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SPOILER EDITION!

This is version three of the spoiler cheat sheets, which is questions submitted to me that contained spoilers, upcoming scenes, intimate details of what the guys were thinking, etc.

Don't tell Mr. Blackbourne.





General Series Questions

1. *Besides Nathan who are the main players in the next book?*
 - A. From the dossier: MAIN GUY: NATHAN Supporting roles: Gabriel, North, Kota, Luke and Mr. Blackbourne
2. *Was it love at first sight for all of the boys when they first met Sang?*
 - A. No. ☺ Sorry, but no. Dr. Green was probably the only one who was smitten right from the start but he didn't know her at all so it was really just a very deep crush and a tug on his heart that this is a very sweet girl and he'd like to get to know her. Kota was pretty close, very stricken by her. Everyone felt that 'twinge' of 'she's beautiful' and even started crushing on her (those that dared to admit it). Most of them know better not to fly off the handle thinking it is love just for a pretty face. It wasn't until they got to know her that a lot of them started to fall in love with her. Once that happens, they start thinking back to all those 'special moments' they shared and what they love is that the experience and the memory And then they want to spend more time with her and are more adamant about either keeping her safe or giving her what she wants, or doing the right thing by her even if she doesn't know she needs this. But when they're in love, they'll say so.
3. *Will each of the boys realize he loves Sang in his own book or will multiple boys reveal their feelings in one book?*
 - A. I wish I could answer this, but I really don't know. The boys have surprised me at every turn so far with this series. North wasn't supposed to make this love confession so soon in book four, and lo and behold, it popped out of his mouth and he couldn't take it back. Some, I have a feeling, are going to struggle with this a lot longer than the others.
4. *I know that as the series progresses, Sang and the boys will become more physically intimate, but will it ever be with more than one boy at a time?*
 - A. That's a long way down the line. I don't want to say yes or no to this, because I don't want people expecting something and for some reason the boys refuse to play ball. But the boys will be intimate with Sang and there may be instances where another boy walks in or all kinds of other stuff. Some I know in my head won't, and some might, given the right circumstances. They will want their own time with her but some are willing to sacrifice exclusivity time for a bit as long as they get to hang around her. And some would rather wait it out until they get their chance alone. How this plays out in the story depends on Sang and the boys and the situations they are put in.
5. *Will Sang ever learn how to whistle?*
 - A. No. She can't do it. The boys will tease her about this.
6. *Did you ever consider adding more or getting rid of any of the guys?*
 - A. Never will add a guy. Never will get rid of a guy. In the beginning, I don't know how it came about, but I just looked at some of my favorite personalities from guys and suddenly there were nine of them. I did briefly think that this story would be way difficult to write with nine. In "writing school" they teach you how to cut characters that aren't essential. I couldn't do it. They were all essential and I couldn't live with writing a story without any of them now. ☺ Once I had my team, though, they were in for the long haul and haven't since thought to get rid of any of them. I was in love with them before I started writing ,so I couldn't leave one out.



7. *Does Karen have a crush on Sang?*

A. Yes.

8. *I can picture Kota or Silas trying to run off with Sang. Will one of the boys try to run off with her, before the others get a chance to explain?*

A. Some may talk about it and some may 'try' in small ways but they'll always come back. Despite what they feel for Sang, they actually love their team, their brothers, very much and wouldn't want to leave them. It would be like North and Silas breaking away and starting their own two dog team. Would never happen because they're too deep with this team.

9. *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.

10. *Will we see marriage or babies before the series ends? I love the thought of Gabriel planning weddings and any of the boys as dotting dads.*

A. That is so far down the line. ☺ I see the series continuing where this comes up in a topic and things like this might happen, but I'm still trying to get Sang out of high school so let's just take it one step at a time.

11. *Is Gabriel gay, or does he just have an eye for fashion?*

A. Gabriel likes clothes, learned how to mess with hair, and is into fashion. Guess what? His step mother is a beautician! He grew up with this.

Gabriel also has self-confidence issues. The Academy taught him to take advantage of his knowledge and this stuff he learned to love and grew up with and helped him become who he is without fear.

The guys, when you see them chuckling because he's trying to paint nails, they don't even think or consider that it is a gay thing. They just find it amusing when he gets ALL RILED UP over something so surprising. He does that a lot. Get him to go kill a spider and he throws a fit and they find it funny.

Actions, and what you like and clothes and hair don't make you gay. If you are a boy and you like boys, you're gay. If you're a girl who likes girls, you're gay. And you don't even have to fall into a 'zone'. There's bisexuals. There's people who love shoving apples up their butts. Doesn't matter. Love what you love.

Right now Gabriel is so obsessed with Sang that he can't even dream about anything else. And him telling himself he'd never win her only works him up more. As for the guys, they actually see him as greater competition! He gets her to play with him. She lets him into the bathroom when she's half naked. He plays with her hair. He's the closest of any of them and he's so chock full of talent that it's driving them all crazy. Victor, when he says he couldn't compare to a lot of the other guys, he's in particular thinking about Gabriel.

