

Article 5 Study Guide

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Plot Summary

Article 5, by Kristen Simmons, tells the story of Ember Miller, a 17-year-old girl who fights to save her mother when she is arrested for violating a section of the Moral Statutes that now govern the United States. She receives unexpected help from Chase Jennings, her former boyfriend who now is a member of the hated military, and along the way she learns about the factors that have caused such a drastic change in him.

The book opens with Ember Miller trying to blend in and avoid attracting attention to herself, as she has done since the war ended and the country was overtaken by an ultra-conservative government. The Bill of Rights has been replaced by the Moral Statutes, a strict code that governs everything from what people are allowed to read to sexual practices. Ember tries to help her free-spirited single mother fly under the radar too, but she is devastated when her mother is arrested for violating Article 5 of the statutes, which stipulates that children can only be conceived by a legally married man and woman. Making matters worse, one of the arresting officers is Chase Jennings, the boy who used to live next door and with whom Ember was in love, but who now appears to be a hardened soldier.

Ember is taken to a reformatory in West Virginia, where girls like herself are sent for rehabilitation. When she catches her roommate, Rebecca, in a forbidden relationship with one of the guards, she blackmails them into helping her escape, but the plan backfires and everyone is caught. As Ember awaits what is certain to be a severe punishment, Chase arrives with an order to take her to Chicago to testify at her mother's trial, but after they leave, she learns that the order is fake and Chase has gone AWOL to help her and her mother reach a safe house in South Carolina.

As they travel toward the carrier who will help them reach the safe house, Ember learns more about what has happened to Chase in the past year and her anger toward him gradually begins to dissolve. However, she becomes enraged when he eventually tells her that her mother was executed in his presence, although he refused an order to kill her himself. In her anger, Ember leaves and is captured and taken to a detention center, where she formulates a plan to escape as she realizes that Chase is not to blame for her mother's death and has always tried to protect her. Chase turns himself in so he can help Ember escape, even though he realizes he will be executed, but they manage to escape together and prepare to use their knowledge of the detention facility to help the growing resistance movement that is attempting to take back the country.



Chapters 1 and 2

Summary

Chapters 1 and 2

Set in a somewhat futuristic world in which the United States has been torn apart by war, Article 5 follows the story of 17-year-old Ember Miller's fight to survive in a society that condemns illegitimate children like her. When her mother is arrested for being a single parent, Ember must accept the help of her former boyfriend, who has now become a hardened soldier, to try to save her.

Chapter 1 opens with Ember Miller walking home with her best friend Beth and Beth's boyfriend Ryan. In the years since the War, the Federal Bureau of Reformation has implemented strict laws called the Moral Statutes that regulate everything including reading material, clothing and behavior, and the police, nicknamed the Moral Militia or MM, strictly enforce the statutes. When they arrive at Ember's house, her mother is reading a forbidden novel, which worries Ember but she does not say anything. Soon some officers arrive, which is surprising because it is not yet time for their regular home inspection, but rather than cite them for an infraction, they arrest her mother for an Article 5 infraction, which is having a child out of wedlock. Ember is terrified because no one knows what happens to people after they have been arrested. They just disappear and there are rumors of prisons and even executions. Ember is further shocked when Chase Jennings gets out of one of the police cars. Chase grew up next door, is the only boy Ember has ever loved and left a year ago to become an officer, but now he treats both Ember and her mother coldly. Her mother is taken away in a van and Ember is taken too, with the officers saying she is being sent for rehabilitation.

In Chapter 2, Ember is taken to a processing center in downtown Louisville, where she is placed with a group of girls, including Rosa Montoya, a girl who was in her class for a short time. The girls are bused to the Girls Reformatory and Rehabilitation Center in West Virginia, which is run by the Sisters of Salvation. Her roommate is Rebecca Lansing, who has been there for three years since her parents dropped her off so they could become missionaries. Rebecca is now a Student Assistant. She is very sweet, demure and supportive of the restrictive environment. Ember falls into line with the other girls to go to class, but thinks she will find a phone and try to contact Beth or someone else. Rosa says she plans to escape, and when Ember turns around, she is gone.

Analysis

The book's first two chapters set up the book's premise. Following a war that is never fully described, many cities in the United States have become deserted wastelands and the country is now under military rule. Ultra-conservative forces have taken over and established a strict moral code that is enforced by routine inspections to rout of banned



reading material, etc. Ember's mother is established as a free spirit who worries little about the statutes and routinely has romance novels in the house, and as a single parent, she is automatically in violation of Article 5 of the statutes, which decrees that a family must consist of a married man and woman plus the children that come from that legal marriage. While she appreciates her mother's free-spirited personality, Ember worries enough for both of them. She is established as something of a parent to her mother, deftly hiding contraband when police officers conduct an inspection and trying to blend into the woodwork while protecting her mother. For this reason, it is especially shocking when her mother is arrested and Ember is powerless to stop it.

This section also introduces Chase, who grew up next door to Ember and her mother, but left a year earlier when he was drafted into the military. Despite promises to come back, Chase has never contacted Ember since he left and now reappears as a seemingly cold-hearted soldier who has bought into the Moral Militia's program wholeheartedly. The relationship between Chase and Ember is one of the book's primary subplots and continues to evolve throughout the novel.

The rehabilitation center to which Ember is taken is painted as something of a reform school run by a group of ultra-conservative women who strive to teach the girls to be subservient to men, as the statutes require.

Discussion Question 1

Compare and contrast Rebecca and Rosa. Do they share any common characteristics? In what ways are they different?

Discussion Question 2

Describe Ember's personality. What experiences have prompted her to become the person she now is? How has she changed her behavior in order to cope with the current world order?

