery thing. Seth insists that she stay with him, since no sex still leaves plenty of options. Seth promises to help Aislinn have as normal a life as possible as a faery. He reminds her that many of the faeries seem to have normal lives, and pretend to be humans all the time. He promises to help her find a way.

In Chapter 26, Beira, who now knows for certain that Aislinn is the one who will free her son, is scared. She no longer cares about the rules, but she knows that if she interferes directly, that Aislinn will become the Summer Queen by default, and Keenan will be free. Donia also forsakes the rules, but she does so to help Keenan, not hurt him. Donia knows that Aislinn must be convinced to accept Keenan's test.

In Chapter 27, Aislinn wakes up with a new plan. She will tell Grams about the faeries, which she does not want, but she knows she must. Then, she will find Keenan and reason with him. She will agree to take the test so long as it means she can maintain as much of her mortal life as possible. When she learns that her mother was one of Keenan's chosen also, she becomes angry. Grams blames Keenan for her daughter's death, and demands that he leave Aislinn alone. When he does leave, Grams tries to

give Aislinn money to escape with. She wants Aislinn to run and she believes that with the money to live on, she might make it.



Chapters 28 through Epilogue

Chapters 28 through Epilogue Summary

In Chapter 28, Keenan considers what Grams and Aislinn both said to him as he leaves her house. He tells his adviser that Moira was Aislinn's mother, and that this is making things hard. Keenan tells Niall that he must do what ever it takes to have her. Niall cautions Keenan against forcing or tricking Aislinn to choose him. He says that it is better that they all perish than they resort to that. Niall finds some of the Dark Court that have pinned a water sprite, and plan to rape her. He has Keenan's guards relocate the debacle so that Keenan can watch, but not to interfere. Keenan and Niall argue about it, but eventually Keenan decides that Niall is right, and that he can not resort to that, that he can not bring the Summer Court down to that level. He orders his guards to stop it from happening. His guards dispatch the dark fey easily, and the water sprite hugs the guard who gave her his coat, and cries on his shoulder. Niall reminds Keenan that she is not crying about the physical pain, but for what would have happened if they had not stepped in.

In Chapter 29, Aislinn takes Keenan to meet Seth. Keenan feels odd about meeting his new queen's mortal lover, but he realizes that it is necessary if he is to honor his agreement to her. On the way, Keenan explains a few other things to Aislinn. He explains that her duty as the Summer Queen would be to help him dream the Spring, and awaken the hibernating creatures. She would have to help tame those of the Summer Court who still act violently toward humans. The celebrating and partying would be just as much of a responsibility as the rest, as they court celebrates when the king and queen celebrate. When they arrive at Seth's, Seth invites them in. Keenan now knows that Aislinn has told him pretty much everything, and that he has the sight, probably from Donia. Aislinn slips easily into Seth's waiting arms, and spends almost all of the visit there. Keenan and Seth get to know each other. While it is plain that they share a common desire for Aislinn, Seth shows a willingness to be civil, which raises Keenan's respect for the mortal. When Donia calls, Keenan and Aislinn leave. Aislinn remembers that her Grams is alone, so they race to her house. They find Grams lying on the floor, injured but not dead. Keenan orders his guards to take her to the hospital, and tells them that once Aislinn and Keenan have their full power, they will meet them there.

In Chapter 30, Keenan and Aislinn meet with Donia to do the ceremony. Donia asks the question that she must ask. She tells Aislinn that if she fails the test, and the Winter Queen's chill fills her, that she will take Donia's place and will try to convince the future girls in her position not to trust Keenan, just as Donia has had to. She tells her that not until another chooses to take the staff will she be free, and asks if she still wants to do this. Aislinn, knowing that she is the true Summer Queen, says that she will not fail. Keenan offers Aislinn three chances to turn away, but when she denies him three times, she must take the staff. Aislinn takes the staff and the chill does not fill her. Instead, she feels the warmth and power that she had only felt from Keenan before that. The



Summer Court rejoices, and Keenan and Aislinn rejoice. However, the revelry is short lived. One of Keenan's guards staggers up to him and tells him that Beira has Seth. The guards fought as hard as they could, but none of them could stand to the Winter Queen. Keenan and Aislinn run to find them. Donia, who could not stand the pain of seeing Aislinn and Keenan together, flees for her house. Beira finds her before she gets far. Beira has tortured, but not yet killed Seth. Donia tries to save Seth, but now that she is no longer protected by the chill, she is not strong enough to resist Beira. Beira almost kills Donia before Keenan and Aislinn arrive. After a brief but intense battle, where Beira seems to have the upper hand, Aislinn grabs Beira's wrists and pins her arms. Keenan grabs his mother's face, and breaths the warm sunlight onto her face until she dies. Donia becomes the new Winter Queen, and is healed. Healers from both the Summer and Winter courts, both fey and mortal, arrive to heal Seth.

