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**\*NON SPOILER EDITION!\***

Included in this special download are some interesting little tidbits, deleted scenes, and information from the guys' point of view on certain topics. There's a second \*cheat sheet\* for download. This one doesn't contain spoilers but the other one does.

This is information either that won't be available, questions people wanted answers to that isn't addressed in later books, or information, like favorite colors, that may not be openly obvious.

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





## *General Series Questions*

1. *When will Thief be released*
  - A. February 26, 2014
2. *When will book 6 of the Ghost Bird Series be released?*
  - A. June 2014
3. *What's the title for book 6?*
  - A. I don't know yet. I'm the worst at titling, both books and chapter headings.
4. *What are the boys' first and last names?*
  - A. Dakota (Kota) Lee  
Victor Morgan  
Silas Korba  
Nathan Griffin  
Gabriel Coleman  
Lucian (Luke) Taylor  
North Taylor  
Dr. Sean Green  
Mr. Owen Blackbourne
5. *How did you come up with their names, e.g. Kota?*
  - A. The names took time to come up with. Some I knew from the start, and others I tested carefully with the personality. There were a lot of hours of searching through 'baby names' on the internet. I had to not be annoyed with the name that I could go through a long series of books with them.  
  
Some were picked carefully depending on who they are. Victor Morgan, for example, his last name I picked because of the "Morgan dollar" and to me, being named after money I thought showed his 'blood line', in a way.  
  
Nathan is one of the more 'average' guys in the group. He ended up with the most average name out of the bunch, but that also shows a bit through his personality.  
  
Mr. Blackbourne was completely made up. I don't know if there's a Blackbourne out there spelled this way, but last I checked, I couldn't find any. And the name just fit him perfectly.
6. *Are there or are you going to make movies or webisodes for the book?*
  - A. I honestly have little to no influence or control over when and if a movie or a TV show will be made of the series. What TV studios look for depends on popularity and if the work could translate well into a show.  
  
Personally, I've got my fingers crossed for a TV series, but I'm also terrified of any studio picking it up because of how you know they'll change it from the book. I think the only chance it has of being close to the original if any indie YouTube team might be interested in developing it into a series. Personally, I'm hoping for an anime series. Or a video game series. I'd rather play with the boys than just watch them.



7. *Will you be making audio books of the series?*

A. I hope so. My goal was to be able to provide a voice cast for all of the boys, instead of just having a girl read the book. I'm a little picky about how I want it to sound, I guess. I've been looking for an audiobook studio that could assist with this. So I'm trying, but it's slow as I don't want to slow down production of the story too much.

8. *Why does the girl on all of the book covers have brown hair? Am I the only one that noticed that?*

A. The covers I had to make a decision about. Everyone has their own ideas about what the guys and Sang look like and I didn't want to ruin that image. :) But I had to make covers that were really cool looking. It was too difficult to find girl models with Sang's hair. So I had to make a choice when going with specific stock images. In reality, the models on the covers are all completely different girls. You just can't tell because we cut off half the face. Which makes it perfect; any stock image we really wanted to use for a cover could be done as long as we positioned the girl just right. You're not the only one to notice. :) The old covers used to have the boys, but everyone had their own idea of what the boys looked like and they didn't like my picks. So I had to go in a different direction. It's okay though. It's like other covers that don't totally portray the image of the guys/girls in your head for books. Everyone sees the characters differently. So the covers don't really reflect the characters themselves, just the situations/trying to grab a new reader's attention to come try the series.

9. *Is Sang actually going to learn how to play the violin in practice sometime?*

A. This got dropped for a bit, but Mr. Blackbourne remembers and lessons will continue. Eventually.

10. *Are the guys and Sang ever going to finished cleaning the garage out? Is there going to be something important related to Sang's real mother?*

A. It's in the back of Kota's mind to go deal with that garage but they've been very busy lately. You'll see it again.

11. *Was Sang's mother an attendee of the academy?*

A. No. They never knew about her until now.

12. *Which of the guys are virgins?*

A. ☺ Not telling yet.

13. *Have all the boys had their first kisses already?*

A. Yeah, pretty much. They pretty much have had their share of make out sessions and know how to kiss. Some are better than others because some haven't had as much practice.

