



Included in this download are the answers to some fan questions. While I'm working away at First Kiss, I didn't have time to do a lot of questions, so this sheet contains BOTH non-spoiler and spoiler answers – I'll let you know where to stop reading if you don't want spoilers, though if you haven't read all the books, there still might be spoilers in the first section. You've been warned!

Past sheets are available on my website: <http://clstonebooks.com/goodies-and-giveaways/>

Don't tell Mr. Blackbourne!



C. L.

1. *When will First Kiss be released?*

A. Tentatively in April, but the exact date is still unknown. We'll send out a newsletter with preorder links as soon as we have a firm date.

2. *When will Hoax be released?*

A. Most likely before the next Harry Potter. ☺ So mid-July. Again, exact release dates are tentative. I'm trying not to schedule exact dates to give time for other projects happening around Academy headquarters.

3. *Will we ever know exactly what happened at the boot camp where Kota beat North to become the leader?*

A. Yes, but it might not be talked about for a little while. Just having trouble fitting it in a book at the moment. ☺ Other things going on.



4. *Can you tell us where each of the guys from both teams were born? Also, I know that North was born in Germany, but are either of his parents actually German? Is he of German descent?*

A. Everyone was in or around Charleston except for North, Silas and Mr. Blackbourne. And by around Charleston, that's just saying "not sure which hospital or exactly where" but like Kota was most likely Summerville area, and Victor was Charleston, so then everyone else was local.

North's parents aren't German, all American. So he's like if an American baby was born in Germany on an army base. He knows some German and more Greek (thanks to Silas) from moving around Europe but otherwise he's American.

5. *How did you decide which scent each guy has?*

A. Kind of worked out with their personalities as we went along. Mr. Blackbourne's is soap, because he doesn't do anything fancy, it's just his soap. The others are variations, either a gift from Gabriel as a scent, or something they particularly liked, or like Gabriel's is varied because he experiments with scents.

But like with Nathan, his is leather because he's such a guy and his house has a lot of leather furniture. Victor's is actually a rich brand of cologne that's \$200+ a bottle. Silas's was a gift from Gabriel, the ocean scent. They just seemed to fit their personalities.

6. *I am rereading all the Ghost Bird series books for the sixth time (big fan you have here) and there is something I still don't quite understand: Mr. McCoy's feelings towards Sang. Does he feel a kind of attraction towards Sang or is it more like a kind of hatred.*

A. Hatred. Probably due to a lot of women in his life rejecting his advances and he has control over teenage girls in high school, so he likes to boss them around and get his control out on those pretty girls when older wouldn't give him the time of day.

7. *Were Derrick and Daniele abused or was just Derrick a really good friend with the guys and they thought he was a good fit for their team?*

A. No abuse in the Derrick household. Just he seems like a good guy and the gang thought he'd be a good fit, except for Mr. Blackbourne, who was pretty sure he wasn't because he usually bowed out of most jobs if he thought he'd get an ounce of trouble from grownups. He wasn't really willing to risk a detention or grounding for the team. Plus he didn't like working every day like the guys do. And also, he just didn't connect as well with the others. It happens.



8. *I have two questions about McCoy, in First days when he bumps into Sang for the second time, was he trying to feel her up and then give her detention to get her alone? And in the shower scene where he accuses Sang of theft, was he going to try and molest or rape her? If yes, has he tried to do something similar to other girls or just Sang?*

A. He wasn't really trying to feel her up, just giving an excuse to give her detention since Dr. Green wasn't there to protect her. Detention, as mentioned in the previous answer, is again about his having control of someone.

I swung from Mr. McCoy taking Sang from the showers to his office to giving her suspension or calling the police in for theft, or swinging to taking her home to yell at her. Both bad, and in a way, he **in the story** was probably weighing those thoughts in his brain. He had her alone. He's got issues with women rejecting him, and control issues.

Rapists and kidnapers and such don't usually start out with "I'm going to rape you", it's an escalation of this happened and then this. While this might have led to rape, this was an 'in the moment' situation.

