

The Atlantis Plague Study Guide

The Atlantis Plague by A.G. Riddle

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Plot Summary

The Atlantis Plague is a story about the survival of the human species in the face of extinction. Brought to Earth initially by an alien science ship, the Atlantean ship first arrives when mankind is in its infancy. What later becomes known as the Atlantis Plague is deliberately given to an early example of our species to ensure they would survive an upcoming natural disaster.

Updated over the years by the scientists, this gene therapy advances the human intellect and operates by affecting the way the brain is wired in humans. When another ship arrives, a quiet battle ensues between the Atlanteans in which the scientists are hoping to save mankind while the Atlantean in the second vessel is only interested in building a super army to aid him in his own cause. In a large portion of the population, the brain becomes scrambled and the patients affected seem to devolve, while in a small group of natural survivors, the brain strengthens and they become more intelligent. This group has no desire to find a cure, believing that the plague is meant to be a force of evolution of the human species. Changing people at a genetic level, it seems unstoppable. Over a billion people are infected in the first 24 hours.

One small group of people is determined to stop the progression of the plague, desperately seeking a cure to avoid what is termed the Euthanasia Protocol. Once activated, this would eliminate all of the sick and infected, leaving behind only two groups of people – those who rapidly evolved as a result of infection, and those who devolved. One such group seeking a cure contains Kate Warner, two other scientists, and three soldiers who are inadvertently thrown together, and who stand the best chance of finding a cure. Studying genes in order to find a cure for autism, she has no idea that she is actually one of two Atlanteans who arrived on this planet as evolutionary biologists to study Earth and its inhabitants when Neanderthal still existed. She is even more surprised when memories begin to surface that reveal she is the Atlantean who gave mankind the gene that started it all. Another Atlantean ship arrives years later, carrying a cargo of the only surviving group of their species after their planet was taken by invaders. They don't agree on the future for mankind.



Section 1: Part 1: Secrets: Chapters 1-6

Summary

The Atlantis Plague is a story about the survival of the human species in the face of extinction. Brought to Earth initially by an alien science ship, the Atlantean ship first arrives when mankind is in its infancy. What later becomes known as the Atlantis Plague is deliberately given to an early example of our species to ensure they would survive an upcoming natural disaster.

Kate Warner holds the hand of yet another woman as she dies in the spa where people once pampered themselves. Almost immediately a video camera pans her way, waiting for her report. A voice from a speaker in the ceiling asks her to do an autopsy. She takes the sample back to her sparse room where she listens to the radio, finding what she hears hard to believe. It has been three weeks since Martin rescued her and two of the children from her autism trial from being buried alive under the Strait of Gibraltar. She never misses the afternoon report, still holding out hope for some word about David Vale. Dr. Paul Brenner is in Atlanta, Georgia in the Center for Disease Control. When he gets word of the latest death from Marbella, Spain, he calls a meeting and twelve researchers from around the world join him on monitors as he passes the disappointing news along and the group is understandably fearful.

Kate dozes, and dreams once again of a moment in time with David in Gibraltar. She wakes as a hand pats her down, seeking the blood sample from the latest victim and she grabs his wrist only to discover that it is her adopted father, Martin. He gives her a hat to hide her face from soldiers and after a quick look in on the boys, Adi and Surya, they leave the building. They walk along a path and Kate notices that the housing units have been welded shut. On their way to the hospital, Kate witnesses the rounding up of survivors and inside the hospital, Martin shows her the true Atlantis Plague.

Below the Immari Operations Base in Antarctica, David looks out of the tube he is in at his own body, still lying in a pool of blood where Sloane and he had both fought to the death. The tube is made of glass and filled with wisps of white fog. Across from him, Sloane is in another tube across from him and glaring straight at him. David feels someone else watching, and sees a man standing between them. He was easily taller than six feet and dressed in a military uniform of some kind. He looks at both of them and suddenly realizes that Sloane is out. He glances back at the man in black just as his own tube opens.

In the hospital, Martin explains that Orchid's efficacy is collapsing and that within a month most would be unresponsive to it while without Orchid, the mortality rate is ninety percent within seventy two hours. Roughly half of the survivors enter a regressive state while the other half become increasingly intelligent. Martin wants her moved to England for her own safety, having heard rumors the Immari were moving troops into the area. They already controlled most of the southern hemisphere. He uploads her latest sample



to the network of others working towards a cure just as explosions occur in the camp. David manages to tackle Dorian just before he reaches the gun on the floor near their bodies. They grapple for the gun as the Atlantean watches. Dorian grabs it, and points it at the Atlantean, pulling the trigger. David tries to save the Atlantean giving Dorian an advantage just long enough to shoot David in the head. Then he turns and empties the magazine into the Atlantean.

Analysis

This novel begins like many other disaster/end of the world stories. The plague is everywhere, and it seems as though no one is in control. Unlike the plague in 1918, the mortality rate of this outbreak is unprecedented. Dr. Kate Warner stands in front of yet another victim, but still isn't used to seeing patients die. This plague is changing humankind at a genetic level, trying to complete the changes that began with the introduction of the Atlantis Gene seventy thousand years earlier and known as the 'Great Leap Forward'. Throughout her residency and during medical school, Kate hoped she never would, but despite the fact that bodies are stacking up world wide, the Atlantis Plague had yet to take her humanity. She refused to let it, despite how clinically her colleagues seemed able to behave. After thirty deaths, she is done for the day. Dr. Warner's medical expertise is in the study of autism, and she had no idea that one day she would be drawn into a catastrophe of epic proportions. Three weeks ago, her biological and adoptive fathers combined efforts to save her and two of the children from her study, bringing them to an 'Orchid District' where survivors were being herded into like cattle. She listens to the radio, but all she wants to hear about is whether or not David Vale is alive. At the moment, little else matters to her.

The Immari army has assembled in Antarctica, two and a half months after the start of the plague, determined to destroy the tombs below the surface. Portals between the Antarctic and Gibraltar facilities were blown up, and permanently closed when Kate, Martin and the children made their escape. Kate feels only faint hope that the Immari army would let David live. The Immari control South Africa, Chile, Argentina and Antarctica, offering 'the chosen' a new reality.

Scientists around the world are seeking a cure for the plague, but aside from the Orchid drug which staves off the disease, there is little they have been able to do. Those who are infected are easily divided into two distinct groups. The first group of survivors are left in a regressive state, devolving and huddling together. The other half of the survivors seem to gain intelligence ten fold and believe that they are the natural evolution of mankind. This is also the stand taken by the Immari. Paul Brenner from the CDC works in concert with several Orchid facilities, hoping for a protocol that might save humankind but the feeling that prevails is increasing fear. Kate has recurring dreams that are as vivid as real life. Some are of David, and her love for him is so intense that she hardly dares to move in them for fear of waking herself or losing the thread of the dream; and others are about the two facilities at Gibraltar and Antarctica. Kate is not the only one experiencing these 'dreams'. Like being force-fed. they come unbidden to David and to Dorian Sloane as well. For reasons neither understands,



Dorian and David are locked in a struggle for survival that spans not only this lifetime, but several lifetimes as they both continue to be resurrected by tubes deep under the Antarctic. Each resurrection finds them in new bodies with all memories intact. Dorian does nothing to hide his hatred of David and in fact seems to be getting help from what appears to be an Atlantean.

Discussion Question 1

What similarities do Adi and Surya share with half of the Atlantis Plague survivors and what conclusions can be extrapolated from this similarity?

Discussion Question 2

What separation is occurring as a result of the plague, and what is the response of the Immari?

Discussion Question 3

What factor does Dorian count on when he is pitted against David again as the Atlantean watches, and how does Dorian try to gain the upper hand?

Vocabulary

centrifuge, pandemic, incriminations, genome, pathogens, maturation, translucent, empathy, devolving, genome



Section 2: Part 1: Secrets: Chapters 7-12

Summary

Dorian's bullets go right through the Atlantean, who steps closer to Dorian and tells him that he knows why Dorian is there, but assures him that he's already killed the only enemy he has down there. Dorian scans the room, hoping to see something he can use against him, or find an environmental suit to get him out. He runs down the corridor, but the doors around him slam shut, sealing all of the exits. The Atlantean materializes again, and gives Dorian a choice between the easy and the hard way. When Dorian doesn't answer, he simply empties the room of air until Dorian is unconscious on the floor.

In Marbella, Kate rolls Martin off of her and checks his wounds. He gets up and retrieves a satellite phone and two guns from a nearby cupboard, giving one of the guns to Kate as he begins filling a backpack with what remains of their research. He warns Kate that help is not coming and they have to leave. He twists the top of an egg-shaped device which begins ticking, and Kate knows they won't be returning. Kate wants to get Adi and Surya out as well, refusing to leave without them. He warns Kate to shoot anyone who tries to stop them, chambering the first round for her, and then runs through the smoke and fire to the exit.

Dorian regains consciousness and sees the Atlantean standing over him, who assures Dorian that he wants to help him save his race from extinction. He tells Dorian that they created mankind, and Dorian has little choice but to follow him and hope for an opening to gain the advantage. The Atlantean seems to be aware of all of Dorian's thoughts, insisting that they saved humanity tens of thousands of years ago. Dorian realizes that the Atlantean isn't really there, and is briefly hopeful. He is led into a small room where two environmental suits are hanging, and a silver briefcase sits on the floor. The Atlantean assures him he is letting him go, and tells him to take the case with him, but not to open it under any circumstances. Dorian remembers how time had slowed while his father was below, and how almost ninety years had passed on the surface while below just under ninety days had passed. The Atlantean tells Dorian that he disabled the bell device that manipulated time, and his 'resurrection' in the tube had only cost him a few months. Then he insists that Dorian leave but won't allow him to go without the case. In the middle of the exit chamber, three nuclear warheads now sit and arm themselves.

In Marbella, Kate and Martin make their way through the rubble. She and Martin manage to retrieve the boys. Once outside, he arms and hands her a grenade. After only a moment's hesitation, she lofts it at the gate. Martin tells her they need to get to Old Town. Along the way, she can smell the dead bodies, and wolves wander the streets in packs. Behind them, Kate can hear the sound of helicopters.



Dorian tries to tell the Immari who he is, but is unsuccessful. He spots a body nearby and thinks he can use the radio, but when he removes the ice from the front of the helmet, he sees his father's face looking back at him. Suddenly, the bombs didn't matter. He sits there until he hears the sound of the iron cage slamming into the ground beside the bombs. He frees his father from the ice and carries him to the basket which begins to rise to the surface after they are in.

