

# **The 5th Wave Study Guide**

## **The 5th Wave by Rick Yancey**

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## Plot Summary

The 5th Wave, written by Rick Yancy, is a dystopic novel that takes the genre to a new level. In the novel, aliens invade the earth, bringing death and destruction in five well defined waves. During the first wave, an EMP destroys all electronics on earth. In the second wave, a massive bar is dropped from space that causes total destruction on every coastline in the world. The third wave occurs when a modified Ebola virus wipes out more than seven billion people. Then, in the fourth wave it is discovered that some humans are hosts to the alien forms. The fifth wave is just beginning as teenagers Cassie and Ben make their way separately through a world they no longer understand.

Cassie is alone. She thinks she might be the last human left on Earth. Cassie is a survivor of an alien invasion that has come in four waves. Cassie's mother died from the Ebola virus in the second wave. During the fourth wave, her father was killed by soldiers. Ironically, before the soldiers gunned down her father, she had believed that they would save her family.

Cassie now lives alone in the woods. She has a promise she must keep. Cassie promised her little brother Sammy that she would come for him at the military base where the soldiers took him after their father's death. However, as Cassie makes her way to the military base, she is shot in the leg by an alien hosts she refers to as Silencers. Cassie becomes sick as the snows begin to fall and nearly dies. Cassie is rescued by a young farm boy, Evan. However, Cassie soon comes to suspect Evan is a Silencer, perhaps even the Silencer who shot her.

Ben Parish is living in a refugee camp when he becomes ill with the Ebola virus. Just as Ben believes he is going to die, the camp is raided by soldiers. Ben is taken to a military camp where he is given medications that cure him of the illness. However, Ben is so depressed that he failed to save his sister's life that he is slow to recover. Vosch, the camp's commander, comes to see Ben and gives him a reason to continue the fight. Ben joins a squad and trains to be a soldier. He wants to go out and kill the aliens who destroyed his family. As he trains, Ben meets a five year old boy who is scared of everything. The little boy is convinced that his sister is coming to save him.

As Ben's training ends and he is sent on his first mission, Cassie and Evan set out to save Sammy from the military base. One of Ben's soldiers, a girl called Ringer, convinces him that the soldiers at the base, including Vosch, have been lying to them. When Ben and Ringer discover a sniper who was shooting at them is really their drill sergeant, Ben believes her. Ben tries to convince the other soldiers and only succeeds when one of them accidentally kills himself with a drill sergeant's device. However, Ben refuses to leave Sammy behind at the base and insists on going back.

Cassie sneaks onto the base and manages to make her way to a bunker where Sammy is being held. As she attempts to escape with him, they run into Ben. Ben agrees to join them even though he is weary of trusting anyone. On their way to safety, they run into Vosch. Vosch threatens to kill Sammy, but Evan has gotten onto the base and sabotage

Vosch's systems. Evan helps Cassie, Ben, and Sammy escape, but stays behind to destroy the base. With the help of Ben's squad, Cassie, Ben, and Sammy survive.



# Intrusion: 1995 and Part 1, The Last Historian: Chapters 1-24

## Summary

Intrusion: 1995

A pregnant woman sleeps quietly beside her husband when an owl comes to the window. An alien presence is downloaded into the baby's brain, but neither the mother nor the child will ever remember anything.

Part 1, The Last Historian: Chapters 1-24

Chapter 1

Cassie thinks about the difference between the aliens in Hollywood movies and those who have really invaded the world.

Chapter 2

Cassie worries that she might be the last human on Earth. She misses her father even though he once annoyed her to no end. Cassie thinks of who she once was and how different she is now, just five short months after the invasion began.

Chapter 3

Cassie recalls when she went to a convenience store to load up on water and found a soldier in the hallway behind the coolers where her water is kept.

Chapter 4

The soldier tries to convince Cassie he is human like her, but she does not trust him. When he goes to show her his wound and she sees a flash of metal, Cassie kills him. Afterward, Cassie realizes the metal was a crucifix.

Chapter 5

Shortly after killing the soldier, Cassie packs her things up and moves out in order to keep a promise she made. As she walks, Cassie thinks about how the invasion unfolded. The alien ship appeared in the sky about ten days before anything happened. Everyone had a theory about what they wanted, some expecting violence while others expected kindness. Cassie remembers her neighbors packing up to go to Disney World. Cassie remembers how normal her life was in those early days, how she went on a date with a new boy at school and was rude to him, totally out of character for her.



## Chapter 6

As Cassie travels, she worries about the drones that began appearing during the fourth wave. She thinks back to the day the EMP went off, taking out all the cellphones, electricity, cars, and airplanes. Cassie was at school and had to wait in the gym with the other students for her father to come pick her up. Cassie remembers it is the last time she saw her crush, Ben Parish, and spoke to her best friend, Lizbeth.

## Chapter 7

When Cassie stops for a snack, she finds herself thinking about all the things that will no longer exist now that the aliens have invaded.

## Chapter 8

Cassie can smell Cincinnati long before she gets close to it because of the dead bodies and the fires.

## Chapter 9

Cassie finds three dead bodies on the road. When she realizes they are fresh, she looks for shelter, but is too late. She is shot in the leg. Cassie jumps under a car. Cassie waits under the car for the Silencer to come finish her off, but he never comes. Cassie then realizes he is simply waiting for her to come out. Cassie decides she will not give up.

## Chapter 10

Cassie remembers the second wave. While the first wave killed only a handful of people, the second wave killed forty percent of the world's population. The aliens dropped a metal rod from space, causing massive tsunamis that wipe out most of the coastlines in the world. The third wave is a modified Ebola virus that is transmitted through the air. This wave kills seven billion people. Most people left the cities during the third wave, but Cassie's family barricaded themselves in their home because her mother had the illness and wanted to die at home.

## Chapter 11

Cassie's mom died and her father buried her in the garden. Soon after, Kylie's father decided it was time to move on.

## Chapter 12

Cassie, her father, and brother come upon a camp outside of the city that has built up in an abandoned medical facility that Cassie calls Ashpit Camp because of the deep pit where the bodies of the dead were burned at the height of the third wave.

## Chapter 13



Cassie and her family settle in the camp. Others are just as scared as them, including a young orphan boy who tries to convince Cassie they should not die virgins.

#### Chapter 14

Cassie and her family have been in the camp for six days when they see the first drone. At first they hope it is military, but soon realize the truth. People panic when the drone comes.

#### Chapter 15

Another drone comes the following day. Again, people panic. Cassie's father wants to move on.

#### Chapter 16

Cassie's father gives Cassie a M-16 rifle and instructs her on identifying the enemy.