12. *Will we "see" the inside of The Academy?*

A. You already have. ☺ This will come up eventually.



13. *Will we meet the other ghost bird?*

- A. There's not another ghost bird right now. Not within the scope that I can see. The other bird on the all dog team isn't a ghost bird. She had IDs and other things, but she was in a very abusive situation and the team that took care of her eventually just took her in. Mr. Anderson has said, "The state still knows her by her maiden name." Which means she's got an ID and everything.

Sang's special because no one really knows she exists other than the schools she had been to, and she can easily be 'erased' from data bases and completely disappear.

But Sang will meet up with the bird from the other dog team eventually. Mr. Anderson was honest when he said he was interested in hearing the progress of Mr. Blackbourne's team and Mr. Blackbourne will turn for him for advice.

14. *Does Sang ever befriend the boy with the glasses?*

- A. She's pretty easy to get along with once you can get her to talk to you. Right now, they're friendly with each other but they just don't know a lot about one another. As things progress, she'll get a bit more friendly with other people.

15. *Why are the different boys keeping Sang's secrets from each other? Like Victor and the shower thing or North and the dreams. Is everything going to come out in the open?*

- A. North doesn't keep the dreams to himself. He chronicles them in a journal and reports in to Mr. Blackbourne for anything that seems repetitive or anything that stands out. The others know. This is why Kota wasn't surprised in the car at hearing Sang relaying the dream to North and why Silas says "they are getting worse" in book five.

Victor had a temporary setback in convincing Sang to tell the others about the shower thing. In the moment, he was just trying to calm her down because she was upset. He was going to give it a couple of days and some time before he brought it up to Sang again. Although he did promise Sang that he wouldn't discuss it with the others and he will keep this promise. This won't stop him from trying to convince her to tell the others about it. If he felt it was completely dangerous and at risk to her welfare, he'd mention it to Mr. Blackbourne and the others at once. He doesn't want to do it without her or behind her back.

16. *What happened with Mr. McCoy? Where is he and does he return in future books?*

- A. Mr. McCoy is, what I call in my head, "out in the wild". You'll see him around and he will return.

17. *In one of the books, forgive me I can't remember which, Sang said that she was named after her grandma and I am assuming it is her dad's mother as you wrote in another cheat sheet that she doesn't know anything about her mother's parents since they don't keep in touch. My question is, why did her dad choose that name if he wasn't close to his mother?*

- A. The name was chosen by Sang's stepmother. Marie was named after the maternal grandmother, Mrs. Sorenson's mother. Sang was named after Mr. Sorenson's mother. Sang never knew her, barely remembers her from when she was very little, and doesn't know if they're alive. Her parents had kept the girls in seclusion, due to Mr. Sorenson and wanting to stay 'under the radar' about his activities.



18. *Will Sang ever join the Academy? Does she have to try multiple times to get in, or does it just take her a while to get in?*

A. Sang will have to admit she wants in the Academy, will have to go through application and then testing. This is a tedious process because of the very nature of the Academy itself. And it is not an all or nothing thing, but a progressive type of training/testing along the way. She will join the Academy, but this will take a long time to get to. We still have to get her to the application/registration phase.

19. *Will Sang stay a ghost ?*

A. Yes. For a long time.

20. *Do other Academy people know about Sang, other than Dr. Phillip Roberts team?*

A. Minor players, but in an offhand way. Right now she's just adopted by this team, which isn't a new thing for teams to do so she's not really a significant blip on the Academy's radar. So she's being tracked because she's been in the Academy hospital, but core members aren't particularly interested in her file.

21. *Will Sang and Marie ever meet their fathers "other" family?*

A. Yes. This will be an issue in upcoming books.

22. *Although Mr. B and Dr Green out of the ball park smart, they're still guys and just as liable to screw up somewhere with Sang (eg Do they think she won't be hurt when she realises they're keeping secrets that concern her. Or don't they mess up too? If so what book do we have to wait for this. (Does she ever shorten Mr. B's surname).*

A. All the boys and Sang will mess up repeatedly. That's life. Mr. Blackbourne and Dr. Green are smart, but they aren't perfect. Dr. Green has already started to show some of his 'flaws'. He tried pushing Sang, teasing her in book five about the 'minor surgery' but that joke blew up in his face when Sang wasn't going to take his teasing and just did it.

But the others, including Mr. Blackbourne, will conflict with Sang and each other. They're all smart but none are perfect and they even may make similar mistakes. It just happens. They try their best in the situations they are given.

For Sang, he will always be Mr. Blackbourne, and for him, she will always be Miss Sorenson. Other names may crop up for various reasons but these are the ones they stick with for now.

23. *Will there be any more fist fights between the boys over Sang in the near future?*

A. Only always. ☺ And they'll fight with each other. You can't love someone and not fight every once in a while. It shows you care.