In Marbella, Kate realizes the wolves are actually only dogs, desperate and emaciated. After a moment, they turn and leave. Martin and Kate continue forward, hoping to reach the church where Martin tells her if they can hold out until morning, the SAS team will be there. The helicopters drop leaflets telling survivors that they are there to rescue them, and that their freedom is at hand. Then they drop gas filled barrels onto the streets. Martin and Kate look for a building they can get into. They hold cloth over their noses and mouths and move out into the gas.

Analysis

An Atlantean seems amused as he watches Dorian try to kill him. He addresses Dorian by name, and has no fear of him. It takes a few minutes for Dorian to realize that the figure in front of him is an avatar. It is clear that the Atlantean wants something from Dorian, but Dorian has another agenda. He is the leader of the Immari army above them, tasked with destroying the tubes of Atlanteans in the facility under the ice. Before that however, he must find his father, who had come down before him. Despite being an avatar, the Atlantean is in complete control of Dorian who stubbornly tries to think of a way to overcome what he sees as an obstacle to his mission. The Atlantean can read his thoughts however, and Dorian quickly learns that he has no choice but to do as the Atlantean avatar asks. The Atlantean tells Dorian that they were the creators of humanity, but Dorian doesn't believe him. He observes that Dorian is intelligent, but that he allows his base emotions to control him. The obvious truth is that if a species comes to Earth in a spaceship, they already have mastered concepts in physics that we have yet to understand or create. The combined threat of the plague and of the Atlanteans is one that can easily bring humans to their knees and addresses the two most base fears we face here on Earth - invasion and infection. The Atlanteans can also control time within the bubble of their ship with a device known on Earth as a Bell. Disabling it so that the time passed since Dorian came down is a mere matter or months instead of decades, the avatar lets Dorian go, but only if he agrees to a condition. He must take a suitcase to the surface. Before he goes up, he discovers his father's body, and the fight goes out of him completely. Despite a single-minded effort to blow up the facility below them, Dorian sees his father's body and loses the will to care.

Martin struggles to get Kate out of the Orchid facility before the Immari take it over as well. With a struggle for survival at its premium, there is little left to defend or defy the Immari wave as it sweeps over them. All Martin can hope for is to save Kate. Taking the two boys Ari and Surya with them, Martin arms Kate, warning her that they won't make it out if the Spanish lose. Like any 'end of days' scenario, the streets are filled with signs of mayhem, buildings are burned out; and fuel is long exhausted. The modern



conveniences that people are so dependent on are all but non-existent in most cases and man's best friend is reverting to a more wild demeanor having lost their human owners. The Immari army drops flyers claiming to be the saviors who have come to give them liberty. Gas follows soon afterward. The reader is led to believe that the gas is meant for those trying to escape but the reality is much less horrifying. The Immari simply don't want to deal with the packs of wild dogs.

Discussion Question 1

How does the Atlantean respond to Dorian's thoughts as Dorian tries to figure out how to gain the upper hand against him and why does he respond that way?

Discussion Question 2

What is Dorian's primary concern and what options might he have exercised with the Atlantean instead where both he and his father are concerned?

Discussion Question 3

What does Martin believe the plague is doing to mankind, and why is it something that they will not likely be able to control, reverse or treat?

Vocabulary

defiance, dispassionately, extinction, adrenaline, emaciated, extraction, vestiges, extinction



Section 3: Part 1: Secrets: Chapters 13-19

Summary

Dorian is sure of one thing as he ascends with his father – the Immari will certainly incapacitate him when he gets there. The basket stops and he is surrounded by men with automatic rifles. They bind his hands and feet and carry him and his father to the base. When they are past decontamination, a soldier removes his helmet. Dorian tells them he has escaped and insists they untie him. The Atlanteans are awake. In South Africa's Cape Town, Raymond Sanders watches the army of super soldiers training below. He marvels that the harder they push, the better the soldiers seem to get. Of all the groups, cohort five is the strongest, his assistant Kosta informs him. Raymond issues orders to end the others and begin testing new groups but then an Immari general enters to inform them that the Antarctica portal opened and Dorian Sloane emerged. The general reminds Raymond that Dorian is the ranking Immari among them, but Raymond reminds him that Dorian has been gone for eleven weeks, and any manner or reprogramming may have occurred. He changes his mind, instructing them to take Dorian to one of the labs and gas him, then lock him in an interrogation room. He also wants one of his men go down and retrieve the metal case. He tells Kosta to speed up the purge of Andalusia and get the troops to Antarctica soon.

The BBC reports confirm that on the seventy ninth day of the plague, the Immari have invaded the continent of Europe, beginning their campaign in Spain. Experts speculate, and many believe the next target is Germany and if it goes, so does Europe. On a flight headed to Antarctica, Raymond answers his ringing satellite phone and learns that the case is empty according to a portable x-ray but it may be emitting radiation of some kind. They speculate as to its purpose, and Raymond instructs them to put it in a lead box so they can take it to a research facility where Chase can have a look at it. Martin and Kate manage to get the boys to the church in Old Town and go inside to escape the gas. Kate stretches out on a pew, and when she is asleep, he opens a secure line and reports their situation. He learns that five soldiers in Spanish military uniforms will arrive at nine the next morning. Kate dreams that she is in Antarctica again. She calls out, but her voice echoes empty. A set of doors open and she steps into a room where tubes stand with a selection of human ancestry, but half the tubes are now empty. A voice tells her more test results are coming, but before she can see the face of the person talking to her, the room vanishes.

Dorian awakes strapped in an interrogation chair. Raymond Sanders enters, and asks Dorian what they did to him, observing his smooth new skin. Dorian insists Raymond release him immediately, but Raymond has other plans. He tells Dorian that he will remain strapped to the chair until he tells them everything that happened below, and afterward, they'll toss his drugged body down the shaft where he will freeze to death. He tells Dorian that it will be a better fate than his predecessor gave his father, and calls for



the drugs to be brought in. Dorian pulls on the strap until his thumb pops out of the joint. He jerks as hard as he can and pops out two more fingers enabling him to escape the strap. He quickly frees the other hand and overpowers the guard. Before Sanders is fully aware of what's happening, Dorian is on him. He pulls Sanders down and bites his neck, opening a vein. He pushes him off just in time to see the second guard who draws his weapon and shoots Dorian twice in the head. In the church, Kate wakes to the sound of typing. The boys are asleep, covered with sheets that Martin has salvaged. Martin asks her if he can have a sample of her blood, and then hands her a bottle of hair dye, asking Kate to use it and become a brunette. He tells Kate that most people believe she started the plague while she was performing unauthorized autism research on children. Though she and Martin know it's a lie, perception would be all that mattered if she was recognized. Kate realizes that Martin promised Britain the cure if they would give Kate asylum and keep her safe. They agreed.

Analysis

Dorian wonders what the Immari army will do when he surfaces in an Immari environmental suit. The most natural human reaction would be that he was an enemy so he takes care not to appear threatening by lying down in the basket as it ascends. On the surface, Dorian and his father's body are taken into a decontamination room. When a soldier opens Dorian's helmet, Dorian immediately tries to assert his former leadership, telling them that he escaped and that 'they' are awake. Despite being given his freedom by the Atlantean below, Dorian's primary concern is still to attack. It is a typical response from humans when they do not understand what they are face with... blow it up.

In South Africa, Raymond Sanders is training an army of super soldiers. This army is the one that will inevitably be sent into the tombs, and if they fail, their future, and their very lives are uncertain. Clocktower is mentioned for the first time - an organization that is reminiscent of a covert CIA of sorts. Sanders is pleased to hear that member nations are beginning to panic as it is easier to step up as a shepherd when the flock is scattered and afraid. He is less than thrilled to hear that Dorian has returned however, having enjoyed command in his place since he went into the Antarctica facility. In fact, power has corrupted him so completely during his eleven weeks of command that he insists his predecessor be confined, contained and gassed if necessary, but by no means is he to be freed. The case is sent to the science teams for evaluation. The scientist quickly learn that the case is empty, but emits a radiation signature of some kind. Again, the alien technology is beyond anything they can understand, and Sanders orders the case sent to a nuclear specialist. Dorian wakes strapped to a chair as Sanders comes in and at first he is relieved to see him, but he doesn't realize how much trouble he is in. He threatens Sanders with dire circumstances if he isn't released immediately, but Sanders has other ideas. He informs Dorian that he will toss his body down the same hole that his predecessor threw his father and the shock and rage Dorian feels is enough to empower him to free himself. He manages to kill Sanders before he is taken down.



Seventy nine days into the Atlantis Plague, the BBC confirms the invasion of Europe by the Immari. It is an accepted assumption that if the Immari manage to take Germany, all of Europe will fall as well. The BBC speculates as to the reason for the Immari army as it is widely known that the Orchid Alliance can't fight back. Those survivors who have managed to maintain brain function are sympathizers of the Immari cause, the experts broadcast, and as such, the Immari will face little opposition.

While waiting for extraction in the Church of Saint Mary, Kate sleeps. She sees herself in a uniform in the Antarctica facility where a dozen tubes are filled with a variety of human ancestors - specimens of human subspecies, but half of the tubes are empty. She feels like she should know what is going on, but doesn't.

Discussion Question 1

What does the BBC report where Europe is concerned, and what is the reason that they report conflicting stories?

Discussion Question 2

What happens to Dorian when he emerges from beneath the Immari troops, and why do his troops not respond to him as their leader, trussing him up instead?

Discussion Question 3

Why do most people believe Kate is responsible for the plague and what information causes them to believe this?

Vocabulary

combatant, incapacitate, contingent, assimilating, revelation, deranged, delusional



Section 4: Part 1: Secrets: Chapters 20-26

Summary

Dr. Nigel Chase runs experiments on the silver case which sits on a table in a clean room. He uses a joystick to manipulate it through the glass. He discovers that the box is emitting subatomic particles called neutrinos. Usually found in the sun or nuclear reactors, Nigel wonders how they could be happening here. He tries another regimen, and this time the box begins to change. A vortex forms, appearing to eat the case from the inside out. The building is filled with light, and an explosion immediately consumes it and the six office towers around it. Then it continued on, spreading out and scorching the earth until it finally recedes to its initial point of origin. From there, a tiny thread of light rises and links with other threads until a gateway made of light and twice the size of an average door is waiting silently. Kate dyes her hair while Martin continues to type at the computer, and continues to press him for the truth about what is really going on. He tells her that the Plague is complicated and as mysterious as the Bell discovered by the Immari in Gibraltar in 1918. Martin tells her that they learned that the Bell itself is not transmitting or emitting an infectious agent. They now believed that the radiation from the Bell caused a mutation which reactivated an ancient virus which then transforms its host at the genetic level. Unfortunately, they still hadn't isolated the virus that existed behind the plague. When they discovered through carbon dating that the ship in Gibraltar is considerably older than the ship in Antarctica, they began to suspect a second retrovirus was at work. Martin tells Kate that they now believe that the plague was the Atlanteans way of bioforming our species. Outside they hear rumbling and after Martin investigates, he announces they have to leave.

