



NON SPOILER EDITION!

Included in this special download are the answers to some of your questions, deleted scenes, and information from the guys' point of view on certain topics. There's a second **cheat sheet** for download that contains spoilers—read at your own risk!

Just don't tell Mr. Blackbourne I let these out. He hates when I give up secrets.



C. L.

General Series Questions

1. *When will book 6, Push and Shove, of the Ghost Bird Series be released?*
 - A. June 2, 2014
2. *Who will we see the most of in Push and Shove?*
 - A. While you will see all of the characters in Push and Shove, this one focuses on Nathan the most.
3. *Why does North have so many cars?*
 - A. He likes cars and he works on them regularly. He doesn't *love* cars, but he likes working with his hands. So if it's construction or under the hood of the Jeep, that's what he likes to do. As a consequence, you'll see him with a number of 'unknown' vehicles. Sometimes they're other cars that belong to people in the Academy that he's fixing up. Sometimes ... we don't know where he gets them. ;)
4. *Why do the guys dislike Danielle so much? Did something happen in the past that made them not like her? Has she dated any of the guys?*
 - A. She's generally mean-natured. Always has been.



5. *What are the boys ages and birthdays?*

- A. If there's not a specific birth date, it's because I don't know yet and don't want to say so and have to change it.

So far as of book five (Drop of Doubt):

Gabriel - 15 – 17th November

Sang - 16 – 6th October

Nathan - 16 – 5th October

North - 16 – 11th September

Silas - 16 - June

Luke - 16 - March

Victor- 16 – 29th January

Kota - 16 – 3rd January

Dr Green – 19

Mr Blackbourne –19

6. *I was wondering if all the boys were just normal cute boys or are they vampires or something of that sort.*

- A. If they were vampires, I would have said so in the first book. ☺ I haven't written vampire stories yet. Maybe one day.

7. *What are each of the boys' special skills?*

- A. Kota – Strong backbone, intelligence and kind.
Victor – Diligent, picks up skills quickly, observant.
Silas – Quiet strength, supportive.
Nathan – Everything to everyone. Where you go, he goes.
Gabriel – Makes everyone else around him shine.
Luke – Singles out exactly what he wants and goes for it.
North – Says simply what he's all about. Will take over any situation.
Dr. Sean Green – Pushes at the limits.
Mr. Blackbourne – Perfection.

Probably not what you'd consider skills, but these are who they are.

8. *What is your least favorite quality of each of the guys?*

- A. Kota – Fear. (For everyone else)
Victor – Impatience.
Silas – Guilt.
Nathan – Jealousy.
Gabriel – Unconfident.
Luke – Trickster.
North – Anger.
Dr. Sean Green – Pushing the limits can be exhausting.
Mr. Owen Blackbourne – Perfection can be exhausting.

9. *Why are the girls called birds and the boys are called dogs?*

- A. Because cats and dogs don't get along. ☺ And that's the Academy answer any time anyone asks.



10. *My question is about Victor and all the money he spends. Do his parents mind or ever get mad at him for spending so much money?*
- A. Not really. His mom would be concerned if she saw a credit card charge at Wal-Mart, because she'd be concerned about why he was in 'such a place' rather than what he bought there.
11. *Have you gotten any negative feedback about this series? I mean, I, personally, love the series and where it's heading, but when I've tried to explain to others, some of them have been pretty appalled at the idea of one girl and nine guys having this developing relationship. Just curious, but what have others had to say about it, if anything?*
- A. They either like the idea or they don't. If they don't, it's fine, I don't push it. It's not going to be everyone's cup of tea, and doesn't have to be. Just like some people don't care for vampire stories or sci fi. I write what I'm interested in! ☺
12. *Will we "see" the inside of The Academy?*
- A. You already have.
13. *Out of curiosity, if The Academy could've been your life, would you have chosen to do it?*
- A. Always. Without question.
14. *Why did you pick South Carolina as the setting for the story?*
- A. I like the area. ☺ It isn't Tiny Town USA and it isn't New York or another city with a lot of major problems. However, it's easy enough to 'get lost' in this town and be forgettable. Plus the weather is awesome. And beaches.
15. *Does Marie like Derrick back?*
- A. Not yet. ☺
16. *What song do you think best represents each of the guys?*
- A. I don't have a specific one for each guy. I have scenes I write, and then songs I think fit those scenes and will listen to them to get into the mood.
- A lot of them aren't in English, though. I listen to a lot of Japanese and Korean rock.
- But as an example, for book four, for the sawdust pile, I was listening to a lot of "Shadows" by Red For Thief, when Kayli was running away from Coaltar in the rain, it was "Remembering Sunday" by All Time Low.
- I sometimes imagine the boys listening to or humming certain songs. Gabriel could totally sing anything from Marinara's Trench. For Victor, a lot of Secondhand Serenade.
17. *I was wondering if you designed the Academy logo? How did you come up with the idea?*
- A. The badge? It was a team effort. ☺ I can't take full credit. The Cajun (the other half here) does a lot of the art work for the current version. I designed the first "fancy A with the heart" for the covers and then he refined it later.