In the Prologue, on the first day of winter, Donia heads to the river, spreading ice into the ground where she walks. She has chosen Evan, one of Keenan's guards as the head of her guard. Evan has chosen the most trustworthy of her court to be his underlings. Most of the Winter Court grumbled at this, but she now had the power to do as she sees fit. Aislinn awaits her on the bridge. They talk briefly, and Aislinn surprises Donia by telling her that Keenan still loves her. Donia, who has enough to worry about already, leaves that conversation for another day.

Keenan and Aislinn arrive at Seth's train, and Seth and Aislinn quickly leave Keenan alone in the train with a bottle of Summer wine and Winter wine. After Seth and Aislinn leave, Donia quietly slips into the train with the spare key Seth loaned her. It is the solstice, so they are safe to meet. Donia and Keenan drink their wine and make love. Keenan is overjoyed to finally have Donia. Aislinn and Seth set out to see Grams. It is time for her to meet Seth. As they walk through the snow, guarded by Donia's fey guards, Aislinn muses over the situation. It is not perfect, not what she wanted, but it will be.

Chapters 28 through Epilogue Analysis

In Chapter 28, Keenan fears that now Aislinn will not choose him. One of his advisers has told him that he must stop at nothing with Aislinn, as they know now that she is the Summer Queen. She must not be allowed to choose not to take the test. Niall is appalled by this, and reminds Keenan that the Summer Court does not condone this sort of behavior, and that if he stoops to that level then the summer fey would do so as well. Keenan must not betray the integrity of his father's court by lowering them to such violent, base actions. Keenan is hurt by what he sees in the dark fey molesting the water sprite, and eventually stops it. His guards, who were reluctant to allow it to happen, are relieved when Keenan orders them to stop the dark fey.

In Chapter 29, Keenan does not much like the fact that Aislinn plans to remain in the mortal world, with a mortal lover. However, when he meets Seth, and sees the obvious love between the two, he begins to feel more at ease with it. After their conversation, it is plain to Keenan that they both love each other very much, and will be good to each



other. Keenan's respect for Seth grows more as they get to know each other. While they both want Aislinn's love and undivided attention, they both know that they can not have it. Aislinn can not avoid being a faery now, spending all of her time and love with Seth. On the other hand, if Keenan tries to stop her from going to school, college, and being with Seth, then she will refuse to take the test. She would die rather than give up her mortal life completely. Both Keenan and Seth know that they have to share her. After getting to know Seth, Keenan is willing to let him have her heart for a time. Keenan knows that eventually Seth will age and die, while Aislinn will have an eternity to come to love Keenan.

In Chapter 30, Aislinn is confident that she is the Summer Queen, and has no fear of taking the staff. Neither Keenan, Donia, nor the gathering faeries worry that she will fail. When Keenan and Aislinn find out about Seth, they waste no time in finding Beira. Keenan is upset to find that the hags have conspired to make Donia the new Winter Queen, but Donia and Aislinn both know that this is as it must be. Beira's time was nearing an end anyways, and Donia had survived the Winter Queen's chill, becoming the perfect candidate to be her replacement. Donia tells Keenan that she still does, and always will love him.

In the Prologue, Keenan is becoming concerned about Aislinn's relationship with Seth when they leave him in the train, seemingly trapped there. He does not understand what they mean when Aislinn tells him that it is the solstice, so he is safe. When Donia slips in, he is happy to see her but wary. Donia has been waiting for half a century to be with him, but she knows that she must be careful to maintain the balance of power. Although she loves him, she knows that as the Winter Queen she can not risk tipping the balance back to him by telling him so again. As they begin to make love, Keenan says that she is finally his, and that he has waited so long for this moment. Donia will not confirm his silly words, but does love him and does enjoy their time together. Aislinn feels that if Grams can accept all of the faery stuff, especially Aislinn being a faery queen, then she can also accept Seth. It is time for her to finally meet him. Seth is apprehensive, but Aislinn assures him that Grams is looking forward to it.