Discussion Question 3

Judging from the author's description of the Moral Statutes and the state of the country as the book opens, can you infer anything about her political opinions? Would you guess that she is conservative, liberal or moderate? Explain your answer.

Vocabulary

Citation, indecency, conscientious, succumb, mandate (verb), comply, unauthorized, kindle, pensive, studious, deliberately, cultivate, contraband, mutinous, decipher, detest, ration (noun), reactive, infectious, meander, stunted, apathy, rigid, strident, rehabilitation, descend, stifle, benign, covert.



Chapters 3 and 4

Summary

Chapters 3 and 4

In Chapter 3, Rosa runs between buildings, capturing everyone's attention as the guards chase her, but she is caught before Ember can slip away to look for a phone. Ember is shocked when a guard hits Rosa in the face, but Ms. Brock, the headmistress, simply expresses thanks to God that he resolved the situation. In class, everyone reads the Statutes silently. They require everyone to support only the Church of America and forbid any type of family other than one man, one woman and children. Women are to be subservient, and Article 5 – the one her mother was arrested for violating – stipulates that children are considered valid citizens only when conceived by a married husband and wife, and all others will be removed from the home and subjected to rehabilitation. Ember asks to use the restroom and a guard takes her to the medical clinic, where he and the nurse become distracted. Ember is able to get to a phone, but she learns that there is no way to call off the property. She is punished by being given no food. She thinks about Chase, wondering how he could have changed so much. Later that evening, she is taken to the common room with the other girls her age, where Ms. Brock beats her hands savagely with a baton for breaking the rules. That night, Ember hears a window open and sees Rebecca sneaking out, so she follows and finds her making out with a guard named Sean Banks. This is strictly against the rules, so Ember threatens to report them unless Sean helps her escape. Back in their room, Rebecca says escaping is impossible because the guards shoot anyone who does so. She also reveals that the last one to try was Katelyn Meadows, a girl taken from Ember's school months earlier. Everyone had wondered what happened to her and now Ember learns that she was killed by the guards.

In Chapter 4, Ember learns that Rebecca is almost old enough to be released, but she is staying to protect Sean, who could be executed if he tries to leave. Two days later, Sean gives Ember his plan for her to escape over the fence. There are many problems with the plan, but Ember is determined to get out and find her mother. In the next few days, she and Rebecca grow closer. On the appointed night, Ember sneaks out and meets Sean, but the other guards catch them. Sean pretends they are seeing each other, but Ember is taken back to the school. The next morning, she is waiting for her punishment when Rebecca comes into the common room and demands that the other guards tell her where Sean is but they refuse. Ms. Brock comes in and says he is gone and so is Rebecca. When Rebecca lunges at her, a guard hits her savagely with a baton and Ember is taken to an outbuilding. However, before her punishment can begin, a guard announces that an officer has come to take her to be a witness at a trial. She is puzzled because Sean said earlier that trials had stopped, but then Chase enters.



Analysis

This section establishes the reformatory as a true house of horrors. Although it somewhat resembles a college campus, it is actually more of a prison with armed guards who kill anyone who tries to escape. Mrs. Brock, the headmistress, is terribly cruel, setting up a stark contrast between the required role of women as sweet and subservient, and the actual behavior she displays in punishing Ember and other girls under her care. The scars she leaves on Ember's hands leave a physical mark that will last a lifetime, but they also are symbolic of the internal scars left by the experiences Ember continues to get as her situation becomes increasingly dire.

In these chapters, Ember's strong character begins to emerge as she looks for every opportunity to escape and locate her mother. Again she is depicted as more of a parent than a daughter, feeling the need to protect her mother at all costs.

The author also provides a surprising twist when the seemingly-demure Rebecca, who has been portrayed as almost robotic in her obedience, is revealed to be flouting the rules by having a relationship with one of the guards. This not only gives Ember an opportunity to plan an escape, but it also establishes a sort of friendship between the girls, who are not as different as they originally appeared to be. While Rosa's rebellion is overt, Rebecca's is more sneaky and covert, and also more effective.

Discussion Question 1

What is the importance of Katelyn Meadows as a character in the book? Although she is never seen, why is she important to the plot and to Ember?

Discussion Question 2

Analyze the character of Rebecca. Are you surprised by the revelations about her in this section? Why does she behave the way she does?

Discussion Question 3

Describe the reformatory to which Ember has been sent. What are the rules and procedures? What are its goals and how do the administrators go about working toward them? Are the methods effective, in your opinion?

Vocabulary

Feverishly, flail, placate, feign, elicit, interject, deter, misconduct, validate, propaganda, subservience, prohibit, subversive, peripheral, dubious, inconsequential, ruminate, defiance, trepidation, impulsive, hypocrite, miscreant.



Chapters 5 and 6

Summary

Chapters 5 and 6

In Chapter 5, Chase says he has been sent to take Ember to her mother's trial in Chicago. Ms. Brock reluctantly signs her out for a one-night pass. After they are on the road, Chase reveals that he has gone AWOL and is taking Ember to meet a carrier – a rebel who will take her to a safe house in South Carolina, where her mother is also trying to get. Switching from an MM vehicle to an old truck Chase has hidden, they begin the journey, with Ember realizing that she, Chase and her mother will have to hide out forever. She also learns that various sections of the country are systematically being overhauled by officers who weed out Article violators, which is how she and her mother were caught. Suddenly they drive into an area marked Red Zone and are pulled over by a police car.

