

# **Armor Study Guide**

**Armor by John Steakley**

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# Plot Summary

Armor, by John Steakley, depicts battles that engulf humanity in a war-torn future. Felix finds himself enlisted as a Fleet scout on a planet called Banshee to fight monstrous creatures known as Ants. Jack Crow, a well known rogue and thief, gets tangled in a plot of a ruthless space pirate to take control of an Earth-like planet called Sanction. The Armor that Felix wears in battle will link the two struggles and change the lives of everyone involved.

Felix is the born ruler of his home planet Golden. When his wife dies in a tragic accident, Felix leaves his planet and signs up with the Fleet to fight with the rest of humanity against Ants. Each warrior in the Fleet is given custom fitted black Armor that can only be operated by the owner. This armor gives the wearer super human strength, speed, and reflexes. Felix is dropped on the Ants' home planet of Banshee after little more than six months training. Felix is put through battle after battle and is often the sole survivor picked up.

Felix had joined Fleet with the desire to die but survives many battles while watching those around him die. After many missions Felix flees the Fleet and settles on a planet where he changes his name to Lewis and becomes a local drunk. Felix/Lewis is the first person on the planet which means he owns it and he names it Sanction.

Four years later Jack Crow escapes prison with a band of space pirates wanted for mutiny. In need of fuel, the pirate ship makes its way to Sanction to steal their power source. In return for his help, the pirates give Jack a small space shuttle they found abandoned with a black suit of Armor. It is not known that the abandoned shuttle and armor belonged to Felix. Jack is able to convince the scientists at the Sanction Project Complex to trust him despite his pirate background and gives them the armor as a peace offering.

Jack befriends the head scientist, Hollis Ware, and they devise a way to retrieve the damaged memory banks off the armor by directly translating it directly to the human brain. They begin to feel as if they truly know Felix. When the time comes for Jack to betray Hollis, Jack is unable. They make a stand against the pirates but are clearly going to lose when the town drunk, Lewis, walks in. Lewis is able to put on the Armor and it is here that Jack and Hollis realize he is Felix. Felix/Lewis destroys the pirates and the last that Hollis and Jack see of Felix he is on the outside of the pirate space ship as the pirates flee into space.



# Part 1, Page 1-34

## Part 1, Page 1-34 Summary

Armor, by John Steakley, depicts the battles in which humanity is engulfed. Felix finds himself enlisted as a Fleet scout on a planet called Banshee to fight monstrous creatures known as Ants. Jack Crow, a well known rogue and thief, gets tangled in a plot of a ruthless space pirate to take control of an Earth-like planet called Sanction. The Armor that Felix wears in battle will link the two struggles and change the lives of everyone involved.

Felix is spending the last few hours before his first drop avoiding people. Felix managed to get himself separated from everyone else on the Fleet ship. The Fleet is the name of the army that has been created to fight the creatures that have waged war on the Earth like planets. The ship that Felix is on is called Terra. Terra is the biggest ship in the Fleet. Felix walks through the ship watching the others deal with the fear and stress in their own ways. Felix thinks about the fact that none of them are coming back alive from this mission.

Felix assessed the situation thinking about the truth that over sixty percent of the men on the Terra about to make a drop were rookies that had never seen live combat before. The impressive feature of the Fleet army wasn't the numbers or the training but the armor that each person wore. The armor encased each warrior in a strong metal alloy and was designed to give super human speed, strength, and reflexes. The armor was custom fitted to each person and when a warrior would lay down in the armor it would tighten down on him to the point that there wasn't room for clothing or jewelry.

It's just four hours prior to his first drop on Banshee, the planet where the dreaded Ant monsters live. Felix had shown surprising agility and reflexes in the armor suit and had been made a scout. Felix didn't want the pressure of leading or being someone that people looked to for help. He was angry that he hadn't slowed down in training, that they had picked him out of the group to be one of the scouts. The scouts didn't carry the large amounts of weaponry that the warriors carried and there were only a handful of scouts in each group of warriors. A scout's outfit was pure black with no real advancement past one or two places. Scouts died too quickly.

Felix went to his cubical and put on the suit. He felt the armor seal itself around him and he felt fear just as he did every time the skin-tight suit closed. Felix knew that it was just a machine that would do what it was told to do but he still feared it. When Felix had first joined the Fleet he had found the suit and the power thrilling but by this point in time he didn't care.

In the briefing room Felix listens to a prep talk that alarms him realizing that the people in charge don't really believe the plan will work. The planet below, Banshee, had poisonous water and the air would kill a person with harsh temperatures on top of that.



While Felix listens to the plan there are three teams that will drop. B-team and C-team are to drop north of the Knuckle, a ridge on a peninsula of the planet. A-team was to go alone to the eastern side of the Knuckle where there hadn't been any activity. A-team consisted of only two hundred warriors but the soldiers were being told not to worry since there was obviously no enemy activity there. Felix is on the A-team.

Felix is comforted by the thought that he won't have to fight but that the Engine will instead. The Engine will take over for Felix while he covers inside and will make all the decisions that Felix cannot. Despite this Felix exams the room full of soldiers and again thinks that they will all die.

The lights begin to blink on the face screens of each of the armor suits as the Terra readies to beam the mass of Fleet soldiers to Banshee. Once the troops are on the ground Felix finds that they are covered with the ant-like creatures that have the single-minded thought to kill. Despite the fact that the Ants look like robots and move with a single mindedness to kill humans, they have highly advanced technology and their numbers are so massive that no one knows how many there really are.

Felix, along with all the other A-team soldiers, is dropped into the middle of their destined spot and the middle of a horde of Ants. The Engine Felix takes over and begins to kill. He kills and runs for sometime and then realizes he is alone. The Armor allows Felix to move so swiftly that he soon has outran the Ants and is able to make his way slowly back. Felix comes back to the scene and realizes that he alone is alive out of all the A-team. Felix begins to make his way to the Knuckle where B-team and C-team are waiting.

## Part 1, Page 1-34 Analysis

The reader has learned a lot about Felix at this point in the book but it has mainly focused on the way that he has looked at the war. The thought that an Engine takes over for him when he is in battle will be further explained later on in the book. This first battle that Felix is in will be called the first invasion later on in the story by people that are recalling it as a historical fact. At this point the reader isn't sure exactly what has caused the war or why the Fleet has chosen to invade. Later the reader will find that the reason for the invasion is due to an attack started by the Ants.

Felix is the focus point for the first part of the book. In that time space we will see what Felix feels but not necessarily the reasons for the war. At one point in the story, Felix even says that he had expected to die and thought that he wanted to die. When faced with the Ants that are trying to kill him, Felix, enclosed in the Engine, begins to fight for his life. He will be very secretive about his background and why it is he joined the Fleet to fight the Ant war.