The Scarab Beetle Series/Crossover Series Questions

18. *When will the next book be out?*

A. LIAR will release in August.

19. *Is Wil in Thief the same Wil that Sang knows?*

A. Yes.

20. *Does Wil have a crush on Sang?*

A. Yeah. I mean not like crazy love but she's pretty and he likes that she took time to learn his name and everything.

21. *When Kayli sees Sang picked up at the hospital, isn't that when Sang was kidnapped?*

A. Kayli does see Sang at the hospital before she's kidnapped. It's to connect the timeframe. Sang gets kidnapped. And that night Sang also saves the camera Kayli lost the day before.

22. *Was it Mr. Blackbourne's or Victor's BMW that the Scarab team borrows for the party?*

A. I think it might be Victor's. I have to recheck my timeline to see whose car would be available. It was one of theirs. Kayli passes it off as "silver" because she doesn't have both together to spot the difference in color (something girls tend to pick up more than guys).

23. *If the books overlap between series one and series two, why is Marc already calling Kayli the newest member of their team? I figured it would be a longer process than just one book for her to join.*

A. Marc's cameo appearance in Book Five is marred because he was high as a kite. He meant "team" as in like his construction crew, which doesn't always include just Academy members but sometimes adopted Academy folks or people they just like to work with. If that's the reference you're referring to.

It's not in any official capacity as far as the Academy is concerned. Like Sang's a part of Mr. Blackbourne's team but doesn't really exist too much within the Academy itself.

24. *Why doesn't Raven want anyone to know his first name? Is it embarrassing or too girly sounding for a tough guy like him?*

A. Raven is not letting me answer any questions regarding to his first name. Seriously. He will kill me.

25. *If I am doing the math right, the day Wil stopped going back to the hotel is the same day that Sang's phone was first intercepted and they went to Victor's house. It makes me suspicious; I think someone could have paid him to make one of those scanner things for them like he told Sang someone could have done. It could be possible for him to be Volto too (maybe). Am I right on the days ?*

A. In Thief, Kayli and Raven are waiting in traffic because someone made a bomb threat on a school "out toward Summerville." That day is the first chapter for Drop of Doubt in Sang's timeline.

So the books overlap but they're off by a day, and this is the first mention where you can see them syncing. That would be the day after Kayli saw Wil last.



26. *Why was Wil at the football game by himself?*

- A. Wil wanted to get out of the 'house'. He's not a football fan, but it's his school and what else was he going to do that night?

27. *And why did he go to the party where he bumped into Sang?*

- A. Again, getting out of the house for a bit. He was interested in what was going on. He had followed some of the guys down the hallway, but once they started bullying on North, he was getting out of there. Because he's a nerdling and didn't want to be the next target.

28. *What does Wil think of Sang?*

- A. He likes Sang. He doesn't get to bump into her much because they're in different classes, but he sees her around.

29. *Would I be able to look these places up on a map to make sense of it all or are some of them made up?*

- A. If you want/need a map, I pretty much planted this whole thing around Charleston, SC, the real thing. Google maps will work for this.

