

World After Study Guide

World After by Susan Ee

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Plot Summary

World After is the second novel in the Angelfall Series by Susan Ee. In this novel, Penryn miraculously has come back to life after the attack on the angel aerie, frightening the members of the Resistance with whom she is riding, including her mother. Separated from Raffe, Penryn finds herself not only caring for her mentally ill mother, but also wondering how to deal with the alterations the angels have made to her sister. Penryn cannot even figure out how much of her sister is still human. World After is an exciting sequel that will leave the reader wondering just how far an angel will go to create the Apocalypse.

Penryn wakes in the back of a truck after the attack on the angel aerie, frightening all those around her who had thought she was dead. Penryn, her mother, and sister go to the Resistance headquarters and are given a space to rest. Paige refuses to eat no matter how hard Penryn and her mother try. At the same time, Penryn finds herself wanting to help her sister, but also trying to stay away from her because of the odd changes the angels made to her during her captivity at the aerie.

Penryn rides along on a surveillance trip into San Francisco, only to have her team turn around and go to the aerie where they have picked up a great deal of activity. When they arrive, they see warrior angels digging up the bodies of their dead comrades and bringing them back to life. Also while they are there, Penryn spots the woman she saved from the scorpion creatures during the attack. The woman, Clara, has skin that looks old and dried up, but otherwise she seems healthy.

Penryn returns to the headquarters and is attacked by two men who want her sword. After Paige saves her with her newly sharpened teeth, Penryn begins having dreams in which she sees Raffe fighting with his sword. Through these dreams, Penryn begins to learn how to use the sword, leading her to believe the sword is communicating with her in some way.

A commotion outside catches Penryn's attention. Penryn is shocked to discover that her sister has attacked one of the men who had tried to take Penryn's sword the day before. Penryn tries to argue with the men holding her sister, but before they can come to any kind of agreement, a group of the scorpion things arrives. Several people are attacked and Paige gets away.

Penryn tries to convince the families of the scorpion victims that the victims are not dead, but no one will listen to her. The leader of the Resistance then locks Penryn and her mother in a police car for the night. Clara comes out and drives them away in an effort to rescue them. They go to the pier at Angel Island. Penryn notices a lot of angel activity over Alcatraz. While she is trying to figure out what is happening, she realizes they are not alone on the pier. Beliel, the demon who stole Raffe's wings, is trapping humans for an unknown reason.



Penryn tries to help the humans, but she is caught by the scorpions. Penryn, her mother, and Clara are taken to Alcatraz where Penryn gets into the middle of a fight and is removed from the cells where all the humans had been taken. Penryn is taken to a strange place where a doctor is making the scorpions from humans. Penryn and her male escorts manage to get away from the human guards and go to talk with the doctor. Penryn discovers the doctor has a video tape of her sister. The tape shows that Paige had been locked in a cell with Beliel for several days, creating an odd friendship between them. The doctor then tells Penryn that the surgical changes made to Paige are his doing and that she might not be what Penryn thinks.

Penryn is then taken to Half Moon Bay where the angels are building a new aerie. Penryn is dressed up to be Uriel's escort for the night. At the party, Penryn overhears Uriel announcing his manipulation of the signs of the Apocalypse to start a war between the angels and the humans. Raffe is at the party and as the excited angels begin attacking the humans attending the party, he attacks Beliel. When Penryn gets into trouble, however, Raffe must come to her rescue.

Raffe and Penryn fly over the ocean and find themselves in trouble until Penryn is able to guide Raffe through the water and back to safety. Penryn and Raffe share their information and decide to return to Half Moon Bay to look for both Beliel and Paige. They find both, but are surprised when Paige attacks Beliel. Raffe manages to get his wings back from the dying demon, but then he and Penryn are attacked by the angels. Penryn kills Burnt with Raffe's sword and then the scorpions come to their rescue. Penryn, Raffe, and Paige are able to escape.



Chapters 1-15

Summary

Chapter 1. Penryn frightens everyone when she sits up. They had all thought she was dead, but she simply had been paralyzed by the scorpion sting. One of the twins, whom Penryn has taken to calling Dum and Dee, orders the men to leave Penryn alone.

Chapter 2. They arrive at the Resistance headquarters. Dum and Dee take the new arrivals inside and assign them each a place to rest. Penryn, her mother, and Paige get a whole classroom to themselves. Paige complains of being hungry, the only word she has really said since they found her.

Chapter 3. Penryn settles down to sleep and has a strange dream about her sister, her sister as she once was rather than the surgically altered girl she is now.

Chapter 4. One of the twins comes to get Penryn. He asks her about her sword and she jokingly claims she has named it Pooky Bear. The twin takes Penryn to the main office where the leader, Obi, has his office. They have working computers.

Chapter 5. The Resistance has managed to rig up a surveillance system, using existing traffic cameras and their own cameras to monitor important areas of the city. The monitors are now focusing on cameras at the San Francisco Airport. Penryn is surprised to see Beliel, the demon who stole Raffe's wings, being chased, clearly injured, by Raffe. When Obi sends a team to catch these two, Penryn quickly gets herself invited.