#### Chapter 17

Soldiers come to the camp in buses. Everyone thinks this is rescue. When the soldiers insist that the children be loaded on the buses, Cassie's father agrees. However, he hesitates when the soldiers refuse to take Cassie. Sammy goes anyway. Cassie promises him she will come for him soon.

#### Chapter 18

The remaining refugees are told to give up their weapons and go into the old hospital. Cassie does not tell them about the M-16 she has hidden behind a tree or the Luger in her pocket.

#### Chapter 19

Cassie has a bad feeling the moment she walks into the building. When she notices one of the kids is missing, Cassie allows her father to insist she go find him. Cassie goes with a soldier to the ash pit where they find the boy. The soldier kills the boy.

#### Chapter 20

The soldier begins to turn toward Cassie, but she shoots him first. Cassie then runs toward the hospital only to hear gunfire as all the refugees are killed. Cassie sees Vosch come out of the building and kill her father. Vosch then spots Cassie and sends two soldiers after her.

#### Chapter 21

Cassie runs as the soldiers come after her.

#### Chapter 22



Cassie hides in the ash pit from the soldiers. She hears them give up and say that the eye will take care of her. Cassie is unsure what they are talking about. Cassie runs to the woods.

### Chapter 23

Cassie waits until dark and goes back to the camp only to find the soldiers still there. Cassie sees them fiddling with a device that looks alien. As the soldiers leave, Cassie realizes the device is a bomb and she runs.

### Chapter 24

Cassie thinks about Sammy and decides she cannot remain hidden under the car. She climbs out and slowly begins to walk away.

## Analysis

This early part of the novel introduces one of the main characters and the conflict that will propel the plot. Cassie is a sixteen year old girl who was a normal teenager five months ago. However, an alien invasion has changed her whole world. Cassie's parents are both dead, and her brother has been taken to a military base by soldiers she believes to be alien hosts. Cassie has gone from crushing on the star football player to shooting wounded soldiers in convenience stores because of the danger she fears they present to her.

Cassie is a mature young girl who has been forced to grow up a lot in the past five months. Losing her whole family could have left Cassie broken. Instead, it has left her fearing for her sanity and afraid that she will not be able to save her brother. As Cassie makes her way to the military base where she believes her brother to be, she is shot by a Silencer. A Silencer is a person who hosts an alien and whose job it is to kill humans.

The future is uncertain for Cassie. However, she is strong and determined. The reader sees her courage as she makes the choice to leave a safe hiding place and continue her journey. This gives the reader courage that Cassie will survive.

## Discussion Question 1

What is EMP? What effect does it have on the world when the aliens set it off? For what reason?

## Discussion Question 2

What is the third wave of the alien invasion? Why does this wave, over the others, show the reader the aliens' desire to destroy all humans?





## Discussion Question 3

What is a Silencer? What do the Silencers do? Why does a Silencer shoot Cassie? How does she survive this attack?

## Vocabulary

Humans, aliens, asphalt, rifle, wound, uniforms, theme, tourniquet, trigger, crucifix, decibels, pressure, eardrums, intense, ravine, pulverized, concrete, barracks, suspended, gnawed, reminded, snapshots, foliage, plague.



# Part 2, Wonderland: Chapters 25-30, Part 3, Silencer: Chapter 31, and Part 4, Mayfly: Chapters 32-36

## Summary

Part 2, Wonderland: Chapters 25-30

Chapter 25

Ben Parish is dying of the Ebola virus in a tent outside a refugee camp. His former tent-mate, Chris, comes to check on him. A raid begins on the camp not long after Chris leaves. Two soldiers come into Ben's tent and press some kind of disc to his head. They decide he is not infected and should go with them. Ben has no clue what they are talking about.

Chapter 26

Ben is taken to the quarantine section of the base hospital and treated with medications. Miraculously, Ben survives. When he is better, Ben is visited by a doctor who tells him they are going to need him.

Chapter 27

Ben is taken to a hangar where he is examined and has a tracking device implanted in the back of his neck. Ben is then hooked up to a computer program that downloads all his memories.

Chapter 28

Ben is shaken when the program is finished. The doctor speaks to him about the alien invasion, telling him that some of the aliens have taken human hosts.

Chapter 29

The doctor even shows Ben an x-ray of someone's head that shows an insect like creature attached to the brain. The doctor then shows Ben a person with one of these creatures inside him. It is Chris. The doctor offers to let Ben kill Chris. Ben does.

Chapter 30

Ben is moved to the convalescent wing. Ben has too much time to think and becomes depressed, especially when he thinks about his family and how he was unable to save his baby sister. Ben is then visited by Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vosch, the leader of



the camp. Vosch convinces Ben that he will have a purpose at the military base and that he can kill the things that took his sister to get revenge. It helps Ben.

### Part 3, Silencer: Chapter 31

#### Chapter 31

The Silencer waits to see what Cassie will do next. As he waits, the Silencer thinks about his life since awakening four years ago inside his human host. The Silencer wonders if he would be happier if his human host had not had such a happy childhood. When Cassie comes out from under the car, the Silencer finds himself rooting for her to run.

### Part 4, Mayfly: Chapters 32-36

#### Chapter 32

Cassie has become sick from her wound and the snows have begun to fall. Cassie becomes confused as she walks in the cold, worrying about Sammy while wondering why the Silencer let her live.

#### Chapter 33

Cassie wakes in a strange place. She is in a bed, clean and warm for the first time in a long time. When someone comes to the door, Cassie pretends to be asleep. It is a man, about Cassie's age. He tells her his name is Evan Walker and that he found her in a snow bank. Cassie tells him what happened to her father and where her brother was taken. Evan seems to doubt some of Cassie's story, but listens to everything she has to say.

#### Chapter 34

Evan tries to tell Cassie that the soldiers could not all be alien hosts, that they must just be working with the aliens. Cassie insists they cannot stay in one place and need to move on. Evan tells her it is too cold to move on, especially since she will not be able to walk for a few weeks. Cassie cries for her brother and insists she must go after him.

#### Chapter 35

One day Evan brings Cassie the first hot meal she has had in weeks and then helps her wash her hair. Evan lingers outside the door while Cassie is washing, leaving her feeling oddly secure at the same time she finds his behavior weird. They talk about Evan's family for a while, including his girlfriend, Lauren, who killed herself a few months ago.