In Chapter 6, the officer who pulls them over is older and somewhat lenient, so he lets them go, but they decide to hide in a wooded area for a while and Chase teaches Ember to shoot a handgun. He also cuts off her long hair to make her harder to recognize once she is inevitably reported missing. Back on the road, Ember questions Chase about how her mom seemed when he saw her and he is evasive, finally saying she had been calm and clearheaded. This surprises Ember because that is not characteristic of her mother, but Chase quietly says Ember would have been proud of her. They drive through cities and towns that are now deserted and take some clothing and other items from an abandoned store. Chase asks what happened to her in the reformatory, and she angrily blames him for sending her there. She asks what changed him so much, but he will not answer. When they come out of the store with their supplies, they find two men going through their truck. The men have a gun and say they are going to take Ember, but Chase attacks them and a huge fight ensues in which Chase's arm is badly cut. After nearly killing the men, Chase escapes in the truck with Ember.

Analysis

Chase begins to emerge as a strong character in this section. Although Ember continues to blame him for her current situation, much of her anger stems from the hurt he caused by essentially abandoning her when he left for the military. While Chase's demeanor remains somewhat cold, the fact that he has gone AWOL in order to help her clearly demonstrates that he continues to have feelings for Ember, but he is not yet ready to confide in her and reveal how broken he has become.

The conversation between Ember and Chase about her mother is poignant for several reasons. Chase angers Ember yet again by refusing to give her the details she is



looking for, but he also reveals a level of tenderness that shows he still cares her both Ember and her mother. His comment about her mother being calm and clearheaded is a hint that Ember does not pick up on, as is the remark about Ember being proud of her. This foreshadows what Ember later learns about her mother's fate and Chase's role in it.

These chapters also provide a clearer picture of the state of the country after the war. Despite the strict military rule, there is chaos everywhere and the men who accost Chase and Ember are examples of the outlaw culture that has taken over.

Discussion Question 1

Discuss the conversation between Chase and Ember about her mother. What do you think Chase's attitude means? Why is Ember so puzzled by what he says?

Discussion Question 2

What steps does Chase take in this section to protect Ember? How do his actions reveal his true feelings for her?

Discussion Question 3

What new aspects of Chase's character are revealed in this section? What predictions can you make based on these revelations and his behavior?

Vocabulary

Mere, entail, bland, impartial, immobilize, exertion, sinister, lurch, adhere, livid, abduction, rationalize, constrict, fugitive, paranoia, intensify, frivolous, anarchy, denigrate, tedious, sequester, retract, ominous, saunter, demeanor.



Chapters 7 through 9

Summary

Chapters 7 through 9

In Chapter 7, Chase drives away quickly. When he reaches out to see if Ember is okay, she pulls away, afraid of the violent man he has become. She remembers when he was drafted by the military and that he would have disobeyed the order and stayed behind if she had asked him. Eventually, they stop so he can tend to his wound. Ember says that she needs to go to the bathroom. Instead, she runs into a corn field with the intention of escaping because she is afraid of him. She quickly gets lost; but, she is relieved when she sees a trailer with a woman sitting outside it. However, when she goes inside, she finds a horrific mess, including animal carcasses hanging from the ceiling, and realizes the woman is clearly deranged and thinks Ember is her daughter Alice. The woman refuses to let her leave, but Chase arrives and takes her back to the truck. He thinks she simply wandered too far and got lost. Angry, she tells him that she was trying to leave.

Chapter 8 opens with Ember agreeing to stay with Chase. They reach a house in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where they are supposed to meet the carrier. The house is boarded up, but they break in and find that it appears to be the right place. However, no one is there. They turn on the radio and hear a report about the assault of the two men who accosted them at the hardware store. They also hear Ember reported as a missing person, but Chase is concerned because it is too early for her to be reported missing and they realize someone must have contacted Ms. Brock about her.

In Chapter 9, they realize the person who reported Ember missing probably was Tucker Morris, one of the soldiers who arrested her mother. Chase tells Ember about their history as partners when they first joined the military and Ember realizes that Chase is a broken rebel while Morris is a hardened military man. After a few minutes of closeness, Chase clams up again and leaves, but he returns suddenly and slams Ember and himself into a closet when some military men come into the house along with the carrier. Before they kill the carrier, he gives Chase and Ember instructions on where and when to meet another carrier. Then, they run into the nearby woods. Ember feels guilty about being responsible for the carrier's murder and even more so when Chase reminds her that he will be killed if he is caught being AWOL and helping her. They hike for a couple of days, then set up camp for the night. Ember begins to see signs of the old Chase.

Analysis

The relationship between Chase and Ember grows more complex in this section as she becomes afraid of him after seeing him nearly kill the two men to attack them. At this point, the boy who was her neighbor for so many years has become unrecognizable



and she does not yet know why he has changed so much. Her fear of him is also fed by her continuing anger at his role in her mother's arrest and the fact that he never contacted her after leaving for the military.

This section also brings back the important character Tucker Morris. He appeared briefly in the scene in which Ember's mother was arrested, but now begins to emerge as a more significant part of the book. Chase's story about their history is very significant because it begins to explain some of the changes Chase has gone through and sets up the stark contrast between him and Tucker, which will become important as the story continues.

Ember's encounter with the woman who thinks she is Alice is also significant. The woman at first appears to be a potential savior when Ember is lost, but soon turns out to be one of the many hidden dangers in the new world order. She is an example of how far the country has fallen and the toll the new order has taken on many people. Again Chase steps in to save Ember, once again proving that he cares about her more than she has realized.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Ember try to run away from Chase? Do you think she is justified in her feelings about his at this point?

Discussion Question 2

Discuss Chase's story about his relationship with Tucker Morris. How does Ember realize that he has reversed the roles played by each of them? How does the story begin to explain the changes in Chase's personality?

Discussion Question 3

In what ways does the death of the carrier change the course of the story?

Vocabulary

Ricochet, pursuit, proportion, swerve, abrupt, illusion, shard, detached, perilous, semblance, aerial, begrudge, respective, rationalize, ominous, permeate, vigor, reluctant, acute, exalted, dexterity, residue, revulsion, ludicrous, ominous, vigilant, extraneous, dubious.



