



SCARLETT St. CLAIR

SECRETS. SEDUCTION. SACRIFICE.

KING OF BATTLE AND BLOOD

1. Isolde is disgusted with herself for how immediately she is attracted to Adrian, both in the woods with the strzyga and later when she learns who he really is. How does her struggle between disgust and desire foreshadow what's to come as their relationship develops? How does Isolde handle this war within herself?
2. In the beginning, Isolde claims that "More love meant there was more to lose" and that she's only willing to risk love for her people and her family. How does this belief affect her time in Revekka? What are the costs of Isolde opening her heart to others?
3. Despite the risks, Isolde is willing to give up her life in Lara to marry Adrian and save her people. Do you agree with her that one person is not worth a slaughtered kingdom, even if that person is the princess? What would you have done in Isolde's position?
4. Isolde is not afraid to stray from the image of a "suitable bride" or a prim and proper princess, and refuses to see herself as a victim in her situation. How does Isolde show her feminine strength throughout the story, and in what ways does it affect those around her?
5. King Henri tells Isolde, "You are the hope of our kingdom." How does this pressure manifest for her, especially when it comes to the expectation that she will kill Adrian? Do you think Isolde made the right choice?
6. What does Isolde learn about Adrian, Dis, and the history of vampires and witches when she goes to Revekka, and how do those stories differ from what she grew up hearing? What do you think surprises her the most? Do you agree that history is just perspective?
7. When Isolde is forced to kill attackers from her own country, she accuses one of them, "You know nothing of my sacrifice." Did the attackers make Isolde the enemy, or did she make them her enemy? Does this change her relationship with Lara?
8. After hearing conflicting stories, Isolde chooses to go to the castle library to seek her own answers about Revekka's history, the Burning, the High Coven, and King Dragos. What critique might the author be offering about the importance of fact-checking in a world of false information?
9. How is Isolde's true identity hinted at before she learns the truth about Yesenia and Adrian's curse? How has her world already been turned upside-down now that she knows, and how do you think her life will continue to change?



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10. Over the course of the novel, Isolde must decide who her real enemies are. She declares, "There was a difference between a monster and someone who could be monstrous." Which characters demonstrate this idea the most?
11. After her encounter with Ravena, Isolde realizes that one of she and Adrian's closest allies must be a traitor. In what ways will this further complicate Isolde's relationships with those in Revekka? Is there anyone you think she should be especially wary of?