For example if you want to get an idea how far Wil travels to school, you want an idea of how this is placed, go find "Citadel Mall" and then to get an idea of a distance he's been travelling, go to Stratford High School in Goose Creek. Driving directly may only take 40 minutes, but on a bus system, it'll take a while because of stops and stuff. For a 'round number' and to be more dramatic, I wrote two hours but it probably isn't exact.

But like the Sergeant Jasper is a real place, as is the lake next door to it, the marina, etc. You could take a virtual tour of the neighborhood via Google Maps and see exactly where they were.

Blake Coaltar's house is 'South of Broad', across the street from White Point Gardens.

Past book questions

30. *What were all the guys doing while Sang was tied up in the bathroom, how were they all informed about it, and what was their reaction as they looked for her and while she was unconscious?*

- A. Silas was at home I think. Nathan was at home. Kota was off doing Academy things. The doc was at the hospital. Everyone else was at home or doing Academy things.

Once Silas reached Nathan, he called Kota. Kota's family lead so Kota spread the word to everyone else.

31. *When Sang starts to wake up from being unconscious from the sawdust pile, she can sense Nathan's face close to hers. Was he giving her CPR before she became conscious?*

- A. Yes. Nathan gave her CPR to make sure she was breathing because right when they pulled her out, he thought she wasn't.



32. *Will we ever find out what Marie was thinking while Sang was trapped in the closet by her mother? Or why she took all her clothes and gave them to Danielle? Was it jealousy, revenge, a want to be needed, hate?*

A. Marie doesn't like Sang. She blames Sang for a lot of the family problems, and the continued problems she's experiencing. She didn't consider Sang's clothes to be Sang's. Marie was right, they were supposed to share, technically. Not that she was right to give them away.

But basically Marie wanted to get along with Danielle, and what did she care if she gave Sang's clothes away? Sang could wear jeans if she wanted to. That's basically what Marie was thinking.

33. *What were the boys thinking during and after North and Sang's fight?*

A. Holy crap, we're done for. They thought Sang would walk off and never talk to them again. They would blame North for pushing her too far. But Kota knew better.

34. *What did Silas and Kota think about her crying and did the others know she was?*

A. No one likes seeing her cry. For guys, a girl crying is like death. They want it stopped and never happen. It's torture.

35. *What did Nathan grumble after he heard Sang's voice when they pulled her out of the shower?*

A. A lot of cursing at her parents, really.

36. *In Drop of Doubt how did Volto even know Sang knew the dragon desk code? The plan was set into motion before she even went to Victor's, and that is a big variable in his plan.*

A. There were certain things Volto did before Sang stepped in this far, but her being there and hearing the code was a convenience to him. It revved up his plan. He was listening in to them. But also notice she flashed fingers at Victor instead of saying the code out loud and then Victor's impressed. So he knew she got it right.

37. *In book five Mr. Blackbourne asked Sang how she knew it was him in the dark room. She told him she smelled him. Irish soap. Then he was quiet for a long time. What was he thinking after she told him that?*

A. Remarkable. Honestly, it's a new skill and he was impressed to learn it this way. He wouldn't have imagined it to be something that was useful. He's trying to think of ways to make use of it.

38. *What does it mean when Silas says "Aggele mou, makari na borousa na se filiso"? Sang started to ask but didn't get to.*

A. My angel, I wish I could kiss you.

39. *What was Nathan's POV when Sang showed up at his window? Did he know she saw the reflection?*

A. Nathan was surprised she showed up, but happy to see her. A little embarrassed he was caught sleeping naked though. He had no clue she saw him in the window and it is likely she may never mention it.

40. *In book 3, Mr. B asks Sang if either of her parents had touched her inappropriately. What was found in her mother's room that prompted this question?*

A. He wanted to know the extent of abuse since no one has asked her this.



41. *What was North's POV when she flipped him? As well as the others?*

A. North was stressed that Sang was rejecting him. The others were pretty stunned and didn't want to back off from Sang as she was angry. No one really knew what to do to calm her down, or if they could. They'd never seen her like that before. North was terrified she'd never talk to him again. It took Kota talking him into going home and giving her some space.