Chapters 10 through 12

Summary

Chapters 10 through 12

In Chapter 10, Chase has a nightmare and begins to choke Ember, but he stops when she wakes him. He spends the rest of the night outside the tent, nearly freezing to death, and she wonders what has happened to him to make him so broken. They hike for a couple more days, running out of food and water, when they come to a road. Hearing voices, they come upon a desperate man and woman with a gun who are trying to steal a dead cow from a rancher. They also see a young boy hiding in the woods near him. A fight ensues and eventually Ember gets a gun and fires into the air, causing the couple to run into the woods. The rancher is Patrick Lofton and he is very grateful that Chase and Ember saved his son Ronnie and he insists on taking them to his house for a meal. They meet his wife Mary Jane and it is clear from their home that while they are not rich, the Loftons are doing much better than most people. Mary Jane insists that they spend the night, saying she will drive them to nearby Lewisburg in the morning. Chase and Ember want to leave sooner but cannot because it is illegal to drive after curfew. While Ember is alone in the guest room, she looks through Chase's backpack, which he has tried to keep from her, and finds all the letters she wrote to him after he joined the military. Since he never responded, she is confused about why he kept them.

Chapter 11 opens with the group having dinner. Then, Ember goes into the kitchen to help Mary Jane clean up. She hears a report on the radio about a couple of murders, including that of the carrier, which are being blamed on the Virginia Sniper, along with a report on Chase's defection. When they go into the guest room, Chase and Ember look for a way to sneak out but there are bars on the windows, so they decide to wait until the family is asleep. They share a close moment and Ember tells him she saw the letters, but he stiffens and shuts her down. After he is asleep, she sneaks out and hears a conversation between Patrick and Mary Jane revealing that they are going to turn them in for a large monetary reward. She wakes Chase and he covers with Patrick while Ember sneaks out of the house, but rather than running into the woods as Chase directed, she cuts off the generator, causing the house to go dark and enabling Chase to escape. They steal Patrick's motorcycle and get away, then leave the bike and have begun to walk when they hear sirens.

In Chapter 12, several cars go by but they do not see Chase and Ember. They hike to the outskirts of a town called Hinton and hide in an abandoned truck outside a vacant strip mall, waiting for dawn. An argument ensues and it becomes clear that Chase thinks Ember was involved in a relationship with Sean, the guard who was seeing Rebecca back at the reformatory. Ember is confused because she does not want to have feelings for him because she knows he plans to leave her once she is safe in South Carolina. Later he puts a ring on her finger to make it appear that they are married since it is illegal for a couple to travel together unless they are married. Leaving



the truck, they run into a group of kids about their age, who tell them that there is an entire underground network in Knoxville, Tennessee, so they get a car and drive there. Knoxville is a bustling city filled with a wide mix of people. They find a Red Cross refugee camp that is guarded by soldiers. As they make their way through the crowd of people, they become separated. Ember's arm is grabbed by a soldier who calls her by name and pulls her into an alley.

Analysis

Ember is becoming increasingly confused by Chase. He is at once cold and violent, but at the same time protective and sweet toward her. While he viciously attacks her during a nightmare, his guilt and shame almost cost him his life when he stays outside during frigid weather. As they try to escape from the Loftons' house, he is willing to give his life to enable her to get away, but he is unwilling to tell her why he saved her letters even though he never contacted her during his time in the military. He has increasingly become an enigma but Ember's feelings toward him are beginning to soften.

Patrick and Mary Jane Lofton provide another example of the dire effects the war and the new world order have had on people. At first, they appear to be a kind couple who are understandably grateful for the role Chase and Ember play in saving their son's life, and they are anxious to repay them with a meal, a comfortable bed for the night and a ride to their next destination. Their unwillingness to disobey the curfew by taking Chase and Ember to Lewisburg after dark is at first believed to be simply a strong resistance to disobeying the rules. However, Ember soon learns that the opposite is true -- they want them to stay longer to give them an opportunity to turn them in for a cash reward. In a world in which people need to do whatever they can do to survive, the Loftons are willing to turn on the people who saved their child's life in order to make money.

Discussion Question 1

What is the significance of the Loftons to the book's plot? What does their part in the story reveal about the state of the country?

Discussion Question 2

How has Chase evolved as a character at this point? Include discussion of his personality and his relationship with Ember.

Discussion Question 3

In what ways does Knoxville differ from the other places Chase and Ember have travelled thus far?

Vocabulary

Disoriented, jostle, vulnerability, precarious, plummet, penetrate, penitence, retrieve, validate, deliberate, formidable, lapse, remnant, chagrin, pseudonym, displacement, atrocity, embed, emanate, elicit, relegate, decree, ingrained, schism, serpentine, speculative, ethereal.



Chapters 13 through 14

Summary

Chapters 13 through 14

In Chapter 13, the soldier turns out to be Sean, who has joined the resistance and come to Knoxville to find Rebecca, whom he says is being held there with other prisoners awaiting trial. Sean says he can get them to a carrier in exchange for all the information Ember has on Rebecca and he takes them to a seedy hotel that is home to the resistance movement. He introduces them to Wallace, the man in charge, and Wallace agrees that the following day Sean can take them to Tubman, a carrier who can take them to South Carolina. They go to a room in the motel. Ember tells Sean everything she knows about Rebecca. She feels terribly guilty and responsible for everything that has happened to Sean and Rebecca since it all stemmed from Sean trying to help her escape from the reformatory, but he says it is the FBR that should be sorry. Chase is oddly silent through all of this and when Sean leaves them alone, she tells him that if one of them is captured or killed, the other should go ahead to South Carolina and try to find her mother, but he says he will never leave her because she is home to him. Ember falls asleep and when she awakens, Chase is gone. She finds him talking to Wallace and Sean, who ask both of them to join the resistance, but Chase says no. In the conversation that follows, it is revealed that people like Ember's mother who violate the Articles are now being executed and although Chase tries to stop the conversation, Ember hears this.