Chapter 6. Obi and the others ask Penryn a lot of questions on the car ride to the airport, but she is reluctant to talk to them about Raffe. If they were to find out that Raffe is an angel who was tricked into receiving demon wings, she is sure they will not treat him kindly. When Obi gets word that there is a lot of angel activity at the destroyed aerie, they decide to turn around.

Chapter 7. When they arrive at the aerie, Penryn and her companions watch the angel activity for a few minutes before they realize that the warrior angels are bringing the dead angels back to life.

Chapter 8. Penryn begins to wonder if maybe the attack was not as successful as they had thought it was, that maybe the angels somehow had known they were coming or they had been somewhere more important. As she and her companions continue to watch, the warrior angels attack the scorpion things that are growing in the basement.

Chapter 9. All the angels are gone. As Penryn and her companions try to make sense of what they have seen, they notice a woman coming out of the rubble. The woman looks old, with dry, wrinkled skin. However, as she moves closer they realize the woman is actually young. Penryn recognizes her as the woman she had saved from the scorpions



seconds before she had been stung. The woman's name is Clara and she seems healthy except for the appearance of her skin.

Chapter 10. The Resistance members search the rubble for dead angels, but find nothing. They return to the Resistance camp and Penryn finds Paige in their room alone. Paige complains of hunger again. They have tried everything but Paige cannot keep anything down. Penryn suggests raw meat and gets a reaction, so she goes to the grocery store to get some. However, the man tells her that her family has already gotten their rations for the day.

Chapter 11. Penryn is followed back to the school by two men. As Penryn approaches the building, they chase her. There is a struggle and then suddenly Paige appears and attacks the men. Penryn manages to calm Paige down as her mother arrives.

Chapter 12. That night Penryn dreams of Raffe in battle. The dream is very vivid, showing Raffe trying to protect the human women his warriors loved.

Chapter 13. The dream oddly slows down while Raffe is fighting, as though it is a training video attempting to teach Penryn to use a sword.

Chapter 14. Penryn goes to hunt for fresh meat for Paige, but first stops to get a teddy bear with which she can hide her sword. As Penryn attempts to use the sword to kill a squirrel, the world fades and Raffe is holding the sword.

Chapter 15. Scenes featuring Raffe in battle flash through Penryn's mind, each accompanied by a word. First Victory, then Honor. Penryn stops to get hamburgers on the way back to the room, but finds the room empty. Penryn speaks to her sword and asks it to help her practice fighting.

Analysis

This novel is the second in a series. It begins moments after the last one ends. Everyone believes Penryn, the young human girl who helped take down the invading angels' aerie, is dead. However, Penryn had been stung by a scorpion creature and it simply had left her paralyzed. It is an event that shocks those around her, but will have significance later in the novel. In fact, it seems to have some significance when the Resistance rescues a badly dehydrated woman from the ruins of the aerie.

Penryn spends the previous novel traveling with an angel without wings in an attempt not only to find her sister, but to help the angel, Raffe, get his wings back. Penryn finds her sister, but Paige has been changed, operated on in such a way that she looks grotesque. However, Paige can now walk even though she had been paralyzed before she was taken by the angels. Penryn does not know how to deal with Paige at this point, unsure if her sister is even human anymore.

Penryn and Raffe have been separated. Penryn is reluctant to tell anyone about Raffe because she is afraid they might want to experiment on him to find a way to beat the



angels. For this reason, when Raffe is spotted on surveillance video and mistaken for a demon, Penryn does nothing to change this assumption.

Discussion Question 1

Whose sword does Penryn have? How does the sword communicate with her? What does it tell her?

Discussion Question 2

What has happened to Paige? Why is Penryn uncomfortable around her sister?

Discussion Question 3

Who is Clara? What has happened to her? What impact might this have on her future?

Vocabulary

morph, suspicions, disappointed, reconstituted, pretending, attacked, angels, demons, mourning, deformed, sorrow, memories, excruciating, protected, direction, shackles, immense, hellish, precision, protecting, concept, response, formation, warrior, shadowed, painful, combination, overgrown, divining



Chapters 16-30

Summary

Chapter 16. In the vision the sword shows her, Penryn sees Raffe on many battlefields, always alone. Then Penryn sees the day she and Raffe met, but this time from Raffe's point of view.

Chapter 17. Penryn then tries to get the sword to show her a happy memory, but it will not. Penryn goes out into the hallway where she runs into the twins. Someone tells them that there has been a death outside. Penryn goes with the twins out of curiosity and is shocked when she realizes that her sister has killed one of the men who had attacked Penryn the day before.

Chapter 18. Paige is tied by multiple ropes that are held by several men. Penryn's mother is trying to convince the men to let Paige go, but it is clear that Paige has killed. Penryn confronts the men and is quickly attacked, but she is a strong fighter and she fights back.

Chapter 19. The area is suddenly swarmed by the scorpion creatures. The scorpions begin attacking people. Paige gets away in the chaos. Penryn and her mother appear to be the only survivors when the scorpions leave. Penryn's mother begins to build an offering of sorts with one of the scorpion victims.