The Engine seems to take over when Felix enters battle. The full extent of the Engine has yet to be seen and understood by the reader. As Felix continues on his missions the Engine becomes more pronounced and seems to be a bigger difference every time it



exerts control. Later on in the story when the Engine begins to take over Felix will actually become ill for a moment. Felix says that he hates the fact that people ask him for help because he can't help them. When the Engine takes over Felix seemingly has no control over it.

The reader will see that Felix seems to have pain and appears to be running away from something. Later on in the story when pirates and escaped convicts become part of the story the character of Felix may seem to be someone that is running away from something that is foul. The reader will find at the end of the story that Felix wasn't running away from because he did something but because he lost someone he loved. Even with the things that Felix does that are considered good in the Engine for it will appear that he is almost a bad guy at times as the reader will see in the last piece of Part one.



# Part 1, Page 34-89

## Part 1, Page 34-89 Summary

Felix makes his way to the Knuckle and meets up with what is left of B-team and C-team. There are bombs falling all around them and they are trying to avoid the larger part of the Ant collectives. Felix meets Forest, an experienced scout, and they team up to protect the warriors as they shoot. Forest is amazing in hand to hand combat with the Ants and her and Felix are able to protect many of the remaining soldiers.

Forest goes over the numbers with Felix in between waves of Ant attacks and he realizes that they have lost three-fourths of the warriors that had been deployed from B and C-teams. The Terra can't be contacted on their radio bands to come and rescue.

Forest tells Felix to go get in line with the other warriors to have their suites powered up. If a suit loses power the metal is so heavy that it simply holds a person prisoner until their air supply runs out. While in line Felix is near three guys named Bolov, Obel, and Yin. Bolov explains about statistics and that Felix, being his first drop, doesn't have but a forty percent survival rate until they learn that he is a scout on his first drop and they change it to ten percent. They also tell Felix that Forest was in the Armored Olympics and came in second. The guy that came in first is named Nathan Kent and goes around from planet to planet making demonstrations. Nathan is referred to as Everyone's Hero because he came in first and was used as a sign that the war could be won. Forest came in second and that gets her noticed by commanders that want to use her expertise but the guys believe it will also be what gets her killed.

The commander has made a plan to move those hurt to a higher piece of flat ground and volunteered Forest to be one of the ones that guard the people while the warriors continue fighting. Obel, Yin, and Bolov believe that it is dangerous and they won't volunteer and believe that Forest should refuse the commanders orders.

Forest and Felix have a chance to talk before the next attack wave. Forest admits that she had been in the Armored Olympics and that she had done well but that Nathan Kent had demolished her because he was so much better. Forest is trying to describe what Kent is and what he symbolizes for humanity as the winner of the Armored Olympics. Felix recites a piece he knows that takes Forest's breath away. When she asks him where he learned that, he says that it is said about a Guardian at a very young age but doesn't explain anything more.

The commander finds Felix and says he has to help Forest. Felix doesn't want to be put on that plateau to be slaughtered but follows orders. The Ants attack and before long they are overwhelmed. Felix fights until he is near exhaustion. His suit continues to pump drugs into his system to keep him going until the suit doesn't have the power left for him to move his arms. Felix is trying to move the incredibly heavy suit when he manages to rock himself off the edge of the sand dune. When Felix wakes up he is



being tended to and his suit powered up. The Ant attack has stopped for the moment. Felix finds Forest and as they lay talking, waiting, she begins to cough and Felix realizes she has been badly hurt. She apologizes to Felix for him being volunteered for the position with her and says that she had asked for him to be put there so that maybe she wouldn't die. She tells Felix as she lays dying that she loved Nathan Kent.

The commander finds a place where a bomb can be placed to kill the Ants. There are no bombs left except for the fact that the Armor suits themselves can be exploded if they are correctly overloaded. There is a soldier that has been wounded and Felix is supposed to take the man to the whole and throw him down in it. The man knows that he is the suicide bomber to be thrown to the Ants. On the way there the suicide bomber is killed by erratic fire from his own soldiers. The man carrying the suicide bomber is Bolov. Bolov is injured although not badly. Felix takes Bolov to the crest of the Ant hill and asks Bolov if he knows what to do. Bolov is crying and screaming and tells Felix that Felix is a filthy human being. Felix says he knows and throws Bolov into the opening. The explosion comes soon after and Felix lays in the sand waiting to die.

Felix wakes up in an infirmary and is the sole survivor to be picked up off of Banshee. Felix refuses to talk to the doctors or anyone when he returns to Terra. It is believed that he is too proud to speak but in reality Felix is too ashamed. Felix hasn't been back on Terra for long when it is announced that he is going to make another drop. He goes to the medics to complain and is relieved when they announce that he can't fight in his Armor in this condition. It isn't until they are treating him that he suddenly realizes that he is being treated in such a way that he will be able to go on the drop the next day. When the Black suit encases Felix, he begins to weep.

## Part 1, Page 34-89 Analysis

The reader has seen at this point in time that Felix is hiding something from the others in regards to his origin. The reader won't see until the end of the book that it is Felix who is the Guardian that he referred to. He is running away from his responsibility of being Guardian Archon of Golden. Golden is the planet that Felix is from. This will be explained later in the book in further detail.

It is explained to the reader that the Engine takes over. The reader has seen that Felix is willing to do whatever it takes to try and save himself. He threw Bolov over the edge to his death. It is unknown if Felix did this simply because it was orders or because it would have saved his life. When he was talking to the commander about the man that was going to have to be the suicide bomber before the attack began, Felix seemed uneasy with the thought. The reader doesn't know if it was the Engine that threw Bolov over despite what Felix wanted or if Felix was that desperate to save his own life or if he thought he might be saving someone else along with himself. It is also unclear just how bad Bolov's injuries were. It is obvious that Bolov was unable to fight Felix off when he began to program the suit. It was said that Bolov tried to stop Felix and was unable. The one thing that makes Felix seem human after was the fact that Felix was so ashamed of





what had happened. Seeing Felix cry gives the reader a little more insight as to just how frightened he really is.

This is the end of Part one and the reader won't hear much more about Felix for some time in the book. It will be the suit that Felix seems to fear that brings him together with others in the book. The next group of characters in the group will see Felix in battle but the reader won't get first hand descriptions of much. There will be only one other battle that the reader sees from the eyes of Felix.

The Armor has been made to protect a human since they are so much softer than the Ants. The reader will soon find that the Engine is also something that is protecting Felix in much the same way. The Engine will be harsh and decisive and is what protects what is left of Felix's emotional and mental state.



## Part 2, Chapter 1-5

### Part 2, Chapter 1-5 Summary

In chapter one the prisoner planet of Lyndrill, the prisoners are being served their meal. The greasy substance is fed in small amounts to the prisoners and is designed to give them strength to continue digging in the salt mines. A dwarf is getting his serving of puryn when he is suddenly attacked and killed. The prisoner that killed him, a human, eats the dwarf's share of the puryn and with that extra bit of strength is able to take on one of the larger inmates and take his puryn as well. With the extra energy running through his body he makes it to the surface of the planet. This prisoner had heard something in the shafts of the mines that could have either been his imagination or a ship. He sees a Fleet ship called the Coyote and runs toward it killing one of Lyndrill's guards on the way.