#### Chapter 36

Evan spends a lot of time out of the house during the night. He tells Cassie that he is hunting, but he rarely comes home with any meat. Cassie tells Evan about her life



before the aliens, lying to him about Ben Parish. However, Evan lets it slip that he has read her journals and therefore knows about Ben. One night Cassie and Evan have a fight when he once again tries to talk her out of rescuing Sammy. After Cassie storms out of the room, he follows and lurks outside of her door. Cassie lets him in and they argue a short time longer before he kisses her. Evan tells Cassie that she saved him.

## Analysis

Ben Parish, the boy Cassie had a secret crush on before the invasion, is still alive. In fact, Ben has been taken to the same camp as Sammy. Ben has been saved from the Ebola virus that killed Cassie's mother. At the camp, Ben learns that the aliens have taken human hosts and it is nearly impossible to identify an alien from a human without x-rays. Ben also learns that the camp is raising a group of soldiers to help fight the aliens. Ben is depressed for a time because he failed to save his baby sister, but comes out of it when Vosch tells him about the plan to rid the world of the aliens. Ben completely trusts these people. It never crosses his mind that they might be lying to him.

Cassie is injured from the Silencer's gun shot to her leg. She becomes ill and nearly dies in the snow. However, a young farm boy her own age comes to her rescue. Cassie is reluctant to trust anyone and wants to leave the house, but he talks her into staying. Due to Evan's kindness and care, Cassie begins to trust him. In fact, Cassie trusts Evan so much that she tells him the whole story and her plans to save her brother. Evan repeatedly tries to talk Cassie out of going after Sammy. He is clearly afraid that she will be killed. However, Cassie refuses to back down. In fact, Evan's determination to protect her and his odd behavior make Cassie begin to question his actions. In the end of this section, Evan tells Cassie that he loves her, and they kiss. This clouds Cassie's common sense, making it hard for her to decide what to do.

The reader can see that both Cassie and Ben are scared kids who are in a situation they do not understand and do not know how to handle. Both want to trust the people around them. The reader must wonder, however, how both the soldiers and Evan can be telling the truth. Surely one is lying. But, which one is the liar?

## Discussion Question 1

Who is Evan? Where did he find Cassie? What does he do for Cassie? Does Cassie trust him?

## Discussion Question 2

Where did Ben go after the third wave began? How does he survive the plague? Where does Ben go? Why does he kill his friend, Chris?



## Discussion Question 3

What does Evan not want Cassie to do? Why does this cause tension between them?

## Vocabulary

Intensely, whispers, travels, galaxy, incredibly, softness, metaphor, insect, mayfly, absolutely, scared, confused, twisted, seriously, confused, trusted, cocooned, arrival, pretending, concrete, seriously, spreads, violated, embarrassed.



# Part 5, The Winnowing: Chapters 37-41 and Part 6, The Human Clay: Chapters 42-52

## Summary

Part 5, The Winnowing: Chapters 37-41

Chapter 37

Sammy is being taken somewhere on a bus. Sammy is not too scared because he believes he will see Cassie soon. A soldier called Parker brings him a snack and drink. Parker sits beside him and talks to him for a while. Parker tells Sammy he has nothing to fear, that the camp they are taking him to keeps the bad guys out.

Chapter 38

The girl across from Sammy wakes up. Sammy moves over and offers her some gummy snacks. She refuses. The girl is shy, but she tells Sammy her name is Megan. She doesn't say much more, and she will not speak to Parker at all. Parker comes back to their seat and presses a metal disc to their heads, telling them he is checking for a fever. Megan glows green while Sammy glows red. They each get a stamp on their hands matching the color the disc glowed.

Chapter 39

Sammy briefly falls asleep. When he wakes, they are at Camp Haven. A man comes on boards and tells them the rules, which basically consists of stay with your group and do what you are told. Sammy is forced to leave Megan behind because they are in separate color groups. Sammy is given a number and told to wait for the number to be called. It is long time before the number is called. Sammy is told to shower first and put on a white robe that is much too big for him. Sammy is then examined by a doctor before he has a tracker implanted on the back of his neck.

Chapter 40

Sammy is then hooked up to a machine that downloads his memories.

Chapter 41

Dr. Pam tells Sammy about the humans who are not really human and takes him to a room to show him one.

Part 6, The Human Clay: Chapters 42-52



#### Chapter 42

Ben Parish changes his name, and identity, to Zombie. Ben becomes part of a military squad that begins basic training. Ben hates his drill instructor Reznik, yet he credits Reznik for getting him into shape again.

#### Chapter 43

One day a new recruit comes to Ben's squad, a five year old called Nugget. Ben cannot stop himself from trying to protect the kid from Reznik's verbal abuse. When Ben stands up for Nugget, he expects Reznik to punish him, but instead Reznik promotes him to squad leader.

#### Chapter 44

Ben's days are pretty much the same, each filled with training and abuse from Reznik. Ben finds himself fighting against his own squad members, especially Flintstone whom he replaced as squad leader. Things grow even tenser when Ben begins saying prayers with Nugget each night. However, the others seem to gain some comfort from the quiet prayers.

#### Chapter 45

When Ben's squad is assigned to the processing and disposal of dead bodies, Ben tries to get permission to keep Nugget out of it, but his request is refused. For this reason, Ben keeps Nugget close to him and does most of the work himself. Nugget does not speak, but he is clearly traumatized by what he sees. Later, when Nugget and Ben take a break, Nugget tells Ben about his sister and how she claims humans are invincible.

#### Chapter 46

Nugget has a meltdown during a midnight air raid drill, forcing Ben to have to carry him into the bunker. The others are angry with Ben because Nugget's delay has caused them to slip in points. Only the four top squads can graduate and Ben's squad only in the top fifteen. Then Tank, one of the other recruits, has a breakdown, forcing Ben to arrange for his removal from the squad.

#### Chapter 47

A short time after Tank leaves the squad, Dumbo, another member of Ben's squad, finds his body during P and D.

#### Chapter 48

Tank is replaced by a recruit called Ringer. The squad has to wait a few days to meet Ringer. When they do it is on the firing rang. Ben immediately recognizes Ringer as a girl he has seen multiple times with another squad. Ringer is an excellent shooter.



### Chapter 49

Ringer proves herself to be a tough girl, making sure the boys in the squad know not to treat her any differently than they do one another.

### Chapter 50

Ben's squad moves up in the rankings with Ringer, but it continues to fall short of graduation numbers. For this reason, Ringer makes a deal with Ben to teach him how to shoot in exchange for him stepping down after graduation so that she might become sergeant. Ben agrees, and his shooting quickly improves under her tutelage.

