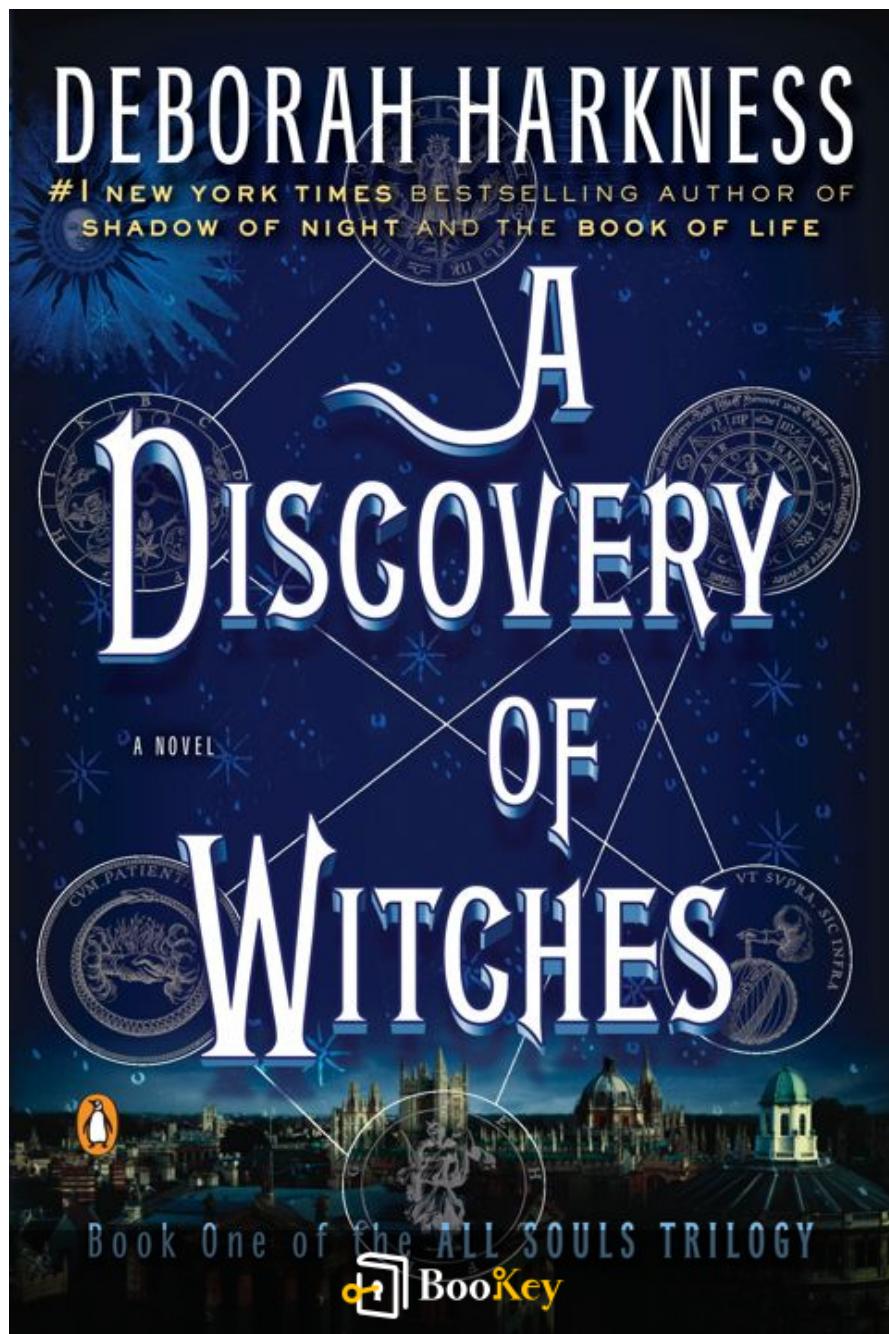


A Discovery Of Witches PDF (Limited Copy)

Deborah Harkness



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A Discovery Of Witches Summary

Embracing love amidst magic, history, and forbidden knowledge.

Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

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About the book

In "A Discovery of Witches," author Deborah Harkness crafts a captivating narrative where the realms of magic, history, and romance intertwine. The story centers on Diana Bishop, a highly accomplished historian who is also a witch, though she has distanced herself from her magical heritage due to a tragic family history. While conducting research at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, Diana stumbles upon an ancient manuscript, "Ashmole 782," that holds forbidden secrets about witches, daemons, and vampires. This discovery sets off a chain reaction, awakening dormant powers within her and reigniting a long-standing conflict among supernatural beings.

As Diana grapples with her newfound abilities and the weight of her ancestry, she becomes enmeshed in the complex dynamics of the supernatural world. Central to her journey is Matthew Clairmont, a charismatic vampire with a mysterious past. Their passionate and forbidden romance unfolds against the backdrop of a society that seeks to maintain the fragile harmony between magical creatures, all while facing threats from those who would exploit Diana's newly revealed powers.

Through their relationship, Harkness delves into themes of identity, love, and the pursuit of knowledge. Diana navigates the challenges of embracing her witch identity and harnessing her powers, confronting societal expectations and the dangers posed by those who wish to control the

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manuscript. The narrative is rich with scholarly intrigue, as Diana's academic expertise adds depth to her understanding of the magical heritage she has long ignored.

As Diana and Matthew delve deeper into the secrets of the manuscript, they confront formidable adversaries and grapple with the implications of their union in a world that often views their love as taboo. Harkness's richly woven tale pulls readers into a world where magic is both enchanting and treacherous, ultimately leaving them eager to explore the intertwining paths of knowledge and desire in the unfolding saga of Diana and Matthew.

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About the author

Summary of Chapters from "A Discovery of Witches" by Deborah Harkness

In the opening chapters, we are introduced to Diana Bishop, a talented yet reluctant witch who has distanced herself from her magical heritage. While researching alchemical texts in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, she inadvertently summons a long-lost manuscript known as Ashmole 782. This ancient text holds secrets about the origins of witches, vampires, and daemons—three supernatural species that exist in a precarious balance within the hidden world.

The appearance of Ashmole 782 attracts the attention of powerful figures, particularly Matthew Clairmont, a charismatic vampire and geneticist with a deep interest in the manuscript. Matthew embodies the complexities of his kind, grappling with ancestral vampire instincts while pursuing scientific knowledge. The encounter between Matthew and Diana begins a compelling relationship, fraught with tension as they navigate their stark differences; she is a witch wary of her powers, and he is a vampire with an insatiable curiosity.

As Diana uncovers the secrets of Ashmole 782, she learns more about her own lineage, which connects her to an unexpected legacy of witches.

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Simultaneously, her relationship with Matthew deepens, leading her to confront her identity and the dangers that arise when witches and vampires cross paths. Their connection is not merely romantic; it signifies a potential alliance that could alter the dynamics of the supernatural world.

Complicating matters further, we meet other key characters, such as Marcus Whitmore, Matthew's vampire son, and the enigmatic and powerful witch Sarah Bishop, who serves as a confidante to Diana. Together, they reveal the historical and political tensions between creatures and highlight the urgency to protect Diana from various factions that desire the manuscript for their own ends.

As tensions rise, the chapter sets the stage for a gripping narrative filled with intrigue and magic, where historical knowledge and imaginative storytelling converge to explore themes of identity, power, and the quest for belonging in a world divided by fear and mistrust among its supernatural inhabitants.

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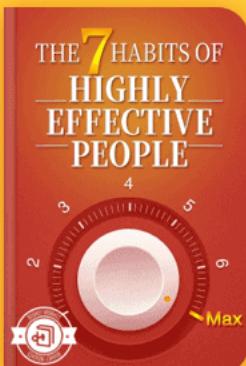
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Chapter 1 Summary: 1

In the opening chapter of **A Discovery of Witches**, we are introduced to **Diana Bishop**, a historian and self-proclaimed witch who grapples with her dual heritage. Currently at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, she immerses herself in alchemical texts, yearning for a life grounded in logic and academia, spurred by the loss of her parents and the trauma associated with her family's witch lineage.

While perusing the library's extensive collection, Diana stumbles upon an unassuming leather-bound book, drawn to its peculiar aura. This tome, later identified as **Ashmole 782**, triggers a response within her that awakens her latent magical abilities—abilities she has deliberately suppressed. **Sean**, her friend and a library assistant, helpfully assists her in circumventing the library's stringent regulations, yet he senses something unusual about the manuscript.