In chapter two the Lyndrill guards are not allowed to board the ship and stand at the landing entrance watching the prisoner. The prisoner begins to ask the men for help when he suddenly realizes that these men aren't Fleet men but pirates that have stolen the Coyote. There are two men on the pirate ship that step toward the prison. He kills the first with his hands and the second is about to shoot him when a large man stops him. The large man is the leader of the crew, a pirate named Borglyn. The prisoner remembers his cell mate had been a man named Ben Lawl, a missionary, and uses Ben's name as his own when Borglyn asks his identity. Borglyn offers him something to eat. The prisoner tells a lot of stories about his childhood and when Borglyn had listened for some time he says he is glad that the prisoner has gotten all these things off his chest. Borglyn asks him if he wants a job while calling the prisoner Jack. It is at this moment that he realizes that Borglyn knew all along that his true identity is Jack Crow.

Chapter three reveals that Borglyn stole the Coyote by mutiny and he is running out of fuel. The entire Fleet has ordered him to be arrested on site if found and for mutiny Borglyn will not make it back to trial without having an accident that will last for several days. When Jack doesn't seem to be eager to help Borglyn, Borglyn tells him that he will rip Jack apart and stuff his body in an access tube if he doesn't help. Borglyn has found a Project Complex on a planet called Sanction. Jack's job is to gain their trust at the complex and render their defenses useless from the inside. In return, Borglyn has an eight-man star cruiser and a large sum of money that will be given to Jack. Jack admits to himself that he would rather be rich than dead. Borglyn begins to toast the agreement that he and Jack have when suddenly he grabs Jack and holds him up by the neck. He tells Jack to remember how easy it would be to kill Jack and for Jack to fear this. Jack spends much of the remainder of the trip in his cabin.

In chapter four Jack and Borglyn reach the location where the eight man star cruiser sits and inside Jack finds a space suit of black armor. He recognizes it and has heard about the Ant wars but has never seen any of the Armor in real life. The ship is fully intact and clear. Jack checks the bank account on the small cruiser and realizes there is a small



fortune to go along with the ship. Suddenly Jack went from hardly willing to help to eager. Jack grabs the black space suit and takes it with him back to Borglyn's ship.

Borglyn gives Jack information about the scientists that are working at the Project Complex on Sanction. The leader of the complex is a very young and brilliant scientist named Hollis Ware. Jack doesn't understand everything that he has read but from what he can gather it looks like Hollis Ware is working on determining why the Fleet casualties have been so high. Borglyn laughs at this and tells Jack that the reason that Ant war casualties are so high is because no one at Fleet had any clue what they are doing and all the warriors know it. After listening to Borglyn talk about the war and the ants Jack realizes that this big tough pirate is actually afraid of the war and the ants.

As chapter five starts Borglyn gives Jack just enough juice to get his small space craft to the Project Complex stationed at Sanction. Once there Jack sees a riot that is beginning to happen on a bridge. On the bridge trying to talk to the people was the Director, Doctor Hollis Ware. The people are being lead by a fat man who is talking about the kids starving. Just from looking at them Jack can tell the fat man has something more going on in his mind than starving children. Jack assesses the situation and realizes that Hollis is being set up by the fat man and his followers. Jack interrupts the fat man and asks if he is the reason that the kids are hungry. He demands to know who Jack is and when Jack Crow introduces himself there is a general rumbling from the crowd and the scientists. The fat man tries to regain control of the crowd but Jack tells him to make his move and calls him tubby. The man nears Jack and Jack swiftly takes the fat man down. The others back away and the crowd slowly disperses.

Jack tells Hollis Ware that he was pretty impressive and calls him by name. Hollis is surprised that Jack knows his name but Jack is smooth and tells him that most people know who Hollis Ware is. Hollis Ware eats up everything that Jack says. Jack says he brought him something and shows him the Armor that had been in the space craft. Hollis immediately identifies it as a L-1625 Scout issue. Hollis is excited because the recording pod is still intact. Jack agrees although he has no clue what Hollis is talking about. Jack wonders to himself how much what was coming would hurt this nice man.

## Part 2, Chapter 1-5 Analysis

The reader sees at this point in the book that the focus has shifted from Felix to Jack Crow. There is no real explanation given as to the amount of time that has elapsed. However, the reader will soon see that the first battle that Felix took part in, the one that was depicted at the front of the story, happened four "standard" years ago, as the characters refer to them. It is never explained to the reader what "standard" time means but it is not the only place that this phrase will appear in reference to time. Many of the things in the story will be in reference to Earth. The planets are described in reference to Earth and how Earth-like they are. Since this seems to be a measuring stick for each planet and the people that the characters come in contact with it makes sense that a "standard" amount of time would be equal to what is used on Earth although the author doesn't specify.



Sanction is very close to the place where Borglyn found the abandoned space craft with the Armor in it. It seems obvious at this point that the Armor must have belonged to Felix but the reader won't find out for sure for some time in the book.

Borglyn was willing to offer Jack a large sum of money for his help. The reader has seen at this point in time that Jack doesn't have a problem with hurting people for his own gain and benefit. The reader will see as the story continues that it is a combination of Felix and Hollis Ware that seem to change Jack. Borglyn has plans that Jack has no idea about. The fat man on the bridge will come into the story again later. It isn't known now but the fat man on the bridge that was leading the rioters will be Jack's contact for Borglyn.

When Borglyn made his offer to Jack he had threatened Jack's life. He told Jack to remember this and to fear it. The reader will see later on in the story that he does fear Borglyn. It will be this fear that drives many of Jack's choices.

Jack is told by Borglyn to use his notoriety to get close to those in the complex. It isn't until Jack is at the complex that the reader learns why Jack was imprisoned. The reader also sees that Jack feels that he doesn't live up to his own reputation. He refers to the stories of Jack Crow as if they were more or less made up and exaggerated.



## Part 2, Chapter 6-12

### Part 2, Chapter 6-12 Summary

In chapter six Jack begins to gain the trust of those at the Project Complex. Hollis Ware is a good man and a complete genius but is easily taken in by the famous Jack Crow. Hollis has a girlfriend, Lya, who isn't completely trusting of Jack Crow. Jack is learning names and trying to keep himself as open and vague as possible to keep suspicions from being aroused. In chapter seven Jack learns that the planet is in Fleet territory but is actually owned by a man named Lewis. Lewis is a drunk in the town and it is rumored that his family was rich but ashamed of Lewis and they bought the whole planet for him to escape to. Lewis doesn't do anything, simply owns the planet.