### Chapter 51

Ben's squad graduates at the top of the class. Only Nugget does not graduate because soldiers have to be seven or older. Ben makes a promise to Nugget that he will always come back for him and gives him the necklace that belonged to Ben's sister. Reznick comes in then and tells Ben that he is expected by the commander. Reznick takes Ben to Vosch's office. Vosch gives Ben a promotion to sergeant and then asks him to choose his squad's first assignment. He can go out on the field, or he can remain behind as backup.

### Chapter 52

There is a graduation ceremony.

## Analysis

Sammy goes to the same camp where Ben is and goes through a similar process to that which Ben went through, including being shown a human host to the aliens. It seems clear that this is a test that allows the camp leaders to decide if each child who comes into the camp is capable of killing. Both Ben and Sammy apparently pass because they end up on the same military squad.

It seems odd to the reader that the human survivors are gathering children to turn into fighting machines. It could be that there just are not enough adults to fight, but when the reader takes into account that many adults were killed and the soldiers are only taking children to the camp, it leaves the reader wondering the soldiers' motivations. Is it possible that these soldiers are human hosts for the aliens and they are lying to the children? It is difficult for the reader to know at this point who is telling the truth and who isn't, as it is for the characters. Ben and Sammy only know that they need to believe in something in order to survive and this is what has been given to them.

Ben becomes a different person during his training, learning to care about things bigger than football and girls. Ben finds in Sammy relief for the guilt he still feels for allowing strangers to steal away his sister. Sammy finds in Ben protection from a world that is suddenly more frightening and real than the one he had known before. For Ben, Sammy





is an outlet for his need to care for someone and Ben is for Sammy the protection his sister once offered, but no longer can. It is an interesting relationship that could grow complicated when Cassie finally arrives to save her brother.

## Discussion Question 1

Who is Zombie? Why is he called Zombie? How does Zombie become squad leader of his squad?

## Discussion Question 2

Who is Nugget? Why is such a young child a part of Zombie's squad? How does Zombie react to Nugget's special needs?

## Discussion Question 3

Who is Ringer? What is Zombie's initial response to Ringer? For what reason? What does this say about Zombie's changing personality?

## Vocabulary

Vengeance, invisible, incinerates, convalescent, battlefield, childhood, survived, basic, corpse, future, execution, continues, raises, deliberately, encircling, gratitude, instructors, personal, erected, salutes.



# Part 7, The Heart to Kill: Chapters 53-55, Part 8 and The Spirit of Vengeance: Chapters 56-63

## Summary

Part 7, The Heart to Kill: Chapters 53-55

Chapter 53

Cassie wakes to find Evan gone. Cassie struggles with her feelings for Evan. She is confused as to whether she should trust him or not. Cassie hears someone out in the hall. She bursts through the door with her gun ready to fire. It is only Evan. Cassie tells him they should work out a signal when he is lurking. Evan tells Cassie that he had gone to Lauren's grave, but Cassie notices that his hands smell like gunpowder.

Chapter 54

Cassie wonders if she should confront Evan about the many lies she seems to have caught him in, but does not know how to do it. Cassie waits until Evan goes out and then she searches the house. She does not find anything unusual. In fact, she finds many photos of Evan as a child with his family. Then, Cassie decides to search the barn. When she does, she finds her M-16 rifle, the same rifle she lost when she was shot on the highway.

Chapter 55

Cassie runs into Evan and lies to him to get him to go back to the house with her. Once there, however, Evan guesses what Cassie has found. Evan tells her he found the rifle after she described where she lost it. Evan urges Cassie to trust him.

Part 8 and The Spirit of Vengeance: Chapters 56-63

Chapter 56

Ben and his squad are flown by helicopter into Dayton. They are to take out a group of Teds, the alien hosts, that are known to be held up in some buildings there. Almost immediately after leaving the helicopter, Ben and his squad see three people who shine green through their eye pieces that are part of the group they are after. They hide behind an overturned truck, but Ben hesitates to give the order to shoot. A sniper fires at them from a nearby building, forcing Ben to issue the order. Ringer takes out two of the three. Ben pairs his squad off to prepare to run for another building.

Chapter 57



Ben puts a grenade in the gas tank of the tanker truck they are sitting behind so that the explosion it will cause will take away the sniper's night vision. The entire squad manages to get away, but Oompa is hit with flying debris and Teacup is shot in the leg. Dumbo cares for their injuries, but there is nothing he can do for Oompa.

#### Chapter 58

Ben decides they have to take out the sniper before they do anything else. Ben orders Poundcake to distract the sniper with gunfire while he and Ringer make their way back to the other building.

#### Chapter 59

Ben and Ringer make it to the lobby of the opposite building, below the sniper. Once safe, Ringer begins talking to Ben about some of her doubts. Ringer thinks that the military base where they got their training is not run by humans, but by the aliens. Ringer says it makes more sense for the aliens to train them and send them out to kill one another than it would be to send down another plague. Ringer also suggests that normal humans would not have some of the resources the aliens have, such as the Wonderland program that downloads their memories. Ringer asks Ben to take the tracker out of her neck. When Ben does, Ringer lights up green in his eye piece.

#### Chapter 60

The green is what convinces Ben more than Ringer's arguments.

#### Chapter 61

Ben finally realizes that Ringer is right. Ben has Ringer take his tracker out as well. Then they go up the stairs to confront the sniper. When they reach the roof, Ben is shocked to discover the sniper is Reznik. Ben had told Ringer not to kill him, but they are forced to do so. They also find a disc in Reznik's possession that has small dots that indicate each of the squad members. Ringer suggests that Reznik could have used this device to kill them all with the trackers.

#### Chapter 62

Ben and Ringer put the trackers back in their necks temporarily and return to their squad. Ben explains to the squad what they have figured out. Everyone seems willing to accept the truth except for Flintstone. Flintstone not only disagrees, but he wants to return to the base. Flintstone takes the disc from Ben and pushes the button under his own number. Flintstone is killed when his brain is instantly fried.

#### Chapter 63

Ben insists on going back to the base for Nugget. In order to do this, Ben has Ringer shoot him so that his story will seem real. As the helicopter waits for Ben's squad, they come out of the bushes and begin firing at it.



## Chapters 64-76

### Chapter 64

Ben wakes in the hospital and finds Vosch sitting beside him. Vosch wants Ben to tell him his story over and over, looking for holes. Ben and Ringer carefully thought the plan out and thought of every possible question Vosch might ask. Ben thinks Vosch believes most of the story.

### Chapter 65

Cassie is pretty much convinced that Evan is a Silencer, perhaps the same Silencer who shot her. However, she is not sure what to do about it. Evan comes to her and asks her to allow him to go rescue Sammy. Cassie refuses.