Characters

Aislinn

Aislinn is a seventeen-year-old girl that attends a private Catholic school. She has friends and she goes out to parties. Unlike any of her other friends, however, Aislinn can see faeries. She has always seen them, just like her grandmother. Aislinn's grandmother has raised her and always taught her how to avoid the faeries. Aislinn is too much of a free spirit to be chained down by her grandmother's caution. She can see her grandmother's unhappiness, and wants no part of it. All Aislinn wants is to be a normal girl, to not even know that faeries exist, to go to school and then college, and to be with Seth.

Once Aislinn realizes that she is the Summer Queen, she is faced with a terrible decision. She can either be one of the Summer Girls, which she does not want, she can be the Summer Queen, and the wife of Keenan, which she does not want, or she can try to run and very likely die. Aislinn also knows that she is the queen, and if she refuses to take the test, that the world will die under Winter's eternal rule. Aislinn manages to find a way to be everything that she needs to be. She makes a deal with Keenan. Aislinn will be the Summer Queen and will carry out her responsibilities as such, but she will not love or be with Keenan. She will be with Seth and will continue to go to school, followed by college.

Keenan

Keenan is the Summer King. He is one of the strongest Faeries that Aislinn has ever seen. His power was bound by his mother and the Dark King, making him powerless when compared to another faery monarch. Keenan's curse is that he must always choose a human girl, who will then become a faery. If she chooses the test of the Winter Queen's staff, then she will either be his true queen, or the Winter Queen's chill will fill her, driving out all warmth. She will then try to convince any girl in the future not to trust Keenan, and can only be freed when another girl does choose to take the test. If Keenan's chosen does not choose to take the test, she will become a summer faery, one of the Summer Girls, and be a member of his harem.

Keenan longs for the day he will find his Summer Queen, and with each girl he hopes that she is the one. Keenan has a volatile temper, quick to flare up, but then quick to die back down. He is arrogant at most times, sad and lonely at others. Keenan is single minded in his quest to find his true queen and convince her to take up the staff.

Moira

Moira was Aislinn's mother. She was also one of Keenan's chosen girls. Rather than become one of the summer girls or take the test, she fled Keenan. She lay with many



mortal men, and eventually became pregnant with Aislinn. She died as a result of her running.

Elena

Elena, or Grams, is Aislinn's grandmother. She has the faery sight. She has raised and taught Aislinn to avoid the faeries at all costs, never letting them know that she can see them.

Sasha

Sasha is Donia's wolf and faithful companion.

Tavish

Tavish is a court faery and adviser to the king. He has been the Summer King's adviser since Keenan's father held the position and he is a close friend to Keenan. Tavish and Niall are the closest thing that Keenan has to real family. Tavish often advises Keenan to be more aggressive.

Niall

Niall is a court faery and adviser to Keenan. Niall served Keenan's father before him and is like family to Keenan. Niall often advises Keenan to be more cautious.

Donia

Donia is the Winter Girl. She was once Keenan's chosen, but failed the test of the Winter Queen's staff. She and Keenan still love each other, but they both know that they cannot be together.

Beira

Beira is the Winter Queen as well as Keenan's mother. She is a cruel, evil faery whose only concern is her own continued reign.

Seth

Seth is Aislinn's best friend and eventually her lover. He is the one who always accepts her, no matter what happens.



Objects/Places

Summer King

The Summer King is the king of the faeries of the Summer Court. Keenan, the current Summer King, is bound by his mother, the Winter Queen. Only when he finds his true Summer Queen will he be free.

Summer Queen

The Summer Queen is the chosen of the Summer King who will pass the test of the Winter Queen's staff. She will free Keenan's true powers, allowing him to be the king that his faeries need him to be.

Summer Girls

Many of the chosen of the Summer King do not choose to take the test of the staff, and end up being summer faeries that remain in his harem.

Winter Queen

The Winter Queen is the queen of the faeries of the Winter Court.

Winter Girl

The Winter Girl is the chosen of the Summer King who fail the test of the staff. She is filled with the chill of the Winter Queen, never again to feel warmth until another takes her place.

Fey

Fey are the faeries and mythical creatures of the faery world who are hidden to most humans.

Court Faeries

Court Faeries are faeries belonging to one of the four specific courts, either Summer, Winter, Dark, or High. They are much stronger than regular faeries, many of whom can hold a glamour around steel.



Huntsdale

Huntsdale is the city in which Aislinn and her grandmother live. They came here because there is more steel than nature, a trait that generally means less faeries.