Chapter 20. Others come outside and begin to gather up the victims. Penryn tries to convince them that the victims are not dead, simply paralyzed, but they will not believe her.

Chapter 21. Obi has Penryn locked in the back of a police car with her mother.

Chapter 22. Penryn's mentally unbalanced mother has a fit, causing Penryn great stress, especially when her mother says some dark things and slaps her.

Chapter 23. Penryn has a dream about a night she spent with Raffe in which he saved her from hellions while she was sleeping. Raffe then gets onto the couch with Penryn and holds her in her sleep.

Chapter 24. Penryn wakes as Clara slips into the car and tells Penryn that she is there to rescue her. Clara says that the twins dropped the keys to the car in front of her. As they drive away, Penryn's mother shows Penryn she has a tracker that shows where Paige is. It is a prototype of a pet tracker Penryn's father had been working on that had gone missing, causing him to lose his job. Penryn is angry at first, but then relieved when she realizes now they know where Paige is.



Chapter 25. They stop to trade cars. Clara pulls Penryn aside and tells her not to get her hopes up when her mother is lucid. Clara then tells Penryn that she considers her a hero and will remain with her as long as Penryn will allow it.

Chapter 26. Clara, Penryn, and Penryn's mother go to Angel Island because Paige is on Alcatraz and they stop there to survey the situation. Penryn can see light and angel activity around Alcatraz.

Chapter 27. As Penryn watches the island, she notices there are angels attempting to teach the scorpion things to fly. Penryn hears a noise behind her and realizes there are people running from something across the pier. Penryn then sees Beliel.

Chapter 28. As the people run out into the open, scorpions fly overhead and drop huge nets on them. They are then forced into a shipping container.

Chapter 29. Beliel locks the people in the shipping container. Suddenly Raffe arrives and attacks Beliel.

Chapter 30. Raffe and Beliel fight. Beliel gets away and Raffe goes after him.

Analysis

The sword Raffe had given to Penryn begins showing her visions. Penryn feels as though the sword is trying to tell her something, but is not sure what. However, she is able to learn a few things about sword fighting with the visions. The visions also give her some insight into Raffe, the angel with whom she spent so much time and for whom she has feelings.

Penryn's sister is modified, changed somehow by the angels. Penryn is not sure what her sister has become, but she worries she is something menacing, especially after Paige attacks two men who had been trying to steal Penryn's sword. Therefore, it is little surprise to the reader when Paige is caught having killed one of these men. What is odd, however, is that it appears that Paige has somehow called the scorpion things to her, causing a massacre of the people hanging around to watch the show. Paige gets away and Penryn tries to tell everyone that their loved ones are not dead, but no one believes her despite what they had seen when she woke from her attack.

Despite Penryn's own fears of her sister, she goes searching for her. This shows the reader how responsible Penryn feels for Paige and for what has happened to her. However, instead of finding Paige, Penryn finds Beliel and Raffe. It is a confusing situation; it appears that Beliel is collecting humans for some reason. The reader can only wonder what the angels are up to.

Discussion Question 1

Who shows Penryn visions? What do these visions show Penryn? Why?



Discussion Question 2

Why is Penryn trapped in a car with her mother? Who saves her? Why?

Discussion Question 3

Who is Beliel? Why is Raffe interested in Beliel? How did Raffe end up with demon wings?

Vocabulary

outnumbered, fading, visions, tangled, fearless, random, connection, freedom, feathery, survive, infraction, gesture, motions, training, retractable, tracker, painful, seriously obsessed, embarrassing, silhouette, darkness, passion, prisoner, veteran, container, cringes, rational, balance, terrified



Chapters 31-45

Summary

Chapter 31. The scorpions go after Beliel and Raffe, leaving the pier unguarded. Penryn runs to the container in an attempt to rescue the people, but she cannot find the key.

Chapter 32. Penryn uses the sword to cut open the container's lock. Penryn yells at the people to run.

Chapter 33. As the people run, the scorpions return and drop nets on them. Penryn sees her mother and Clara under a nearby net. The people are gathered up and taken to a boat. Each person is required to hand over any weapons or electronics. Penryn is reluctant to leave her sword, but when she sees a woman shot over a gun, she decides not to fight it.

Chapter 34. On the boat, a couple tries to escape, but they are stung by the scorpions. Penryn notices that some of the scorpions are wearing clothing and jewelry.

Chapter 35. The people are herded off the boat. Penryn spots Uriel and Beliel talking about locusts. As they head inside, Penryn sees Clara but cannot find her mother.

Chapter 36. The people are taken into the prison and shoved into overcrowded cells. A fight breaks out between two men. Penryn steps in to stop the fight.

Chapter 37. The human guards arrive and spray Penryn and the two fighters with a fire hose. They then take Penryn and the two men out of the cell. The guards take Penryn and her companions to a strange room filled with water-filled sacks of some sort. As they walk through the room toward the back, the sacks show growing scorpions inside, each row with less embryonic scorpions. The two men fight their guards, pushing them inside the water sacks where they are attacked by the scorpions.