Kate rousts the kids and takes the out to where Martin is waiting. Crowds are thundering down the street, heading for the mountains. They run towards the rendezvous point and as they near it, an explosion rocks the area. Soldiers wearing Spanish uniforms try to take cover, but are picked off one or two at a time. Kate expects the Immari soldiers to come after them next, but they don't. Martin begins trying doors, looking for a place to hide. A woman in an upstairs window looks down at them, and a few moments later the door on the ground level opens and they are pulled inside. A couple converses with Martin in Spanish, and after some conversation Martin tells Kate that they have to leave the boys behind. At first she refuses, but then learns that the couple lost their own children and will care for them well. With them, the boys will be safe. She kisses them both while the couple empties the bookshelf and pushes on it, revealing the tunnel behind. Martin tells Kate they may have to hide for up to two days but if they are captured first, he makes her promise him that she will take the Immari pledge rather than be lumped in with the devolving and the dying. She agrees and wants him to promise as well, but he tells her it doesn't matter. Finally, she realizes that he is already infected.



Kate sleeps until Martin wakes her, pressing a gun into her hand. She can hear footsteps approaching. He turns off the light and they wait until a couple comes into view. Martin talks to them and learns that the soldiers are coming with dogs. They continue in the opposite direction, finding six more people. Finally the tunnel ends in a large room where two dozen people are waiting. The far wall explodes and Immari soldiers pour in. Some of the people help the soldiers to drag the rest of them out. Dorian looks out a large window pane at space and a blue and green planet below. He is wearing the same uniform as the Atlantean was wearing. A man enters and addresses him as General Ares. He hears himself answer. He watches as the Atlanteans history plays out like a movie in front of him and witnesses his escape from his home world to Earth. Then everything fades again, and he finds himself back in a tube, looking out at the Atlantean. It opens, and Dorian steps out wondering if it was all a dream.

Analysis

Kate wakes and Martin finally reveals that she is a significant factor in this puzzle. He finally tells her that the entire world is looking for her. The Immari had released a statement that held her responsible for unleashing the plague, claiming she'd weaponized a strain of the flu. Though it is all an elaborate lie, the media reported it, making it a reality for most people. As is always the case, the media controlled the public perception and perception became reality. What the truth was didn't matter. She was simply the best story at the time. It is a scenario easily imagined, and much less frightening than the alternative - a conspiracy by some organization or worse still, a naturally occurring disaster. With Kate as a scapegoat, the public had someone to fear, to hunt, to capture and to punish, which would of course fix everything. No one would believe that the Immari actually dug up an ancient structure under Gibraltar and the device guarding it set off a global pandemic.

Dr. Nigel Chase performs experiments with the empty case, learning that it is emitting a subatomic particle created by radioactive decay and nuclear reactions. Though he is a nuclear engineer, this is technology outside of his understanding. The author again uses an opportunity to reveal how little human kind really knows and how far advanced an alien species could very well be, even as compared to the best and brightest on this planet. Even a geneticist like Kate struggles to grasp the complexities of the kind of retrovirus used to alter humankind, and she considers how similar this virus is to a kind of DNA Trojan horse. Martin boils it down to a kind of quantum biology and admits they are way out of their league. He also reveals that the two ships are different - one a lander and one a massive space vessel. The Gibraltar ship is older however, and had been on Earth for up to a hundred thousand years longer. Martin and Kate reach an understanding that the plague is an alien's version of bioforming human beings.

The author uses a combination of base emotions like panic and fear to describe the stampede of Orchid survivors as they flee the compound. In this section, he also adds the Immari arrival/invasion, with their promise of a better life for survivors. Those who survive the plague are divided; the Immari treating the advanced survivors as the ones



who will inherit the earth while those who devolve are exterminated. This could be loosely compared to the current battle we face against AIDS where those who are affected are segregated, and often treated with prejudice and isolation. While scientists battle to find a solution, the Immari continue their efforts to construct an army using intelligent survivors and super soldiers.

Kate, Martin and the two boys escape into the Marbella tunnels created generations earlier and used by countless numbers to escape when the city was sacked, reminiscent of the tunnels that were dug between east and west Berlin during the war to save Jewish survivors from Hitler's army. Martin doesn't believe that the Immari will search the tunnels, but that is not the case. Martin and Kate are rounded up with others hiding in the tunnels to be 'sorted' and given an offer to pledge if they are not ill.

After Dorian is shot in the head, he resurrects again, but this time his incarnations are revealed. As fast as he can blink, the changes occur, showing him who he was in the beginning; who his ancestors are; how he was destined to live forever as the 'last soldier' of his home world; and so much more. He remembers how he struggled to turn off the resurrection sequences, saving his people from an unending cycle of painful death and he remembers his involvement in early Earth's development; deciding which of the species on the planet would survive and which would be exterminated. Much like is occurring now, Dorian segregated the strong and exterminated the weak. Now the cycle repeats itself with the current population.

Discussion Question 1

What revelations does Martin share with Kate while they are waiting for the SAS extraction and why does he consider himself expendable compared to her?

Discussion Question 2

What is a retrovirus and in what ways did the kind given to humans affect the human genome?

Discussion Question 3

What series of memories does Dorian have before he wakes to find the Atlantean staring at him in the tube again and how can his past incarnations be compared to his current life's choices?

Vocabulary

Bombardment, radioactive, neutrino, postulated, collaborators, acclimated, resurrection



Section 5: Part 1: Secrets: Chapters 27-32

Summary

The Atlantean tells Dorian that what he saw are memories from his past and his future. He tells Dorian they are one and the same, introducing himself as Ares – the last soldier of his people. Ares explains that there is an enemy in the universe that is powerful beyond comprehension and that they will come for Earth much in the same way that they came for his people, but they can be defeated if Dorian is willing. As such Dorian has to finish the genetic transformation of his species in order to build their army. Dorian is tasked with making sure a cure is not found. The case he had taken out the last time rendered Orchid ineffective, and creates a portal to Ares' location. He takes Dorian to the room where the suits are, and Dorian puts one on. Ares tells him that he must also bring Kate Warner to him as she contains the code to freeing him. He explains how the Atlantis Gene works and tells him the ship they are on is a resurrection ship and the ship in Gibraltar is a science vessel with only eight resurrection pods. He assures Dorian that if he leaves the ship with his memories intact after the Immari witnessed his previous death, he will be unopposed on the surface. When David Vale opens his eyes, he is again standing in a tube, but this one is somewhere else. As soon as he wonders how to get out of the tube, it opens. He steps out and examines the suit which lays crumpled on the floor. It is damaged by a large slash across the body. He searches the room for clues and finds a black military uniform folded on a bench near the control station. It seems to contain active camouflage and has the Immari emblem on the collar along with the rank of lieutenant colonel, but decides he would rather be naked than wear something that links him to them. He tries to open the doors without success, and then sits wondering where Kate is.

Kate wakes in a trailer packed with people. When the truck stops, the door opens and most of the people rush out and Kate slides the gun out of her pack so that she would be caught. She remembers Martin's description of the sorting that would occur next and she prepared to make a choice. In Atlanta, Georgia, Paul Brenner paces the floor at the CDC as the numbers come in. The numbers of inhabitants that are now dying because of Orchid's ineffectiveness have climbed from .3% to 1%. He rolls the clock back and looks at the failure rates, watching until the numbers level off. He checks Immari activity around that time, and one thing stands out – an explosion at Immari Corporate Research Campus in Germany. Paul isn't sure of much beyond the fact that Orchid is failing and it has something to do with Immari. He gets the group on the line together.

David tries everything he can think of to get out but nothing works. Grudgingly, he puts the Immari uniform on. The other tubes reflect his image and he can see a body without bullet wounds, scars and burns, but the eyes still appear to be his. He wonders if he'll wake up in one again if he dies and at that moment, the first tube begins to spider. The other tubes also shatter, leaving not a single one intact. The door on the right opens



with a hiss, and he heads down the corridor. At the end, he steps through another door and into an elevator of some sort. When the door opens again, there is a path heading upward. He walks forward, feeling the air get warmer and dryer. He takes another step and finds himself outside somewhere mountainous. Sounds of explosions and gunfire can be heard in the distance. He rushes to the top of a hill, and it takes a moment before he realizes that he is looking at the Ceuta Peninsula in Northern Morocco. As he absorbs this, he is overwhelmed by Immari forces. In Cape Town, Dorian looks out a window at a woman who is directing soldiers below. He asks Kosta who she is but Kosta has no idea. Dorian announces that they are not going to Antarctica, but north to Europe instead.

Analysis

Ares is waiting for Dorian when he wakes at last, and introduces himself. He tells him that they share these memories because they are one and the same. Dorian is skeptical, but Ares is able to describe his emotional makeup with such accuracy that Dorian is speechless. Ares talks about his purpose to change humans at a genetic level and then explains why. Ares tells Dorian about an enemy that is more powerful than anything in the universe; an advanced race that defeated their home planet in a single day and night but if he ensures the transformation is completed, the human race might have a chance against them. Dorian is there to build an army. The author does a credible job of describing how multiple incarnations could be explained, and might be accepted by the person affected - in this case Dorian. His life up until this point, including his blind ambition and his deep seated need to change the human race finally makes sense to him. His job now, as Ares describes it, is to keep humans from finding a cure and to bring Kate to him. In this segment the author introduces a device that can create a wormhole to where Ares waits for freedom. The device will also render Orchid ineffective, halting the progress Martin and his team have made. Ares also assures Dorian once again that he can read thoughts - Dorian's and Kate's. Dorian still struggles with that concept. The Atlantis Gene is explained, as are the vessel's resurrection tubes and data transfer. He appeals to Dorian to save the remainder of their people, still locked in the resurrection tubes. The Prometea rule is also described here as the author resolves the issue of distance and resurrection ability, limiting the process to one hundred kilometers from the ship.