Jack looks at the Sanction city from his room at the Project Complex. Despite the fact that they live on the same planet Jack knows that they are segregated in many ways and knows that the people in the town could be dangerous if called upon. Jack begins to map out the city as he walks around and mapping out the best way to shut down the cities defenses. Even though Hollis is very excited at having Jack Crow in the city Jack can tell that many of the scientists are insulted at having such a pirate there. There are several members of Hollis' team that are talking technically to Jack and he admits to Lya that he doesn't understand much of it. She asks him if he didn't developed the Blaze-Drive and he corrects her that he simply stole it that a man named Quan Tri developed it. Lya takes Jack on a tour of the shop and Jack makes mental notes of each place he will need to gain access to later to do his job.

Hollis, from here on referred to as Holly, has taken the black Armor suit and began looking for a way to retrieve the recording coil. In chapter eight, after Jack departs from Holly and Lya, Jack begins toward the city and to find his contact for Borglyn. Jack follows a group of men that have kidnapped a woman that Jack refers to as Eyes. She manages to escape and Jack holds her for a brief moment and then lets her go. When Jack gets to his contact he isn't much surprised to find it is the fat man from the bridge that was trying to start the riot. The fat man, Wice, is angry with Jack for letting the girl go and for the display on the bridge. After a few moments of talking Jack realizes that Wice and Borglyn have something planned that is much bigger than Jack knows. Wice tells Jack that Wice and Borglyn met on Banshee a year ago. Jack tells Wice that Banshee was destroyed two years ago. Wice laughs at this and asks if that is really what is being said.

In chapter ten Jack begins to head back to the Project Complex and finds what passes for the local salon. While there he runs into a man that is very drunk and very happy. He has several young men with him and when Jack shows up the drunk shares his drink with Jack and they stand around joking. A man shows up screaming at him. The angry young man tries to attack the drunk who he calls Lewis. Despite the fact that Lewis is very intoxicated he is able to move with surprising agility and speed avoiding the attackers blows. Finally Lewis gets on his horse with his other young men and invites



Jack to go with them. Jack knows that he should recognize the name Lewis but it takes him some time to realize that this drunk is the man who owns the whole planet.

In chapter eleven Jack is angry that Holly and Lya have welcomed him into their midst so eagerly calling it madness. What makes Jack feel the worst isn't the trust but the faith that they seem to have in him. Jack dismisses his feelings over the betrayal.

Holly begins to tell Jack that the coil has been damaged for some reason to play the record of what happened to the man inside. He devises a way to hook the brain directly to the suit which will combine the person to the recorded memories stored. Jack and Lya are sure that it isn't safe and that doing this will cause insanity but Holly is sure he can figure out how to make it work.

In chapter twelve there is a picnic planned for the Project Complex. Jack and Lya are eating and enjoying themselves with Holly tied up with the suit and the attempts to extract the information from the recorder. Lewis shows up, drunk, and sits with them a while when suddenly someone appears saying that Holly has been found laying unconscious on the floor. Lya, Jack, and Lewis rush to Holly to see what has happened. Lya didn't know that Holly was going to be trying the retrieval method so soon and is angry but Lewis seems to be fine. Lewis sees the Armor and becomes livid yelling at Holly as he storms out of the complex.

## Part 2, Chapter 6-12 Analysis

The reader will see at this point that Jack is pleased at how well he is doing with what Borglyn has sent him to do. At the same time Jack is torn with feeling guilt at betraying Holly. Jack is curious as to why they are so quick to allow him into their complex and give him so much freedom. They know that he has been convicted of crimes and they seem to trust him despite that. Although Jack never fully says so at times it appears that he wants them to not trust him. Even though he feels guilt over his actions it doesn't stop him from betraying Holly.

Lya seems to be a very strong person in many respects. The reader is aware from early on that she cares for Holly and that they are a couple but it isn't until much later in the book that the reader will see how much she truly cares for him. The reader will see that Lya, Holly and Jack all become involved with the Armor experiments. Once this happens Lya will seem to become more vulnerable for a time. There is also Karen in the book. She is another strong woman figure in many ways. She is strong and independent when she is out in the open. She becomes Jack's lover early on. She and Jack have an odd relationship that seems to stem from the fact that Karen has been raped more than once and she appears to have trouble fully committing herself to anyone.

The reader has meet Lewis and has seen that he is agile and was able to dodge the advancing blows while very much intoxicated. The author appears to have used this to help the reader connect him to Felix. Lewis also had a very exaggerated emotional reaction to the Armor suit that Holly had. Despite his reaction the reader has no other



clue that Felix and Lewis are the same person. This won't be realized until the end of the book. More will be explained about Felix as Holly, Jack, and Lya begin to delve into the memories encased in the suit. The reason that Felix joined the Fleet and why he acts so detached will be fully explained as the story continues.

Jack will soon put the pieces of Borglyn's puzzle together and realize that Wice has been promised control of Sanction in return for helping him. It won't be until much later that Jack realizes that Borglyn wants much more from the Project Complex than fuel.



## Part 2, Chapter 13-15; Part 3

### Part 2, Chapter 13-15; Part 3 Summary

In chapter thirteen Holly tells Jack and Lya that while he was hooked up to the Armor he didn't feel emotions but he could feel the warrior having the emotions. Jack is worried that Holly isn't fully left intact from the experience despite Holly's demands that he is alright.

Jack goes into the Sanction City again that night to meet with Wice. Jack is stopped on the way there and kidnapped. His captors take him to a man that wants Jack to fight with them. Beside the man is Eyes, the girl that had escaped Wice's men the last time Jack had happened into town. Jack refuses to help them despite the fact that Wice is trying to take over the town. Jack knows then that Wice is going to receive the town as reward for doing Borglyn's bidding. They release Jack and Eyes spits in his direction. Jack meets up with Wice and finds that Borglyn is there to make sure that Jack knows how quick he could come to kill Jack. Jack tells them in a few days the Project Complex defenses will be turned off. Borglyn says it will be a couple of weeks before he is ready to move.

In chapter fourteen when Jack gets back to the Complex he finds Holly waiting for him. Holly has discovered that the scout who owned the suit is named Felix. Holly and Lya ask Jack to volunteer to be another helmet hooked up to the suit. With more than one helmet receiving the emotional transmission from the Armor it will be weaker and easier on the receiving party. Jack has no intention of volunteering believing that letting your mind be subjected to such a thing is far too dangerous. The next morning Jack volunteers.

As chapter fifteen begins Holly explains a little about what is going to happen to Jack to ready him for the experience. Jack learns that the first drop that Felix made was on the Independence Day Drop, the very first human invasion of Banshee, four years earlier. The Ant war was still continuing. Lya explained that they had dug into Fleet records and found that Felix had not been at Banshee on that date. Lya and Holly are unsure why the Fleet records are clearly incorrect but have decided it would be better to look into the suit rather than ask Fleet. Lya also tells them that part of Felix's reflexes show slight tendencies toward schizophrenia, as if another personality takes over for him.