Chapter 38. Penryn and her companions go back to the front of the room where they witness other people being forced into the empty water sacks.

Chapter 39. Penryn and her companions move into the doctor's office to decide what to do next. Penryn spots a box that has her sister's name on it. The doctor tells the group that all the angels and human guards would be leaving Alcatraz that night. The doctor says if they can get the boat, they could all run away. Penryn agrees to talk the boat pilot into returning with the boat in exchange for seeing the tape of Paige.

Chapter 40. The doctor puts in the tape and Penryn finds herself watching a surveillance tape of Paige stuck in a cell with Beliel.

Chapter 41. Beliel notices Paige and demands she get him water from a tray near his bed.



Chapter 42. Beliel tells Paige awful things about her chances of rescue and the affections of her sister as she slowly makes her way across the room. Paige gives Beliel the glass of water even though she is very thirsty.

Chapter 43. Paige gives Beliel the sandwiches on the tray. Burnt comes into the room and Beliel chastises him for the treatment he has shown Beliel.

Chapter 44. The doctor tells Penryn that he had been forced to operate on children to create abominations. However, he had taken it upon himself to do something extra, but the aerie had been destroyed before he could see if it worked. When Penryn tells the doctor that Paige is still alive, he suggests that she might be searching for Beliel.

Chapter 45. The doctor takes Penryn to another room and asks a woman named Madeline if she can fit Penryn in. When another human comes with a girl who is about Penryn's height and coloring, Madeline agrees. From their conversation, Penryn realizes these girls are to be made into the twins Uriel so likes to have near him.

Analysis

Penryn, Clara, and her mother are on the pier at Angel Island watching the angels flying over Alcatraz when Beliel suddenly arrives. Penryn watches as Beliel captures humans for an unknown reason. The reader must wonder at this point what the angels could want with humans. Only when Penryn sees the water filled sacks on Alcatraz does it become obvious that Uriel is creating the scorpion creatures, creatures he calls locusts, for some reason. The reader is still not sure if this is being done for a unique weapon in the fight against humans or some other reason. The problem with the weapon idea, however, is that the angels are so strong and nearly immortal that it seems they themselves are already the perfect weapons.

Penryn also finds the doctor who created the creature that her sister has become. This doctor tells Penryn that he was supposed to have been making abominations with the children, but after he had added something else to them, he had been unable to figure out if it worked. The reader who knows the Bible might begin to wonder if Uriel is making the locusts and the abominations in order to make someone think the Apocalypse is coming. The reader must wonder, however, why he would do that.

Discussion Question 1

Why has Penryn gone to Alcatraz? What does she see there? What might this mean?

Discussion Question 2

Who is collecting humans on the Angel Island pier? Who tries to help the humans? Why?



Discussion Question 3

What does the doctor on Alcatraz tell Penryn about Paige? What might this mean? How does it make Penryn feel?

Vocabulary

promise, triggering, reward, politician, matching, archangel, cartoons, destruction, instrument, locust, abomination, desperate, increase, aerie, important, slaughter, Nephilim, machinations, unnatural, inviting, difference, reported, punishment, reputation, describe, mimic, horrific



Chapters 46-60

Summary

Chapter 46. Penryn and the other girls are taken to San Francisco on the ferry. When they reach the dock, Penryn is able to grab her sword and hide it elsewhere. As she touches it, however, the sword gives her a vision. It is of Raffe on a night before he had gotten his demon wings, when he had taken one of Penryn's hairs and wrapped it around the hilt of the sword.

Chapter 47. Penryn tries convincing the ferry captain to return to Alcatraz to help free everyone, but he refuses.

Chapter 48. Penryn is on a bus when she spots the twins sitting in a car. Penryn drops a note she had written for the ferry captain out of the window in hopes the twins and the Resistance can help the people at Alcatraz.

Chapter 49. Penryn arrives at Half Moon Bay and is taken to what was once a luxury hotel. The girls are all taken to a room where they are given makeovers. After a haircut and extensive makeup and hair work, Penryn looks identical to the girl chosen as her twin.

Chapter 50. Penryn and her twin are taken to a suite where they are instructed on how to behave. When Uriel finally comes into the room, he is accompanied by Laylah, the angel-physician who had attached the demon wings to Raffe. Uriel and Laylah are discussing a project on which Laylah is working, but Uriel wants to go faster.

Chapter 51. Uriel dresses for the costume party. Most of the angels will wear masks and wraps on their wings. There will be humans as well, many of them wearing fake wings. It is clear Uriel is attempting to fool the angels into acting inappropriately with the humans. When Uriel is dressed, Penryn and her twin go with him to the party.

Chapter 52. Uriel plays the perfect politician as he makes his way through the party to a banquet table on the stage. Penryn spots Beliel in the crowd. Penryn also spots another man who looks familiar, but she cannot be sure because of the mask he wears. Penryn thinks it is Raffe.

Chapter 53. Uriel almost comes face to face with Raffe because of Raffe's shock at seeing Penryn. Beliel purposely bumps into Uriel to distract him from Raffe. A man, a human, is brought through the crowd to Uriel and forced to show a parcel of items he has in a handkerchief. The man confesses to having bought the items because they are supposedly from an angel.