Meanwhile, David Vale is waking in the lander, wondering how it is possible that he can continue to return and for what purpose. An Immari colonel's uniform sits folded nearby, but David would rather remain naked than associate himself with the Immari until he realizes that the uniform is the key to his exit. As he sits, contemplating his situation, he is unable to keep his thoughts from Kate. He realizes that his bond with her is more important than anything else, and that should he find her again, he will never let her out of his sight again. The author uses subtle symbolism here as he describes both the Immari uniform and flag as being black in color, much like an old western where black hats were associated with the 'bad guys'. David examines his new body, noting the newness of his skin and the absence of scars including the most recent inflicted by Dorian. Only his eyes and his memories seem the same. He wonders if he'll wake up in



a tube again if he dies, but at that moment the tubes crack and glass falls, ensuring there will be no further resurrections there. He manages to exit the room, and makes his way to the surface, but he is not in Antarctica like he was before. Now, he is in Gibraltar surrounded by Immari soldiers.

Paul Brenner at the CDC notes the correlation between the Immari explosion and the timing of Orchid's failure, beginning to think that the correlation between the two events is not simply circumstantial.

Discussion Question 1

What does Dorian learn from Ares about himself and his history and how does he feel once he knows the truth?

Discussion Question 2

What does Ares need from Dorian, and why are his tasks so vitally important?

Discussion Question 3

What is the Prometea rule and why is it necessary for the story to be believable?

Vocabulary

emanating, cataclysm, incessantly, dissipated, ineffective, formulation, mutation



Section 6: Part II: Truth, Lies & Traitors: Chapters 33-40

Summary

Dorian is lying in bed with Johanna when Kosta knocks. Dorian tells him to enter, and Kosta informs him that they will be ready to broadcast to Spanish captives in an hour and ask him to come for review with the communications team. Dorian declines, and gets dressed. He sits at the desk and writes his own talking points. On the bed Johanna tries to get his attention but he ignores her until he has outlined his speech to his satisfaction. Johanna tells him that she liked him better when his needs were more limited. Dorian puts down his pen and turns her over on the bed. He holds one hand in the air, announcing that what is coming will hurt her more than him. Kate stands in line in the Marbella camp while Immari soldiers sort the newest additions, herding them through doors. Another soldier feels her lymph nodes and swabs her mouth. Finally, she is passed and put in with the survivors, including the couple she and Martin saw in the tunnels. White sheets are set up and Kate recognizing Dorian Sloane immediately hears nothing more. Around her, others are clapping, cheering and embracing each other happily. In the background, Dorian drones on oblivious. He tells them about the new world he is offering and offers them a choice to join the Immari, or not. She slowly steps forward.

David is amazed at the scale of the Immari troops at Ceuta. Along the road now, a kill zone is constructed, along with other added upgrades, including massive guns on the towers. Some of the roofs of houses are removed and David guesses they house anti-aircraft batteries. David tries another tactic, telling the soldier behind the wheel that he is making a huge mistake; that he is interfering with a secret mission, but the Corporal tells him his orders are to bring him in and David will have to speak with the Major. David recognizes the Major as a former Clocktower operative. The Major takes him across a courtyard filled with pens of people he says are waiting for the boatmen. In his office Alexander Rukin finally introduces himself. David tells him his name is Alex Wells and he is there to secure the base. The Major has to verify this, but it buys David time. Rukin updates him, telling him Sloane returned in a new body, despite having been shot at close range in the head. David convinces the Major he needs sleep and is taken to quarters under guard. Captain Kamau enters. He and Rukin discuss David's story and Kamau suggests they interrogate him, but the Major decides to send him a girl, hoping he slips up. David sends her away. A second knock reveals Kamau who comes in and says hello, using David's real name.

David asks Kamau if he revealed the truth to the Major, and he assures him he hasn't and won't. Kamau fills in the details of the plague that David is still unaware of, and tells him about the plague barges that take the infected out to sea and dump them. He adds that the Immari are building an army to cope with something they've found in Antarctica. He agrees to help David destroy Ceuta. David asks Kamau to let him get some rest,



and to keep the Major from finding out who he is. Then, with an objective, he confidently sleeps. In Marbella, Kate and the survivors are given rooms in one of the resort towers. She climbs into a bed and sleeps, exhausted. She dreams about David, and tells him that though surprised to see him, she hadn't given up and wouldn't on someone she loved. She wakes remembering it vividly. She opens the pack and finds a note from Martin. He signs off by asking that she leave him behind, and telling her how proud of her he is. Circling all of the numbers in the note, she discovers a phone number which connects the satellite phone Martin gave her to Continuity, and a recording reveals the most recent test results. Instructed further, she dials O and ends up talking to Dr. Paul Brenner. She asks if he can get them out, and he says he can but not from within the compound. She agrees to call when they have escaped and tells Paul to be ready.

A loud horn wakes David and Kamau comes to get him, telling him that they are under attack and that the Major wants him. Before they get there, Kamau warns David that Rukin is testing him. The command center is incredible and David watches as Rukin gives the command to eliminate the aerial threat. Outside, guns rotate, fire, and connect. Seven targets, killed. The planes had dropped their payload into the strait, mining the waterway. The Major asks for a connection to the chairman's fleet so he can warn them to alter their course. Once back at his room Kamau tells David the planes were an RAF squadron and the mines were likely dropped to prevent Dorian Sloane from reaching the Mediterranean. He asks about the guns used, and Kamau reveals they are rail guns – part of an Immari research program that had been classified. David asks if there has been any word of Kate Warner and Kamau tells him she is the most wanted person on the planet. He asks Kamau to get him some civilian clothes and a good horse. On the plague barge in the Mediterranean Sea, the captain tells his men they can begin. They strap on special suits and Dr. Janus steps in followed by two lab assistants pushing carts filled with body bags. Moments later, the first are being pushed into the sea.

Analysis

Dorian's relationship with Johanna is explored. Dorian is surprised by the strength of his feelings for her, and embarrassed by her public display in front of his men, believing that it shows weakness in him. He struggles to ignore her on the bed as he tries to write a speech that will sway the survivors to their cause. He works on presenting their choice to join the Immari as one that is a declaration of independence and a new beginning. He considers what the issues are, comparing the plague to global capitalism - a force that is unstoppable and works as a selection process, dividing the strong from the weak. He also draws comparisons between Orchid and the Central Bank - easy money on credit that is a false cure which will not address the root issues but simply suppresses the symptoms and likens the current outbreak to the global financial crisis - irreversible; incurable; inevitable. He believes that Ares is correct in his assessment that this is their opportunity to redesign humanity as a single, classless society like an army working towards a common goal. Kate is sorted, sampled and put in with other survivors where she listens to Dorian's broadcast. She hardly hears his message as his appearance can only mean one thing in her mind - David is dead.



David is taken to Ceuta, most of which had been burned. He can't help but compare the myriad of defenses employed around the city to the nesting Russian martyoshka dolls as each layer reveals itself on the way in. The types of defenses established by the Immari reminds him of a time in history when the Western Roman Empire fell to the Goths who sacked Rome. The plague in 541 changes everything, rearranging the balance of power just as it is now. History is repeating itself and all he can think about is Kate. Knowing he can't simply escape, David does his best to confuse his arrival with covert and classified innuendo. Pens outside are filled with sounds that David originally mistakes for livestock, but is told that they are 'barbarians waiting for the boatman'. David concocts an elaborate story explaining his arrival and Rukin is skeptical thinking that the name Alex Wells is too similar to Aurthur Wellesley (the Duke of Wellington) and unwittingly foreshadows his own defeat. In a quirk of fate, Rukin asks Kamau to look into the identity of the man calling himself Alex Wells as Kamau feels David saved his life and is willing to repay the debt in any way that would help him. When Kamau fills David in on life that he'd missed on the surface, David recognizes it for the nightmare it is. So much is occurring world wide that it is easy to accept an end of days scenario but once David makes the decision to destroy the processing center of Ceuta, he has an objective and the soldier in him can cope with the rest. David sleeps and again meets with Kate, almost spending more time with her in his dreams than in person. During his waking hours, David and Kamau conspire to overthrow the command center. David's humanity can't reconcile the human beings that are now being exterminated and even survivors like the ones aboard the plague boat struggle with the morality of what they are doing.

Discussion Question 1

What conundrum does Dorian have where Johanna is concerned and why?

Discussion Question 2

How does David's history with Clocktower help him to minimize the suspicion and maximize his potential for success?

Discussion Question 3

Why is the younger worker on the barge disturbed and what advice is he given by his coworker?

Vocabulary

rhetorical, covert, reciprocate, verifications, allegiances, revelation, assassinated



Section 7: Part II: Truth, Lies & Traitors: Chapters 41-47

Summary

In Marbella, Kate waits for the right moment, knowing she'll only get one chance. The sound of approaching trucks tells Kate more people are coming. She races downstairs, grabbing a random badge from the desk and a chef's tunic from the kitchen. She grabs a knife and reshapes it, puts it on inside out to hide the filth and clips on the phony badge. She walks into the building housing the infected, and catches a glimpse of a cruise ship out on the water. Bodies are everywhere, and she wonders how she will find Martin at all. There are thirty floors to search. A guard tries to stop her but another soldier tells him that she is with him, identifying himself as Adam Shaw. The first soldier says he has to call it in, forcing the second one to break his neck. Shaw tells Kate how foolish coming in there was.

In Ceuta, Rukin watches as David approaches the Berber encampment on horseback. Having placed a tracking bug on David, he was sure he would learn his true identity soon. The Berbers surround him and hit him over the head, dragging him to a tent. Rukin figures they are done with him. The Berbers strip him and the chief throws a sack in his lap. Snakes slither out, creeping up his arms, legs, and torso. He breathes shallow, trying not to disturb them. Finally, the chief orders the snake handler to remove them, and then councils David to speak the truth only. He tells the chief a story, and without a word the chief leaves. Soon afterward, three men grab David and drag him from the tent. They hold him down while the chief plunges a burning iron prod into his chest. Mercifully, he passes out.

Adam tells Kate he is the fifth SAS team member sent in to get her. They strip the dead Immari soldier so that Kate can don his uniform. He tells her his mission is to get her to London, but she refuses to leave without Martin. He argues with her at first, but Kate is stubborn. She makes her way to the kitchen, knowing that is where Martin will be and sure enough, he has barricaded himself inside and is slumped on the floor. At Ceuta, David returns to the Immari base. Rukin is surprised to see him, and even more surprised to hear his claim that he can stop the Berbers. All he has to do is return the chief's daughter. Rukin can't believe it, but David is adamant. The Major isn't sure. In Marbella, Kate finally gains access to the kitchen. She searches Martin and finds his last remaining Orchid pill and helps him take it. Shaw enters, less than pleased with what he sees. She tells Shaw to bring her bag from her room, and to find some steroids and some food. She plans to smuggle him out as a drunk and while Shaw thinks it is a terrible idea, he leaves, telling Kate to bar the door again and stay quiet.