As Diana examines Ashmole 782, she is jolted by a deep connection to her family's witchcraft heritage, a legacy she wishes to deny. Despite displaying a keen intellect and a rigorous commitment to scholarly pursuits, the magic embedded within the manuscript challenges her academic beliefs and stirs an internal conflict between her desire for rationality and her inherited powers.

Throughout her encounters, particularly with **Gillian**, another witch who

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encourages engagement with their shared magical practices, Diana remains hesitant, especially with the upcoming Mabon festival—a celebration often steeped in witchcraft traditions. As she journeys deeper into the enigma of Ashmole 782, her curiosity intensifies, signaling a struggle to reconcile her scholarly ambitions with her magical roots.

The themes of identity and the clash between reason and her supernatural heritage are vividly established. As the chapter concludes, Diana is left with a mix of intrigue and anxiety, subtly foreshadowing her eventual acceptance of both her past and her powers. The discovery of the manuscript not only paves the way for her exploration of the magical realm but also sets her on a transformative path, intertwining her academic life with a world filled with magic, mystery, and supernatural entities.

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Chapter 2 Summary: 2

In Chapter 2 of "A Discovery of Witches" by Deborah Harkness, Diana Bishop grapples with her recent encounter with Matthew Clairmont, an enigmatic scientist with a background that piques her interest. Diana, a historian and witch who has distanced herself from her magical heritage, is particularly intrigued by Matthew's secretive nature regarding his research. This curiosity propels her into a frustrating search for information about him, where she discovers that most available data is either outdated or elusive, leaving her with more questions than answers.

During her day, Diana engages in a conversation with her colleague Chris Roberts, who offers congratulations on her recent achievements and inquires about her research progress. He subtly hints at a potential romantic involvement with Matthew, to which Diana firmly asserts that her interest is purely professional, centered around the alchemical manuscript known as Ashmole 782, an ancient text that is pivotal to her studies.

As she returns to the library, Diana senses an unsettling atmosphere; various supernatural beings, including Matthew, are present, creating a heavy tension. This feeling is compounded by Diana's growing awareness of her own unusual emotions towards Matthew, as she struggles with the stark differences in their worlds—hers, grounded in the mundane, and his, deeply embedded in the supernatural.

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A pivotal moment occurs when Diana meets Miriam, Matthew's research assistant. This encounter illustrates the intricate relationships and alliances within the magical community, which adds layers to Diana's understanding of her own identity. Torn between her witchcraft and a yearning for a conventional life, Diana wrestles with her place in a society fraught with fear and prejudice against witches.

By the chapter's end, Diana is left feeling both exhausted and determined. Her pursuit to decode Ashmole 782 and understand her connection with Matthew sets the foundation for the unfolding challenges ahead. The themes of identity, power, and the blend of magical and ordinary life resonate through her experiences, highlighting the complexities of a witch's journey in a world filled with tension and mistrust towards her kind.

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Chapter 3 Summary: 3

Summary of Chapter 3 - A Discovery of Witches

In Chapter 3 of "A Discovery of Witches," the dynamic between Matthew and Hamish plays out through an intricate metaphor of chess, reflecting their complex relationship with Diana. Hamish underscores Matthew's commitment to Diana, portraying her as a powerful queen in a game where Matthew, often seen as the king, chooses her safety over his own interests. This metaphor hints at the emotional layers and inner conflicts that characterize their lives as they navigate loyalty, identity, and the stakes of their intertwined fates.

As Diana returns home, she grapples with the aftermath of a fraught encounter with Matthew, feeling the weight of her emotions and uncertainty. Upon checking her phone, she finds a barrage of missed calls from her aunts, who express their apprehensions regarding her safety, particularly concerning her interactions with vampires like Matthew. Despite her unease, Diana attempts to bring some normalcy to her life through her daily rituals, trying to evade the pressing concerns of her family's legacy and the dangers that come with her newfound associations.

The tension escalates when Diana finally connects with her aunts, Sarah and

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Em, who are visibly distressed over her recent discovery of a bewitched manuscript in the library. They emphasize the risks tied to her relations with supernatural beings, igniting a discussion about trust, secrecy, and the contrasting worlds she inhabits.