24. *We know Kota has a sibling, that North and Luke are step siblings and Gabriel has a dead brother. Do the rest of the boys have any siblings? If they do, will they make an appearance?*

A. The only other sibling is Silas's brother. You'll meet him in book seven.



25. *Do you have Sang only wear shorts and skirts on purpose? I notice she never wears pants or long skirts or dresses. Will that be changing as the weather becomes cooler or will she still remain with her style that Gabriel gave her?*

A. She wore some jeans in book five, and as it gets colder she'll change a bit but the boys (especially Mr. Blackbourne and Gabriel) will encourage her to wear skirts and dress up a bit. She actually prefers skirts as it feels freer and shorts are easier to move around in. Gabriel will get her a style around the winter weather where she'll wear short skirts and long stockings and long boots and a nice coat. South Carolina isn't too cold so she can get away with it more there.

26. *Why does her dad want her to remain a ghost?*

A. Her dad doesn't know she's a ghost, but he wants to keep her under the radar and go unnoticed. They lied on her birth certificate and her 'Social Security number' is fake and doesn't belong to her. He'd get in trouble for that. If he had told the truth about her birth, they would have investigated about Sang's real mother and then he'd be in trouble. He's trying to get her to get a 'real ID' like her driver's license and hope that she'll pass as normal eventually that she can ease her way into society so no one will *ever notice*.

27. *Will there be any major character deaths, such as Sang or the boys?*

A. Sang and the boys are what writers call a 'bullet proof cast'. They may get hurt, and severely, but they're in this for the long haul.

28. *Is North ever going to take Sang to the beach?*

A. Eventually. ☺ Yes.

29. *Is Sang ever going to have to spend time hospitalized?*

A. You can't introduce an Academy hospital and never use it. Eventually, yes.

30. *Will Sang ever become good at pickpocketing?*

A. Sang will discover talents (like nail painting!) and she has many secret talents she is starting to reveal (being able to navigate!) but pickpocketing and lying are two of many she is not good at. Can't be good at everything. If she's doing something she thinks is wrong morally, she's very faulty at it. Even if it is to her own benefit.

31. *Do the boys stay in the Academy and if so, do we find out what the academy actually does and who is at the top, and why it was started?*

A. The boys are Academy for life. And you'll find out the details as we go. There is no top in the Academy. Everyone is equal. You see what the Academy does as we go. They infiltrate where they are needed, assume normal roles in society and then use social engineering to alter things for the better. Sometimes they have to act directly, like in book five where Luke had to steal the camera, but this is rare and they prefer not to do this. They don't like to spend time in places where they are not openly welcome. Too risky. It draws too much attention.



32. *How far will this series extend? Will we see them become a full family and operate in the Academy together as such, sharing a house and everything? Has that already been addressed or is all of that too spoilery? I'm dying to know if they become a family and eventually have kids.*

A. This is total spoiler but it is a very, very long road to get to the point where they are not only accepting each other, but also the Academy accepts this family unit. They are very young and it'll be a struggle as no one is really ready to believe a bunch of 16/17/18 year olds and onwards will stick it out forever together. But Mr. Blackbourne was very clever picking out his group, and he would have never allowed Sang to get so mixed up into this if he didn't see what the benefit would be. So far, she's done nothing but draw their little unit in tighter than ever. It's a risk, she could also break them apart, but his team has never worked harder before for anything. Not with this enthusiasm.

33. *Does Sang have mental health issues?*

A. Sang suffers from avoidant personality disorder, but on a highly functional level. If that makes sense. The guys are fully aware. From my very, non-doctor opinion about Sang, here's her diagnosis from her dossier:

Avoidant personality disorder due to rejections from family. See:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avoidant_personality_disorder

Symptoms:

Self imposed social isolation

Extreme shyness

Avoids physical contact

Low self esteem

Emotional distancing

Sang's nightmares are the result of repeated isolation and emotional/painful punishments put together by her mother.

Results:

Nightmares

Risk eccentric (Lack of respect for her own life, not suicidal)

Results from being tied up in shower:

Afraid of standing in the shower, spray on her face. She can tolerate baths but most often she prefers a 'hobo bath' from the sink.

Can lead to agoraphobia

34. *Will we ever find out the significance of Sang's dreams!?!*

A. Sang's dreams are a barometer of how she's feeling. They got worse after her parents left because she's feeling lost and doesn't know how to handle things. They got worse again when the boys' lives were threatened. Sometimes she's so overwhelmed, she doesn't know how to feel. Her dreams show her. North is trying to keep a record. They had to go through the same thing with a few of the guys.



The Scarab Beetle Series Questions

35. *Hey CL 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.

36. *Marc mentioned 'new teammate' is a girl, is he part of Kayli's team?*

A. Thief's timeline overlaps with Drop of Doubt's. You'll see.

Drop of Doubt Questions

37. *In book 5 when Victor ask Blackbourne if he is in on the plan too what was going to be his reply? Is he accepting that he loves Sang to or is he still like keeping her at arm's length?*

A. When he loves her, he'll say so openly. He keeps a lot of people at a distance, using propriety as a method of keeping everyone at a distance in a way he is comfortable with.