Dorian steps onto the bridge and asks for updates. No news means Adam has been unable to find Kate as instructed. The Captain tells him the British dropped mines into the straight and that they can fly him by helicopter to Morocco where he can sail across



the Mediterranean, but it will mean less support available. In Morocco, David waits for the battle to start. The Immari soldiers had chased the Berber tribespeople for three hours and would soon have them trapped in a valley where they would be slaughtered. As the sun sets, the Immari return, Rukin smirking in the lead. David decides to rest, knowing he only has a few hours before the last battle begins.

Analysis

Kate's loyalty to Martin is stronger than even her own desire to survive. She disguises herself to get into the sick tower and is helped by Adam Shaw; a man who wears an Immari uniform that is not his and pretends to be an SAS soldier which he also is not. The duplicity is active on both sides of the conflict.

David enters the Berber camp on horseback, and Major Rukin is convinced that before nightfall they will be having David for dinner. David is taken, his clothing removed, and a bag of asps is dumped in his lap. The Chief uses the opportunity to gauge David's character, concluding that David is a man who controls his fear; who lives among snakes but hides himself; able to lie so well that he almost fools himself. The assessment of his character is accurate; and forms a starting point for discussion. When David finishes the Chief leaves without saying a word. The Chief brands him and David loses consciousness.

Kate trusts Adam because he saved her, and since both want to leave the Orchid compound, their purposes align. Adam's intentions are to surrender her to Dorian - a fact she isn't aware of. Adam is unable to dissuade Kate from taking Martin with them, her love for him stronger than her fear of being caught. David returns to the compound and approaches Major Rukin. He assures him that all he has to do to solve his problems with the Berbers is to simply return the chief's daughter, Nwella. Rukin argues that returning her would show weakness, be demoralizing to his men, and he is convinced that when the Chief sees the condition of his daughter, all promises will be forgotten. David reminds Rukin that having given Rukin the means by which to secure Ceuta before Chairman Sloane arrives, his job is done. By using Rukin's fear of his superiors, especially Sloane who returned from the dead, David all but assures his success thus far.

Dorian cringes as the officers salute him, It is ironic that he should want his rank ignored after fighting so hard to regain it in the first place. With no word from Adam Dorian considers changing course, but the instructions from the Atlantean were clear. He had to wait until Kate had the code Ares needed for his freedom. The Captain tells him that British mines were dropped in the strait, and Dorian decides to fly in to Ceuta, ironically heading for the exact location that Adam and Kate are trying to escape from. Johanna is awake when Dorian returns, and she chides him about his demeanor and he warns her that if she knew him better, she would be more careful with her tone.

David watches from the tower, watching the battle between the Berbers and the Immari, already aware that the Berbers will be slaughtered. Major Rukin returns smiling and



David heads to his room to nap before the real battle begins, only too aware that the next little while would determine the fate of millions.

Discussion Question 1

What trouble can Kate expect if her roommate discovers she has a satellite phone, and why?

Discussion Question 2

What is David hoping to accomplish by working as an emissary between Rukin and the Berber tribe?

Discussion Question 3

What irony exists in the manner that Kamau ensures that Rukin will be out of commission while they take over the Ceuta base?

Vocabulary

dominated, contraction, peripheral, contemplate, communal, facetious, preempted



Section 8: Part II: Truth, Lies & Traitors: Chapters 48-56

Summary

Kate forces Martin to eat some of a candy bar as Adam scowls in the corner. She asks him about his notes, and he tells her that the answers are buried with the dead. He tells her to find the turning points. Adam tells her it's time to move and helps her stand Martin up. They join an endless stream of sick and dying people who are being loaded. Adam tells her they need to get below where it won't be so hot when morning comes. They find an empty room, and he leaves her and Martin there to go and find some supplies. The satellite phone has no service, so she closes her eyes. In her sleep, she is with David, who is constructing a plan to save lives and take a city.

After slaughtering the Berbers, Rukin is tired. Kamau enters, bringing a woman to him, and leaves her. He pulls off her clothes but she is too muscular for him so he decides to return her. She puts a hand on his arm and when he looks up, her other hand punches his diaphragm. Unable to breathe, he can't even scream when she snaps his right shoulder. She pulls his arms back and tapes them together at the wrists, sending shock waves of pain beyond description. She grabs his radio and changes the channel, speaking three words – Fire purges everything. In the distance, Rukin hears explosions. On *Destiny*, Kate tires of waiting for Adam. She takes Martin to the elevator and goes up one level. When the doors open, she sees two doctors. The Chinese doctor looks up surprised and greets Martin by name. Chang tells his European partner that Martin is an Immari researcher. They walk down the hall to a room used for research where Martin is put on a table. Chang injects Martin with an experimental update of Orchid.

David addresses the eleven men assembled by Kamau. Instructions are issued. David, Kamau and three of their men go up the catwalk and David sends a signal to the waiting Berber soldiers. They go to the top of the tower where David tells the men that Rukin is celebrating his victory downstairs, and they can take a break and enjoy the food, drink and new recruits below. David checks in and learns the soldiers are locked in and the gas administered. He signals the Berbers again, and explosions start at the perimeter. Tower two calls for permission to use the rail gun and by allowing it, he convinces the troops that the base is at risk but tells Kamau to take them out after the first shot. David watches the battle, still reluctant to be the one to issue the order that would kill thousands. He knows he is the only one to bear the burden of this order, and knowing that Sloane is with the fleet, he calls and advises that they are under attack. They tell David that air support will be there in fifteen minutes. Then he tells his men not to so much as position the rail guns until they are ready to attack. Just as David is about to leave to buy them some breathing room, he learns that a plague barge is incoming and is a mile out. They are carrying almost ten thousand excess troops along with new recruits and David has no choice but to sink the cruise ship. The cruise ship explodes and then buckles. Dorian heads for the helicopters, and just as he is approaching,



Johanna jumps into his arms. He kisses her and sets her down heading towards the waiting birds. Martin wakes to see Dr. Chang and Kate. He tells them he feels awful and Kate is happy to hear that he can even respond. He starts to explain some things to her but before he can, the ship shudders.

Dorian heads to Ceuta in one of four helicopters. David and Kamau stand back to back and shoot down wave after wave of Immari soldiers in an effort to keep them from regaining the control tower, but the Immari keep coming and begin firing on them. Dorian realizes something is wrong when the plague barge is sunk. He tells the pilot to take them down just as three of the helicopters burst into flames. Suddenly he is falling to the ground. David runs out of ammunition, and Kamau uses his body to cover him. On the plague barge, Kate crawls to Martin as Adam returns and tells them to get to the lifeboats. The Berber forces reach David and manage to repel the Immari soldiers. He drags Kamau to the wall but having worn his vest, he is okay. David and Kamau go to Rukin's quarters. The Berber chief opens the door and David asks if her word is good. She assures him it is. He takes the gag from Rukin's mouth and tells him they have control of the base and if he tells his remaining troops to surrender, no harm will come to them. David, the Berber Chief and her men pull Rukin across the courtyard. He tells his men to lay down their weapons. On the plague barge, Adam opens a door but flames turn them back. He leads them in deeper, locking them in until he can use grenades to open a path out. He drags her through the flaming sections, tossing her down one section and then telling her they have to jump into the water. David sees the plague barge and tries to put the casualties out of his mind. He watches a video feed and recognizes Kate, watching as the Immari soldier tosses her off the ship. He tells the chief that she is in charge till he returns but not to fire on the barge. Kamau offers his help.

David steals a forty meter Sunseeker with a 350 nautical mile range. He speeds out to the wreckage and rescues Kate and everyone with her. Once it is clear that even Martin is not seriously injured, David takes Kate down to a cabin. On the eightieth day of the plague, The BBC broadcasts the takeover at the Ceuta base praising the heroism of those who will still fight for what is right.

Analysis

Adam can barely contain his impatience as Kate discusses Martin's notes with him. He tells her the answers are dead and that she must find the points at which the genome changed. Martin feels a sense of failure. Together, she and Adam finally manage to get Martin onto the plague barge with them. Adam leaves her to find supplies and she dozes, dreaming about David again. This time, she sees him drawing up plans based on a ploy he tells her was historically proven effective. He's angry with her for leaving him in Gibraltar and for having so little faith in him, assuring her that she underestimated him when she left him behind. She assures him she never gives up on anyone she loves, as is evident by her determination to save Martin despite the circumstances they are facing.



Rukin goes back to his room quite satisfied with himself. He's almost managed to solve his Berber issue, and though a good many Berbers were killed, a good deal were captured as well, which resolves their woeful lack of servant staff as well. All in all, a good day. Now, he wants the company of a woman to help him forget about fighting and bloodshed for a while. Kamau arrives with a new girl. Rukin pulls off her clothes, revealing a muscular body with so many scars that he is put off by the sight of her. She shows no signs of being broken, and he decides to return her to the 'stables', the comparison making him smile slightly. She reaches out to him but before he can formulate a response, she incapacitates him, leaving him on the floor gasping for air. It happens so fast that it is over before he can even call out. He realizes the irony of the situation as he lies there. In the blink of an eye, they had exchanged the balance of power, and he realizes two things; he is going to die, and she will probably enjoy it. She ties him up and keys the microphone giving the code that begins their assault - 'Fire purges everything'. On the plague ship, Kate wakes and takes Martin up in the elevator. When the doors open, fate is kind. Dr. Chang recognizes Martin and Kate. He takes them into a lab and injects Martin with an experimental version of Orchid. Martin wakes almost clear headed, but an explosion prevents the exchange of information that Kate so desperately wants and needs. Shaw guides them through the burning ship using grenades to clear a path when necessary.