In the beginning of Part Three Holly and Jack are exhausted from the experience. They are also both surprised that Felix hasn't died after the hell he just endured. Lya looks up information on Felix but finds it inconclusive given what the suit has recorded. Forest did exist and died on Banshee as Felix had seen and she did place runner up in the Armored Olympics. Lya decides she wants to add another helmet and go with the the next time. Holly agrees.





Jack, Holly, and Lya go with Felix on mission after mission. No matter what happens the Engine won't let Felix die. The three of them begin to show strain from going on so many missions with Felix. Each of them begins to hate Felix for being so sure he is going to die and fighting it so hard. After a few days of sitting and watching Felix fight they each begin to talk realizing that they all hate Felix for being able to withstand all that he has endured. Lya and Holly make an inquiry about a speech that Felix had recited. They are contacted by officials from the planet of Golden. They tell Holly that they have lost their Guardian and what to know if he is on Sanction since Holly and Lya knew the exact phrase memorized by their Guardian, their born ruler. They realize that the Guardian must have been killed and that he was the one that wore the Armor suit. The three of them strap on their helmets for Felix's last drop believing that this will have to be the mission in which he dies.

## **Part 2, Chapter 13-15; Part 3 Analysis**

The reader sees at this point that Felix ran away from being a ruler of his own planet. The reason for him running is not clear however. In the following chapters more about his home planet and the reason for his departure will be known. To an extent the engine is explained later on as well.

Lya, Holly, and Jack have all been changed by watching Felix and going with him through his battles. Felix had been told that scouts didn't normally make it past just a few drops. Felix makes a lot of drops and it is not unusual for him to come back as the only survivor. In the coming chapters the reader will see that Felix hates it when people ask him for help because he knows that the reason that he is able to fight the way that he does is because of the Engine that takes over. He says that when the Engine takes over he can't help anyone even if he wanted to. The reader will unfortunately see that Felix does have people he cares about and that he loses them to the Ant attacks on Banshee.

Jack Crow said that he and Lya and Holly had been through Hell already and didn't think that there was anything any worse that they could go through. Jack also states that he is wrong. The next Part of the book focuses on the last mission that Felix was apart of. When it is over they won't feel relief at all but still won't have the whole story. It will be in this part of the book that the reader is introduced to Nathan Kent, Everybody's Hero.

Jack has wondered this whole time if it isn't dangerous to hook yourself up to the machine like this and feed directly off the computer machine. Jack has mentioned the fact that he is worried that Holly won't be a genius any longer and that it could possibly make them all vegetables. He also thinks it is a bad idea that Lya would get hooked up to the machine as well. While the machine doesn't appear to have a permanent effect on their brains abilities to function it appears that having close contact to Felix in this manner does change them long term in other ways. The reader will see later on in the book that Jack draws a line in his life and his choices that based on before and after in regards to Felix.



## Part 4

### Part 4 Summary

Felix is on his nineteenth mission. As many other missions Felix is the only survivor that makes it back alive. After the attack Felix is put on for another mission. Before the warriors are deployed Nathan Kent, Everybody's Hero, is put in with them. Felix takes an opportunity to talk to Felix about the fact that Forest loved Nathan. Nathan becomes angry about it but later apologizes.

The Engine is taking over more and more and it becomes rougher on Felix every time. Felix actually feels physical pain and doubles over as the Engine takes total control before the fight. Once they are on the ground Felix eventually gets paired up with a commander named Allie. After they have fought for some time and are losing the battle the man reveals to Felix that he is from Felix's home world of Golden. Felix has fought for so much and so hard that he has forgotten why he ran away and everything about his home. Allie was actually his childhood friend and has been since birth.

Felix was the ruler of Golden with the title the Guardian Archon. Felix had married a woman that was from Earth named Angel. Felix had loved Angel a great deal but the people of Golden didn't like Angel because she was an outsider. Angel had decided to leave Golden and return to Earth but there was a freighter accident and Angel was killed. When Felix went to check on her Felix removed her crushed body from the wreckage. After that Felix decided he didn't want to live and he left Golden and abdicated the throne. Allie had rose in the ranks over the years and eventually was sent to find Felix and bring him back home. No matter how long Felix has been away or why he left he is their born Sovereign.

Felix has trouble remembering everything that happens and it causes him pain to reconnect with the memories. After he remembers everything, they are attacked again and Allie dies in Felix's arms. Before Allie dies he explains that despite the fact that Felix joined the Fleet to die he is the Guardian and so can't lay down his life. That is why the Engine fights so hard, because Felix would have to be killed. When Felix is turned around, he faces Kent and is hit in the face and everything goes dark.

### Part 4 Analysis

The reader sees at this point in time that the last thing recorded for Felix was Kent hitting him. What the reader won't find out until later is why Kent hit him and what happened after. Jack had made mention earlier that Kent had died while fighting on Banshee. The reader will see later that this was another lie created by the Fleet to cover up what really happened.

Felix ran away to join the Fleet because he wanted to die. It isn't explained to the reader if the Engine is something that is only for the people of Golden or if it is a human trait or



simply because Felix knew that he had a place in the world and couldn't simply lay down and die. There hints that it is more than human in description but the reader will be left to decide on his own. Later when Felix puts the Armor on once again the reader won't know if the Engine takes over again at this point. This will be the only fight that Felix is engaged in where the reader isn't allowed to know what Felix is thinking and feeling.

Felix explained at the beginning of this section of the story that he can't help anyone when he is the Engine and he doesn't like it when people ask for help. Felix, regardless of whether or not he would have went back to Golden, apparently wanted badly to save his childhood friend. When Allie dies it seems to be the piece that breaks Felix.

The reader knows that Felix cared for Angel and that it was her death that drove Felix to flee his home and responsibilities. Past her death the reader isn't told much about her. It appears that Felix had even willingly blocked all memory of her and her death from his thoughts. It is unclear if he blocked it once again as Lewis or if this is one of the reasons that he drank the way he did.



## Part 5, Epilogue

### Part 5, Epilogue Summary

In chapter one Jack, Holly, and Lya can't believe that Kent, Everybody's Hero, killed Felix. It didn't relieve any of them that Felix had died in this way. They all felt disgusted. Jack goes back to his room to sleep off the exhaustion from the trip through battle with Felix when he is awakened by one of Wice's men. Jack finds that he has slept through an attack and the city is burning.

As chapter two begins Jack runs out of the complex toward the city to find Wice. Wice has a man and is beating him. The man is one that is responsible for giving the locals guns to fight Wice. Jack tells Wice that no matter what Wice does the people will hate him and fight him now. Wice says he doesn't care. Before Jack can think about what he is doing or make a conscious choice he picks up a blaster and kills Wice and all of his men. Jack tells the man to run. He doesn't want to join any body's cause and he knows that Borglyn will not lose.

