

Booktalk!



THE VAMPIRE STALKER DISCUSSION GUIDE

By author Allison van Diepen

1. What is fan fiction? Why does Amy only write Otherworld fan fiction instead of original stories? What do you think of her decision?
2. Amy believes that the characters in Otherworld are so vivid they could almost be real. Have you ever felt that way about characters? If so, which ones?
3. What factors convince Amy that Alexander is real?
4. Alexander is angry that Elizabeth Howard has written about him without his permission. Why does Elizabeth's depiction of him upset him so much?
5. Describe Amy's relationship with her friends. How does she feel about keeping Alexander's existence from them? How would you feel in that situation?
6. Amy discovers that reading about Alexander and knowing Alexander are two different things. What qualities about him does she appreciate in the books, but not so much in real life? How do his flaws affect her feelings for him?
7. Once the vampire killings begin, the press is eager to blame Elizabeth Howard for promoting an interest in vampire culture. Can you think of other circumstances when an author, musician or filmmaker has been criticized for depicting disturbing material? Do you think such criticisms are valid?
8. Early in the book, Ms. P. says, "The thing is, Alexander is a very dark character. She [Elizabeth Howard] might see him as a tragic figure." (p. 17) What are the qualities of a tragic hero? Which of those qualities does Alexander possess?
9. "In truth, in my world, I would never be able to associate with someone of your character. Vampire hunting has left my reputation beyond repair. It is considered manual labor of the most appalling kind. People want it done, but they don't want to know those of us who do it." (p. 176) In this statement, Alexander is talking about the stigma he faces because of his vampire hunting. Which important jobs in our society are not given the respect they are due?
10. Sibling relationships can be complex. Discuss this statement in relationship to Amy and Chrissy, Alexander and James (who are like siblings), and Vigo and Hannah.
11. If you were to write a sequel to The Vampire Stalker, what would happen in the first chapter?



SCHOLASTIC

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