David gives his small group of men a pep talk. They are at the gates of hell, he tells them, and though their numbers are small they might be able to give all of Europe a fighting chance. Their cause is righteous, he counsels them, telling them not to fear death but instead fear living a life they are not proud of. It is the tenet by which he has lived his life. David sends a signal to the Berbers and climbs to the tower dismissing the four men at the controls, telling them to join the Major for refreshments. The eleven men Kamau has chosen call David Achilles and taking a page from the Trojan War, they herd Rukin's soldiers into the banquet hall with promises of a feast before locking the door and releasing gas to incapacitate them. Knowing the psychological cost of what amounts to mass murder, David pushes the button responsible for activating the waiting mines in the towers himself. The wall is breached, and the Berbers captured by Rukin earlier are freed to help from within - a Trojan horse Rukin wheeled in himself. David calls the Immari fleet, telling them they are under attack and requesting air support knowing full well that Sloane, a soldier like himself, will insist on leading from the front. He steadies his men, knowing they will only have one chance. As historical plans go, this one is as successful now as it was the first time, and the only real surprise occurred when a ship carrying troops arrived, and he had no choice but to shoot her out of the water. By doing so, he will give Dorian the first sign that something isn't right however.

Kosta tells Dorian that Ceuta is under attack and Dorian finally feels like himself - a soldier on the way to battle. The soldiers watch as he passes them; a god or a devil but arisen from the dead. Before he reaches the helicopters Johanna catches up with him and jumps into his arms, kissing him fiercely. It takes a moment for him to respond, and afterward, he sits in one of four helicopters, and catches himself idly wondering what she is doing. Angry that his thoughts are of her rather than the upcoming confrontation, he concludes that she is making him sloppy and weak and decides to rid himself of her. David and Kamau hold the command center. When the plague ship explodes Dorian



instructs the pilot to take them down, but they are hit just before landing. Kamau has a chance to repay the debt he owes David but protected by his vest, he is still able to join Ajax and the Berber commander as they follow David to Major Rukin's room. Rukin remains contemptuous of David and anyone else like him who typically fights from a moral high ground, but he broadcasts a surrender anyway knowing he is beaten for now. David watches the monitors and is surprised to see an Immari soldier tossing Kate around on the burning ship. Incensed, he rewinds it and imprints the soldier's face in his mind. Kamau follows David, ever loyal as he rushes to rescue the love of his life. People are jumping from the burning decks and into the water. The surface is burning, but David finds oxygen hurriedly to Kate's rescue. She catches just a glimpse of him before Shaw is pulled under. They grapple and Kate tries to help Shaw until David has a chance to reveal who he is. Then, to his exasperation, she continues to defend Shaw and his white knight style rescue is somewhat diminished by her lack of immediate enthusiasm or gratitude. Kate further agitates David when she insists he rescue them all, despite having only two oxygen tanks. By judicious sharing and sheer determination, he manages to get Kate and the others back to Kamau on the boat. Once they are all on board, David takes Kate to a stateroom telling her they need to talk, but all thoughts of discussion leave him when he turns her to face him and they are finally together again and not dreaming.

BBC reports the Immari defeat at the base in Ceuta. The reports indicate that the battle was one of staggering proportions and the future is uncertain. They cite those who fought for freedom and the right to save everyone as heroes and promise to continue reporting their efforts.

Discussion Question 1

How does David motivate the small group of men he has working with him, and what actions likely earn their immediate respect?

Discussion Question 2

What code names are used for David and his group and how does David's plan match the names they select?

Discussion Question 3

What stark lessons does Rukin learn and who is responsible for each?

Vocabulary

pandemonium, scrutinized, defiance, entendre, hyperventilation, citadel, decimate



Section 9: Part II: Truth, Lies & Traitors: Chapters 57-64

Summary

Dorian wakes in agony, speared by a branch. He pulls it out, and heads for the voice he hears screaming. He finds a pilot with a broken leg and pulls him to safety. The pilot returns the favor, taking the time to remove Dorian's melting boots and saving his feet. The pilot removed his own boots, leaving them for Dorian as well. The pilot's leg is already showing signs of infection. Dorian uses the satellite phone to call Fleet Operations and demands to know why he is still stuck behind enemy lines. Captain Williams says they've tried but have been shot down twice already. Dorian asks for a topographical map with overlays of Ceuta's firing range and makes arrangements for pickup in eight hours. The pilot snores on as Dorian considers his options. A voice in his mind tells him to shoot the pilot and get going and for the first time, he is able to separate his thoughts from those of Ares. Dorian tells the Captain to inform Johanna that he is alright, and ends the call. In the distance, he can hear the thunder of horses coming. In the Mediterranean, David and Kate lie together in the stateroom. She notices his new injuries and he comments about a wooden horse. She tells him about her dream about him, and he confirms details that are impossible for her to know. Again he chastises her for leaving him, for not trusting him to get them out. He asks if she'd do it again, and she admits that she would. Kamau interrupts, telling them that Martin is dead. He tells David to arm himself and come now as he believes Martin was murdered. Kate examines Martin's body, noting his broken neck and Adam tells Kate she isn't safe on the boat with the others. He and David argue as David insists Kate isn't leaving. Kate gets between the arguing men and takes David away.

The pilot thanks Dorian for saving him. They talk briefly about their childhoods and then sleep. He wakes with an idea, and getting his bearings, he quietly creeps up on two Berber tribesmen. He uses a machete, fearing bullets will draw unwanted attention. He steals two horses leading one back for the pilot but he is too late. Dorian calls Captain Williams and tells him he will be at the rendezvous point in less than an hour. He mounts one of the horses and leads the other. David is convinced that Adam killed Martin. She sits him down on the bed and he tells her he will simply zip tie them all and set them down on land somewhere. He can't understand why the British or Americans haven't hit Sloane's fleet yet. Kate knows something is different about David and insists he tell her everything, so he does. She listens, and understands, realizing that it will take time for him to heal. She quietly tells him she needs his help, explaining that the plague has mutated. She tells him everything she knows, and adds that she is in love with him, apologizing for leaving him in Gibraltar. David tells her to lock the door and heads out to investigate.

When Dorian returns to the fleet, a message from Adam awaits him, telling him that he has Kate and is well guarded on a yacht. Dorian tells the Captain to notify their source



and get him an accurate firing radius for the rail guns at Ceuta. On the yacht, the engines have stopped. Kamau tells him they are out of gas, a hole in the line the likely culprit. David asks the whereabouts of everyone, his main suspects still Dr. Chang and Adam. David orders all guns be relinquished and Adam is more than a little reluctant, but complies. David returns to Kate and tells her they are out of gas. He puts all of the weapons but for the ones he and Kate will carry into the safe and locks them in, giving her the key.

David, Kate and the two scientists go over Martin's code again, while below Kamau and David work in the engine room. David can hardly believe that the scientists can't figure out what seems so obvious to the historian in him. He explains the history of PIE and who they were. Dr. Chang asks about the Immari, and Kate explains their evolution from the Immaru and tells them about the tapestry she was shown depicting the ark that they were entrusted. David agrees that the tapestry is a chronology of the major turning points of human history. Shaw returns, and is livid that they appear to be indulging in a tea-party of sorts. He grabs Martin's notes, and David takes them back before he gets grease all over them. Adam is about to continue arguing when David sees two boats on the horizon, headed in their direction.

Analysis

When Dorian regains consciousness, he has little time to sort out his situation before hearing screams. The crash temporarily seems to have dislodged the Ares portion of him; his cold and calculating half who would have determined that there was no time to save the injured man. The Dorian half of him doesn't hesitate, climbing into the burning wreckage to help the pilot get to safety. Though his boots and suit were fire resistant, when Dorian wakes he finds his melted boots nearby and realizes that the pilot had taken them off of his feet, likely saving his limbs. He crawls to his satellite phone and makes arrangements to be picked up in a safe area eight hours later. He also asks the Captain to tell Johanna that he is okay. All of these actions are carried out by Dorian, while in his mind, Ares is berating him to do what must be done - eliminate the pilot. For the first time Dorian can put a face to the voice he's heard all his life and he can separate his own thoughts from those of Ares. Deep down inside, he can suddenly remember the person he used to be, and he shuts Ares out again, his main concern to save the pilot. It is a sentiment not unlike the one David follows as he saves untold numbers selflessly, and the similarities between the two men are remarkable. It is only the intervention of Ares that changes Dorian, and makes him the ruthless rather than compassionate soldier that he is.

Kate feels free, and safe for the first time in a long time. She listens to the beat of David's heart, tracing his newest scars. He seems distant to her. She tells him about her dream describing the moment exactly as he dreamed it as well. Kate wonders if her transfusion to David caused a biological link of some kind between them. David stops her conjecture, and demands to know why she left him. She explains herself but does little to diffuse how angry David is at that moment. Kamau interrupts, giving them the news that Martin is dead, and David's anger dissipates immediately, replaced again with



the ever present instincts he has to protect Kate and shield her from harm and pain. Kamau is sure Martin was murdered. Armed, David and Kate examine his body. Adam wants to separate Kate from the others to minimize the threat to her, he says, but David is adamant that she stay, remembering his vow not let her out of his sight again. Before they can escalate the situation further, Kate intervenes and removes David from Dorian's proximity.

The pilot's gratitude is embarrassing to Dorian. His unselfish behavior embarrasses him and Dorian is at an emotional crossroads. Part of him, acting with Ares' temperament, is cold and calculating, ready to sacrifice anyone and anything necessary to accomplish his goals. The other half of him, the part of him that still remains untouched by Ares, is as much a hero at heart as any soldier who is willing to risk his life to save that of another. That part of him controls his actions as he sneaks up on a group of Berbers, stealing two horses so that he can get the pilot safely to the rendezvous point. He hurries back, but by the time he reaches the pilot, the man is already dead. The failure to save him infuriates Dorian, and the Ares part of him emerges again, reminding him unnecessarily of how much time he's wasted trying to help the pilot for nothing. Part of him wants to punch the dead man repeatedly for dying after all of the effort he'd put into keeping him alive. He calls the fleet and tells Captain Williams he'll be at the rendezvous in an hour and then tells him to get rid of Johanna before he returns. She is another weakness Ares doesn't want. On the yacht, Kate can feel David's anger as intimately as if they are sharing it. She knows that she needs to diffuse the feeling rather than embrace it. She listens as he slowly tells her everything that has happened since they saw each other last, after which she reciprocates, asking for his help with Martin's notes. Then she adds that she is in love with him and the softness she remembers returns as he kisses her. When the boat suddenly loses speed, David tells Kate to stay locked in the state room, and goes up to see what's going on.