He has given detention to girls in the past, or suspensions, and there's some record of him trying to get girls in his car to 'take them somewhere' before something happened to stop it. There are rumors that Mr. Hendricks knows about and plans to use against him whenever the time is right.

So far, Mr. McCoy hasn't actually done anything outside of accusing Sang of theft of which he didn't have proof, just an opportunity to blame her. And legally, Sang freaked out on her own because of what she felt from Mr. McCoy. She would technically be the one in trouble, which is why Mr. Blackbourne wanted to take him somewhere else to try to talk to him and get him to back off, up until Mr. McCoy got away. It's why they can't legally even try to prosecute. Mr. McCoy could say he was defending himself, and Sang didn't need to flip out if she'd just listened to him and went to his office.

Hoping this makes sense. It's why no one in the Academy can actually touch him right now. He's not really done anything illegal that they can pin, and especially not without dragging Sang through the court system. He's technically not the one who has done anything actually illegal. While the thought of dragging girls back to his house was an option he was thinking of, since he hasn't actually done so, there's nothing to pin him with. They have to wait for him to make an illegal move somewhere.



9. *It may be obvious but I'd like clarification on why North suddenly leaves Sang on the bed in the hotel room in 'Push and Shove' and in a similar instance when she is sat on his lap at the sleepover and can't sit still then he moves her and escapes. Is it because of... hormonal issues? Or, possibly, is there a deeper meaning?*

A. He gets sexually frustrated and he walks off to cool himself. He knows it's too soon for sex, obviously, and he gets embarrassed thinking Sang can 'feel things down below'. I try to keep it a little PG in those situations so Sang doesn't notice things as much as she's feeling other things (kisses, hands on hips, other things in the room, that's a lot of things to feel all at once).

10. *I wanted to ask what the whole story of the dreams is? I she keeps getting them and I think they're a big deal because they keep getting mentioned. I just wanted to know if there will be more to the dreams, like why she gets them?*

A. For Sang, dreams represent her true feelings, even if she doesn't acknowledge them to herself. North is the one pointing this out, even though he can't be the one to tell her how she feels, he just tries to guide her to admitting what she's feeling.

Dreams can be a lot of things, but for Sang, fear, regret, guilt and other emotions come out in her dreams, giving her nightmares. If she dreams and she's talking about it, she's reflecting her true feelings without saying, "I'm scared of this real life thing." It's part of how she deals with situations. She compartmentalizes what has happened to her, and then it comes out in dreams as fear and anxiety. Once she pinpoints her true feelings, the dreams will let up, but in the meantime, she's stuck with nightmares nearly every night.

11. *What does Gabriel think when Sang pouts at him why does he freaks out when she does?*

A. Because guys hate it when girls pout and he gets over anxious because he doesn't have a fix for it. He wants to fix her and when she pouts, he doesn't know what to do so he panics. He thinks she'll cry and then he'd cry. ☺

12. *In THPoS, Mr. Blackbourne is curious about Sang's interaction with the little kids. Why is that?*

A. Because Sang is shy in almost every situation around other people, but with kids, she lets the kids crawl all over her and plays with them. This is good, because it shows Sang isn't totally 'anti people'. She's just incredibly shy around adults, very good with kids, though. This is different and good news and Mr. Blackbourne can use this with the Academy to show she's a good person.



13. *Is Beau Andrews Academy...? Or the first pre runner for Academy members... Because he seems like Academy material. He uses Irish Spring soap (like Mr. Blackbourne) has a penchant for taking care of family first and the people he loves and is closest to. He does "favors" for Mrs. Johnson when he looks for her husband to get her custody of her kids and even takes Celeste to the academy hospital... So I guess I have to know if he is Academy or if it is just my over active imagination.*

A. For those who don't know, this is from *Smoking Gun*, my first (kind of horribly edited) book that is available. I haven't gotten any questions about it before so congrats on being the first one! Not many have suffered through it to read it. ☺

Anyway, for the question, this book was way before any Academy, but you'll get reflections of 'Academy things' inside, because it's the same city setting (Charleston, SC), and I use a lot of the same places. I should go back and re-edit to make it easier to read. It's fun, and the same vein, although not a series. ☺

But Beau Andrews is actually just a good guy, probably Academy worthy, but since I hadn't written about the Academy yet, you're just seeing stuff I liked to write about, things I like, etc., and a lot of Charleston city references.