In chapter three Jack has been taken, by the man that Wice was beating, to where Eyes and the other Sanction citizens are hiding. He advises them to give their guns to Borglyn so that maybe he will let them live. Eyes tells him that if they have guns then they can win because they are in the right. Jack kisses her hand and tells her goodbye knowing that she will die. Before Jack can get out of the building blazer fire interrupts. Several of the Sanction citizens are cut down immediately. Jack makes his way out of the building on the rooftop but falls down and blacks out.

When chapter four begins Jack comes around and can hear Holly and Borglyn talking over the live video feed broadcasting to the city. At this point Holly knows that Jack is responsible for taking the city's defenses offline. Borglyn tells him to surrender and Holly refuses not caring that he will lose. In chapter five Jack knows that Holly won't want to see him so he decides he will just have to break into the Project Complex and force Holly to leave. On the way back to the complex Jack finds a video feed and talks to Lya. She explains that Holly has locked everyone out and that the people in the town gave over their guns to Borglyn. After they had given up their weapons Borglyn said they needed to be taught a lesson and he began bombing the town. Jack promises Lya that he will get Holly out. When Jack gets into the Complex he finds Holly. Holly is angry at first but then Jack says he betrayed Holly before Felix. They head off down a hall.

In chapter six Holly explains to Jack which of the rooms is most stable and where they will hold up while they are being attacked. Jack tries to talk Holly into leaving knowing that they don't have anywhere near enough weaponry to defend themselves. Holly refuses to leave what is left of the town to that tyrant. Holly tells Jack to go and Jack lights a cigarette and sits down in response.



Borglyn begins attacking the complex. Jack and Holly are both injured but are able to hold Borglyn off for a little while. In chapter seven there is a brief lull in the fighting and Jack and Holly are able to contact Lya on the video feed. Her and Karen tell Jack and Holly how much they love them. Borglyn interrupts and tells Jack that he is going to kill them both. Jack tells Borglyn that he is no better than the Ants that Borglyn hates. Borglyn loses his temper and hangs up the video feed. Somehow in all the fighting Lewis manages to find his way into the Complex. He tries to take Holly and Jack out of their but they won't have it. Lewis demands that their must be a way out of the situation and Holly says very calmly that he can't see one. Lewis takes off his clothes and walks over the the armor and touches the palm of the machine. It opens up to the only person that could have opened it. Felix.

Felix is in the Armor as chapter eight begins. He explains that Kent didn't kill him. Felix's armor had needed to be opened and Kent had hit him to open it and release Felix. Kent had shoved Felix into a space craft to escape and the Fleet had murdered Kent and told everyone that he died on Banshee. Felix then rushes out and with speed and strength that couldn't be matched in any human's wildest dream begins to fight Borglyn's men. Felix has them all destroyed when Borglyn's ship tires to take off. Holly and Jack have been watching on the video feeds placed around the city. Felix attaches his vice like grip to the space ships hull and is doing damage when Borglyn's ship, with Felix attached, disappears.

In the Epilogue Jack explains that they never found the Coyote ship of Borglyn. People from Golden showed to retrieve Felix but found that he was gone. They refused to think that Felix was dead. Jack and Hollis stayed in Sanction and became members on the Council of Elders. The Ant war still continues and Jack thinks about Felix a lot.

## Part 5, Epilogue Analysis

The reader sees in the last part of the book Felix and Lewis are in fact the same person. It appears that his name was Felix on his own home planet. Jack and Hollis had assumed from the start that Felix would be killed in the Ant war and then were surprised to learn that he was killed by Kent, Everybody's Hero. It was a shock for both of them to learn that Lewis was Felix. The reader is never told what it was that made Lewis decide to go in there and help when he had sat by for so long. Lewis/Felix had seen the Armor earlier in the book and had become very angry. The reader sees at this point in the book the reason for his extreme outburst.

Jack stays in the city. When the story began it seems that Jack was watching out for himself and no one else and by the end of the story Jack had changed. It is unclear if it was simply Felix's influence or if Hollis made a difference as well. The reader has seen that Hollis was described as a "nice man" by Jack.

The story doesn't explain what happens to Borglyn or to the ship. Simply that they were never seen again. We had learned from Allie that Felix can't just die that he must be



killed. This may be the reason that when people from Golden showed up they seemed determined that Felix was still alive.

There are a lot of answers regarding the Ants that the reader will be left with. It seemed to be nothing more in the story than a single thing that all characters could hate. The Ants seemed to be stupid but had advanced technology. The characters said something at one point in time that Banshee had been destroyed but the author never explains about other Ant planets. It also appears to be a possibility that Banshee wasn't destroyed at all. Some of the information gathered from what Felix observed seems to imply that the Fleet was just as interested in gathering information on the Ants as they were destroying them.



# Characters

## Jack Crow

Jack Crow is a pirate that has escaped from a salt mine prison. The reader will follow Jack on his daring prison escape and find that Jack's first priority is Jack. Regardless of what he thinks of other people he always puts himself first caring nothing for the troubles of others. Jack doesn't believe in getting caught up in causes and will even refuse to help people who ask for his assistance.

The reader will see that Jack begins to change when he begins to hook up to the computer helmet and experience the ant wars through the eyes of Felix. The battle within Jack will become a central theme of the story as Jack continues to go with Felix into battle. Although Jack waits to the last minute to make a decision to help his friend the reader will see that he is a complex character and never truly gives a reason for deciding to help. At one point in time it appears that Jack picks up a gun and kills a room full of men without making a conscious decision to do so. Felix has what is called the Engine that takes over for him in battle making decisions that Felix can't argue with or control. It is possible that Jack begins to take on part of this himself as he begins to act on things he can't explain or remember deciding.

## Felix

Felix is a young man that has escaped his home world of Golden. Felix left Golden because he was the Guardian of Golden, meaning the ruler, and he had taken a wife from Earth that wasn't well liked. His wife, Angel, decided to leave but died as she was leaving in a freighter accident. After Felix found her mangled body he abdicated the throne and signed up for the Fleet to fight in the Ant wars.

Felix had originally signed up because he thought that he wanted to die. It is explained later on in the story that Felix can't just go somewhere and die. Felix has an Engine that takes over for him in battle and again and again Felix is the lone survivor of attacks on Banshee. Felix's friend tells him that it is the Engine that won't let Felix die and that he must be killed because he will always be unable to lay his life down. Felix fights with the desire to help people and the desire to run and find the least emotionally painful way out of a situation. Felix refuses to go back to his home planet to return to the throne but the reader will find that he leads people and causes things to happen regardless. It isn't until the end of the book that the reader discovers that Felix is in fact a drunk living on Sanction named Lewis.



## Hollis Ware

Hollis Ware, referred to as Holly, is the head of a Project Complex on Sanction. Hollis is very young and brilliant. Hollis befriends Jack Crow and it is because of Hollis that Jack stays to fight Borglyn.

## Lya

Lya works on Sanction at the Fleet facility. She is also Hollis Ware's girlfriend. Lya eventually joins them as they wear the helmets that take them on the missions with Felix.