### Chapter 66

Cassie and Evan pack for the trip to get Sammy. Evan decides to burn down the house as they leave to keep Silencers from following them. Cassie cuts her hair so that she will look younger.

### Chapter 67

Cassie and Evan find themselves at Camp Ashpit. Cassie shows Evan around. As they talk, they are ambushed by four soldiers. Evan protects Cassie, taking her to the ravine and then pushing her out of the way when a grenade is thrown in after them. Cassie hides behind a fallen log as she listens to Evan take out all the soldiers.

### Chapter 68

As Cassie again accuses Evan of being a Silencer, he collapses from his wounds. Cassie quickly cuts Evan's clothes off of him and begins treating his wounds. As she does, Cassie interrogates him. Evan tells Cassie he has not lied about everything, but does not deny that he is the Silencer who shot her. Evan then passes out from the pain medication she gave him.

### Chapter 69

Cassie thinks about Evan and her situation all night. In the morning, she takes the shrapnel from his wounds and then interrogates him again. Evan tries to convince Cassie to trust him, but she cannot. Cassie ends up running off into the woods.

### Chapter 70

When Cassie returns, Evan is gone. Cassie gathers up supplies and walks away. Cassie's mind is so full of everything she has learned that she eventually begins to scream out her frustration. Evan comes to her and grabs her in a bear hug in an attempt to calm her.



### Chapter 71

When Cassie finally calms, Evan again tries to explain things to her. Evan tells her that his people gave up their bodies many years ago when their own planet died and that they are simply consciousness in the mainframe of the mothership. Evan tells Cassie that not everyone agrees with what Vosch is doing, that he, in fact, did not agree. Evan does have knowledge of what is happening at the military camp and can give Cassie details to help her save Sammy. Then, Evan enters Cassie's consciousness to show her what he is now.

### Chapter 72

Cassie and Evan continue to talk, and she soon decides she must trust him if she is going to save Sammy.

### Chapter 73

Cassie and Evan spend the night under an overpass and then make their plan. Evan continues to think it is a mistake, but Cassie is determined.

### Chapter 74

Cassie is alone on the highway, clutching her brother's teddy bear, when the buses come. Parker, the soldier who gets off the bus, believes Cassie's story and lets her aboard. Cassie is taken to the military base where she is given a number, a shower, and an exam. As Dr. Pam proceeds to hook Cassie up to Wonderland, Cassie knocks the doctor over the head and chokes her until she passes out. Cassie tries to find Sammy on the computer, but cannot. Cassie then changes into a white jumpsuit and prepares to leave.

### Chapter 75

Before Cassie can leave, Dr. Pam wakes and pushes the button that would have killed Cassie, but Cassie placed her own transmitter up Dr. Pam's nose. Cassie makes her way down to the bunker and runs right into Vosch.

### Chapter 76

Vosch believes her story and hands Cassie over to a soldier who puts her in the room where new recruits are taken to see the alien hosts. Cassie breaks the glass on the two way window and climbs into the duct work.

### Chapter 77

Cassie makes her way through the duct work, hoping to get up to ground level. Cassie overhears a couple of soldiers talking about a search for a young girl who killed Dr. Pam and a man who killed three other soldiers. This makes Cassie think Evan is there, too.



Cassie also sees some soldiers preparing bombs like the eye that wiped out Camp Ashpit. Cassie thinks Vosch is about to blow up the military base.

## Analysis

Cassie begins to think that Evan is lying to her. She searches the house and finds nothing unusual, but a search of the barn reveals the rifle she lost when she was shot. This convinces Cassie that Evan is the Silencer who shot her, but she does not know what to do about it. At the same time, Ben works hard to help his squad graduate. When they do, they immediately go into battle. It is then that Ringer tells Ben about her doubts. Ringer does not think that they are being trained and used by humans, but by humans working with the aliens. Ringer's arguments begin to ring true when Ben removes Ringer's transmitter and she lights up green in his eye piece, the color that indicates alien infection.

Ben realizes that he has left Nugget with the enemy. For this reason, Ben decides he must return to the base. At the same time Ben is trying to get back, Cassie is doing the same. Although Cassie does not trust Evan, who has finally admitted to being an alien, Cassie needs him to get to Sammy. Not only this, but Evan convinces Cassie that he means her no harm and that by knowing her and loving her he has become more human than he ever dreamed he could be.

Ben and Cassie have both been lied to and both come to realize the truth. However, they both come to opposite conclusions. Ben cannot trust Vosch and his kind, but needs to get Sammy. Cassie decides she can trust Evan because he has made the dangerous choice of being on her side despite the danger it could pose for him. With these lies revealed, Cassie and Ben both make their way to Sammy to save him from unknown danger.

## Discussion Question 1

Who does Cassie think Evan is? How does she try to get him to reveal the truth? How does she respond when he does?

## Discussion Question 2

Who does Ringer tell Ben the soldiers back at Camp Haven really are? What about her argument makes sense? What about it does not? What do they decide to do?

## Discussion Question 3

How does Cassie plan on rescuing Sammy? How does this plan begin to backfire? How does Cassie know that Evan has come to help her?

## Vocabulary

Realization, ignored, infiltrated, defenses, unnoticed, cleansing, projecting, operation, massive, represent, justice, mental, human, substance, encountered, important, errand, measuring, underground, brainwashed, parade grounds, juncture, collapse.



# **Part 11, A Thousand Ways: Chapters 78-79, Part 12, The Infinite Sea: Chapter 80, Part 13, Because of Kistner: Chapters 81-82, and Part 13, The Black Hole: Chapters 83-91**

## **Summary**

Part 11, A Thousand Ways: Chapters 78-79

Chapter 78

When Vosch leaves, a clock begins to count down in Ben's head. He waits impatiently for the orderly Kistner to disconnect his IV. After he does, Ben waits for Kistner to go to another patient before he begins to insist on going to the bathroom. Kistner is angry because he does not want Ben to tear a suture. Ben calls Kistner to help him, but instead of letting him help, Ben knocks Kistner unconscious and steals his scrubs. Ben then goes to the surgical area and uses a scalpel to remove his transmitter.

Chapter 79

Ben dresses in a doctor's coat and makes his way to the hanger above the hospital. Ben knows time is short, and he needs to find Sammy quickly. So, he is pleased when he hears the air raid signal. However, he also finds himself standing beside a bomb.

Part 12, The Infinite Sea: Chapter 80

Chapter 80

Cassie hears the alarms go off as she finds herself above the armory. Cassie changes into a military uniform and arms herself with guns, ammo, and a knife. From there, Cassie simply walks the halls as she searches for the bunker where the children have been taken, a room she can hear as bombs upstairs cause the kids to scream. Cassie is confronted by a soldier and is forced to kill him. Finally, Cassie goes into the bunker and finds Sammy.