38. *In book 5 it was mentioned how the Academy sort of gets rid of people they find harmful or that's what I gathered like Muriel. Did a similar thing happen to Kota's father? And if so what did he do to deserve it?*

A. Like Nathan's father, Kota's father often abused Kota a lot. When the Academy took them in, they dealt with all of the boys' family issues, including Kota's father. The result: Kota's father is no longer in the picture. Unlike Nathan's father, Kota's dad wasn't as compliant about going to work and avoiding his family until he was old enough to get out of his house. So the Academy pulled a few strings and the father willingly moved out on his own when they showed him an offer too good to pass up. Erica is now divorced and the kids no longer have to worry about him.

39. *I was just wondering if the man in the mask is actually involved or connected to the bomb threat boxes and the phone threats because in a Drop of Doubt, the man in the mask seemed to have no idea what she was talking about when Sang mentioned the pictures.*

A. Volto didn't know about the pictures because Muriel was doing those. The only thing Volto, at this time, claims to actually doing is intercepting her phone calls and stealing Mr. Blackbourne's car, kidnapping Sang (briefly) and whatever you saw him doing in book five. Everything else Mr. Blackbourne and the gang are trying to figure out.

40. *What did Hendricks mean by "Just one more year"?*

A. This is kind of a spoiler, and it will be talked about later in the books. So spoiler: Hendricks plans on only being in the school for one more year. This is his final one. So why bully the guys about being there if he's going to be gone at the end of the year anyway? What would he care if they stick around?



41. *If Hendricks was only going to be there 1 more year, what is the point of bringing in more dangerous students to the school & why does he seem to think McCoy would be better to deal with them. Is that he's only reason for wanting McCoy back?*

A. That's the big question, isn't it? Why bring in more dangerous students into what's already chaos right now? And especially mid-semester? Maybe it isn't about the good of the school or the students, but for his own benefit. What would benefit Mr. Hendricks? This move could have only been done with permission from inside the school board itself. Mr. McCoy has been working alongside Mr. Hendricks for years, and suddenly he disappeared without warning. Mr. Hendricks feels he needs this piece. For one, Mr. McCoy was his 'scapegoat' in a way, the person he was going to throw under the bus. So he's telling Sang to find him, not because Mr. Hendricks believes she has the capability to find him, but because he's trying to put word out he's looking for him and is hoping someone will spot him and pass word along. But anyway, Mr. Hendricks wants things in a certain way to cover his trail, so to speak. With a lot of chaos going on, he can easily slip whatever he's doing over on the other side unnoticed. Redirecting attention is part of what bad guys do.

42. *What is Hendricks connection with Karen? Why was she in the office twice now?*

A. Karen's in meetings with Hendricks just like Sang, but checking out different things. She's got her eyes and ears on the student population. So the question turns into, "Why did Hendricks recruit her? What does he have over her?" So that's a spoiler I can't spill yet.

43. *Has Volto appeared or been mentioned in any of the books as him/her real self ?*

A. You can't plant a bunch of red herrings and not have a few truths planted delicately and inconspicuously throughout. What an unfair mystery that would be.

44. *So, is it going to be one guy per book from here on out having the "talk" with whomever went before?*

A. This is total spoiler: If there's one thing you guys should know right away, is that if it seems like things are going one direction and you get comfortable, that's when a writer has to toss a dead body down the stairs and throw everyone for a loop. Don't hold your breath thinking everything is going to go so smoothly.

45. *I was thinking that the boys should get her a rape whistle for her birthday since she can't scream.*

A. They don't plan on being far enough away from her that she needs one. Although Kota may eventually get her like a little... something like an air horn. Probably smaller that will fit on a keychain. He likes keychain tools.

46. *My big question is why didn't the Taser work on Sang?*

A. Muriel was waving it around in the dark. She caught Sang in the arm I think, which is not the best place to hit someone with a Taser. Sang felt the jolt, but it wasn't full force. And then Sang managed to knock it out of her hand so it was useless then.

47. *Does Luke tell the others about stealing stuff from her panties?*

A. Uh, no. There's certain things they don't tell each other. Like him nuzzling on her in the attic. That's his little tease with Sang now. He doesn't really kiss and tell.

48. *Did her mother commit suicide or did she do something reckless/selfish/accidental that caused her death while Sang was a newborn?*

A. Post partum depression suicide. Her life was really messed up and the one guy she trusted for a while pretty much 'ran away' after she became pregnant. Complicated.



49. *Will the boy that breaks the rules and kisses Sang in the next book get in any trouble for breaking the rules or will the rest of the team not know about it?*

A. The thing with being in the Academy is you have to be honest. And they can tell when you're not. So when you mess up and know you've broken the rules, confessions will happen. The others will know.