Rath and Ruin

Rath and Ruins is a faery club owned by Keenan.

Bishop O.C.

Bishop O.C. is the Catholic private school that Aislinn attends.



Themes

Love and Duty

Keenan needs to find his Summer Queen so that he can end the reign of his evil mother, Beira the Winter Queen. He is Duty-bound to find his queen, but he falls in Love with each of the girls he chooses. Indeed it is his Love that marks them. Once he chooses a girl, she slowly begins to transform into a faery. If she really Loves him enough to risk it, the girl will choose to take the Winter Queen's staff in hand, to see if she is the true queen. When each of the girls fails, as they all have before, Keenan leaves them to find another. Keenan is still in Love with the current Winter Girl, Donia, and she is still in Love with him. The fierce heat of his touch burns her now that she is filled with the chill, and her touch freezes him. They both Love each other, but can not be with each other. Keenan's Duty to his subjects is to find his true queen. Donia's Duty is to follow the rules of their game. She must try her best to convince Keenan's chosen girls not to trust him, to keep them away from the staff. While the two sad lovers both wish that Donia was the true queen, nothing that either of them can do will change that she is not.

When Aislinn discovers that she is the true Summer Queen, she begins to feel a Duty to the faeries as well as humanity, to take her responsibilities as the queen. However, Aislinn does not Love Keenan. Indeed, she does not really even like him. Aislinn is in Love with her friend Seth. Seth Loves Aislinn and has been waiting for her to notice him for seven long months, completely abstaining from other women the whole time. Seth feels a Duty to protect Aislinn, no matter the cost. He goes so far as to make a salve that will give him faery sight and to risk the wrath of the court faeries.

Freedom and Security

Aislinn's Grandmother has lived fairly safely for a long time. She has enjoyed the Security of her self-control, but has never known Freedom. She has lived at home behind as much steel as she can find, afraid to even speak aloud of the faeries lest they hear her. She has lost her daughter to the faery sight, and imposes strict rules on Aislinn to prevent the same from happening to her. Grams will quickly pull Aislinn out of school at the first sign that she has attracted the attention of the faeries. They would move and Aislinn would be home schooled. Aislinn has known this Security her whole life, but has never enjoyed it. Aislinn longs for Freedom. She longs for a normal life. She longs to be able to ignore the faeries and not even know that they exist. Ultimately, Aislinn forsakes the security of her grandmother's ways, and takes her freedom in her own hands. She becomes the chosen of Keenan, the Summer King, and eventually becomes his Summer Queen. As the queen of the Summer faeries, she has more Freedom in some ways, but also less Freedom and certainly more danger in other ways. However, the safe, mortal life of Security is gone from her forever.



Choice and Fate

If Keenan could have his Choice, he would choose to be with Donia, and never mind his mother's wicked game. If Aislinn could have her Choice, she would ignore the faeries and continue her mortal life as if none of this had happened. She would Choose to live with and love Seth. If Seth had his Choice, Aislinn would be his, and his alone. If Donia had her Choice, she would be the Summer Queen. However, Fate has different plans for these four. Keenan's Fate is to be the true Summer King that will end his mother's evil reign, else the world will die. To do this, he has to forsake his love for Donia, and his right to Choose her, to find his true queen. Aislinn's Fate is sealed. She will either become one of the Summer Girls, the next Winter Girl, or she will be the true queen of Summer. Either way, her mortal life is over no matter what her Choice. Seth must share his love with an immortal faery king, knowing eventually he will grow old and die while Aislinn and Keenan do not. His Fate is to be Aislinn's love only temporarily. Donia's Fate is to try her best to convince Aislinn to refuse Keenan, dooming herself to more years as the Winter Girl, or to die at Beira's hands when she fails to do so. In the end, each of these four find some compromise between Fate and their Choices. Keenan and Donia, the new Winter Queen, can be with each other only on the solstice, and yet this is more than what they had thought that Fate would allow them. Seth and Aislinn can be together so long as Seth lives and when she is not needed by the court. Aislinn would still be mortal if she could, but she has avoided the Fate of giving up her life entirely.



Style

Point of View

The point of view of this novel is subjective or limited, third-person perspective from multiple angles. The narrator only knows what is happening around the character that is the current focus of the viewpoint, and that character's thoughts and feelings.

Throughout most of the story, the viewpoint shifts between the two main characters, Aislinn and Keenan. In a few other places, Donia is given the focus of the Narrator. While the characteristics and likely thoughts of a few other characters are explained, they are always explained as either Aislinn, Keenan, or Donia sees them.

