



# Reader's Companion

*In Aeternum Book One: The Curse He Chose* by Sr. Allison Regina Gliot

**Synopsis:** When Elizabeth's friends go off to college and leave her behind, she thinks things can't get worse. Then she stumbles into a fight between vampires and realizes . . . they definitely can.

Forced on the run with Christopher, a vampire outcast who might be in even more trouble than she is, Elizabeth is left to rely on nothing but her faith in God and Christopher's impulsive choice to protect her. But the more time they spend together, the more Elizabeth realizes that Christopher is close to breaking in more ways than one. As their bond deepens and their enemies close in, Elizabeth must find a way to save him and herself—before it's too late.

**Categories:** young adult (14+), urban fantasy, vampires, Catholicism, mental health, relationships

## Questions

1. Elizabeth's life is pretty normal until she realizes vampires exist. Then her world turns upside down and she's forced to leave her comfort zones behind. How do you think you would handle being in her shoes? What does she rely on to help her navigate these changes and scary situations? What do you rely on when you feel overwhelmed or are facing a time of transition?
2. Christopher says that becoming a vampire is "the rejection of everything it means to be human" (p. 177). What do you think he means by this? How do you see the other vampires acting out this rejection?
3. Throughout the story, Elizabeth struggles to communicate honestly with others, especially with Becca and Tala. Do you agree with her decision to keep vampires a secret from them? What would you have done in her place? What advice would you give Elizabeth if you were her friend?
4. Whenever a vampire enemy dies, Christopher is glad for one less threat to their safety, but Elizabeth feels more conflicted. She knows the vampires were dangerous, but she wishes things could have been different and worries about the state of their souls after death. Do you relate more to Christopher's mindset or Elizabeth's? Why? Do you think there was something they could have done differently when facing their foes?

5. Elizabeth often turns to prayer for comfort, guidance, or protection. She uses many types of prayers throughout the book to connect with God: the Mass, the Bible, the Rosary, Confession, and talking to God from her heart. What kinds of prayer practices do you gravitate toward? Are there certain places that you go or things that you do to connect with God?
6. One of Christopher's major struggles is with guilt. He believes himself to be unforgiveable, but Elizabeth insists that "the only things that are unforgiveable are the things you refuse to ask forgiveness for" (p. 182). If this is something you've struggled with, how have you navigated that? What are your attitudes toward asking for forgiveness and forgiving others? How do you think God approaches forgiveness?
7. At a climactic moment, Elizabeth recognizes that she is angry with God. In response, she feels God say to her, "*It's okay to love me and hate me at the same time. Nothing could make me leave you. Not even your temper*" (p. 242). What do you think of these words? How do they relate to your own experiences with God?
8. By the end of this book, Christopher is in a very different place than he was at the start. Where do you think his journey will take him next? If you could offer him a word of encouragement, what would you say?