14. *Will Green and Blackbourne do things that people their age would normally do?*

A. They already do. ☺ I don't know what's considered normal for anyone as I don't play in that ball park, but they have their own goals and do things on their off time. Dr. Green is always working, owns a condo and when he isn't working, he's usually taking care of his team. When he's at home by himself, he's got a few hobbies, likes to swim, watches movies. Mr. Blackbourne is pretty goal-oriented, but occasionally takes time off for certain hobbies, piano, violin, etc. They're trying to get their entire team to graduate from the Academy. Dr. Green convinces Mr. Blackbourne to go with him to a movie every once in a while just to get out of the house and not 'work' but Mr. Blackbourne prefers going off on his own to things like that.



15. *Is homecoming or Halloween going to be in book 6? Do schools in SC celebrate homecoming in October? In Louisiana we have done it in October and November before.*

A. Halloween and homecoming will be brought up, but I don't think it happens in six. Maybe seven and eight. It's hard to tell until we get there what's going on. I think I have to put homecoming in November for plot purposes. But believe me, Gabriel and Luke aren't going to miss Halloween.

16. *Are Luke and North half-brothers or step-brothers?*

A. Step-brothers. They're still family.

17. *Who is older, Luke or North?*

A. Luke. By a few months.

18. *Did Sang's dad really rape her mother?*

A. It was an affair and Sang's real mother was willing, but Sang's stepmother considered it rape since the girl was 16 and underage. Although in a twisted way, Sang's real mother wasn't in a great place at the time and Sang's father took advantage of that.

19. *Why did you pick South Carolina as the setting for the story?*

A. I was familiar with the Charleston area, have lived there off and on over the years. I wanted to pick somewhere different than what I've read about and Charleston's got a lot of culture to play with as the story progresses.

20. *I read that you were inspired to write 'The Academy' series whilst reading Fruits Basket and Ouran Highschool Host Club. I've read and watched both, (you have great taste, how awesome are they?) and I would like to know if some of the personality traits of your boys can be derived from the characters in these? Or are they based on real people you know?*

A. They are a mix of TV, movies, anime, games and just personalities I've always admired. Eventually I mixed/matched them enough and I ended up with nine that were completely their own and feel like individual people. Anime and Manga tend to use 'typical' character types like "cool smart guy" like Kota or "strong, sporty, silent types" like Silas. So you'll see some traits syncing with this, just like in real life where people like to place themselves into 'categories', but each of the guys like multiple things (like Nathan loves karate and horror movies and strawberries) and with who they are, it just makes for interesting and unique voices for this series.

21. *How did Blackbourne and Green first meet?*

A. They will talk about this later. ☺ She'll bring it up. But the short story is, Mr. Blackbourne was accepted into the Academy but Academy rules demand you join a team. He didn't get along with a lot of other teams until Dr. Green came around. They teamed up, and for a while they conflicted but they always worked well together and have been stuck with each other ever since.

22. *How did Blackbourne and Green end up on a team with the 7 boys?*

A. Mr. Blackbourne was sent into that elementary school to figure out who was breaking into the principal's office. He caught them in the act but after a thorough discussion with each of them, he determined they needed to get them into the Academy. He and Dr. Green were already graduates of the Academy and were able to broaden their team as they saw fit. Mr. Blackbourne saw their potential pretty quickly. Once they worked together, the team just kind of fell into place. Silas and North joined later. It's a long story and they'll talk about it eventually.