Setting

This novel takes place in modern times in the city of Huntsdale. Aislinn's grandmother has chosen this city because it contains much more steel than most. There are few parks, and little in the way of natural life here. She has chosen this as the place to raise Aislinn because the faeries are not able to live around so much steel, and so there are fewer faeries for them to contend with. Aislinn attends Bishop O.C., a Catholic school full of steel and religious artifacts. This is supposed to keep her isolated from faeries. This works until the Summer King chooses her. There is more to the city of Huntsdale than meets the normal eye. While most humans go about their daily lives, Aislinn is able to see the faery world around them. She can see the faeries that grope and molest the other humans, without their even knowing it.

Language and Meaning

The language of the exposition of this novel is full of descriptive adjectives and active verbs. The authors make use of plenty of metaphorical descriptions, such as when the lupine's crystalline fur clatters like tiny glass chimes as he moves. In Aislinn's mind, the faeries all have names that point to some prominent feature that stands out to her. Donia is Deadgirl, due to the blue color of her lips and the white of her hair. One faery is Pointy Face, for the obvious reason. The skeletal faeries that live near the river are Bone Girls to Aislinn. Much of this novel is in dialogue between Aislinn and one of her friends or describes her thoughts, the thoughts of a teenage girl. Therefore, the language throughout most of this novel is informal and relaxed. However, there are many areas of dialogue between the faery royalty. The language in these sections are a bit more formal and in the case of the Winter Queen, often full of false niceties and sarcasm.



Structure

This novel is made up of thirty chapters, a prologue, and an epilogue, spanning three hundred and twenty-eight pages. The chapters are numbered, but not named. From chapter one to chapter thirty, this story covers a few weeks. From prologue to epilogue, however, this story spans over half a century. The foreshadowing of the prologue, the emotionally charged main body, and the epilogue that ties up the loose ends nicely all help to give this novel a smooth pace. Once one gets into the flow of the story, it is easy to keep reading.

The main plot of this story is Keenan's quest to find his queen. Keenan's powers have been bound since his infancy, keeping him from truly ruling his court as he needs to, and allowing his mother the evil Winter Queen, to continue her cruel reign. Keenan's mother has made this a game, and each side has rules that must be followed. Keenan has chosen Aislinn, who turns out to be his true queen. However, Aislinn wants nothing to do with being the Summer Queen or faeries in general. She has the faery sight, and has known about them her whole life. All Aislinn ever wanted was to be normal. She is able to see through the glamours to what Keenan really is. Aislinn ultimately chooses to become the Summer Queen, but on her own terms. She is still able to free Keenan's powers and help destroy Beira, the Winter Queen.



Quotes

"Keep your head down and your mouth closed" (Chapter 1, p. 7).

"It's the order of things, Don. The Winter Girl is my responsibility. It's always been so" (Chapter 5, p. 49).

"Remove your hands" (Chapter 7, p. 68).

"You know you can still tell me to go away, pretend none of this happened. I'd understand" (Chapter 8, p. 79).

"What if I don't have time? The rules are changing, and I don't know why. I need to do something now" (Chapter 8, p. 85).

"Maybe you should slow down, so I can catch you" (Chapter 10, p. 106).

"She might seem nice, but she's still one of them. You can't trust them" (Chapter 13, p. 128).

"I want to hold you every day. Nothing will ever change that" (Chapter 20, p. 203).

"A game? Is that what this is to you too?" (Chapter 23, p. 226).

"I want to be here, with you, go to college. I don't know what I want, but it's not a faery. Definitely not a faery queen. I am, though; I know it. I just don't know what to do about it" (Chapter 25, p. 261).



Topics for Discussion

What makes Aislinn's grandmother choose Huntsdale? What makes Keenan and Donia choose the same city?

Discuss Donia's feelings for Keenan. What makes her feel for him the way she does?

With such a terrible risk attached to it, why would any of Keenan's chosen girls choose to take the staff? What made his Summer Girls refuse?

How does Keenan feel about Aislinn's involvement with the mortal Seth? What does he choose to do about it and why?

How does Aislinn feel about her grandmother and her way of life? Does Aislinn follow her grandmother's example? If she had chosen differently, how might things have been different?

Each of the main characters are pulled by fate in a different direction than they would freely choose. What would Aislinn choose? What would Keenan choose? Where does fate try to lead them, and what do they end up doing?

Discuss the different Faery Courts. What courts are there? What makes them different?