Chapter 54. Uriel uses this man's greed to show the crowd how dangerous the humans are. Uriel then announces to the crowd that he has seen the signs of Judgment Day as scorpions swell over the crowd.



Chapter 55. As the angels realize what Uriel has just said, they begin to attack the humans in the crowd.

Chapter 56. Raffe comes up to the stage to attack Beliel.

Chapter 57. An angel comes on the stage and spots Penryn. As the angel begins to attack, Raffe comes to Penryn's rescue.

Chapter 58. Raffe fights off the angel and tries to move Penryn through the crowd. However, all the other humans are gone, so the angels turn their attention to Raffe and Penryn. Raffe pulls Penryn into his arms and flies away.

Chapter 59. As they fly away, several angels quickly catch up with them. As Raffe fights one of the angels, Penryn grabs him and pulls him close so he cannot swing his sword. Penryn and the angel fall into the ocean together.

Chapter 60. Penryn fights her way to the surface only to find the angel has made it, too. Penryn cuts the angel and swims away as fast as she can as sharks make their way toward the angel.

Analysis

Penryn needs to find her sister, if only to protect the world from her. To do this, Penryn needs to go to Half Moon Bay where she believes Beliel is going and therefore Paige will go. For this reason, Penryn becomes one of the twins that Uriel likes to have around him when he is out in public. At this point, however, the reader is unsure how Penryn plans to find her sister while she is surrounded by so many angels. To her credit, however, Penryn has done all she can to make sure the people on Alcatraz are rescued.

Raffe shows up at the party and is shocked to see that Penryn is still alive. There is affection in his response, leaving the reader wondering if Raffe has finally found a Daughter of Eve for whom he might be willing to give up heaven. However, he remains stoic and determined to get Beliel to give him his wings back. That is, of course, until Penryn gets into trouble. Raffe chooses to save Penryn, once again allowing his wings to get away.

Discussion Question 1

Who is Uriel? Why does he like to have twins around him?

Discussion Question 2

What is Judgment Day? Why does Uriel want the angels to think that Judgment Day has arrived?



Discussion Question 3

Why do the angels attack the humans after learning that Judgment Day is coming?
What does this say about the future of earth?

Vocabulary

bluffing, similarities, madwoman, drowning, separate, clumsy, judgment, disbelief, unauthorized, convince, tighten, effectively, control, balance, respect, elastic, underestimate, sportsmanlike, weaknesses, nylons, communicating, self-defense, coverings, mortifying, billows, interrupts, pummeling



Chapters 61-75

Summary

Chapter 61. Raffe and two angels fall into the water in front of Penryn. Penryn talks Raffe through swimming and helps him to shore.

Chapter 62. Raffe and Penryn go to a nearby beach house and sit in front of a fire. Raffe has Penryn undress after she tells him how she came back to life.

Chapter 63. Penryn goes upstairs to shower and then dresses in clothes borrowed from the previous owners of the house. They drink hot water and discuss Judgment Day and Raffe's sword.

Chapter 64. Raffe finds some food and they again discuss recent events before deciding they must go find the sword.

Chapter 65. As Penryn and Raffe fly up the coast, they spot a boat with many people on it, giving Penryn hope that the twins rescued the people on Alcatraz. Penryn spots her mother on the boat.

Chapter 66. They land on Pier 39 and Penryn sees Clara. Clara is upset because she and her family had once often come to this pier. A child's voice calls out in the night and Clara realizes her family is there. They are reluctant at first, but quickly accept Clara back into their love.

Chapter 67. Penryn gets the sword from where she had hidden it, upsetting Raffe with the teddy bear and the girly name she had jokingly given the sword, but now learns it must keep while it is hers. Penryn also finds the tracker and realizes that her sister is at Half Moon Bay. They decide to go there in search of both Paige and Beliel.

Chapter 68. They fly to Half Moon Bay and land on the corner of the lawn. Raffe covers his wings and puts on a mask, hiding Penryn behind him. Uriel is giving orders with Beliel beside him.

Chapter 69. Scorpions arrive, distracting everyone. Paige suddenly steps out of the shadows near Beliel, attacking him. Paige tears Beliel apart.

Chapter 70. Raffe runs toward Beliel as the scorpions begin to attack him. Penryn goes to Paige to comfort her.

Chapter 71. Raffe realizes he must take his wings before the scorpions drain Beliel of all his fluids. However, the angels standing around do not appreciate the gesture. Raffe unfurls his demon wings as the angels approach.



Chapter 72. Raffe, Penryn, and Paige are quickly surrounded. Then Burnt arrives and confronts Penryn.

Chapter 73. Burnt and Penryn begin to fight while Raffe fends off the other angels. Penryn fights hard, using the techniques the sword has taught her. Surprisingly, Penryn kills Burnt. All the angel swords suddenly fall to the ground.

Chapter 74. Penryn pushes Paige, with Raffe's wings, between herself and Raffe. Although the angels have lost their swords, they are still angry and ready to fight. Penryn, Paige, and Raffe will never be able to fight that many angels.