## Lewis

Lewis is the drunk that owns the planet Sanction. It is rumored that Lewis' family sent him away and bought him a planet to avoid the shame of having a drunk for a son. At the end of the story the reader will discover that Lewis is in fact Felix.

## Nathan Kent

Nathan Kent is often referred to as Everyone's Hero. For a period of time it is believed that Nathan killed Felix when in fact he was helping Felix to escape. Nathan is killed by the Fleet that he serves.

## Bolov

Bolov is a Fleet soldier that is with Felix during Felix's first drop to Banshee. It is Bolov that Felix throws down the Ant hill as a suicide bomber.

## Borglyn

Borglyn is a pirate that helps to save Jack Crow from prison. Borglyn will attack the planet of Sanction in an attempt to take over control. Borglyn retreats when Felix attacks in his battle Armor.

## Karen

Karen is the second in charge at the Fleet facility on Sanction. She becomes Jack Crow's lover but their connection is strained due to the fact that she has been raped multiple times and Jack holds her off at a distance.





## Forest

Forest is a scout that is with Felix during his first drop. She will reveal to Felix, before she dies, that she was in love with Nathan Kent.

## Alejandro Jorge Umemoto

Alejandro Jorge Umemoto, also known as Allie, is Felix's best friend since infancy. He finds Felix in an attempt to get Felix to return home. Allie will die in Felix's arms.

## Angel

Angel was from Earth but married Felix and lived on the planet of Golden. The inhabitants of Golden didn't like Angel and she died in an accident while trying to leave the planet.

## Wice

Wice is Jack Crow's contact for Borglyn while on Sanction. Wice wants to have control over the city of Sanction but the locals are fighting him. Wice will be killed by Jack.

## Eyes

Eyes is a girl that Jack watches escape from Wice's men. She tries to get Jack to fight with them but he refuses to help them. He believes that she will die and later after Borglyn has bombed the city he notes that he never saw her again.



# Objects/Places

## The Engine

The Engine is what Felix has named the state that takes control when he is in battle. He describes the Engine as something that makes the necessary decisions despite what Felix wants. Felix also says this state of being makes him feel like he is outside his body watching things happen.

## Ants

The Ants are the space creatures that humanity is at war with. The creatures are three meters tall and resemble ants. While they appear to be nearly mindless and robot like they have advanced space technology and weaponry and were able to launch an attack on Earth prompting the war.

## Armor

Armor is given to the fighters before they are sent to the planet. Each body suit of Armor is made of incredibly strong metal and is custom fitted to each person leaving no room for anything, not even clothing. It gives the wearer of the suit super human speed, strength, reflexes and protects them to some degree from the Ants tearing claws. The suits are charged up but once they loose charge the wearer is unable to move the heavy suit or eject from it and soon runs out of air.

## Banshee

Banshee is the planet where the Ants live. The planets atmosphere is poisonous to people.

## Sanction

Sanction is the planet where Jack Crow is dumped with instructions to betray the scientists there so that the fuel can be taken from the planet. The planet is Earth-like in many respects but the people in the town are poor.

## Terra

Terra is the name of the ship that is responsible for taking the group of Fleet soldiers to the first drop at Banshee. Felix is on the Terra ship. Terra is the largest warship of her time.



## **The Fleet**

The Fleet is the name of the fighting forces organized by the humans. The Fleet is considered to be meddling and incompetent.

## **Everyone's Hero**

Everyone's Hero is the title given to Nathan Kent. Nathan Kent was the winner of the Armored Olympics and was supposed to be the symbol that gave hope to humanity.

## **The Guardian Archon of Golden**

The Guardian Archon of Golden is the title that Felix holds. It means that Felix was the heir to one of the human races most wealthy planets. The title is so seriously considered that men come looking for Felix even though he had abandoned his title.

## **Coyote**

The Fleet ship that the pirate Borglyn flies. It is this ship that saves Jack Crow from his prison. It will also be this ship that wages war on Sanction and the people that live there.

# Themes

## The Need for Armor

The name of the book is Armor. This is because of the Armor that the warriors in the Fleet wear. This armor protects their bodies but the reader finds that Felix himself has emotional armor as well. Felix changes into the Engine every time that he has to battle. The Engine protects Felix while he is too scared to act or do anything. The reader finds that everything that Felix goes through affects Jack, Lya, and Hollis as they go with them. They don't have the emotional armor that Felix possesses. They each break down due to the stress that they go through as they watch Felix and feel the things that he feels.

Jack Crow isn't a warrior for the Fleet but he does a lot of fighting. It appears for much of the story that Jack's own emotional armor is shown in the way that he distances himself from people. The reader also sees the way that he uses his emotional armor to protect himself from the guilt that he is beginning to feel from betraying Hollis. Another character in the story that is a symbol for armor is Nathan Kent, Everybody's Hero. Nathan is what helps to protect humanity's hope and dreams. The characters in the story describe him as a person that gives hope and dreams to the people. The Ant war has been going badly and the Fleet has had major casualties. Nathan Kent was used to shield humanity from the thought that they are vulnerable.

## The Desire for Power

The desire for power is shown in many ways. There is a struggle for power that is going on between humans and ants. This struggle for power isn't fully understood in relation to what the ants want. The reader is never told that they want anything. It appears that they just want to be rid of humans but the actual why is never explained. The reader will see them fight to the last man more than once.

Another struggle for power comes from the Fleet as they strive to keep control over multiple situations. The reader will see that they are even the ones responsible for killing Nathan Kent. The Fleet wants to have control over the human planets and the ants all at the same time.

The largest struggle for power comes from Borglyn and his desire to rule Sanction. Sanction is a planet that is in Fleet space but that isn't owned by the Fleet. Since this planet isn't under Fleet jurisdiction Borglyn feels that it is the one place that he can go without fear of being executed for his crimes of mutiny. The reader will see that Borglyn wants to control everything and everyone in the city. The citizens of Sanction try to stop Borglyn and then later surrender their weapons. Borglyn doesn't care if they have surrendered or not. He begins to bomb the city claiming that he will teach them a



lesson. The reader will see him use his own people and do anything he can to find the power he desires.

## Good Versus Evil

The reader will see many areas where good versus evil is shown in the story. The humans fight the ants. Humans are depicted as the ones that are attacked by the ants for no reason. There are men and women that sign up to fight in the Fleet because they had family located on earth when the ants first attacked.

An addition place where good versus evil is seen is in the battle with Borglyn. Borglyn is even described as being just as monstrous as the ants. He has people killed and the reader sees that when the citizens of the town try to surrender he kills them regardless. Hollis stays behind to fight Borglyn because it is the right thing to do and he hopes he can make a difference before he dies.

There is another fight of good versus evil that is easily missed because of the giant ants and interstellar war that takes place. Jack Crow isn't a good person in some respects. The reader watches him kill people that haven't done anything to him and sees him hit Karen. Jack describes Hollis as a nice man and then proceeds to betray him. The reader sees that the good in Jack eventually comes out but it takes a while and Jack fights against it to some degree.