23. *I began to notice in Book 3, and more in Book 4, that when Sang is around the boys' families, only that boy will be seen touching her. Did the boys all work that out/make the decision ahead of time to do so? And how awkward is a situation like Luke/North where they share family?*

A. This started early on without them realizing but mostly with Kota's mother because she's more observant/around more. It was kind of silently agreed amongst the guys that they'd keep their hands off of her when around Erica. When Sang was getting her hair cut, and Kota had her in his lap, Erica naturally thought they might be dating or at least like each other. So the other boys kind of just let it happen like that.

When it came to the other parents, like Uncle, the guys knew she couldn't hang around much without someone 'claiming' her as a girlfriend or else Uncle would have probably pushed her into one of his boys anyway to date. So they picked Luke. For Victor's parents, he tries to pass her off as barely an acquaintance because he doesn't want media attention on her. It just depends on who they are having to talk to and how they think that person will react to her hanging around as to how they address why she's suddenly hanging around all the time.

24. *Have any of the other guys gotten too "excited" when Sang was around?*

A. Yes, although they're good about hiding it from Sang so she doesn't notice.

25. *Do the guys notice each other's affection for Sang? Do they recognize it as romantic or friendly? And are they even the tiniest bit jealous?*

A. You can usually tell who is on the romantic side because they try staring her down for a kiss. Or will kiss her hand or do that finger/mouth kiss thing. In a small way, everyone who is starting to see her in that romantic way (a lot were denying it, some are still) will start saying really sweet stuff, try to get her to do more than just hold hands and hug. The guys haven't noticed these romantic things because they tend to do it when they've got her alone. And they don't care if she's holding hands with the others or hugging them.

26. *I was also wondering if you have a plan to rewrite some scenes from the boys' perspectives, i.e. when they first met her.*

A. I've been asked to do this by several people, and it's a tough thing to do because I'm trying to continually move forward rather than go back. I have to weigh in if I want to spend time rewriting scenes we know about or move forward and maybe write A reports from different boy's perspectives and try to do more that way. I may, eventually, try writing some things from the boys' perspectives from previous scenes, but I'm not sure when that will happen. Trying to write two series at a time is keeping me pretty busy. ☺

27. *I am incredibly curious about something: what do some of the notes say that North intercepts for Sang? I would love an example of some of them considering she never reads them. I saw the excerpt in the cheat with the ones about bra size and her phone number but you make it sound like some are a lot worse.*

A. They're asking her what kind of sex positions she likes, or some are not even talking to her but just pictures of male genitals. Boys in high school are crude. A lot of them consider it a game and aren't being serious. They're just bored in class and want to bug her.



28. What do each of the buttons on the phones mean?

- A. The big black button calls without emergency signal. Green is calling with emergency signal and pushes calls through, interrupting any current calls and putting your emergency line on. White is a text message, white flag, you are uncomfortable and need help. Red is sending a text message emergency along with sending a GPS approximate location of where you are.

29. What is the deal with the new book that's coming: *Thief* (The Scarab Beetle Series)? Is it a different series? Will Sang and the boys be in it?

- A. *Thief* is a series that is based in the "Academy" universe but features a completely new cast. The lead girl is Kayli, an 18-year-old girl struggling to survive who figured out pickpocketing could help her pay rent for her deadbeat/drunk father and her brother, who is still young and in school. She'll meet up with a new crew of Academy boys who will try to help her.

This series will allow me to show a different side of the Academy than you could see otherwise from Sang's perspective. You may see the boys criss-cross into each series on occasion with cameo appearances but most will just be 'mentions'. Most often you'll just see Academy people outside of both teams making appearances in both books.

### ***Drop of Doubt Questions***

30. Who is Volto?

- A. Volto is \*MESSAGE ERROR; INTERCEPTED BY VOLTO)\*

31. Could we deduce who Volto is based on the info already given to us in the five books?

- A. \*transmission error;voltointerception\*

32. What does this mean: "Aggele mou (My Angel)' makari na borousa na se fili so"?

- A. My angel, I wish I could kiss you. In my very barbaric understanding of Greek.