Part 13, Because of Kistner: Chapters 81-82

Chapter 81

Ben rushes down to the bunker level to find Nugget as the bombs begin to explode above ground. As he rushes, Ben thinks of his sister.





## Chapter 82

Ben makes his way to the bunker and sees Nugget coming out of the room with a strange soldier as he approaches. Ben prepares to pull his gun, determined to kill if it means saving Nugget.

## Part 13: Chapters 83-91

### Chapter 83

Cassie has to explain things to Sammy, but she is as vague as possible to keep him from growing emotional. Finally Cassie and Sammy make their way out into the hall where they are confronted by a doctor. Cassie is prepared to kill the doctor, but Sammy knows him. When Cassie sees the doctor's face, she is shocked to realize it is Ben Parish. They quickly take one another's measure and decide to escape together.

### Chapter 84

Ben is hurting and going slow. Then Cassie realizes that they have to remove Sammy's transmitter. Ben does it with his scalpel.

### Chapter 85

Vosch finds Cassie and Ben, is in fact waiting for them. They are taken to the same room Cassie escaped from earlier. Vosch threatens to kill Sammy when Cassie refuses to tell him who is working with her.

### Chapter 86

When Vosch pushes the button to kill Sammy, he discovers someone has hacked his systems. Vosch rushes from the room to find this person. Evan is in the duct work and kills the guard watching Cassie and Ben while Cassie kills the guard with Sammy. Evan comes down and Cassie introduces him all around. Evan is amused to find that Ben is the one who has helped Cassie. Evan takes Cassie, Ben, and Sammy to a stairwell where they can get topside. He then leaves them even as Cassie protests to blow the place up.

### Chapter 87

Cassie and Ben make their way up the stairs with Sammy. When they reach the place where debris has fallen, Ben volunteers to make the climb up.

### Chapter 88

Ben finds the way up the debris and helps Cassie and Sammy follow him.

### Chapter 89



Ben pulls Cassie and Sammy out of the debris. They wait for the plane to take off as Evan told them to do.

#### Chapter 90

As the plane takes off, the ground beneath them begins to dissolve. Cassie, Ben, and Sammy begin to run. Cassie falls, so Ben takes Sammy. Cassie falls again as a Humvee begins making its way toward them. Ben shoves Sammy into the vehicle and comes back for Cassie.

#### Chapter 91

By morning, they are hours away under a highway underpass, still watching the drones fall out of the sky. Cassie takes note of Ben's relationship with Ringer as she is introduced to the other squad members. Cassie then thinks of Evan as she sits with Sammy. Ben comes over to join them. Cassie asks him if he remembers a moment in their past that was important to her, but he does not.

## Analysis

Cassie manages to find Sammy and get him out of the bunker, but immediately runs into Ben. Both are so determined to save the child that they are willing to kill one another. However, Sammy convinces them they must work together. This seems to work until they are caught by Vosch, who threatens to kill Sammy for their actions and Cassie's refusal to tell him who she is working with. Evan appears and saves the day, but then quickly ruins it by staying behind to blow the base, causing his own death.

The reader should find the contrast between Ben and Evan interesting. Cassie has had a crush on Ben for the longest time, but it is very clear now that he never noticed her, let alone knew who she was. Ben still does not seem to really know her. Evan, on the other hand, notices everything and he knows everything about Cassie. This is such a complete contrast that the reader must find it ironic, especially since Evan is the alien and Ben is the regular boy.

Cassie, Ben, and Sammy survive thanks to Evan and Ben's squad. However, the reader must wonder what is in store for them now. They have had a small victory, but Vosch and the children managed to escape to fight another day. The reader suspects a sequel to this novel and hopes to learn the fates of some of the other characters.

## Discussion Question 1

Why does Cassie kill a soldier? What does her ability to do this say about her survival instinct and desire to protect her little brother?



## Discussion Question 2

Why does Ben not know who Cassie is? How does Cassie react when Ben does not remember that one moment on the bus when they were younger that was so important to her? What does it say about Ben? What does his response now say about the person he has become?

## Discussion Question 3

Why does Evan follow Cassie to the base? Why does he sacrifice himself to destroy the base? What does this say about the alien race?

## Vocabulary

Obliterating, horizon, remember, involved, important, bandages, ordinary, fantasies, drones, infinite, abandoned, billion, anticipation, advantage, possibility, equipment, shrapnel, changing, seriously, overpass, heavens, serenely.



# Characters

## Cassiopeia 'Cassie' Sullivan

Cassie is one of the main characters of the novel. Cassie is a sixteen year old girl whose life was pretty normal before the alien invasion. Cassie had a crush on a fellow classmate, but she knew that he did not know who she was. Cassie had hopes and dreams. All of a sudden, they can never come true.

After the first three waves of the alien invasion, Cassie was still alive and struggling to survive. Cassie's father kept the family together as best as he could. However, when the fourth wave began, they could no longer protect themselves. Cassie's father trusted the soldiers who came for them and let them take his son. Then he did what he could to protect Cassie.

Cassie is on her own for a long period after the fourth wave begins. Then, she is shot and left to die. Cassie is lucky to have been rescued by a farmer's son, only to learn that he is the same Silencer who shot her. Cassie no longer knows who to trust or what to do. All Cassie knows is that she made a promise to find her brother and if this alien can help her do it, then she is going to use him. In the end, Cassie learns to trust an alien to fight aliens, and she saves her brother while doing it.

## Ben Parish or Zombie

Ben Parish was the star of the football team at his high school. The only things Ben ever worried about were grades and girls. However, when the invasion began, his world turned upside down. During the third wave, some men broke into his house. Ben's father told him to protect his mother and sister, but he failed in both. Ben carries around a great deal of guilt for his failure, guilt that he assuages by taking custody of Nugget, a five year old who is made a part of his military recruit squad.

When Ben finally realizes that he is being lied to by the same soldiers who saved his life and helped him overcome his depression, he decides the only thing he can do is fulfill his promise to Nugget. Ben places his own life in danger to go back for Nugget, succeeding in saving him in part because of the help of Cassie and Evan.

## Evan Walker

Though Evan Walker lived as a simple farm boy, an alien had been downloaded into his mind at birth. That alien woke four years ago. When the invasion begins, Evan becomes a Silencer, an alien whose job it is to kill as many humans as possible. However, Evan struggles with his orders because his human side feels too much for the people around him. When Evan shoots Cassie, he only wounds her because he finds her fascinating. Later, Evan saves Cassie's life and falls in love with her. When Cassie begins to



suspect the truth, Evan tries to hide it from her, but he finally tells her everything. He even destroys the camp where his fellow aliens work.