50. *What is Volto's obsession with Sang and why is he trying to help her ?*

A. Volto told the truth when he said he saw Sang limping around (after her ankle bone got bruised) and the bruises and so on. He knows of the Academy and her involvement. He also knows about the cameras in their houses. All of this lead to his investigation and his conclusion that the Academy is not a good place and Sang was the last person he wanted wrapped up in it. His obsession isn't so much anything else other than he doesn't think Sang would trust him saying this. He also doesn't want to expose his true identity to the Academy. So he took extra precautions. Thus why we have Volto. He's trying to help her because he's too nice for his own good.

51. *How did Volto get not only Mr. Blackbourne's car, but his keys too?*

A. Volto had access to Victor's house. The boys have all of each other's keys. All he had to do was wait for Mr. Blackbourne to leave it in a parking lot somewhere.

52. *What was Victor thinking when he saw Sang in the bathroom naked thought it would be in the A report?*

A. He was panicked that she was passed out. A little too wrapped up that something happened to her. After their terrible night the night before, and after the nightmare, this was just full out panic. When he thought about it later, he couldn't even remember the details other than her closed eyes and the terror in her face when she woke up. By then, he'd had her wrapped in a towel and she was wrapped up the entire time after. So in honesty, Kota's still got the 'full monty' view of her over everyone else. Technically he saw it, but too panicked to really even stop and think. (Unlike Kota, who hadn't been expecting her and she surprised the crapola out of him.)

53. *Whose house did they break into? And are the pictures on the camera going to be important?*

A. You have to wait for this one. The answers are in Thief. There's a timeline overlap. You'll see.

54. *Were Mr Blackbourne and North naked?*

A. They are if you think they are. They aren't if you think they are.

55. *Does Marc know who Sang is or does he really think she's in the Academy?*

A. Marc was high as a kite and hardly remembers what happened in there. He fully trusted Dr. Green and assumed Sang was in the Academy. It's an Academy hospital so he had no reason to think otherwise.

56. *What were the boys thinking when Luke and Sang came back and she kissed him on the cheek?*

A. Luke was on cloud nine, should have kept her out longer, wanted to do that again, thought it was all worth it for that. The others were angry with him for taking him out while Volto was out there. Kota was pea green jealous and so scared out of his noggin for her. The others were jealous a bit, but I mean to them it was a kiss on the cheek. Like you do for your mom or whatever. But they were SO FREAKING HAPPY she did it because it showed them she could and would when she wanted to and they couldn't wait to get her alone again. Some were, others were like, "she'll never do that to me". And you know, flipping out because Volto and stuff.



57. *What were Kota and North doing when Sang had the nightmare and rang them?*

- A. They were watching someone they thought was involved in the bomb threat but it was a dead end. Basically watching some dude's house and he the guy slipped out to go meet up with his girlfriend. So nothing really exciting but they had to get going.

58. *How did Victor know she was passed out in the shower?*

- A. He'd opened the door to ask her something about clothes since she didn't really have spares there. He was saying something about wearing one of their shirts. He called to her, she never answered. He called louder, she didn't respond. So he checked really quick, not trying to be a pervert but because it was kind of spooky and then there you go. Scene.

59. *Did Hendricks really have cameras in his office?? (Not from the Academy). What is his purpose with Sang? It seems he never is satisfied with the info she feeds him.*

- A. Hendricks is smarter than he looks. Prior military experience. There's cameras, but like most cameras these days, he only checks them if he thinks something fishy is going on in his office. (Who has time to review tapes all day?) So far he hasn't caught Sang doing anything. Karen saw someone fixing it one day (the lens on the camera had some condensation) and so she's paranoid. His purpose with Sang is to wait for her to slip up and tell him something. He also wants to keep Mr. Blackbourne paranoid.

60. *Are we going to learn who Volto is in Thief (I don't know how but it could be) or will we have to wait for book 6 ?*

- A. Volto is a long term character. Expect many episodes. It's like Q from Star Trek. He's not in book six, but he'll be back later on.

61. *I have no clue whether Volto is good or bad I'm leaning to good but misguided or misinformed. I have to say his speech made me think for a moment before I slapped myself*

- A. Believing in the boys and believing in the Academy can be two different things. The way Volto presents things might make people question what Sang is really getting into. And the boys are still young, so is it a cult trying to take them over? Are they really as nice as you think? Volto's there to stir that up.

62. *What did North and Owen think about the pictures of Sang when she was naked in Nathans shower? She was a bit embarrassed about them, but what went through their heads or did they think nothing of it?*

- A. North was already seeing red because of Sang looking petrified. There was only a small handful of her naked and the rest was in her underwear, getting dressed, bad angles, etc. But she saw some that were her naked. North saw them but was flipping through pretty quickly. But what was catching him was that the angle of that camera, so when he was staring at it, he wasn't even looking at her. Mr. Blackbourne saw it, too, but at those odd angles. They both have copies tucked away now, but they're too angry to look at them. They were pictures taken when she's vulnerable and it felt pervy to look at them after when they figured out what was going on. Just like Victor when he saw the pictures on his car. (There's going to be an 'off stage' meeting later where they all vote to destroy them. Once they figured out how to secure their camera feeds, they wanted to get rid of the pictures for Sang's sake. There was no need to keep them.) Still, I can't say for sure, in the back of their minds, they're not sometimes daydreaming about her and occasionally can get a better picture of what she looks like naked. They're only human and they really like Sang.