33. Why did Dr. Green have Sang treat Marc's wound?

- A. He wasn't being serious. He was egging her on and thinking she would balk and tell him to do his job. He would have done it, he was just waiting for her with some weird joke in his head and trying to be funny. He didn't know she would do it. And then when she did, he didn't want to scare her into thinking she did something wrong, so he guided her through it. Besides, the pulling out the nail was the most 'doctor' part to it. The wound wasn't that bad.

34. Gabriel sings in his sleep, why?

- A. Because people do that sometimes. ☺ And Gabriel happens to be one of those people. He can't control it. Like sleep walking or talking in your sleep. It just happens.

35. Why was Gabe so emotional after he beat the crap out of Greg?

- A. Greg could have killed Sang. And by golly, Gabriel wasn't going to let anything happen to that girl. He's lost enough family.



36. *What was Sean's answer to the lady in the hospital when she told him Sang was a lucky lady and to treat her right?*

A. "Always have, always will. Now shush and get some sleep. And no more chainsaws on the ladder. Call someone next time." Not that she'd listen.

37. *Do the guys know Wil ?*

A. Offhand. They've seen him around.

38. *Is Volto a good guy or bad guy or just smoke and mirrors?*

A. What do you think?

39. *You keep saying "he"—is Volto definitely a male ?*

A. I say he, because Sang says he. Because of the way he is 'shaped' and the way he handles himself, she thinks he's a boy.

40. *What happened in the car with Silas... it was expected yet wasn't at the same time. Is Silas struggling with his feelings?*

A. Silas was doing the thing where he was trying to loosen her up (because she looked nervous) by getting her to laugh. When Silas rubbed up against Sang's "sweet spot" (one of several), it really surprised Sang and then the whole mood changed. So Silas did that thing he does where he gets || This close and just hovers and waits. He's not good at subtle. This is him trying to get so close that all she has to do is brush her lips against his and that counts, in his mind. He's technically breaking the rules because they're not supposed to intimidate her into kissing. But in his mind, this isn't breaking if he never actually does the first touch thing. Again, he's not good at just stepping around a subject. If he wanted to kiss her, he'd kiss her flat out. He's Greek. Greek's don't wait.

41. *Since Sang has never had any physical contact, what goes through her mind when one of them touches her in a sexual way? Does she realize she is getting turned on or does she just brush it off? I know she has read about it and probably seen it on t.v. But it's different when it happens with someone.*

A. When Silas touches her the way he did in the car, it fully aroused her and she had absolutely no idea what was going on. It's an experience that's a little beyond the hand holding and hugging she's already trying to get used to. But now that she's aware of this spot a bit, she's kind of paranoid about it and doesn't know how to handle it. So you may see her being protective of that spot, but not because she wouldn't want the guys touching her, but only she doesn't really know how to respond. It's like trying to stop yourself before you fall head over heels because you have no idea what you're in for. The difference with her is, while you can read about stuff, it is different experiencing it and she doesn't really know what she's supposed to do about it. She knows 'about sex' but like most books 'close the curtain' or the TV shows 'fade to black'.

42. *What was going through Silas's mind when he was in the car with Sang?*

A. He wanted to kiss her. Well at first he was just hanging out, wanting to make her laugh. But he would have kissed her in a heartbeat if he thought he wasn't going to break one of those rules. And he would have said 'screw the rules' except he didn't know what would happen if he did. So he was trying to bend it as much as possible to make it acceptable by Academy standards.