The chapter transitions to Diana's experiences in her academic environment, where she encounters prejudice from other witches who view her lineage with suspicion. Their distrust exacerbates her sense of alienation and challenges her relationship with Matthew, manifesting in veiled threats and mores regarding familial legacies. This social pressure serves as a catalyst for Diana, prompting her to reevaluate her identity and the inherent responsibilities tied to her heritage as a witch.

Through conversations and character interactions, the chapter delves into profound themes of identity, power dynamics, and the burdens of legacy. Matthew's role as a protector adds to the complexity of their bond, drawing Diana into a realm filled with danger and magical intrigue. By the chapter's close, Diana resolves to delve deeper into her family's history and the enigmatic manuscript that has captured the attention of both witches and vampires.

Ultimately, this chapter captures the essence of courage, the quest for self-discovery, and the significance of legacy while weaving a narrative rich in unexpected alliances and the complexities of love across species.

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boundaries.

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Chapter 4: 4

Summary of Chapter 4 of "A Discovery of Witches"

In this intriguing chapter, the bond between Diana Bishop, a witch, and Matthew Clairmont, a vampire, deepens as they explore their intertwined identities. The chapter begins with a tender moment where Matthew kisses Diana's palm, surprising her with the depth of their growing intimacy. This moment lingers in her mind as she retreats to her room, contemplating their connection before they meet again on a brisk autumn morning.

Eager to embrace the day, Diana enjoys a serene rowing session, appreciating the quiet of the early hours. When she meets Matthew at the boathouse, their playful exchange about an old scarf reveals a more mischievous side of him, highlighting the warmth of their blossoming romance. A breakfast at a local café solidifies their camaraderie, but this atmosphere of comfort quickly shifts to tension as Diana heads to the library.

At the library, Diana encounters Peter Knox, a threatening figure within the witch community who menaces her regarding the mysterious manuscript, Ashmole 782. Knox's probing words unearth Diana's vulnerabilities as both a witch and a human, suggesting that her secrets could lead to disastrous consequences. The tension culminates when Diana, overwhelmed by

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anxiety, inadvertently unleashes a witchwind, creating an energy disturbance that draws Matthew's protective instincts to the forefront. Their confrontation with Knox escalates into a standoff, leaving Diana feeling overwhelmed and threatened by her precarious position in the supernatural world.

The chapter takes a poignant turn when Diana receives a distressing photograph of her deceased parents, stirring deep emotions. Matthew, concerned for her mental and emotional health, insists that she must leave Oxford for her safety and to process her experiences. He proposes taking her to his ancestral home in France, Sept-Tours, emphasizing his protective nature and commitment to her well-being.

As they journey to Sept-Tours, the narrative delves into Matthew's complex past, offering insights into the intricacies of their interspecies relationship and the social tensions that accompany it. The stark contrast between the picturesque serenity of Sept-Tours and the hidden dangers posed by witches creates an undercurrent of suspense throughout their travels.

By the chapter's conclusion, the boundaries of their relationship continue to blur as Diana and Matthew unite against shared threats, setting the stage for revelations about their pasts and the underlying supernatural powers at play. Themes of identity, secrecy, and the evolution of their romance intertwine seamlessly, maintaining a gripping pace that leaves readers eager for what

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Chapter 5 Summary: 5

In Chapter 5 of "A Discovery of Witches," Diana Bishop continues to acclimate to life at Sept-Tours, the ancestral home of vampires. She delves into her emerging magical abilities while nurturing her deepening relationship with Matthew de Clermont, a formidable vampire with a complex history. The chapter opens with Diana in a moment of serenity, taking a bath after a recent adventure. This tranquility is soon interrupted when Matthew presents her with the manuscript **Aurora Consurgens**, igniting her scholarly enthusiasm.

As Diana explores Matthew's extensive library, she discovers his personal annotations in historical texts, which unveil his long and intricate past. Their discussions reveal key themes of knowledge, power, and identity—themes central to Diana's journey as a witch reconciling her powers with her connections to vampires.