In Chapter 14, Ember insists that they leave immediately to find her mother, but Chase eventually is forced to tell her that she is dead. He says that the military had a hard time breaking him and when his superiors learned that he had not cut ties with her as required, they used her to break him. Taking her and her mother was a test for him. They took her mother to a detention center and tried to force Chase to shoot her, but he could not do it, so another officer did it, but not before her mother made Chase promise to take care of Ember. Ember is furious that he has been lying to her and she blames him for her mother's death, but she secretly feels guilty because if she had stopped him from entering the military, none of the rest would have happened. She demands that he leave and he does. After crying for a long time, she opens a window and uses the fire escape to reach the street, where some men grab her and put her into a car. She ends up in a cell at the Knoxville Detention Center. Tucker Morris appears and tells her she will be put on trial in three days. Until then, she is assigned clean up duty with a staff member named Delilah. After cleaning the cells, Delilah says it is time for the real clean up and they collect the dead body of a man who has been executed and take him outdoors to the crematorium. Looking around, Ember gets her bearings and realizes she might be able to escape and help the resistance with her knowledge of the detention facility's layout and procedures. Although she had previously felt hopeless, she now thinks she owes this to her mother.



Analysis

Ember's relationship with Chase takes yet another turn in this section when he reveals his role in her mother's death. This explains why he has been reluctant to talk about her mother previously and also explains his earlier remark about her mother's demeanor and the fact that Ember would have been proud of her.

Ember's feelings about her mother's death are complex. While she realizes that Chase is not directly responsible for killing her, she resents the fact that he has held the information from her and harbors some degree of blame despite his explanation of the circumstances. However, Ember mostly blames herself by twisting everything that has happened in the past year and going back to her earlier refusal to stop Chase from joining the military when he was drafted. Ironically, if she had done so, Chase would still be in the same situation, needing to hide as a result of disobeying orders. Her feelings of guilt also extend to the role she played in what has happened to Sean and Rebecca by blackmailing them into helping her escape from the reformatory.

Ember's knack for survival gets stronger in this section. Rather than being rescued by Chase repeatedly throughout the novel, she has now stepped forward as more of a self-reliant heroine. She first demonstrated this evolution in her personality by breaking up the fight at the Loftons' ranch and saving the child and by cutting off the power at their home to give Chase an opportunity to escape along with her. In Chapter 14, she takes another step by recognizing an opportunity to not only escape from the detention center, but also help Wallace and the other members of the resistance with the information she has about the workings of the facility. The same traits that prompted her to protect her mother by hiding banned reading material from the police are now emerging to potentially help a great many more people.

Discussion Question 1

Discuss Ember's reaction to the news that her mother is dead. Why does she blame Chase? Why does she feel guilty herself even though she was not involved? Are her feelings understandable? Why or why not?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Chase refuse Wallace's offer to become part of the resistance movement?

Discussion Question 3

Analyze Chase's role in the death of Ember's mother. What clues and foreshadowing did the author provide earlier in the book? How does this further explain his actions and behavior toward Ember throughout the book?

Vocabulary

Fray, distraught, abate, indignant, transient, loiter, aghast, interrogate, palpable, induction, initiation, vouch, discretion, loquacious, insinuate, accost, fester, leery, exploit, coherent, dissipate.



Chapters 15 through 17

Summary

Chapters 15 through 17

In Chapter 15, Ember goes to Tucker's office at his command and learns that they execute people with an injection of Strychnine. He also implies that Rebecca is still there. Tucker tries to kiss her, but Delilah arrives and Ember is able to leave. Overnight in her cell, she realizes that she has been wrong about Chase and sees that everything he has done has been to protect her. She formulates a plan. The next day, she goes to Tucker's office and asks for information on Rebecca, agreeing to sexual favors in return. She asks him to check for guards, then lets him kiss her before eliciting the information that Rebecca is in a rehabilitation facility in Chicago. Ember is able to get out before Tucker can go further and while he is checking the hallway for guards, she steals his gun. During the night she overhears some guards putting a man they have badly beaten into the cell next to hers. The following morning she is told to get him up for his trial and finds that it is Chase, who is still unconscious.

In Chapter 16, Ember uses wet rags to clean Chase up and eventually he regains consciousness. She learns that he turned himself in so he could find and free her, knowing he would die as a result, and she apologizes for the way she has treated him. When Delilah arrives, they lure her into the cell, then tie her up and take her keys. Chase gets into a cart, and they head for the crematorium. However, before they can get off the property, Tucker arrives. Words are exchanged, and Ember pulls out the gun she stole from him. Then, Tucker reveals that it was he who killed her mother. Ember is tempted to kill him but knows her mother would not want that. She tells Tucker to say he killed both Chase and her and put them in the crematorium, so he lets them go so he will not get into trouble with his superiors. Leaving the property, they meet Sean, who helps them get back to the motel.

In the book's final chapter, Ember is debriefed by Wallace . They plan to talk later to devise a strategy for invading the detention center. Ember goes outside to watch the sunrise and is joined by Chase, and she realizes that all that matters is that they are safe and together.

Analysis

Chase once again proves that he will stop at nothing to take care of Ember, even at the cost of his own life. Even before Ember learns that he has turned himself in, she begins to soften toward him and realize that he has been protecting her all along, which strengthens her resolve to escape from the detention center.