63. *How was North able to sleep without his phone being on or cuddled up to Sang? She didn't say anything about him looking overly tired or being extra grumpy. I figured he would reach his breaking point not being able to check on her, sleep, and having her be in danger.*

A. He did reach his breaking point after seeing the pictures. He just promised her he wouldn't lock her in a bubble a minute ago and then right after the pictures, he's locking her in a bubble, not caring what she thinks. He was annoyed not to be able to use his phone and he had to totally rely on the guys being with her to make sure she was breathing when she slept. He was holding his phone a lot (even if it wasn't on) out of habit. He did sleep the night she went out with Luke, although it was Kota who woke him up in a panic looking for her.

64. *My question is about Muriel. Did she specifically get the job at his house to get closer to him or did the attraction & obsession come with time while working there & how was Volto able to get to her & convince her he could get Victor for her.*

A. Muriel was enthralled with Victor after working at one of those concert halls and spotting him on stage. She became obsessed with Victor, and in true obsessed girl style, she was collecting articles and photos of him in the newspaper. It was no accident that she ended up in the Morgan estate. She applied for jobs as a maid and specifically went to Mr. Morgan and asked. Mr. Morgan, being who he is and here's a younger girl practically volunteering to play maid, he submitted to her request. Muriel did her best, and she managed to weasel herself into being Victor's maid instead of a general house one. However, Victor was polite to her but he totally wasn't into her. But while Muriel seemed to think she was the 'only one' in Victor's life (because he didn't really date) then she was happy. When he started talking about "Sang", she became a little more nosy. When Sang actually showed up at the door, she was livid. But by then, Volto had already caught on to her and who she was and why she was there. Volto talked to her one day while she was out getting stuff and made promises he never intended to keep.

65. *Will Dr. Sean and Sang now share a bed when she stays at his condo since they shared one at the hospital?*

A. *goes to answer but Dr. Green stuffs hand in mouth* Mmrugoiua.

66. *Victor gotta keep her quiet then which means he will still have girls throwing themselves at him how will she cope with that now that she is aware of it and can go to his concerts?*

A. Poor Victor. All those girls flinging themselves at him. The only thing that does protect him is actually a thing he hates, which is that he's in proper society and the way girls throw themselves at guys in proper society has to be done in front of others. Luckily Victor doesn't attend a lot of social functions outside of those charity events and his concerts. He doesn't really make himself available. His mother actually intercepts a lot of those girls for him. But with Sang, he's totally not into any other girl now. He's polite but puts them in their place if they try anything. Sang's sort of having the same problem with guys at school, so while she will get jealous, she has to understand and trust Victor. She's sympathetic.

67. *Mr Blackbourne tells Dr Green everything but has he told him about the whole we have to all love her or lose her? Or is he waiting for Dr Green to fall in love?*

A. Mr. Blackbourne and Dr. Green tell each other everything. Dr. Green is Mr. Blackbourne's backboard about this type of thing. If Mr. Blackbourne is being too strict or if Dr. Green is taking things too lightly, they tell each other.



68. *Have you put any hints or spoilers or good clues for us to guess at like you did about the new series?*

A. Ah. I mean there's lots of stuff that isn't dealt with in book five that gets pushed off to other books. Like Eric running away with a gun, and Mr. Hendricks and that ongoing investigation. I mean, just plotwise, it's all an ongoing thing.

69. *I was going to ask if Sang knew who Volto was, behind the mask, before this happened. Volto knows too much about Sang's life to be a random stranger.*

A. There's a lot to Volto. Funny how he's involved with this team, as Mr. Blackbourne said, if he really wanted to infiltrate the Academy, there would have been easier targets to pick.

70. *Why has no one (at least currently) asked Muriel who Volto is.*

A. They have. She doesn't know. He's the guy with the mask.

71. *I understand that Sang's phone was cloned from the old broken one in the drawer that's how all the boys got the photo text etc. however after the spa, Victor bought her a new phone, with new sim and number, this never got returned to the house, how did Volto/Muriel continue to contact her?*

A. Volto says I can't say. Too spoily.

72. *Was Blackbourne going to confess he loves Sang or just that he's on the road there before he got interrupted?*

A. I will probably get this question forever now. But just so people know, he was planning to deflect the question anyway. Mr. Blackbourne's a hard case to feelings because he cuts it off.

73. *But what he told her at the concert was like a love confession, Owen style, no ?*

A. Mr. Blackbourne knows how to woo. He's attempting to win her over for his team because he knows full and well that the Academy will pressure her to join another team and he wants to secure her to theirs.