However, the atmosphere of domestic bliss is pierced by the arrival of Domenico, a stealthy and confrontational vampire whose presence weighs heavily on the couple. He issues a stern warning about the perils of Diana's relationship with Matthew and introduces the concept of the Congregation, a governing body overseeing the interactions of witches and vampires. Domenico's antagonism highlights the risks associated with their union and hints at the historical tensions between vampires and witches.

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Matthew's interactions with Domenico reflect his frustrations with the vampire community and the underlying threats that haunt his relationship with Diana. Domenico's aggressive demeanor amplifies the fears and uncertainties surrounding their future together, making it clear that their love exists within a fragile and potentially dangerous context.

As Diana immerses herself in Matthew's world, she begins to grapple with the realities of her powers and their implications for her life. The chapter concludes on a poignant note, emphasizing the magnetic bond between Diana and Matthew while hinting at the ominous forces that threaten them. Key themes of love, danger, and the quest for autonomy resonate throughout Diana's journey, as she navigates her dual identity as a scholar and a powerful witch caught between her human past and her intertwined future with Matthew. This chapter sets the stage for the challenges they will face from both the vampire community and the ancient laws that govern their lives.

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Chapter 6 Summary: 6

In Chapter 6 of "A Discovery of Witches," Diana Bishop is reeling from an emotionally charged phone call with Matthew, who is currently in Oxford. Their conversation reveals the tensions building between them, particularly surrounding Matthew's uncertain return and the weight of his undisclosed secrets, notably those involving the enigmatic Knights of Lazarus, a group with a complex history tied to his vampire lineage. As Diana reflects on her feelings for him, she is both comforted and haunted by these secrets.

While attempting to research the Aurora manuscript in Matthew's study, Diana's focus wavers as she becomes intrigued by a concealed drawer in his desk. After some hesitation, she unlocks it and discovers bronze seals used for official transactions, deepening her curiosity about their significance and Matthew's hidden past. This moment underscores the chapter's overarching themes of trust and secrecy, as Diana grapples with her growing suspicion about the implications of Matthew's life and their future together.

Diana's emotional journey culminates in a powerful declaration of her commitment to Matthew, despite the complexities of loving a vampire in a world fraught with dangers from other supernatural beings. This acknowledgment not only emphasizes her vulnerability but also highlights the risks inherent in their connection.

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The chapter takes a dramatic turn when Diana is confronted by Satu, a formidable witch whose motives are shrouded in mystery. Satu hints that Diana's relationship with Matthew places her in jeopardy and expresses a desire to integrate Diana into a community of witches. This encounter suggests a brewing conflict in the magical realm they inhabit, adding urgency and tension to Diana's situation.

Overall, Chapter 6 deepens the emotional stakes for Diana, illuminating her struggles with love and the dangers that lie ahead, as she begins to forsake her previous life in favor of a tumultuous future intertwined with magic, love, and impending conflict.

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Chapter 7 Summary: 7

Chapter Summary: The Search for Diana and the Unfolding Magic

In this intense chapter of "A Discovery of Witches," Matthew and his mother, Ysabeau, are thrown into a frenzy when Diana mysteriously disappears, leaving behind only a half-eaten apple—a symbol of both innocence and potential danger. The two suspect the involvement of witches in her kidnapping, igniting Matthew's fervent resolve to locate her. Their exhaustive searches across the countryside yield no clues, intensifying the suspense as Matthew adopts a no-nonsense, military-style approach to his quest.

The arrival of Matthew's elder brother, Baldwin, escalates the already fraught situation. Baldwin harbors a deep-seated animosity towards witches, rooted in traumatic experiences from their father's legacy and the shadows of World War II. His disdain for Diana becomes evident, leading to explosive confrontations that expose long-buried family tensions. The friction between the brothers illustrates a complex family dynamic shaped by trauma, loyalty, and past grievances.

Despite their differences, a pivotal moment occurs when Baldwin reluctantly agrees to help Matthew. This shift signals a fragile alliance as Matthew

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prioritizes Diana's safety. He seeks to ally with the Knights of Lazarus, an ancient order connected to his lineage, to bolster their efforts. As they gather clues, it becomes clear that Diana's abduction is part of a much larger, darker scheme, hinting at malevolent forces at work in their world.