43. *What would have happened if Silas (or another one) had broken the rule and kissed Sang?*

A. This is kind of the thing about the Academy. The Academy only has a handful of actual rules, and the rest depends on a lot of factors. Namely, it is up to Mr. Blackbourne how far he wants to take a rule they've made as a family if they break it. This is part of the Academy's family teams and why they monitor them so carefully. This isn't a judge and jury of people who don't know you and are blindly trying to pass judgment. This is your family, who knows you intimately and at the same time, you need to regulate fairly. It has to be done in a way that when you face an Academy council and tell them about this, that you can tell the truth and be honest with yourself about if you did the right thing. It takes a particular type of person to accept when you've done wrong and be willing to take those consequences and will do whatever it takes to make things right. Most of the time, Academy council doesn't have to intervene. However, the boys swore and Mr. Blackbourne has to hold them accountable for that. So it is ultimately up to Mr. Blackbourne what he demands of the boys and what he thinks would be fair exchange for breaking this particular family rule. And we'll cross that bridge when we get there.

44. *Does Silas try to stop the others from tickling her now since that's how he found her "hot spot" so the others don't get wise to it too?*

A. Silas doesn't care to claim the spot so much as he's going to make use of it and not tell the others about it. Later on he may get a bit more possessive. I don't think he cares if they use it as long as they don't do it in front of him.

45. *Hendricks didn't catch Sang copying the papers in his office that she gave to Owen?*

A. No. That time nothing was missing. She took photos and did all that other stuff. Like if she had taken the paper that she was tempted to do, he would have noticed and checked. Though she'll need to be careful later. Now that she knows about his cameras, she'll want to be even more careful and not do that kind of thing.

46. *What did Dr. Green say to the nurse when Sang was helping him with Gabe?*

A. He was saying Gabriel was her brother (because in hospitals, if you're family, you're allowed in a lot of places others aren't) and that he was going to keep her hands busy folding towels and scrubbing the room down. He'd stay and watch over her. The nurse was sympathetic and left them alone.

47. *Is there every going to be another time when Sang says she's done talking and walks off?*

A. Doesn't everyone do this every once in a while? Gabriel did it to the group in book five. He's lucky North wasn't there. He would have gone after him. Sang also did this in book five, without saying "I'm done". It was after she was arguing with Victor about the plan. She just did it politely and walked out of the room. And Silas came to talk her. Between her and North, they have to come to understand that neither one is leaving the other ever, so if she walks off angry, it's not her leaving him. It's she's mad and she'll come back later. She'll learn to say it nicer to him. Eventually.



48. *What was Gabe planning to do for Sang's birthday if they had had the opportunity to celebrate it the right way?*
- A. If it were up to Gabriel at first, he wanted a tower cake, with lots of new clothes from a new shopping spree, and a big party. Like he was spending a lot of time watching "sweet sixteen" type of things and trying to figure out what Sang would like. But really, the more he watched those, he realized they wouldn't be to Sang's taste. That's why he was having such a hard time with this and why Luke was saying, "I don't think she'd like this". Sang's quiet. Sang doesn't want much. He had no real idea what Sang would have liked because he was stuck thinking "all girls like this". Turns out, she just wanted to hang out and what they did for her birthday was perfect for her. Chalk it up to experience, Gabriel now realizes when he does things like this for Sang, he has to think more intimate, which is actually the exact kind of thing he likes.

### ***Past book questions***

49. *Why was Nathan so insistent that they spend the weekend at his house?*
- A. I'm not sure what this is in reference to, but he kind of likes her staying over a lot. His house is usually the only one that is empty so it becomes easier to use that as a place everyone can escape to.
50. *Why did Mr. Blackbourne agree to take her on as a student and teach her violin?*
- A. He saw her potential and also wanted to know why Kota was interested in her. Never tell an Academy member you want to learn something. They will always find a way to help you learn, if you're willing to put in the work.
51. *In Book 3 when getting Sang back in the house, what were Kota and Mr. Blackbourne arguing about downstairs with Victor and Dr Green that Kota didn't want Sang to find out about?*
- A. Mr. Blackbourne wanted to tell Sang more about what was going on and Kota didn't want to tell her half answers. She'd been through enough and they didn't know the truth so Kota didn't want to fill her head up with more questions.
52. *When Victor buys Sang that bracelet I thought it was really sweet and I know all of the guys have their own way of showing affection but do the others soon start giving her more gifts that seem more personal to Sang?*
- A. They will eventually. It's just a matter of time and opportunity.
53. *In the first book of the Academy series when Sang meets Victor for the first time she thinks his voice is familiar as a singer. Has Sang heard Victor perform without realizing it? Or was it just a coincidence that his voice sounded familiar?*
- A. Victor doesn't really sing that often. He's not professionally trained at it but he's not bad. He may hum a few bars here and there. She's never heard him sing, his voice is just familiar to a smooth tone she's heard before from other musicians.
54. *In book 3 when Erica is talking about Sang and Kota going on a date, what is going through Kota's mind?*
- A. He was embarrassed that his mom was basically asking her out for him and wished she would stop. He was worried she was embarrassing Sang.