Chapter 75. The scorpions come back again. The scorpions pick up Paige as Raffe gathers up Penryn and they all fly away.

Analysis

Penryn and Raffe manage to escape the angels who had followed them away from the party, but then they have to decide what to do next. Penryn is still searching for her sister and knows she must find her before Beliel does. Raffe, too, is looking for Beliel, so it seems appropriate that they work together. Raffe is hesitant to place Penryn in danger, again suggesting he has feelings for her, but agrees to let her go.

Raffe and Penryn get themselves into a difficult position where it looks like they will not survive. They still do not understand what is happening with Paige, especially when she attacks Beliel. It appears that Penryn can control the scorpion things, though, so this might be something that the humans can use in the next book to fight the angels.

Penryn kills Burnt, the angel who had kidnapped Paige. This is a huge thing because the humans have not been able to even hurt the angels up to this point. This too seems to suggest a way in which the humans might be able to fight back in the next novel.

Discussion Question 1

Why do Penryn and Raffe decide to return to Half Moon Bay after they barely escaped the first time?

Discussion Question 2

How does Clara find her family? How do they respond to her new appearance? What does this say about this family?



Discussion Question 3

How does Paige control the scorpions? How might this change the future fight between humans and angels?

Vocabulary

motley, trampled, replace, coordination, devastatingly, sequins, discarded, ignore, entourage, necessary, expression, impression, iridescent, burnt, humans, remnants, opponent, tortured, scrunches, unsure, crumples, sweetness, corpse, recognize, disguise, paralyzed, blade, crinkle, stingers, amputating



Characters

Penryn

Penryn is a seventeen-year-old girl who befriended an angel after saving him from death. Penryn is a tough girl who has taken extensive self-defense lessons, a skill that could come in handy after angels have invaded the world. Penryn finds herself stuck trying to care for her mentally ill mother and her hideously disfigured sister while also trying to take an active part in the fight against the angels. On top of all this, Penryn is in love with an angel.

Penryn spends much of this novel tracking her sister, as she did in the previous novel. Penryn ends up killing Burnt, the angel that caused her so much trouble in the previous novel. By doing this, Penryn establishes the sword Raffe gave her as the alpha sword. Penryn's new skills with the sword could prove to be important in the next novel as the fight against the angels continues.

Paige

Paige is Penryn's sister. Paige had been in an accident as a youngster and had been confined to a wheelchair. In the previous novel, when Penryn had saved Raffe from Burnt, Burnt had stolen Paige and had taken her to the angel aerie. Penryn later learns that Burnt had left Paige alone with Beliel who alternatively had been cruel and kind to her. Eventually Beliel had tired of Paige, had taken out his rage on her, and had left her for the doctor at the aerie to experiment on her. Paige now has horrible stitches all over her body that have left her deformed, as well as artificially sharpened teeth and other oddities. Paige becomes violent easily and even kills a man. However, at the end of the book it seems that Paige can control the odd scorpion creatures that can paralyze people, a skill that could prove important in the fight against the angels.

Penryn's Mother

Penryn's mother has been struggling with a mental illness for most of her life. In the aftermath of the angel invasion, Penryn's mother has not been able to take her medication, so her mental stability has been deeply shaken. Penryn's mother proves to be a difficult burden for Penryn, but her mother also provides a means of tracking Paige at a crucial time, proving her worth.

Dee and Dum

Dum and Dee are twins who work with the Resistance. Penryn does not know their names, so she simply calls them Dee and Dum, as in Tweedledee and Tweedledumb. The twins are very resourceful and they seem to take a liking to Penryn. It is Dee and



Dum who give Clara the keys to the police car where Penryn has been locked up after Paige's crime.

Obi

Obi is the leader of the Resistance. Obi is using technology to track the angels and find a way to kill them. When Paige kills one of the Resistance members, Obi has Penryn and her mother locked up in a car.

Raffe

Raffe is the Archangel Rafael. Raffe lost his wings in the first novel when Uriel had ordered him to have the wings cut off. Penryn had rescued Raffe before Burnt and the other angels could kill him. In anger, Burnt had stolen Penryn's sister, Paige. Raffe had traveled with Penryn to help her get her sister back, but they had separated when Raffe had come to believe that Penryn was dead.

Raffe had been tricked in the previous novel to receive Beliel's demon wings after his own wings had been cut off. Raffe has been chasing Beliel ever since in an attempt to get his wings back. Raffe is successful in doing this in this novel, but he still needs someone who can sew them on for him.

Beliel

Beliel is a demon whom Uriel had arranged to receive Raffe's wings so that the other angels would believe he is an angel. Beliel is Uriel's right hand man, always helping him with whatever he needs. Beliel is constantly hunted by Raffe, who wants his wings back. At the end of the novel, Paige attacks Beliel, apparently in revenge for a beating Beliel had given her. Beliel is drained by the scorpions, but Raffe manages to get his wings off of Beliel before they are damaged.