## **Sammy Sullivan or Nugget**

Sammy is Cassie's brother. Sammy is only five years old, but when he is picked up by the soldiers and taken to Camp Haven, he is tested the same as the older children. Sammy makes all the right choices. This saves his life, but it also places him in a program to teach that teaches how to kill. The program is too advanced for a child. Sammy makes friends with Ben Parish, and this helps him survive the training. In the end, Sammy is rescued by Cassie, and Ben

## **Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vosch**

Vosch is the leader of the alien invaders. Cassie recognizes Vosch as a bad guy when she witnesses him killing all the adults at her refugee camp. However, Ben and Sammy did not see what Cassie saw and they believe Vosch to be the good guy. Ben credits Vosch with saving his life when he fell into a dark depression. However, it is Vosch who later attempts to kill Sammy to force Ben and Cassie to talk. It is clear to them both that Vosch is the enemy.

## **Ringer**

Ringer is a girl about Ben's age. Ringer is an amazing shot and she helps Ben's squad make enough points to graduate the top of the their class. However, during their first assignment, Ringer reveals to Ben that she does not believe the soldiers who have trained them are being honest. In fact, Ringer believes them to be aliens. Ben believes her when removing her transmitter causes her to appear to be an infected human. On Ringer's word, Ben convinces the whole squad to go rogue and only returns to the base to save Sammy, or Nugget as Ben knows him.

## **Flintstone**

Flintstone is a member of Ben's squad. Flintstone was the squad leader before Ben and he is a strong believer in the program. When Ben tries to convince everyone that they have been lied to, Flintstone is the only one to stand up for the soldiers who have trained them. In fact, Flintstone inadvertently kills himself in an attempt to prove that their leaders are the good guys.

## **Sissy**

Sissy is Ben's sister. Sissy was the same age as Sammy, but she died when some men broke into Ben's house during the third wave and stole her away. Ben is consumed with



guilt over failing to protect his little sister, and it is this guilt that motivates Ben to care for Sammy and go back for Sammy after he learns the truth.

## **Cassie's Father**

Cassie's father is a good man who has only hope for the alien invasion. However, when faced with the soldiers who are gathering children and hoarding adults into buildings, Cassie's father sees the writing on the wall and does all he can to help protect his daughter, even giving his own life. Cassie is both angry and deeply sorrowful when she thinks of her father.

## **The Crucifix Soldier**

The Crucifix Soldier is a soldier Cassie found bleeding to death in a convenience store when she went to get water. The soldier tries to convince Cassie he is human and means her no harm, but she shoots him when she sees a flash of metal when he moves his hand to show her his wound. The metal turns out to be part of a crucifix, leaving Cassie consumed with guilt for killing him.



# Symbols and Symbolism

## Crucifix

A wounded soldier Cassie comes into contact with has a crucifix that Cassie mistakes for a gun, leading her to kill the man.

## Locket

Ben has a locket he accidentally tore from his sister's neck the night the men stole her away. Ben keeps it to remind him of his guilt. At one point, Ben gives the locket to Sammy to show that he means to make good on a promise.

## Teddy Bear

Sammy gives Cassie his teddy bear to keep her spirits up while they are separated. Cassie keeps the teddy bear with her and returns it to Sammy when she goes to rescue him.

## The Eye

The Eye is an alien bomb that Cassie sees first when the soldiers blow up her refugee camp and later when she infiltrates the military base.

## Scalpel

Ben uses a scalpel to remove his own transmitter and later to remove Sammy's.

## Knife

Ben removes Ringer's transmitter with a knife and is shocked to see that removing the transmitter causes Ringer to glow green. This suggests that she is infested with an alien.

## Eye Pieces

The squad members are given eye pieces that help them identify humans who are alien hosts while in the field. Ben and Ringer soon discover this method of identification is misleading.

## **Discs**

The soldiers use discs to determine how to divide the children they pick up from the refugee camps. Red means the children are not infected by the aliens, while green means they are.

## **Wonderland**

Wonderland is a computer program the military base supposedly stole from an infected human that downloads a person's thoughts and memories.

## **Teds**

Teds is what the recruits are trained to call humans who have an alien invader in their heads.





# Settings

## Camp Ashpit

Camp Ashpit is the refugee camp where Cassie and her family go after her mother's death. The camp was formed in a makeshift hospital that sprung up during the height of the third wave. Cassie names the camp Camp Ashpit because of the pit behind the buildings where the bodies of the plague victims were burned. This camp is spotted by a drone and destroyed with the Eye after soldiers come and take all the children and kill the adults.

## Camp Haven

Camp Haven is what Vosch calls Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Camp Haven is where the children from the refugee camps are taken and trained to become soldiers. This is where Ben is taken from his own refugee camp and cared for as he suffers the plague. Sammy is also taken here, tested, and placed in Ben's squad. It is also here that Cassie goes to rescue Sammy. In the end, Vosch destroys the surface of the camp, and Evan destroys the rest of it.

## Evan's Farm

After being shot, Cassie finds herself at Evan's farm. Evan's family ran the farm all his life. Evan had many brothers and sisters, but they have all died from the plague. Evan brings Cassie here after finding her collapsed in a snow bank. As Cassie gets to know Evan, she begins to question his stories. In the end, Cassie learns that Evan is the Silencer who shot her.



# Themes and Motifs

## Alien Invasion

The premise of this novel is based on an attack by aliens who have come to make the earth more suitable for their use. The aliens attack in several waves, beginning with disabling modern life with an EMP, causing massive tsunamis, and releasing a deadly virus. The aliens then turn the humans on each other, first by having human hosts to the aliens kill unsuspecting aliens and then training children to kill survivors.

The biggest problem with the alien invasion is the unknown. The humans had no way of knowing what was coming and what is still to come. Children are left orphaned, parents murdered to keep them from interfering. Cassie finds herself on her own, afraid she is the only human left alive. This presents an interesting lack of trust for Cassie when she does encounter other humans.

As the novel progresses, the reader comes to understand that the aliens have lost their own home and hope to make a home on earth. However, they have decided they must get rid of the humans to make themselves more comfortable in their new home even though others among them felt they could coexist without the aliens ever knowing the truth. This leaves the possibility for some aliens who might help the humans out. In the end, Cassie finds one such alien who has discovered humanity in his love for her.