74. *Does that mean Mr B is hiding his feelings behind the fact they need her on the team sort of all accept her - I'm taking one for team type thing*

A. That's what he thinks for now. He so thinks he can control feelings. That's why he was sure he could 'win' this game of 'it's impossible, your team is too big/too young to bring in a single bird like this'. Mr. Blackbourne took it as a challenge.

75. *Ok Sang / Silas in the car, and he says "I Didn't know".....? What did that mean? Didn't know he was getting her hot and bothered ?*

A. Exactly. He was trying to get her to laugh and then he passed by that 'hot spot' and he didn't realize and didn't know how to react to it because it was kind of out of left field. She didn't know either. It's like you can touch your own back or whatever 100000 times but when that hot guy touches it, suddenly it's a hot spot. Silas at first thought she was trying to bite back laughter but then realized what he did. So it changed the mood. But notice how he was trying to take advantage of his new 'spot' on her when trying to get her to kiss him. SO GREEK.

76. *When Victor's dad walks in on them and Victor picks the phone up and says give me a reason? To call who? An why would the dad care who Victor would call? I mean he is the dad, who has the authority?*

A. Anyone in the Academy, usually Kota. But he'll call whoever he needs to. Victor's father is a problem. And his dad has faced off with the Academy and Kota before. That's why he backs off.



77. *What happened to Greg between books 2 and 5 and after he got beaten up by Gabe?*

- A. Greg was in the hospital for a while. After, Greg was in suspension (fighting) thanks to some pull from Mr. Blackbourne with the school board. However, Greg's one of those problem kids shipped in from another district so his suspension was carried out at home. Which, you might know about this, but home suspension is stupid because it's like rewarding them with no school for not wanting to be there in the first place. Once the police picked him up for shop lifting, there was another trial (didn't discuss Sang and why he was put out of school in the first place, the records only show he was in a school fight). He came up to a local judge who believed that students needed to be in school 'or he wouldn't have been loitering' and demanded the school cut his suspension and put him back in school. As of the end of book five, he's back in the hospital, but Mr. Blackbourne will again appeal to the school boards about this and there will be some pull from the Academy to move him and his family out of range of Sang. Probably to a small town where Greg can't be of much trouble.

78. *Throughout the book, the guys kept mentioning that it was Mr. Morris that said her number out loud. I got confused and checked the spoiler sheet that had that same scene. And in the spoiler scene, it was Mr. Morris who told the number. Why did you suddenly change that bit? Was it not to spoil that Mr. Morris was part of the spying?*

- A. There was an opinion by some readers that a real teacher wouldn't do that. (Apparently they didn't have the same teachers I did growing up!) But the question of who released the phone number wasn't so important to the plot, or so I thought, so changing it wasn't a big deal. I just forgot about some of those references. I may later just switch the scene back. I kind of like Mr. Morris doing it.

79. *What do the others think of Kota grounding her and Luke? Do they agree or do they think it's extreme?*

- A. North agrees. Gabriel kind of agrees, although he doesn't like the way Kota presented it. In truth, they ALL feel the grounding was something that should have happened, at least in part. They were all afraid for her and her safety and she just ran off with Luke. Normally a grounding just means you have to stay home and you're on safe watch for a while. They didn't disagree with this. And technically, if she were part of the team, she would be grounded for like forever. Situational though, and strangely enough Mr. Blackbourne has switched roles and is acting like family lead in book five, Mr. Blackbourne telling Kota to back off was because she clearly was upset she made the boys upset and she was punishing herself. The boys haven't seen anyone do that so they had no idea what they were up against. Mr. Blackbourne didn't want a wedge happening right from the beginning so he had to fix this quick. BTW, if she hadn't been like this, he would have fully agreed to the grounding. Luke was told to go get that camera, and taking Sang may not have been a big deal but she was on lock down and he knew that.

80. *I want to know what was wrong with North. Mr. B seemed overly concerned about him during that last part in Victor's house.*

- A. North got like a super dose of that knock out stuff. Not knowing how to use those needles, one could easily do a lot of harm to a person. He also didn't want to be gone and have Muriel or the masked guy come back, see Mr. Blackbourne had escaped and then take it out on North. So his first concern, since North couldn't protect himself, was to get North to safety. That's why he sent Sang after Victor. He didn't think Victor got as bad of a dose and it was possible she could wake him up and get him to move out. Mr. Blackbourne's initial plan was to get them all out first before he went in and took on Muriel himself.



81. *One thing that I realized today why I love the Academy so much is the way you take people from abusive situations and make them go from victim to victors... What inspired you to write your stories this way?*

A. I think anyone who has been in an abusive situation sometimes daydreams about things like this. Of overcoming your past and figuring out, even through struggle, where your future is. Sang and the boys have been through a lot, and they aren't done yet with what they have been going through, but it is a process. I think it's a good thing to talk about. Happily ever after isn't about one day you wake up and Prince Charming has shown up and the bad things are gone forever. Happily ever after is a continuing movement to become better. I also like showing that while everything seems bleak, there's always others around you willing to step up and help. You have to give them a chance, though. And you also have to find the RIGHT kind of help. It isn't always easy to figure out the good from the bad. The boys may help Sang, but a lot of it they push her to help herself, and they get her to work. They may tuck her away for her own protection, but like how Dr. Green gets her to assist Gabriel and clean up after. He didn't cuddle her, although he wouldn't have been opposed to it. He knew sometime doing good for other people can help heal.