And for *Spice God*, my other non-Academy book, *Jupiter Island* is actually a slight change up of *Folly Beach*. Those who read it will notice "North Shore" is there and it suggests why that tide might be dangerous. It's fantasy romance, but one of my favorite books I've written

14. *From "Push and Shove": In Dr. Green's apartment Mr. Blackbourne keeps asking Sang if she's okay. I was left confused as to why he was so persistent with it? I know she hadn't been eating and her health was struggling at that point a little but after that it kind of became a habit of him asking her most of the time if she's okay. Not that I'm complaining, I think it's cute he seems so concerned and attuned to her emotions. I'm just wondering if in that particular night he saw something in Sang that had him more worried about her than normal.*

A. Because often she's keeping her thoughts and ideas to herself. She looks nervous and unsure and he worries and he asks to give her an opening to offer some suggestion to make her comfortable.

For some people, like Sang, they keep thoughts to themselves, so he tries when he's around to give her plenty of openings to let him know what she's thinking or feeling.



15. *I was rereading the series and the boys keep talking how that are unique team. What makes their team so different from the other team? Also, what sort of missions did they do before this school?*

- A. Bigger team, more challenging jobs, a set of brothers on a team, even if stepbrothers, is rare. (The Scarab Beetle team is super rare with a set of twins, which makes them valuable as a team.) Mostly because they are willing to do more dangerous jobs and their team is so big and varied. Most teams are like three or four people at max. Most teams don't have a Victor hacker, a Luke thief, or team members willing to sneak in and do some dangerous things for the greater reward.

16. *Why did Gabriel keep telling Sang no when they were making out in book 8? Why does he not believe Sang when she tells him she likes him?*

- A. He's telling her "no" in a particular spot when he's trying to carry her across the floor but he's not stopping kissing her either. He's trying not to kill them by falling, but does anyway.

And Gabriel suffers from envy of the other guys and believes she'd pick them over him any day.

17. *In F&P North tells Sang that he doesn't want their first kiss to be "in some godforsaken closet in the middle of nowhere." What then, in his mind, makes him decide it would be better to have it be in the boys' bathroom?*

- A. He gave up waiting. He needed it, she needed it. Sometimes you can't pick the sweetest place. Teenagers have limited locations to be kissing in real life, and sometimes that happens in high school bathrooms. ☺ In F&P he was more not interested in being pressured by other kids to kiss her, which was his major objection. He wanted it on his and her terms.



Warning: Spoiler section starts here!

18. *Now that football season is over for the guys, will any of them be joining the basketball team?*

A. Probably not. ☺ Although they will be paying attention to coaches and teams. Football took up a lot of time away from their actual job, which is what they are realizing about all their classes. Those take up way too much time to actually focus on their real jobs, but still trying to blend in.

19. *I was wondering in which book you plan on having Sang lose her virginity and if it will be soon.*

A. I don't really know and nope, not soon. We've not gotten first kisses from everyone yet, and sex probably won't happen while she's still sixteen, I think. They've got other issues to deal with right now.

20. *Have any of the guys including Mr Blackbourne and Dr.Green, at all given any signs they want to have sex with sang or will that come in the future books?*

A. Nope. They are guys, they think of sex on occasion like normal humans, but they're busy, and some of them haven't been beyond kissing, and they've got other things to worry about. Thinking of sex right now isn't really on the table. They probably wouldn't even consider it until she's 18 to avoid any issues.

21. *I wanted to know if Sang's stepmom is going to try something against her again? Is Sang going to get hurt again because of her mom?*

A. Mrs. Sorenson is currently under observation at an Academy hospital and while she might be released at some point, Sang will have plenty of warning and the guys will most likely set up so that Sang doesn't have to be around her.