Uriel

Uriel is an archangel who is campaigning to become the next Messenger to replace Gabriel. Uriel is a classic politician who will do anything to get what he wants. This seems to include creating locust and abominations to trick the angels into believing that Judgment Day has come, giving the angels the right to kill humans without facing God's wrath.

Doctor

Penryn meets a doctor in Alcatraz who is the one who changed Paige. The doctor tells Penryn he had been instructed to make Paige into an abomination. The doctor says he



had done something else, something experimental, to Paige, but that the attack had taken place before he could see if it worked.

Clara

Clara is a young mother who had been taken by the angels and fed to the embryonic scorpions. While searching for her sister in the aerie, Penryn frees Clara by breaking the glass container holding the scorpion. Moments later, Penryn is stung by a scorpion. A few days later, while watching the ruins of the aerie for angel activity, Penryn sees Clara crawl out of what was once the basement. Clara has skin that is terribly wrinkled from the lack of moisture after her experience with the scorpions. Otherwise, Clara appears to be perfectly healthy. Clara returns to the Resistance headquarters with Penryn, but she does not fit in. Therefore, when given a chance to escape, Clara takes it. Later, Clara is reunited with her family.



Symbols and Symbolism

Pooky Bear

Penryn jokingly calls her sword, an angel sword given to her by Raffe, Pooky Bear, unaware that the sword must keep that name until it is given to a new owner.

Teddy Bear

Penryn disguises her sword with a teddy bear to keep others from trying to steal the sword.

Tracking Prototype

Penryn's father was an engineer who was fired from his job because a prototype of a pet tracker went missing from his office. Penryn discovers that her mother has had the tracking device all along and uses it to track Penryn and Paige. It is using this device that Penryn is able to find Paige.

Surveillance Cameras

The Resistance uses surveillance cameras to keep track of the activities in the city and near their headquarters.

Masks

There is a masquerade party at the Half Moon Bay hotel that has become the new aerie. All the guests wear masks, giving Raffe an opportunity to sneak in.

Wing Covers

The guests at the masquerade party wear covers on their wings to disguise the colors and markings that can identify them. Raffe also uses these to hide his demon wings.

Raffe's Wings

Raffe's wings have been cut from his body and sewn onto a demon. Raffe spends much of the novel attempting to get them back.



Demon Wings

Raffe has demon wings sewn onto his back.

Locusts

Locusts are discussed in the Bible as a plague that will take place in the days before the Apocalypse. Uriel has locusts developed from humans that look more like scorpions.

Abominations

Abominations are thought to be children who are a result of unholy love between humans and angels. Uriel tries to have a doctor make abominations to help him manipulate the angels.

Settings

San Francisco

The novel is set just outside of San Francisco. Several times the characters go into the city in order to chase down angels or find supplies. San Francisco has been devastated by the arrival of the angels, which came with tsunamis, earthquakes, and flood.

Alcatraz

The angels use Alcatraz as a laboratory for creating their locusts. Penryn sees the angels attempting to teach the locusts to fly over the island of Alcatraz.

Angel Island Pier

Penryn, Clara, and her mother watch Alcatraz from Angel Island Pier. It is here that they are caught by the scorpion creatures and transported to Alcatraz.

Half Moon Bay

The angels have created a new aerie on Half Moon Bay in a luxury hotel. Penryn goes here in the hopes of finding her sister, but instead runs into Raffe during a masquerade party. A blood bath breaks out and Raffe takes Penryn to safety, but they later return in time to see Paige attack Beliel. Raffe gets his wings back, but he, Penryn, and Paige find themselves in a nearly impossible situation until Paige calls the scorpion-like creatures.



Themes and Motifs

The End of the World

In the first novel of this series, angels have invaded the world, bringing with them massive natural disasters that have left the survivors devastated. In this novel, the world is beginning to reorganize and fight back. Penryn, a teenager who has befriended an angel, is in the middle of this new world, trying to find a way to help her family while reuniting with her angel.

This novel is a little different from typical dystopian novels because it takes place immediately after the devastating event and no government is yet developed. Small pockets of communities are beginning to form, but most of the humans are vulnerable and under constant attack by the angels.

Penryn repeatedly reminds herself that things are different now. The comparisons between how the world used to be and how it is are stark and, at times, frightening. Penryn is adjusting, however, with the help of her angel and her family, but she realizes better than anyone else that it will never be the same.

Family

Penryn's mother is mentally ill, therefore Penryn has always taken a responsible role in the family, especially in relation to her sister. Therefore, when Paige was kidnapped by Burnt, Penryn felt it was her job to go find her. Penryn did as she had promised, but Paige is changed, surgically altered in devastating ways. It is a difficult thing and Penryn has trouble finding the gentle sister she once knew.

Paige disappears again in this novel. Despite Penryn's fear of her sister's changed appearance and behavior, she goes after her. Penryn feels a responsibility to be the one to take care of her sister, whether it is to keep her alive and healthy, or to end her life. This shows the reader that Penryn is not only very responsible, she loves her sister deeply.