82. *Has Sang's sister been going to school or has she been skipping? If she is skipping school, has Hendricks noticed?*

A. She has been attending, as Marie has realized if she stays out, the police may show up and everything Sang said was true. Marie's a little lost right now. She doesn't see a future. She doesn't know where her mother is. She's moving through a fog. Only she wants to curl up in bed and eat chocolate and wants everyone to leave her alone. But Sang did make a point so she's going to school but she's not bothering with it much. Basically, she doesn't see her future so she's not going to even try. She doesn't understand the point of going to school.

83. *Why was Victor covered in the bed like Muriel was hiding him?*

A. In a strange way, she was making sure Victor wasn't discovered just in case someone did walk in. She's kind of crazy. When she's doing this thing with Victor, she's in full fledged panic mode. She's not thinking clearly. She can't calm down. She realizes what she's done but she thinks if she can get Victor and her to a safe place, everything will calm down and she can talk to Victor and he'll understand and they'll run away forever and ever. But that's how some crazy people think. They see this ONE ONLY OUTCOME and then they are so sure this is the way this will happen. When it doesn't, they become destructive. They would rather destroy it all than not see it the way they thought they wanted.

84. *What's the box of stuff under Sang's step-mother's bed? You know the stuff with old meds, the pic, and the needle? Is it "Sang" important or just not that important?*

A. Sang's mom is crazy, so she hung on to the strangest things. Some don't make sense except only to her, and some are actually from her own past that have made her the way she is. There's a reason why she stuck Sang in her dad's closet and not her own. She's got her own weird collection of things in there.

85. *Do the others know why Gabe storms off on the stairs?*

A. No. Not really. I mean they know he's mad, but they're guys. Unless you spell it out for them, they have no idea. They know he's mad. Kota or one of the others would have talked to him about it later when he had time to cool off. You don't stop an angry guy trying to walk off and be alone. They did kind of like that Sang was going after him. They were hoping she would calm him down about whatever he was mad about and they would figure it out later. They would have probed her or him about what was going on.



86. *The second voicemail: Was it the same as the third? No one except Sang listened to it.*

A. Ah ha. And she conveniently didn't talk about the first one which was just breathing into the phone. And the second voicemail where the beeping started, but she didn't pass over the phone until the third. This was, for my own purposes, left out there. Sometimes planting seeds isn't about knowing the exact purpose of an item you left behind, but leaving some pieces around to play with at your convenience. In this case, the two additional messages, without describing them but you knowing they were there, I can come back to them later as additional clues if I need them. It just depends on how this progresses. Some things I can't picture until I'm there. I may not need this piece, but I left it there with a few notes on my side just in case I want to use it later.

87. *Does everyone in The Academy know one another or of one another not personally but professionally as well. The Academy seems so big with many past & present members.*

A. The broad scope of the Academy means that one could be in the Academy and walk by someone and not realize he's in the Academy, too. It's not as big as you think, there's just a big concentration in the area where Sang lives. So like with Marc, it's highly possible he may never see/know Sang in the Academy so Marc could easily make the assumption she was in it. And being she was 'helping' Dr. Green, it just confirmed it more. A young girl an intern to a Doctor (he didn't know Dr. Green was still really just getting started himself) is just something Academy worthy.

88. *What were Kota's thoughts when Owen calmed Sang down in the office? I mean, I know he was angry, and worried about her, but the boys haven't ever really seen Owen interact with her. What did he think about that?*

A. Mr. Blackbourne could sense the tension right when he walked into the room. His main concern was that Sang was shutting them out and his first goal was to get her to open up again. That's why he was insistent on hearing her side of what happened with Luke. He needed to hear her talk and understand that she wasn't trying to return into herself. She was just upset about the situation. Him getting her to talk was kind of like Dr. Green getting her to work with her hands. It was kind of like therapy. He also gave Kota a chance to see the full picture, not just what he saw on his end. This type of Sang 'working to fill in Mr. Blackbourne about the mission' gave everyone a chance to calm down and realize fully what happened with each other. And why Kota had to explain what he was 'seeing' on his end. With everything out in the open, Mr. Blackbourne coaches Kota to tell Sang how he felt honestly and then leaves them to deal with it, knowing Kota and Sang were good and would sort it out. They just needed a starting point. He had a lot of issues to deal with and I always thought it was cool whenever he takes time out to take care of her. Mr. Blackbourne may cut people off with regulation and such but he's a sucker for her.



If you're new to The Academy and would like more spoilers and to meet some other people who also enjoy them, 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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