Back with the fleet, Dorian finally gets a message from Adam saying that he has Kate and the Captain adds that ships from Fuengirola have already been dispatched, but there is no way that they will catch the much faster ship unless she docks. Dorian asks for maps to help him get around the defenses that Ceuta has. David prepares to defend Kate against whatever enemy presents itself. The fuel line has been damaged, either by a stray bullet or by sabotage - he isn't sure which. He still believes Shaw is the most likely culprit for Martin's murder, but Chang is a close second on the list. He asks them to surrender their weapons, and Adam is not pleased with that idea, but understands that he has little choice. To argue the issue would be to give himself away. David goes back down to the state room, finds the safe, and after locking the weapons inside, he gives the key to Kate. He and Kate are now the only ones armed.

David keeps Adam close as he tries to repair the fuel line and get them moving again. He feels like a sitting duck. Up above, Dr.'s Chang and Janus talk to Kate and share theories, ideas and conjectures with the comfort of colleagues that are both intelligent and modest. Disagreements are relaxed and civil. David knew it was a code of Martin's that had put everything in motion to begin with but his team hadn't been able to decipher it fast enough. Milo is mentioned for the first time as the 'younger monk' who looked after David and Kate in the mountains of Tibet. Kate and the two doctors consider



Martin's cryptic message, and when David hears them talking about the different parts of Martin's message, he realizes that they are all historical references. David gives them all a history lesson, putting most of Martin's message into perspective. He looks out the window and sees the lights of two boats in the water, headed for them.

Discussion Question 1

What does Dorian do that is out of character, what are the consequences, and how does it affect Dorian in the end – for better or worse as a result of his efforts?

Discussion Question 2

Which characters might have a reason to want Martin dead, and what would their reasons be?

Discussion Question 3

Why is David so adamant that he and Kate stay together, and why doesn't he want to agree to Adam's offer to get Kate to safety?

Vocabulary

transfusion, subatomic, quantum, exhilaration, testosterone, impassive, sabotaged



Section 10: Part II: Truth Lies & Traitors: Chapters 65-71

Summary

Milo prepares to camp for the night, taking out his maps, traps and tenting gear, believing he is somewhere in eastern Afghanistan or near the Kashmir area of northern India or Pakistan. He looks over the two books Qian had given him. The first titled "Anthems of the Dying" and the second book is titled "The First Tribes of Humanity: A History". When Milo reaches Tel Aviv, he finds a fishing boat and asks for passage west. On the yacht at sea, David calls Kamau and tells him to turn off all the lights and head away from the pursuing boats. Adam runs out of the saloon and the other boats kill their lights too. Adam suggests they put Kate in the stateroom with all of the guns until the SAS arrive, but David doesn't trust him. They decide to head for the Isla de Alboran, hoping they will figure out the rest of Martin's code, and who killed him before they arrive. Dorian gets a message telling him where David is planning to take them, and when.

Kate and David rejoin the scientists to continue working on Martin's code. Each reveals pieces of the larger puzzle. Kate describes her work, David contributes his knowledge of history and Dr. Janus apologizes to Dr. Chang, telling him he'd never fully trusted him and as such had withheld a great deal of his findings. He did however keep it all on a thumb drive which he then produces. David reveals his belief that the disaster of Atlantis was an attack perhaps by another faction of Atlanteans. He gives them an overview of his knowledge of history as it relates to Martin's note. Kate tells them about the gene mutation CCR5-Delta 32 which Martin told her about. 'KBW Omega' makes no sense to the others but Kate knows they are her initials. She is the Omega. Kate reveals that her mother was killed while carrying her during a Spanish flu outbreak and her father put her mother into one of four tubes he'd found after learning they were healing and hibernation tubes. Kate stayed in her mother's womb from 1918 until she was delivered in 1979.

After Kate calls Continuity, David tells her to call them back and ask Dr. Brenner to contact British Intelligence and check on the validity of his two main suspects. Kate and her group help them to identify one therapy. He stops by the infirmary to tell his sister that they think they've found it. On the yacht, Kate undresses, and David joins her in bed. They talk about the dreams he'd had as a child. Then they both sleep. Again, David finds himself in Kate's dream. She tries to take him through a door and he wakes fighting for air. Kate is burning up, and her pulse is faint. She continues to dream. Wearing an environmental suit, she witnesses the Toba Catastrophe that occurred seventy thousand years ago. A voice in her helmet directs her to two survivors - a pregnant woman and a primitive man. The suit helps her balance the weight of both hominids and she takes them to her lab on the ship. She gives them a genetic precursor



just as her partner enters. David sits with her, thinking she is delirious, but Kate is recovering memories. She tells him she is an Atlantean.

Analysis

The importance of Milo's character is revealed in this chapter as he is the one that the Tibetan monks have entrusted with two sacred books. The first is a guide to the future, Qian tells him, although it contains just three simple stories. Qian and the other monks had prepared Milo for years for what must come, but Milo had always thought that they were merely looking for ways to keep him busy. By the time he realizes that everything he was told was the truth, Milo is alone and on the quest set out for him. Milo looks out over a plateau reminded of the Monastery. The only home he had ever known is gone, but he tries not to think about it, remembering instead the lessons he learned from Qian and the others, determined to honor their wishes and memories. Qian had warned him that not only would he walk alone, but that the animals in the forest would sustain him. After each day, he lay in his tent seeking the silence within. He spends his idle time reading the two books entrusted to his care by the monks, and when he reaches Tel Aviv, he believes he knows the answers the books provide.

David is doing all he can to save Kate, just beginning to understand her importance beyond his own feelings for her. David still doesn't trust Adam, and rightfully so. Adam is also just beginning to comprehend Kate's role in the grand scheme, and he rededicates himself to ensuring she is captured. David decides to head for the Isla de Alboran - an Immari outpost - seeing it as preferable to accepting Adam's offer to call in reinforcements. Minutes later, Dorian learns their destination and ETA. On the way to Alboran, Kate, David and the scientists continue to unravel Martin's coded message. David is sure of two things. The Atlanteans were engaged in some kind of civil war and he had no intentions of telling the scientists or Kate what happened to him where his resurrections were concerned. He does however share his theory that the Atlantis disaster was an attack rather than a naturally occurring phenomenon. David's knowledge of history is critical at this stage as he helps the others to untangle Martin's last message. Kate tells them she is the Omega, and that she had begun her life in her mother's womb in a tube. Dr. Chang is slightly less surprised than the others because he had been the one to deliver her from her mother's womb in secret. Adam however is amazed and again rededicates himself to delivering her safely. Dorian tries to beat Kate and her entourage to the island. He calls Alboran and informs them they are coming.

Kate calls Continuity, beginning to understand the research she'd been doing for Martin. Dr. Brenner reveals that the implants given to everyone in the Orchid districts were actually gene implants that could customize therapy for each individual and connect them wirelessly to a server. Kate is surprised to learn that the implants were not created as 'tracking' software. The leaders of Orchid have given up on a cure and ordered them to execute Euthanasia Protocol. David is furious that Kate hid her satellite phone from him, as he could have already had them check on his two main suspects and tell him who to restrain. Information from Kate gives Continuity a single viable protocol of treatment, and Dr. Brenner is hopeful that it will be the one to save the life of his sister.



He worries about Kate's safety, having grown attached to her as they worked on this project despite the fact that they'd never met. Kate and David climb sleep and again David dreams he is with Kate elsewhere. She wants to go through a door that for reasons he can't explain, terrifies him. He goes through it with her and wakes gasping for air with Kate feverish and unconscious beside him. She continues to dream alone, remembering herself and her actions during the Toba Catastrophe that had almost ended mankind. She watches her single handed actions to save the last two remaining hominids. When she wakes, she tells David that she is the Atlantean who saved mankind 70,000 years ago. He wonders if she is delirious but she assures him that these dreams are actually her memories, and she is understanding more all the time.

Discussion Question 1

Why is Milo sent from the monastery and what instructions or guidance is he given?

Discussion Question 2

What surprising revelations come of the group attempt to hash out the possible meanings of Martin's coded message and what is the most important conclusion made?

Discussion Question 3

What shocking revelation challenges everything Kate thought she was, and how does it affect her emotionally?

Vocabulary

simplistic, renounced, metaphor, diversion, composure, corroborate, algorithm, endogenous



Section 11: Part III: The Atlantis Experiment: Chapters 72-75

Summary

David prods Kate for more information regarding her Atlantean memories. She explains how the tubes work and how with a few genetic alterations they can disable aging. She and her partner were anthropologists studying human evolution. If they were killed in the field, the tubes resurrected them so they could continue their work. In Kate's case, the memories were implanted in her as a fetus, but didn't erupt into consciousness until she reached the standard age of Atlantean maturity. She had given humans the Atlantis Gene so that they would survive the Toba Catastrophe, but periodic modifications were needed because humans weren't ready for the advanced gene. She agrees that there must another faction at work. Dorian is only hours from getting Kate back to Ares. He tries to picture him, and sees him in a tube along with several early human specimens. The doors behind open and Kate tells him he should never have come. He accuses her of putting them at risk by giving humans the genome, and now the species she gave it to will never be safe without help. David asks Kate about the second group of Atlanteans. Her head is pounding and she struggles to keep up. As they near Alboran, David arms Kamau, but not Adam. Kamau gets on the radio and tells the outpost that they are Immari officers who are survivors of the battle at Ceuta. The outpost clears them to dock.

Three helicopters sit on the pad at the Isla de Alboran - two more than usual. Kamau ties off at the dock and disembarks alone. At the top of the stairs he stops to show he is unarmed. Kamau tells them that Kate is the package and is not to be harmed. Two men guard Kamau as the rest go down to the boat just as they'd planned. He counts quietly. The boat explodes, and he takes out the disoriented soldiers left behind. He throws two grenades at the roof and a third through the window. David emerges from the water and runs for the helicopters. Kate, the scientists and Adam are in a life raft and watch as the yacht explodes. Kamau appears on top of the building, and scouts the area with a sniper rifle, telling David the helicopter pad is clear. Kamau finds spare fuel tanks and explosives and meets David outside again. Five minutes later, Kamau and David in a helicopter and heading for the life raft. Kate comes up first, then Chang, Janus and Shaw just as David planned and they all head east. Dorian sees smoke and tells his team not to land, despite their fuel shortage. He fires on one of the helicopters, detonating the charges set by David and Kamau. Dorian heads east, hoping to intercept a plague barge. Dr. Brenner is wakened by a lab tech and follows him to the infirmary. The patients are all dead, including his sister. He checks the statistics and learns that only Malta, Valletta and Victoria Orchid districts are reporting no casualties. He tells them he is working on something with Malta and asks that they learn all they can from Valetta and Victoria districts. His assistant comes in to tell him the president is on the phone.