Family also comes into this novel with Clara. Clara was a pretty, young woman before the scorpion creatures got to her. Clara's skin is dry, wrinkled, and she is no longer pretty. However, Clara's family finds her and they are happy to have her back in their lives. There is a little hesitation, but not much. Love and family are much more important than looks.

Deception

No one knows the reason for the angel invasion. It is known that Gabriel has been killed, but no one knows by whom or for what reason. However, there is some



suggestion that Uriel had something to do with it. Uriel is aggressively running for Gabriel's position. In order to win votes, Uriel is willing to do just about anything, including deceive his fellow angels.

Uriel is having locusts developed from the descriptions in the Bible. These locusts are the scorpion creatures that are developed from humans. Uriel has also ordered abominations to be constructed out of innocent children. These are odd requests until the reader realizes that Uriel is trying to use these things to give the angels what they want: clear signs of Judgment Day. It is a deception that is deadly for the humans and dangerous for the angels.

Styles

Point of View

The novel is written in the first person point of view. The narrator is main character, Penryn. Penryn tells her story as it happens, taking the reader along for the ride as she fights the angel invasion, as well as troubles in her family.

The point of view of this novel works well with the plot because it gives the reader an intimate view of the main character. The clarity of this point of view keeps the reader close to the main character while allowing the reader to only see and know what the main character sees and knows. In this book, this limitation works well because it keeps the story tight and it keeps the reader from knowing things that do not aid the plot or need to be hidden until a later time.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is simple English. The novel is intended for young adults, therefore the language reflects this audience as well as the age of the main character. There is little slang or foreign words in the novel, keeping the language easy to understand for even the youngest readers.

The language of the novel works well with the plot because it is authentic to the characters and the intended audience. The author does not try to create a new language for her unique characters nor does she try to speak down to the intended audience by adding a lot of slang. For that reason, the language works well with the novel.

Structure

World After is divided into seventy-five chapters that vary in length, but most are very short. It is written in a linear fashion with all the action happening in a logical order. Both with narration and dialogue are used to tell the story.

The novel has one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows Penryn as she struggles to adjust to her new reality, her World After. One subplot follows Penryn's relationship with her sister. Another subplot follows Penryn's relationship with Raffe. All the plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

Everyone thinks I'm dead.

-- Penryn (Chapter 1 paragraph 1)

Importance: This is the beginning line of the novel. It touches on the end of the last novel in the series in which it appeared Penryn had died.

Sleeping with a weapon has nothing to do with my sister being in the room. Nothing at all.

-- Penryn (Chapter 3 paragraph 6)

Importance: This quote is a little tongue in cheek showing Penryn is trying to convince herself that she is not afraid of her newly disfigured sister, when she really is.

But I know him. Even with his new demon wings, I know him.

-- Penryn (Chapter 5 paragraph 27)

Importance: Penryn has not seen Raffe since the attack on the aerie. When she sees him on surveillance video, she instantly recognizes him and immediately responds to his image.

My World After instincts scream at me to break into a run. My primal self knows I'm being stalked and hunted.

-- Penryn (Chapter 11 paragraph 4)

Importance: This quote shows the way in which Penryn has made a habit of separating the before and after of her new existence.

Radiating out from her are ropes pulled by men. One rope is tied around her neck, two others around her wrists, and two more around her ankles.

-- Penryn (Chapter 18 paragraph 2)

Importance: This is the scene Penryn discovers when she hears the commotion about someone being killed or mutilated. Paige has killed a man and is being held like an animal.

I brace myself for one of her fury storms. Not something I want to experience in a jail so small that we can't lie down. Not something I want to experience any time, any place.

-- Penryn (Chapter 22 paragraph 15)

Importance: This quote shows how difficult dealing with Penryn's mother's mental illness is for her children.

Even in this dangerous situation, my heart twists at seeing Raffe's beautiful wings on the demon Beliel.



-- Penryn (Chapter 28 paragraph 1)

Importance: This quote shows Penryn's affection for Raffe and her disdain for the demon, Beliel. It also shows that Penryn, despite all that has happened, is still open to right and wrong.

What is a wedding band doing on a monster's hand?

-- Penryn (Chapter 34 paragraph 21)

Importance: For the first time, Penryn notices the human characteristics of the scorpion-like creatures.

Abominations. They were to look like unnatural children who ate people.

-- Penryn (Chapter 44 paragraph 14)

Importance: This is the doctor's explanation of what abominations are and why he made Paige look as he did.

You humans are so fragile. If time doesn't kill you off, it's germs or sharks or hypothermia.

-- Raffe (Chapter 62 paragraph 10)

Importance: Raffe says this jokingly, but it does show the stark difference between angels and humans.

Paige tugs his arm so that Beliel ends up leaning down toward her. For a second, I think she might give him a kiss. The thought makes my stomach roil.

-- Penryn (Chapter 69 paragraph 12)

Importance: Penryn has become afraid that Paige thinks of Beliel as her only friend. If this is true, it could be a dangerous situation not only for Paige, but for everyone.

It's a new day in the World After.

-- Penryn (Chapter 75 paragraph 19)

Importance: This is the final line in the novel. It suggests hope.