

PART 1 / Chapter 1 – “Sarah” – POV - Sarah

“Tonight is the night, I must tell him tonight.” They were just words, they were always in her head but today, finally, she put breath behind them. – First line of the book.

Sarah Douglas stares out over the ocean, remembering a different time, different life. Her husband Richard Douglas had died of a heart attack recently under mysterious circumstances. She is an edgy, nervous and neurotic. She is struggling with telling her son something she should have told him long ago.

Commented [CH1]: Dramatic and intriguing. Lovely.

This presents a great opportunity to also foreshadow the introduction of Brynn, our protagonist, in an interesting way. For example, she knows she needs to talk to him, but he’s off with Logan, whom he spends a lot of time with. Is there something more to their relationship? Build intrigue.

PART 1 / Chapter 2 – “Brynn” – POV - Brynn

Brynn Douglas is asleep and dreaming. His phone rings, Brynn is moody and short with Logan and hangs up on his friend. His father just passed away from a heart attack and Brynn didn’t get to say goodbye, he is taking it out on everyone. He is mad at his mother for leaving him to drive her in-laws home.

Sarah arrives and she and Brynn have a heated conversation. He wants to punish her and texts Logan to pick him up now. She comes to his room and he screams at her until she yells STOP and her voice has actual power behind it. Brynn feels it. He stops yelling and lets his mother comfort him. He says he can cancel going with Logan but she says they can talk when he gets home. Brynn showers and Logan arrives Sarah is joking with Logan not to get her son in trouble. He promises and they leave.

Commented [CH2]: Be sure to clarify the context here. Is magic a part of their world, something Brynn already knows about, or is the introduction of a supernatural element totally inexplicable and shocking?

PART 1 / Chapter 3 – “Betrayal and Blood” – POV - Sarah

Sarah walks through the old house. We see her power now. Her eyes pulse as the storm starts. She connects to “the hum” or her magic. She opens doors without touch. She retrieves a small silk bag the color of midnight. Inside is the Asret (a magical stone that has an evil aura) She talks to the gem and tells it Brynn will need it soon. The storm intensifies. Glass breaks in the kitchen, she investigates.

Commented [CH3]: Tense and dramatic! Be sure to hint here at what she’s trying to achieve in terms of helping/protecting her son, and that sense of urgency. It will heighten the stakes when we discover she’s been killed, before she could enact her plan.

PART 1 / Chapter 4 – “A Meeting of Friends” – POV - Brynn

Logan and Brynn are driving through White Beach, a storm is starting. They go to restaurant that’s popular with local teens. When a jock threatens Brynn, Logan notices that Brynn’s eyes flashed bright blue unlike his normal gray eyes. Brynn feels severe pain and a humming his ears, but there are distracted by the appearance of their friends. Josh, the local policeman’s son is very flamboyant, and secretly dates Alex, his father’s colleague. They decide to avoid the jocks and drive to Rockies, a gay bar. The storm is raging. Alex swerves when a white bird swoops at the car. The bird gives Brynn chills and his eyes flare again. Logan blurts out it happened earlier and teases Brynn.

Commented [CH4]: If I were with a friend who’s eyes suddenly flashed a different color I would be shocked, so his ready acceptance here feels a touch inconsistent. If magic is hidden and secret in this world, make that clear via the reactions of the characters.

This could also be a good place to hint that Alex is hiding the truth about who he works for – i.e. show a small inconsistency in something he says to flag to the reader that something is amiss.

I would also consider adding to Brynn’s sense of intuition here that something is wrong at home – build tension and hook the reader deeper into the story.

I also see room to provide more of a sense of Brynn’s personality in these scenes via his actions. Is he a natural leader? Prone to aggression? A protector? A nerd, who might be a reluctant hero? Allow his interactions to indicate to the reader what he stands for and how this journey is going to challenge him.