55. *Did Kota know why North had to leave the room when North got excited with Sang squirming on his lap? Did any of the other boys know?*
- A. Silas and Kota kind of got the hint so they figured he needed a time out. ☺ They kind of understood.
56. *Do the boys notice when she admires their bodies?*
- A. They catch her looking sometimes but they wonder if he dropped something on his shirt or something like that. ☺
57. *What happened to Victor to make Kota leave the football game?*
- A. Victor has a hard time at his concerts especially with his dad. So Kota went to intervene and remind his dad to back off. Victor needs to keep a perfect image in public and his dad pushes his buttons a lot. Kota didn't want Sang going because they didn't want her meeting Victor's dad.
58. *What did Dr Green mean when he said he had to leave or he'd get in trouble after hugging Sang in his office?*
- A. Dr. Green is liable to kissing and other things if he sticks around too long. He'd get in trouble.
59. *Was Kota the only one who saw Sang naked in the bathroom before sending Gabriel to get her?*
- A. Yes. The others saw her in the towel but that's it. They got the gist of what he saw, though.
60. *What were Nathan's thoughts in the pool when Sang unbuttoned her pants?*
- A. Holy cow, she's crazy. I can't believe she's doing it. But then he stopped her because he wasn't being serious. He was just teasing her.
61. *In Book 4, Luke appears upset at the idea of Sang working at the diner - is it just because he's afraid of losing her to another Academy team or is there another reason?*
- A. He's afraid another Academy team will pop in and try to lure her away from their team. It is always a risk, even with their own members. Family is a choice.
62. *What was going through Kota's mind when Sang touches him behind the ears during the training session?*
- A. It's a hot spot for him. He got turned on by it.
63. *In book 3, Sang is in the bathroom she is looking at the heart on the bracelet Victor gave her and says that it opens what does it say/have in it? Does Sang still have the bracelet or did she lose it in one of her mishaps?*
- A. It doesn't open. I don't know where that came from. ☺ She was just touching it. She didn't lose it, it's just at home. She doesn't like wearing it too often because she's afraid of losing it.
64. *Are we going to find out what drug North took? And what was it that North said after drinking the stuff in Sang's cup? Because Silas covered Sang's ears and North's ranting got cut off. I was wonder what he was saying.*
- A. We find out about the drugs later in another book. North was saying dirty things he'd like to do to Sang, and a lot of cursing. Silas was protecting her from it.



65. *In the fourth book, when Sang refuses to talk to North anymore and has her "emotional meltdown" in her room, do the boys check on her through the cameras and can they see her sobbing? If they do, what are their reactions?*

A. They don't check on her because they pretty much know what's she's doing. Kota went up to sit outside her room and could hear her crying. They all knew she was crying up there. They were all heartbroken. They blamed North for it but Kota told them all to clean up and go home and let him take care of her.

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

A. They all know. They couldn't stop her if they wanted. Kota knew best. Give her time and let her calm down. It's what she needed.

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

A. Mostly it was cursing at the situation and he couldn't believe this was happening.



If you're new to The Academy and would like more info and to meet some other people who also enjoy talking about the books, I have created a special Forum where fans can interact and ask questions. 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!

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