42. *In the 3rd book, I think, Erica tells Sang that when Kota got back from the camp, he was faster and stronger –is this a supernatural type thingy or just intense training?*

A. Boot camp training in general makes you faster and stronger. He was gone for a long time, longer than any boot camp training. I think general Army boot camp is something like two or three weeks. They were gone for like eight or ten weeks. Something like that.

43. *In book 3, when North and Sang are in the bathroom together in towels what is North thinking?*

A. She's hot. Mad at Gabriel for being in there with her. Wants a razor. Sang's hot. He tries to be nice to her after yelling at Gabriel and the scared look she gets.



Bonus scenes!

Warning – these are drafts and have not been edited.

Thief Delete Scenes –

BLAKE AND KAYLI

He leaned in, his face hovering over mine. He was almost too close, and it was tempting to simply close my eyes. His thumb smoothed over the crest of my cheek. “I won’t lie to you, Kate,” he said. “I’m used to girls flinging themselves at me when they learn I’ve got more than a couple of dollars to spare. I kept them at an arm’s distance because I hated their shallow personas. They didn’t want more from me than what I could buy. Boring.”

I wanted to deny this, but maybe it was true.

“But you crashed my party, a little green-eyed devil who couldn’t give a damn about me, was completely disinterested until I tried to figure you out. You lit up when I talked about science and tried to tell you off. You uttered the word bioluminescent and I was hooked.”

“Oh that’s all it took?” I murmured, unable to keep myself from playing. “Because I know a few more big words.”

He smirked. “I bet you do.” His head dipped, and he pressed his cheek to mine to whisper in my ear. “It was all I could think about after. I wanted to find out what gets Kate lit up like I saw at that party. I want her to get that excited when she thinks about me.”

“Blake...”

I felt his lips smile and then pucker and he kissed my skin right by my ear. His arm around my shoulders tightened, drawing me in close to his body. “Tell me I’m not the only one feeling like this,” he whispered. He drew his head back, and the gold flecks his hazel eyes shone. “And don’t just tell me that. Tell me everything. I want to know what Kate knows.”

I swallowed, planting my hands on his chest and pushing gently. This was too close. It wasn’t that he was being sweet, it was that he was right about how I was feeling. I wanted to get to know him, too. Now figuring out who he was and what he was up to drove me because I wanted to believe he was a good guy, so I didn’t have this dread that I was mixed in with someone I shouldn’t be.

But I couldn’t forget who I really was. I wasn’t Kate. The closer I got made the lie too much to bear. With Marc, with Brandon, they knew who I was from the start. They stripped the lies from me at every turn, uncovering the truth, not living in an illusion.

Which was harder to live with? Brandon said he wanted to take care of me, knowing my situation and possibly feeling that manly protective obligation that guys get, or living a lie with Blake, who was overwhelmingly charming but under different impressions.



COREY AND KAYLI

He placed the laptop onto a side table near the bed and leaned to collect a couple of game controllers. He handed me one, and then opened the back of the second one, checking for batteries. “Ever play Minecraft?”

“I haven’t played anything in a couple of years. What’s Minecraft?”

He opened the side table drawer, fishing out a couple of batteries and putting them into the second controller. “You’ll see.”

An hour later, I was on my stomach on the bed, pushing buttons to try to jump across a river to get away from a crowd of zombies, spiders and creepers. “Go away, go away, go away...” I chanted, getting my character to jump every time I said it.

“I told you to dig a hole and bury yourself until morning.”

“Well I didn’t know zombie apocalypse was happening.” I just got across the river when I ran head first into a creeper, It exploded, causing my character to die. I huffed, dropping the controller on the bed and rolling onto my back. “I give up. I’ll stay dead until morning.”

Corey laughed, putting his controller down, as his character was inside a house and away from zombies. “You want to play something else?”



If you’re new to The Academy and would like more spoilers and to meet some other people who also enjoy them, there is a special Forum that includes a group of fans. I am active in this group and answer questions there, but beware—parts of the forum are full of spoilers.

<http://theacademy.invisionzone.com/>



Have a request? Complaint? Want to ask more? Email me!

clstone@arcatopublishing.com