# Style

## Point of View

The story is written in the first person point of view although the focus of the main character changes. The reader will see things from Felix's point of view for part of the story but also from Jack Crow's point of view. At times, although it doesn't change the way the reader sees it, the story is actually told from the point of view of Jack seeing what Felix is seeing. The story has a limited point of view, but the characters have a good sense of intuition that is given to the reader in regards to their surroundings. The story is told in past tense and often in a chapter the author will end a section by giving a hint of what is to come. An example of this is when Jack is about to delve into Felix's body armor again to witness the final drop on Banshee. Jack says that thought that they had already been through hell but that they didn't now what hell was. This gives the reader a hint of how bad things will come and how wrong the characters thinking was at that moment.

The point of view is very important in the story because Jack Crow is changed so much over the course of the story. One of the things that changes Jack the most is his contact with Felix's memories. The author gave the reader an insight into Felix beyond just battle at the front of the book. By the time that Jack and Hollis are able to link up with Felix they don't have access to Felix's actions or emotions once he is out of the suit.

## Setting

The story takes place in a fantasy setting of Earth's future where we are in the middle of an interstellar war. The author gives actual dates and descriptions to the places that they go. The aliens that are used in the book are detailed in such a way that they are often compared to things from earth. For instance on Banshee the water isn't water but the character describes it that way explaining that it is poisonous.

The majority of the story takes place on the planet of Sanction just four years after the Ant wars have started. The author uses terms such as Earth-like to describe the appearance of Sanction. The city of Sanction is described as a poor city with people living on top of each other with the description of a salon given. While this world is fictional the author's use of real world comparatives makes it easily understood. The author also gives measurements of the ants and other things in the book, such as how far a person in a suit can jump. These measurements are given in meters which also lends some idea of the way that things are viewed. The overall setting is easily imagined and understood.



## Language and Meaning

The author uses informal language in the book. There are moments where the words will have been created simply for the book such as syntho, and vid. There are also terms used that are slang. Typically the slang is used to show a persons anger or that they are drunk. The author also uses meters and kilometers to describe distance instead of feet or miles.

The language in the story doesn't change much from one character to the next. The reader will find when the story switches points of view from Felix to Jack that there isn't much that explains the change until the character identifies himself or someone else identifies them. There are words in the book that begin to take on more meaning. The characters in the book refer to ants and the ant war anytime that things become hated. The reader will find in times of battle that there is very little dialog and as the character becomes disoriented the reader will have to accept the character's point of view. A lot of the book for Jack and Felix alike will be moments of self searching. At these times the reader will find a lot of narration and back ground with very little dialog.

## Structure

The book is made up of 426 pages. It is divided into five different parts. Each part is titled that gives a brief explanation regarding the contents of that part. For example part one in the book is labeled Felix, and part two is labeled Jack Crow and in each of these sections the reader is introduced to these characters. Other parts of the books have titles that will give the reader a foreshadow of what is to come. Part two and part five have chapters included. Part two has fifteen chapters and part five has only eight while the other parts in the book aren't divided into chapters regardless of their length. In addition to this the book has a quick two page epilogue that gives a brief explanation to the reader as to what has happened after the final battle on Sanction with Borglyn.

The structure of the book makes it easy to define the start of one characters story and the beginning of the next. The structure of the book doesn't begin and end parts or chapters in regards to the length but the beginning and end of each section. The



## Quotes

"Most found the power suits almost impossibly alien in practice and couldn't bring themselves to react in a sufficiently normal fashion. But he, and a few others, had taken to them easily, readily utilizing their potential as the long-sought key to a machine as extension of man's own puny form." Part 1: Page 9

"Felix told him to ask someone else. 'Who?' replied the young man. 'You're the only survivor from this whole group.'" Part 1: Page 88

"So he had known-all along he had known-that I was Jack Crow." Part 2: Chapter 2: Page 104

"In the drop bay I found the suit. I had never seen one up close before, but anyone would know what it was. It was the black sheen worn by the guy in the Vidshow, the scout who never reported back." Part 2: Chapter 3: Page 114

"So I headed back across the bridge, toward the city and the refugees and, among them, my contact with Borglyn. Toward, in fact, exactly what in the hell I was doing there." Part 2: Chapter 7: Page 145

"He was it, that lightweight drunk. He was the owner, ruler, master, of everything in sight." Part 2: Chapter 10: Page 170

"Why did they welcome the wolf into their midst? Why did they succumb to such insanity? Simple. They trusted me. Madness." Part 2: Chapter 11: Page 172

"For not only did it allow him to 'see' what was going on, but it had also allowed him to retain perspective over the process." Part 2: Chapter 14: Page 211

"We had been...well, through Hell. What couldn't we handle now? Fools! We didn't know what Hell was." Part 3: Page 258

"She's dead. Your wife is dead. She died in a freighter accident..." Part 4: Page 362

"I found the hatch next to the circuits I had rigged earlier. I could betray Holly twice from the same spot." Part 5: Chapter 2: Page 379

"I followed behind him, wondering if from now on the rest of our lives would be divided the same way-before and after Felix." Part 5: Chapter 5: Page 398

"But I didn't until Lewis walked naked to the far corner of the room and did something that only one human creature in all the universe could do. He touched his open palm to that of the black suit-and it opened. Felix."

"Dammit, I cannot help but wonder: Are you there, Felix? Are you there?" Epilogue: Page 426





## Topics for Discussion

Discuss the Engine. Lya explains that according to the readings she gets from Felix it appears that he borders on being schizophrenic. Is it possible that the Engine is a separate entity? Remember to take into consideration that Felix is from the planet of Golden and so might be different than a human. Explain your answer.

Discuss the relationships in the book. What is the difference between Karen and Jack's relationship and Lya and Hollis' relationship? What is it about the individual characters that cause these differences?

At the end of the book Jack decides to stay and help Hollis Ware when he can't get him to leave the Complex as it is being attacked by Borglyn. Speculate on what it is that has made Jack change enough that he is suddenly willing to help the person that he betrayed earlier.

Felix had a strong impact on each of the characters. When Jack returns to the Complex to help Hollis Ware fight Borglyn the reader sees that Jack makes a reference to the fact that his life before and after Felix has changed. Hollis is willing to forgive Jack for betraying him. From what is known regarding Hollis would Hollis have forgiven Jack before Felix became part of their lives? Explain.

Explain Felix's character in relation to Lewis. Why did he choose not to fight Borglyn until Jack and Hollis were in danger?

Felix was actually the guardian of his home world Golden. Explain Felix's character in relation to what is known of Lewis. What about them showed that they were the same man before he put on the suit? What about them was different?

Jack, Hollis, and Lya all began to hate Felix. Did they all hate Felix for the same reasons? Explain any differences and what is it that shows the differences.