Sang, however, will always feel sorry for her and do small things to reach out, because she's a kind person and that's just who she is.

22. *Are Sang's grandparents still alive? If they are, will Sang see them again?*

A. On her mother's side, I believe they are, but they're pretty old. I think her dad's parents aren't alive at this point, but I never know until we get to the point we're talking about it. Dad's parents stopped talking to him after this incident, and Sang's mom's parents never asked about Sang. They were trying to forget.

We'll see if they ever meet. ☺



23. *In the last book Luke was able to rip the mask with the voice generator thing off. I wondered if it could be tested for any spit from his mouth. If there are traces then others could be tested so that the people on the list made by Dr Green and Mr Blackbourne could be eliminated. I know he wore a ski mask underneath but there would be a mouth hole so that his voice would be clipped.*

A. They're going to be doing all sorts of test on the mask part, and will try to find hair or anything that can be used to get some DNA, and then use process of elimination. ☺ But DNA takes weeks of testing, and they've got some samples to collect. While an evidence process team is starting on the mask, they're organizing DNA retrieval and bagging on suspects for January when they get back to school after Christmas.

24. *The shed in Sang's backyard seems to hold some odd stuff from her past but after Sang helps Derrick save Micah and Tom, the shed or the things in it are not really mentioned again. Is it something that might at some point become important in future books or is it something not important that just fit into the story early on*

A. It's a job undone, and the shed will come up again, but for different reasons since it was just all thrown back in and forgotten about for now. The guys tried to back off because of Marie and allowing her space, because it's her stuff and past, too. They were trying to be nice, and it fit the scene. But it does give me a chance to use it later for what I'm thinking of.

25. *In The Other Side of Envy I'm curious about what Lily's team spoke to Gabriel and Luke about whilst Sang was talking to Lily, as in the car when Sang asked them, they acted funny!?*

A. It's a lot like when North and Mr. Blackbourne went to talk to them. Sit down, talk about how their team dynamic works, talk about how other teams failed because they couldn't pull it off. They aren't trying to say their way is the only way, but so far from what they know, their team is the only one to have one girl and so many guys on a team. They are just honest about how it worked for them.

Usually when teams get to the point they are talking to them, that's the reason. Most guy/girl combos that approach them like that, (two guys and a girl), it's usually one or both guys love her so they want her on the team, but within a couple years, they fail and either the girl leaves or the girl hooks up with one guy and the second guy finds another team.

So they told Gabriel and Luke the reality, that it's probably unlikely, but their team did it by staying together like they did.



26. *It sounds like some of the guys in your Scarab Beetle series are into guys and girls. Won't the thief girl get jealous if they are into each other as well as her?*

A. Not really. Once she gets over the idea, she'll feel like 'one of the guys'. If say Corey dated another one of the guys and she's also interested in that guy, too. She'll like it.

27. *In the Ghost Bird series, Dr. Green mentioned that it only worked if they were all gay or lesbian or of course the method that their team and Lily 's team was trying.*

A. Usually if say two girls and two guys who weren't dating within the team, if all four were on the team together, it *usually*, as far as he knows, only happened if the two girls were lesbian and the guys were gay. Otherwise, there's dating jealousy issues. (You sort of see what happens with Kevin, and how he's careful about not letting Kayli on the team due to his fiancé.)

28. *None of the guys on Sang's team are bisexual are they? Sang got jealous when a girl wrote her number on Luke's arm, I think she would be all sorts of confused if Gabriel made a pass at him.*

A. None of Sang's team is interested in guys, but some of them could be hanging around is say Sang was kissing someone else and be cool with it. Or kiss her right after someone did. Or be kissing her with another guy around. Luke and Gabriel could do that together. Someone like Nathan needs her to himself and doesn't want to see the other guys kissing on her at all.

Once the relationship progresses, they'll work on this. This type of relationship requires full communication, both Scarab Beetle and Ghost Bird.



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 for fans. I am active in this group when I'm not busy writing and answer questions there as I can, but beware—parts of the forum are full of spoilers.

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

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