## Trust

The aliens use the human trait of being too trusting against mankind. The aliens are trying to get the humans to destroy themselves. The aliens have created a military camp where they take survivors and train them to be soldiers, to fight against aliens who have created human hosts. The only problem with this is that the soldiers seem to have far too many resources, and their methods are equally questionable. Despite this, many of the humans, mostly children, believe them without question.

At the same time, Cassie finds herself unable to trust anyone because of the events that led to her father's death. Cassie watched as soldiers who were supposedly their saviors gunned down all the adults who live at the refugee camp with her family, including her own father. For this reason, Cassie does not trust anyone, including the kind farmer's boy who saves her life.

Trust is a strong word in a novel like this one, and no one ever truly knows whom they can trust. In the end, Ben turns his back on the aliens who have lied to him, while Cassie embraces the one alien who saved her. It is this contrast that makes trust a theme of the novel.



## Coming of Age

Before the invasion begins, Cassie is an awkward high school student who has a crush on a boy who does not even know she is alive. At the same time, Ben Parish is the star football player whose only concerns are the girls that he has at his beck and call. However, when the alien invasion strikes, both Cassie and Ben find themselves facing stark realities that some people can go a whole lifetime without having to face.

Cassie becomes the mature adult, helping her father care for her young brother. Later, when her brother is gone and her father is dead, Cassie fights to save herself while attempting to keep a promise made to her brother. At the same time, Ben finds himself wracked with guilt for not saving his sister while trying to find a way to end his misery. Ben buries his guilt in training to become a soldier, in hopes of punishing the aliens that put him in this place in the first place.

Both Cassie and Ben are forced to grow up quickly in this novel. Both continue to struggle, but in the end they realize that the things that mattered so much before do not really matter anymore. This shows their maturity, or coming of age.

# Styles

## Point of View

The point of view of this novel is first person. The author uses first person with each of his narrating characters, using different parts to keep the reader from growing confused by whose mind they happen to be in. Cassie and Ben tell their story through the first person narrative, drawing the reader in closely to the plot and the characters' emotions. Sammy's narration, however, is told through the third person point of view. This suggests that Cassie or Ben is narrating for him.

The point of view of this novel is a unique one that has grown in popularity in recent years. Normally, when an author chooses to use first person point of view, this limits him to only one narrating character. In this novel, however, the author uses several different characters as his narrator, separating their stories into sections to prevent the reader from growing too confused at each switch of the narrator.

## Language and Meaning

The main characters of this novel are children, as is the intended audience. For this reason, the language of this novel is simple English. The author uses little slang and no foreign phrases, keeping the language to a simple level that modern day teenagers would most likely use.

The language of this novel is authentic to the characters and the intended audience. The language keeps the reader's attention, and the characters remain true to themselves. The story line is complicated, but it is made simpler by being told through the eyes of children.

## Structure

The novel is divided into a prologue and thirteen parts. Each part contains differing numbers of chapters. The chapters are very short in most cases. The author uses the different parts to separate the narrators and changes in the scenery. The story is told in both narration and dialogue, showing a story rather than telling one.

The novel contains a main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows two teenagers as they struggle to survive in the aftermath of an alien invasion. One subplot follows the relationship between Ben and Nugget. Another subplot follows Cassie's relationship with Evan. All the plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



## Quotes

There will be no awakening.

-- Narrator (Intrusion: 1995 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** This is the opening line of the book. This line has two meanings. The first is literal. The mother will not awaken while an alien consciousness is downloaded into her baby. The second refers to the silent invasion that is taking place on earth eighteen years before the humans are aware of it.

Sometimes I think I might be the last human on Earth.

-- Cassie (Chapter 2 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** This line shows the reader how isolated Cassie feels as she struggles to believe that anyone else has survived the alien invasion.

Every time I eat a Slim Jim or a can of sardines or anything prepackaged, I think, Well, there's one less of that in the world.

-- Cassie (Chapter 7 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** This quote shows the reader Cassie's understanding that the conveniences of the modern world are quickly disappearing in light of the alien invasion.

There were patterns of tiny spots covering the walls and long, sickle-shaped stains on the floor. It was like living in a 3-D abstract painting.

-- Cassie (Chapter 12 paragraph 9)

**Importance:** This quote describes the aftermath of the plague in a way that takes some of the horror out of it. This was necessary for those who survived.

I'm dying. I know that. Seventeen years old and the party's over.

-- Ben (Chapter 25 paragraph 3)

**Importance:** This quote is one of Ben's first quotes. This quote is important because it shows that before he is rescued, Ben is content with the reality of his situation.

If the enemy looks just like you, how do you fight him?

-- Ben (Chapter 30 paragraph 4)

**Importance:** This quote shows Ben's understanding of the current situation and is part of the depression that nearly causes him to give up on humanity before Vosch convinces him otherwise.

I don't know their real names. We don't talk about who we were before or how we came to the camp or what happened to our families. None of that matters.

-- Ben (Chapter 43 paragraph 3)



**Importance:** This quote is Ben's take on his fellow squad members. It shows how the aliens have made the children lose their identities in order to focus on revenge. This is similar to tactics used in real boot camps. However, this method cannot be healthy for such young children.

For the first time sine coming to Camp Haven - and probably for the last time in our lives - we are kids again.

-- Ben (Chapter 51 paragraph 3)

**Importance:** This quote illustrates the reaction of Ben's squad when they receive their uniforms on graduation day. It is a sad note when the reader recalls these kids range in age from seven to seventeen.

How do you know when you're going Dorothy?

-- Ringer (Chapter 59 paragraph 4)

**Importance:** Ringer asks Ben this as they make their way to stop the sniper on their first battlefield assignment. This question is posed just moments before Ringer shares with Ben her doubts about the people who have trained and housed them for the past few months. Dorothy means going insane.

I find myself on the sofa next to Bear, and I cradle them both, Bear in one arm, my rifle in the other, like I'm back in the woods in my tent under the trees that were under the sky that was under the baleful eye of the mothership that was beneath the explosion of stars of which ours is just one - and what are the freaking odds that the Others would pick our star out of the 100 sextillion in the universe to set up shop?

-- Cassie (Chapter 65 paragraph 9)

**Importance:** This quote shows Cassie's growing anger and confusion as she not only deals with the things that have happened since the invasion, but with her doubts about Evan.

I want to drink in his sweet Sammy smell forever, but I can't.

-- Cassie (Chapter 83 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** This illustrates Cassie's pleasure at having found her brother after being separated for weeks.

Nothing is not important anymore.

-- Ben (Chapter 91 paragraph 35)

**Importance:** This is Ben's philosophy on the changes that have taken place in the world and the growing camaraderie between him and Cassie.