Tucker emerges as the book's true villain, having been the one to kill Ember's mother when Chase refused to do so. However, despite all the damage he has done, Chase



and Ember rise above their anger and not only resist the urge to kill him but also give him an opportunity to avoid punishment for losing his gun and letting them escape. The plan they devise during the confrontation with Tucker also provides some breathing room for them, since the authorities will believe that Tucker killed them and had them cremated.

In the end, the relationship between Chase and Ember is fully repaired and they are ready to embark on the next stage of their lives by joining the resistance movement. Both emerge as heroes, having saved each other's lives on several occasions and it appears that they will also help heal each other's emotional scars even though their physical scars will always remain.

Discussion Question 1

Trace the evolution of the relationship between Ember and Chase from the beginning of the book to its conclusion. What has each one learned about the other? In what ways have they proven their love for each other? How have their trust issues been resolved?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Ember not kill Tucker when she has the opportunity? How does her plan solve problems for all three of them -- Tucker, Chase and Ember?

Discussion Question 3

In what ways does the author set up a potential sequel to this book? Describe what you think might happen if such a sequel were to be written.

Vocabulary

Dwindle, conceal, insubordination, inflection, averse, jut, curt, benevolent, scenario, distorted, expel, intricacy, sabotage, appalled, vindictive, deviation, tangible, inept, pliable.



Characters

Ember Miller

Ember Miller is a 17-year-old girl who lives with her mother in Louisville, Kentucky. In recent years, her personality has been shaped by a war that has left the United States devastated and being run by an extremely conservative government controlled by the military. Ember now does everything in her power to simply blend in, ranging from choosing her seat in the classroom to the way she walks down the street. In many ways, she is the opposite of her mother, a free spirit to is often careless about obeying the country's strict laws about morality.

However, her efforts to blend in are of no help when her mother is arrested and she is sent to a rehabilitation facility. Rather than conforming, Ember begins to exhibit some of her mother's characteristics in her determination to escape at any cost and find her mother.

The other factor that has shaped Ember's character is her love for Chase Jennings, the boy who lived next door until he was drafted and joined the military. When Chase reappears in her life, she is puzzled and dismayed by the coldness that has come into his character and the conflicting aspects of his personality. As the book progresses, she vacillates between blaming him for the situation she and her mother are now in and the loving feelings she has always held for him.

Chase Jennings

Chase Jennings is a young man who spent his youth in the house next door to Ember's. The two fell in love, but were separated when Chase was drafted into the military. When he appears again at the beginning of the story, he seems to have become a hardened, cold-hearted soldier who obeys and enforces the country's strict moral code. However, eventually it is revealed that he is a broken man, having been the victim of the military's cruel program of forcing soldiers to cut all ties with those they love.

Chase is a complicated character. He can be cold and even violent, but those characteristics mask his true sensitivity. He has sacrificed everything, and is willing to sacrifice his life as well, to protect Ember, but his emotional scars prevent him from opening himself up to her.

Tucker Morris

Tucker Morris is a soldier who previously worked with Chase. Unlike Chase, Tucker buys into the military's policies and procedures wholeheartedly and is a cruel, hard-hearted officer with no moral compass. He seems to have no redeeming qualities and is a perfect fit for the harsh climate that the government has now created in the country.



Rebecca Lansing

Rebecca Lansing is Ember's roommate at the reformatory. Despite her obedient demeanor, she is having an illicit relationship with a guard.

Sean Banks

Sean Banks is a guard at the reformatory and involved in a relationship with Rebecca.

Rose Montoya

Rose Montoya is a former classmate of Ember's who appears in her life again when both are sent to the reformatory.

Ms. Brock

Ms. Brock is the cruel headmistress at the reformatory.

Lori Whittman

Lori Whittman is Ember's mother. She is arrested and executed for being a single parent.

Wallace

Wallace is the head of the resistance movement based in Knoxville.

Lofton Family

The Loftons are ranchers who try to turn Ember and Chase in for a monetary reward.

Delilah

Delilah is a cleaning woman at the Knoxville detention facility.



Symbols and Symbolism

Photographs

In the beginning of the novel, Ember and her friends look at photographs of people who have gone missing, including their former classmate Katelyn Meadows. People who disappear are rarely heard from again, leading to tremendous confusion and fear on the part of those who care about them. After she is taken to the reformatory, Ember wonders if her friends will someday be looking at photos of her and wonder what has become of her.

Federal Bureau of Reformation

The Federal Bureau of Reformation is the Big Brother-like arm of the new government that is responsible for creating the strict moral laws that now rule the country. It represents the ultra-conservative views that are now being forced on the United States.

Batons

At the reformatory, the headmistress and the guards use batons to beat the students, including Ember, for even minor infractions of the rules.

Moral Statutes

The Moral Statutes are the laws and regulations that have replaced the Constitution. They specify a wide variety of behaviors that are required of all citizens, including reading material.

Moral Militia

The Moral Militia is the military/police organization that enforces the Moral Statutes, including conducting home inspections to look for banned items and arresting people for even minor disobedience.

Uniforms

Uniforms are required of many groups of people, including the military and students at the reformatory to which Ember is sent. They symbolize the country's demand for conformity and obedience on the part of everyone.



One Whole Country, One Whole Family

One Whole Country, One Whole Family is the slogan that describes the moral code under which the country now operates. It sums up the requirement that family units be strictly traditional and include one man, one woman and their legally-born children.

Frankenstein

Frankenstein is Ember's favorite novel and a reminder of her life before the war.

Ember's Letters

When he left for the military, Ember wrote a number of letters to Chase but he never responded, leading her to believe he no longer cared about her. When she finds the letters hidden in his backpack, she is confused but later comes to see them as evidence that he never stopped loving her.

