

EVERNIGHT

BY CLAUDIA GRAY



Bianca is a new student at Evernight Academy – a centuries-old boarding school in the hills, all but cut off from the outside world. That bothers her, but not nearly as much as her new classmates, who are somehow too perfect: smart, sleek and almost predatory. Despite the reassurances of her parents, who have taken teaching jobs at Evernight, Bianca knows she doesn't fit in. All she wants is to escape.

Then she meets Lucas, another loner, who defiantly refuses to fit in with the "Evernight type." The connection between Bianca and Lucas can't be denied. She will risk anything to be with him – but the dark secrets of Evernight Academy are fated to tear them apart, and to make Bianca question everything she's always believed to be true.

Evernight, published by HarperTeen on May 27, 2008, is the first in a series of four books by Claudia Gray. The books should appeal to teen readers, particularly girls, who have enjoyed other supernatural romance and adventure novels.

Questions for Student Discussion:

1. Do you feel that Bianca's parents treat her more as a child or as an adult? What reasons might they have for behaving differently toward Bianca than most mothers and fathers would?
2. Bianca is often painfully shy and believes the other students reject her. Is this true, or is it a self-fulfilling prophecy?
3. In what ways does Lucas' defiant personality make him a good person for Bianca to be with? Are there ways in which he is also a difficult boyfriend?
4. Both Lucas and Bianca keep important secrets from one another. Are they justified in doing so? Do you think they're equally sympathetic, or did one of them have a greater responsibility to speak up sooner?
5. The teachers at Evernight Academy usually treat their students like fellow adults. Do you think being treated that way would make school more confusing, or a whole lot easier?
6. Was Lucas' attack on Erich necessary? Are there other steps he could have taken, or did he have no other choice?
7. Would you enjoy attending Evernight Academy? What would be the best part? The worst?
8. Did you guess the "big twist" before it was revealed? If so, what part of the book made you realize what was really going on?

Claudia Gray is the pseudonym of New York-based writer Amy Vincent. She is available to speak to classes in the area. Contact her through the Claudia Gray website: www.claudiagray.com.