Simultaneously, Diana, trapped in her own struggle, is haunted by memories of her parents, Rebecca and Stephen, who sought to protect her from danger. This introspection forces her to confront her fears of loss and her evolving identity. The chapter reveals that her magical abilities, long sealed away for her safety, are beginning to awaken, posing risks not only to her but also to those around her. This resurgence of magic adds an unpredictable element to her plight.

The themes explored in this chapter—including family loyalty, the search for self-identity, and the intricate layers of love interwoven with obligation—illuminate the ongoing conflict between vampires and witches. It underscores how familial ties can become contentious battlegrounds shaped by fear and prejudice. As both Matthew and Diana grapple with their tumultuous pasts, the chapter concludes with a palpable tension and anticipation, setting the stage for their imminent confrontations and the awakening of Diana's powers. Readers are left eager to discover how these intertwined destinies will unfold amidst the growing threats they face.

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Chapter 8: 8

In Chapter 8 of "A Discovery of Witches," Diana and Matthew embark on a crucial quest to uncover the truth behind Diana's family legacy. They gather important artifacts, including a poignant letter from Diana's mother and a crucial page from the enigmatic alchemical manuscript, Ashmole 782. These documents are not merely mementos; they serve as windows into the intricate relationships and histories of Diana's lineage, particularly her parents' explorations into the realms of witchcraft and alchemy.

As they engage in discussions with Diana's aunts, Sarah and Em, the narrative delves into the rich tapestry of family ties, absence, and the burdens of legacy. Diana reflects on her burgeoning powers and the witch heritage that shapes her identity. The chapter addresses the dual nature of fear and desire that permeates the interactions between witches and vampires, exploring the complexities of their world, notably the precarious dynamics between their kind.

A crucial revelation arises when Diana learns of her father's ability to timewalk—a rare and powerful skill that implies her ancestry harbors secrets that extend beyond her previous understanding. This newfound knowledge weighs heavily on her as the family convenes to address the threats emanating from the Congregation, a governing body that imposes stringent rules on supernatural beings, highlighting the dangers that loom over Diana's

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future.

The emotional intensity of the chapter escalates as Diana confronts her past, grappling with the responsibilities entwined with her family's history. Matthew's protective instincts shine through, revealing the depth of his

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Chapter 9 Summary: 9

In Chapter 9 of **A Discovery of Witches**, the atmosphere is ripe with the excitement of Halloween as Sophie immerses herself in crafting imaginative pumpkins, showcasing her talent in witchy artistry. Meanwhile, Diana and Matthew revel in the crisp autumn air, joined by Sarah in preparations for the Madison coven's annual fall celebration. This festive occasion promises a blend of delectable food and witch-themed fun but is layered with an undercurrent of tension as the group gears up for their departure, with Matthew strategizing on how to leave undetected.

As they engage in the celebratory atmosphere, serious matters arise when Matthew expresses his insistence on ensuring that Diana receives vaccinations in preparation for their timewalking journey. This dynamic reveals a playful yet commanding side of Matthew, which Nathaniel and Marcus discuss with both humor and concern, highlighting the household's evolving relationships and the roles they play as they navigate their unusual family dynamics.

Conversations turn serious as the group addresses the responsibilities of the Knights of Lazarus, a faction within the story's intricate hierarchy of witches, vampires, and daemons, underscoring the potential for conflict ahead. Tensions simmer during debates, particularly between Nathaniel and Matthew, showcasing their differing perspectives on safety in light of

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looming threats and an impending war.

Amid these serious discussions, Diana makes strides in practicing her timewalking abilities, gradually mastering the skill of moving back in time. This development galvanizes her preparations for their upcoming journey together, deepening the connection between her and Matthew as they share meaningful moments and insights into Diana's lineage, a pivotal aspect shaping her identity.

As Halloween night unfolds, the mood shifts with the arrival of trick-or-treaters, prompting Matthew to display a lighter, more playful side as he engages with the children from the neighborhood. Yet, beneath the festive façade lies a poignant realization—their time together in the present is dwindling in light of their impending venture into the unknown.

The chapter culminates in a tender moment between Diana and Matthew as they ready themselves for departure. They share a sense of hopefulness about their future while grappling with the profound complexities of their journey. As Diana takes on the mantle of timewalker, equipped with three cherished objects, the chapter closes on a note of anticipation, highlighting the daunting adventures awaiting them in the past.

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