Article 5

Article 5 is the section of the Moral Statutes that stipulates the requirement for children to be born only to legally married heterosexual parents. As a single mother, Ember's mother has violated this statute, which leads to her arrest and the book's overall plot.



Settings

Louisville, Kentucky

The book opens in Louisville, Kentucky, Ember's hometown. The city is in better shape than many that have been destroyed, but military law still rules. The book's early scenes take place at the home shared by Ember and her mother. Then, the story moves to a downtown detention center.

Girls Reformatory and Rehabilitation Center, West Virginia

After her mother's arrest, Ember is placed at the Girls Reformatory and Rehabilitation Center somewhere in rural West Virginia. The facility is a cross between a small college campus and a prison, with the girls living in dorms, eating in a common room, and studying in somewhat typical classrooms. They are being held at the facility by armed guards.

Harrisonburg, Virginia

Harrisonburg, Virginia is the town in which Chase and Ember are supposed to meet the carrier who will take them and her mother to a safe house.

Various locations in the Southeast

As Ember and Chase make their journey to find her mother and get to a safe house, they travel through a number of small towns in various parts of the Southeastern United States.

Knoxville, Tennessee

Knoxville, Tennessee is the book's final location. It is the headquarters of the resistance movement and the location of the detention center where the story's final pivotal scenes take place.



Themes and Motifs

Dictation of Morality

The book's overarching theme is the dictation of morality by the government of the United States. The book's premise is that a war has left the country in a state of disarray. Although it is never specified, the author implies that the war was between liberal and conservative forces that divided the country, and the conservative side won. As a result, the Constitution and Bill of Rights have been abolished and replaced by the Moral Statutes, which dictate everything from sexuality to reading material.

The book looks at what might happen if conservative forces were allowed to mandate behavior with regard to morality. Personal freedoms are gone, replaced by a military force that delivers citations and even arrests people for infractions of the rules. Unmarried couples are prohibited from holding hands in public, traveling together or any other behaviors that are reserved for those who are legally married.

The state into which the country has descended makes the point that dictating morality will lead only to chaos and destruction. However, the book ends on a hopeful note as Ember and Chase join a growing resistance movement determined to return the country to a place where personal freedom and moral choices are once again possible.

Trust

The concept of trust is woven throughout this novel. The country's new government does not trust citizens to make their own choices, so it uses the Moral Statutes and military power to force people to comply with a conservative doctrine. In return, citizens do not trust the government or the military because people frequently are taken away and never heard from again, leading to rumors about prisons and even executions.

When she first encounters him again, Ember does not trust Chase because she feels he has abandoned her in the past and is responsible for her mother's arrest. As the book progresses, she gradually learns to trust him again as she finds out what has happened to him, and she also helps him learn to open up and trust again to some extent.

Trust also becomes a factor when Ember runs away from Chase and goes to the trailer of a stranger, only to find her life in danger. Again when they meet the Loftons, the couple appears to be trustworthy in the beginning but it is eventually revealed that they plan to turn Ember and Chase in for a monetary reward. The author makes it clear that in a society such as the one depicted in the novel, few people can be trusted and one must value those who prove themselves worthy.



Resistance

Resistance in any form is strictly prohibited by the new world order. Anyone who dares to disobey the rules or fail to conform in any way is subject to fines, arrest and even execution.

However, despite its efforts to clamp down completely on the behavior of its citizens, people display resistance and individuality in a variety of ways. Some, like Ember's mother, use subtle methods like continuing to read books that have been banned by the new moral laws. Others, like Rosa Montoya, overtly refuse to comply, usually to their own detriment. Rebecca gives the outward impression that she is fully obedient and supportive of the moral code, but in truth she is secretly disobeying one of its strongest tenets by engaging in a relationship with Sean.

Ember, too, resists by doing everything in her power to find and rescue her mother, even though she knows they will need to hide for the rest of their lives. Chase, like Rebecca, appears to have accepted and embraced the new order through his role in the military, but he goes AWOL in an effort to save Ember.

Near the book's end, the theme of resistance expands to include the underground rebellion being formed in Knoxville. As the story concludes, Chase, Ember, and Sean prepare to translate their private displays of resistance into a formal role in Wallace's organization in an effort to bring about change.

Styles

Point of View

Article 5 is told from the first person point of view. The story is narrated by the central character, Ember Miller, who recounts her experiences following the arrest of her mother and her own detention at a reformatory.

Using a first-person narrator is effective in this novel because the reader gets an intimate view of the book's primary character. It is useful to know her thoughts and feelings as the story progresses, which creates a great deal of empathy for the character. The downside is seeing the other characters only from Ember's perspective, but the author does a commendable job of depicting enough of her reactions and responses, along with ample dialogue and description, to provide a good view of most of the main characters.

Language and Meaning

The book is written in present-day English. The language is easy to read but includes an adequate number of challenging words to enlarge the vocabulary of young adult readers. The characters speak in dialogue that is appropriate for their age levels and roles, without a great deal of teenage slang or regional dialect.

The plot moves steadily and at a rapid enough pace to keep the reader engaged. Many chapters end on a suspenseful note, drawing the reader into the next one in order to resolve the mystery.

Structure

Article 5 is divided into seventeen chapters of varying lengths. The chapters are numbered but do not include titles.

The author provides background on the relationship between Ember and Chase through the use of periodic flashbacks that are marked by italics. Spread throughout the book, these sections feature Ember's reflections on various conversations she had with Chase before he left for the military. They provide a glimpse into their early relationship and Chase's personality prior to being drafted.



Quotes

Beth and Ryan were holding hands. It was enough to risk a formal citation for indecency, and they knew better, but I didn't say anything. Curfew rounds wouldn't begin for another two hours, and freedom was stolen in moments like these.

-- Narrator (Chapter 1 paragraph 1)

Importance: The book's first paragraph immediately draws the reader in and sets up the parameters for the plot -- a world in which personal freedoms are gone and there are severe punishments for disobedience.

Katelyn and I hadn't been friends. It wasn't that I didn't like her; I thought she was all right, actually. We always said hi, if not much more. But since her sudden disappearance, something dark had kindled inside of me. I'd been more on guard. As compliant with the Statutes as possible. I didn't like to sit in the front row of class anymore, and I never walked home from school alone.

-- Narrator/Ember (Chapter 1 paragraph 4)

Importance: This passage foreshadows what Ember later learns about Katelyn's fate and also establishes her careful compliance and effort to blend in and not be noticed.

Kiss that dream good-bye, chica," she told me. "An Article 5 means that she's not even your mom anymore. You're property of the government now.

-- Rosa Montoya (Chapter 2 paragraph 6)

Importance: This is the first hint of the extremely serious nature of Ember's mother's situation and her own.

Article 5 I memorized. Children are considered valid citizens when conceived by a married husband and wife. All other children are to be removed from the home and subjected to rehabilitation procedures.

-- Narrator (Chapter 3 paragraph 5)

Importance: This provides the specific rules in Article 5 and the reasons Ember and her mother have been targeted.

A sick shudder passed through me. The Sisters did to women what the MM did to men: tore away the soul and brainwashed what was left.

-- Narrator (Chapter 3 paragraph 3)

Importance: In this passage, Ember begins to realize what she is truly up against at the rehabilitation center.

I envisioned Beth and Ryan scanning through the pictures the way we had looked for Katelyn Meadows. Defending me when people whispered about what I'd done to be arrested. They were true friends, not the kind that would turn their backs. It struck me



that they didn't even know Katelyn was dead. I shivered, frightened by the reality that my friends would never know if I was dead.

-- Narrator (Chapter 5 paragraph 1)

Importance: This is a poignant moment for Ember, when she comes to grips with the reality of her situation, including the fact that she will likely never see her friends again and they will never know what happened to her. It provides a picture of the grim reality the world has now become.

I couldn't stop the gnawing concern that my mother, Beth, my friends, might soon find me unrecognizable. That all the old pieces of me -- the pieces I knew -- were being cut away just like my hair, leaving something distorted and raw in their stead. But that was stupid of course; I was still me. It was everything else that had changed.

-- Narrator (Chapter 6 paragraph 1)

Importance: In this passage, Ember begins to think differently about her situation, realizing that despite everything that has happened, she still retains the essence of herself.

The betrayal, the resentment, stormed through me. After he'd been drafted, he hadn't called or returned my letters. He'd sent no word that he was alive, that he was okay. He hadn't checked in on my mother and me. His promise that he would come back was a lie. Because a soldier had come back, not him. And that soldier had ruined everything.

-- Narrator (Chapter 6 paragraph 7)

Importance: This passage effectively summarizes Ember's feelings toward Chase at that point in time and the reasons she feels this way.

oh." He shook his head. "For God's sake, don't trust anyone." I agreed, but only halfheartedly. Because despite everything, I had gotten back in the truck with him. And since I'd made that choice, I hadn't been afraid.

-- Chase and Ember (Chapter 8 paragraph 7)

Importance: In this passage, Ember is beginning to trust Chase again despite her misgivings. The shift is a subtle one, but nonetheless significant.

I sat down at the kitchen table and clicked off the static hum from the radio. Absently, I traced the thin, raised welts on the backs of my hands and I thought about his hands, and how deeply the wounds beneath some scars ran.

-- Ember (Chapter 9 paragraph 8)

Importance: Ember is beginning to realize how deeply Chase is scarred on the inside and makes a good comparison to the physical scars both of them bear.

I wondered what he'd done that had been so terrible that he wouldn't accept even an ounce of kindness from another person. It seemed impossible just then that I could ever hate him more than he hated himself.



-- Narrator (Chapter 10 paragraph 9)

Importance: This passage foreshadows what Ember later learns about Chase's involvement in her mother's death.

Fun?" he said weakly. "You think . . . Ember, you're the only piece of me I have left. Everything else -- my family, my home, my soul -- they're all gone. I don't know who the hell I am anymore. If it weren't for you . . . I don't know.

-- Chase (Chapter 11 paragraph 6)

Importance: This is a turning point in the relationship between Chase and Ember as he finally begins to acknowledge how broken he is as well as the fact that he still has strong feelings for her despite his role in her mother's arrest.

I saw the MM's credo then, as it has been painted on the outside of the van that had taken my mother. Then on the wall of the house on Rudy Lane, and on the semitruck in Hinton. One Whole Country. One Whole Family. Wallace believed you could choose your family. If the country's stepchildren all joined together, we might really be whole after all.

-- Narrator (Chapter 13 paragraph 7)

Importance: This marks the first time Ember is drawn to the resistance and begins to realize that by joining together, the outcasts might be able to make a difference.

And what was worse was that she was dead because of me, too. Because if I'd never told chase to leave, he wouldn't have gone into the military. They never would have targeted him. They never would have used us to break him. Through some twist of fate, I had killed my own mother. The shame was so thick I could not speak it.

-- Narrator (Chapter 14 paragraph 12)

Importance: This passage describes Ember's feelings of guilt and twisted idea that she was somehow responsible for her mother's death.

Chase had come back after the War to find me. He had reported for the draft because I had told him to. He had always tried to protect me, even when it included the possibility of losing his life or taking another. His lies were meant to be a shield. That was wrong, but I couldn't entirely fault him for hiding the truth once I thought about what he'd faced.

-- Narrator (Chapter 15 paragraph 2)

Importance: Ember at last realizes everything Chase has done for her and sacrificed for her, and she finally is able to forgive him.