Analysis

As they near the Isla de Alboran, Kate's memories return and everything is suddenly clear. She remembers her Atlantean partner saving her from the Gibraltar when it was almost destroyed, but that somehow she didn't resurrect - a result of equipment failure or foul play she can't say. Instead, she was born to Helena Barton with implanted memories that don't become active until she is mature. She explains how that the main purpose of the tubes was not simply to heal Atlanteans but has the biotechnology to resurrect them. The science of Atlanteans is so far advanced that they have even determined how to disable aging, but she assures him that it was taboo for them to do so. At first David doesn't understand, but Kate explains it as a 'greed for life' of sorts and that by using technology to forego age implied that life was unfinished or that a person was unhappy with the life they had. Some groups, she assured him were allowed to, however, and one of those groups was the deep space explorers.

The headaches she gets with the remembering interferes with her ability to think clearly, and she struggles to explain it all to David in a way that would make sense. She tells him that she was one of two scientists who came to study the evolution of our species. Kate also now realizes, much as Dorian had, that everything she'd done in her life was driven by subconscious memories. Kate also now understands the Atlantis Gene as being a survival and communications gene. Since David was given a blood transfusion from her, he carries the gene as well, and it allows them to communicate subconsciously. Somehow, Martin discovered that the gene modifications never stopped which proves a second faction of Atlanteans is interfering with the evolution of mankind. In Dorian's dream, he sees Kate as one of the Atlantean scientists and they argue about the risk factors involved with giving humans the Atlantis Gene. Giving this gene to humankind ensured that the enemy who defeated the Atlanteans on their home world would also now come to earth and the species she treated would never be safe. David and Kate continue to hash things out, trying to determine who killed Martin. Kate knows that David needs to trust her so she tells him that she will follow along with whatever plans or decisions he makes.

Pretending to be an Immari spy, Kamau tricks the soldiers on the Isla de Alboran into storming the boat now set to explode. The plan works and together he and David take fuel and explosives from the now empty base. With a helicopter filled with fuel, and the others set with explosives, they locate Kate and the others in the life raft and bring them aboard. Dorian and his men arrive just one hour later, and Dorian knows they are already gone. He asks if there is any news from Shaw and Kosta suggests that perhaps he was killed in action. That is a thought that Dorian finds intolerable, and he tells Kosta not to suggest it again. At the CDC, Paul is awakened by a technician who reveals that the most recent protocols failed, and the survival rate was zero percent. Stunned at the loss of his sister, along with the others, Paul is losing faith. A hopelessness envelopes him as Orchid finally fails. In the conference room, he is oblivious to the conversations going on, instead focusing on the interactive screen showing that in Malta, the survival rate was at one hundred percent. Scientifically, it makes no sense, and most of the



professionals believe it is little more than a ruse to repopulate the area so as to secure the island. The President calls interrupting his thoughts.

Discussion Question 1

How might Kate's perspective of humankind change as a result of her revelations that she is not only just an Atlantean, but the Atlantean who started the entire gene manipulation and how might that affect her relationship with David?

Discussion Question 2

How does Kate explain the ongoing biological 'upgrades' that continued despite her time in her mother's womb and until she matured?

Discussion Question 3

What factors contribute to Dr. Brenner overwhelming feelings of hopelessness, and what balances that?

Vocabulary

incremental, chronology, decimated, compulsive, impassive, extraneous, perpetuate



Section 12: Part III: The Atlantis Experiment: Chapters 76-81

Summary

On the helicopter, Kate falls asleep almost immediately. Janus thinks they should wake Kate as the entire mystery seems to hinge on her. David pulls her closer without thinking and absolutely refuses. Kate's visions are more vivid. She leaves the Alpha Lander and sees the Earth is healing. Kate's partner believes the experiment should be terminated, but she insists they can fix things. Her partner relents in the face of the arguments she presents. She opens her eyes and David points to a headset, putting them on a private channel. She tells him she feels like the memories are taking her over.

Brenner calls Kate and tells her the trial failed and the Euthanasia Protocol was authorized. He says something going on in Malta, so Kamau heads there. Kate dozes off. The Alpha Lander is still sitting off the coast of Africa, where the Atlantis Gene was first administered. She wakes again beside David, feeling more like the woman from Atlantis than the Kate from Earth each time. Again she drifts. She is standing in another temple beside an altar and the stone box from the Tibetan tapestry is in front of her with the dead Alpha chief inside it. Dorian sends a message to Adam asking him where he is. Then Kate is in a command center tracking human populations around the world. An alarm warns that a vessel is incoming. Fifty thousand years earlier, they'd received word their home world had fallen, and a life raft vessel with General Ares arrives, intending to land under the ice at the South Pole. She sees herself standing on his ship. Ares, a copy of Dorian, tells her they are the last of their kind. Dorian shares this dream with her, seeing it at the same time. He sees how he convinced her to help him, and later betrayed her. He still has to wait for her to remember the code that Ares told him about, knowing she is close.

Malta comes into view. Kate's memories are clearer each time. She sees three women working on the tapestry, creating a warning given to them by the Atlantean's as a backup plan. She walks into a makeshift temple and tells a circle of monks the flood waters are coming. One man tells her they leave for the highlands in the morning. The other settlements would not heed the warning. Again she stands in Alpha Lander's control room. A satellite view shows one group hiking into the mountains carrying the ark. Dorian tells her a reduction in population will help them eliminate the uncontrollable aggression that has become more than problematic. She knows he is right, but it seems almost as though someone else is working against them. She wonders if Dorian/Ares is responsible. Population alarms ring with extinction alerts. Her partner turns to Dorian and accuses him of causing them. She needs to see her partner's face. Dr. Brenner watches a clock countdown, knowing that soon there will be two distinct subspecies of humans and the genetically inferior would not survive long. A BBC broadcast announces the coming availability of a new Orchid drug.



Analysis

With Kate asleep in his arms, and his two suspects in the seats in front of him, David finally feels as though Kate is safe. Dr. Janus credits David with having a better grasp of the situation than the scientists do, his knowledge of history applicable to each genetic turning point in human evolution, but he still feels as though they are missing a step. They discuss the Tibetan tapestry that Martin based his code and chronology on, and Janus postulates the theory that the treasure referred to in the last line of Martin's note could only be the tapestry the primitives carried into the highlands at the time Atlantis fell to flood. The box, referred to as an Ark, must contain the answers. Kate continues to dream beside him, remembering how she'd returned to Earth after the Gene had been introduced, and the population had exploded, but as long as they remained peaceful, Kate was unconcerned. She sees herself arrive at one camp where the inhabitants kneel, taking her for a god. The Alphas she had treated are old and she notices cave drawings that tell the story of creation. It surprises her with its accuracy but her partner fears that it is too early to introduce religion which can be corrupted or used to manipulate others. Kate and her partner argue, but the simple truth is that humans now share their genetic makeup, and since there is no home for them to return to, their lives must continue on Earth. Kate wakes and tells David that she fears she is losing a little bit more of herself with each time that she remembers her past.

Paul calls Kate to report the failure of the newest protocol, and tells her about Malta. She feels different - almost as though what she is experiencing was happening to someone else and she was just viewing it remotely. More and more, life on earth feels like an experiment to her and the outcome feels irrelevant to her personally. In and out of consciousness she drifts as they head to Malta, reliving the first signs of aggression in the tribe as one brother kills another, stealing food and preparing for war. She tells the original group not to reciprocate, but instead to leave the area completely. Asleep, the memories are force fed to her while during her waking moments, all she can think of is how the woman David fell in love with is slipping away from her. She wants more than anything to stop it all.

Another set of visions shows her the stone box and the Tibetan tapestry. The tribe she sent away would carry the Ark into the mountains, becoming the Immaru. She sees herself making yet another alteration to the remains of the Alpha before the stone top is secured on the Ark, and she wakes knowing what they are looking for in Malta. Adam manages to send a message to Dorian, redirecting him to Malta as well. Kate's next set of memories include the arrival of General Ares, and she is aware of her fear of him even then. The ship he arrives in contains the last of her people brought to earth by none other than Dorian. He insists that humans are now as endangered as they were because of the genome they'd been given, and now they had no alternative but to advance them; and groom them into the army required to defeat the enemy. Despite her objections, she finds herself helping Dorian/Ares. Dorian becomes aware of these memories at the same time as Kate does and waits patiently for her to remember the code that will finish her once and for all.



David considers the history of Malta, considering how over the past six hundred years, the region which encompasses only 122 square miles had been the most fought over place on the globe. As a historian however, he didn't believe in treasure or other mythical objects like the Holy Grail or the Ark of the Covenant. Kate watches the group that would become the Immaru hiking into the mountains to avoid the flood waters, carrying the stone Ark. She can't help but be concerned about the levels of accelerated aggression and the tendency to war she is seeing. It is what she recognizes as a flaw in the survival gene she had given them, prompting them to eliminate competitors for the limited resources on the planet. She watches as population alerts begin to ring, species dying even where the flood left them untouched. The Neanderthals in Gibraltar; the Denisovans in Siberia and the Hobbits in Indonesia are all suffering over ninety percent extinction. At the CDC, Paul watches the countdown clock to the Euthanasia Protocol that will either signal the next stage of human evolution or its demise. There would be one genetically superior race remaining and they would have the world to themselves.

Discussion Question 1

How do Kate and her Atlantean partner believe the introduction of religion will affect the human population and based on society as it is today, which one is correct?

Discussion Question 2

Who are the Knights Hospitaller, and what was their role in history as is presented in this story?

Discussion Question 3

What happens to the Atlanteans to first make them question Dorian/Ares's loyalty, and why is he so determined to undermine their efforts on Earth?

Vocabulary

depiction, inertia, communal, imperative, interpretation, mythology, linguistic, cataclysm



Section 13: Part III: The Atlantis Experiment: Chapters 82-86

Summary

Kate and her partner don decompression suits and leave the Alpha Lander to find and return with the single Neanderthal survivor identified by the drone while Dorian stays behind to manage the ship. Dorian wakes, exhausted as the memories continue to assault him much in the way they do Kate. Another comes and he finds himself in Gibraltar again watching Kate and her partner as they try to save the Neanderthal. He races down a corridor and programming bombs, then steps through one of the seven doors in the room right after detonating the first one. Then he waits in Antarctica with a weapon. Kate's partner puts the Neanderthal in a tube. An alarm warns of a tidal wave. The shock wave hits and everything goes black. In the helicopter, David and his group are approaching Malta, but anti-aircraft missiles are used against them. Kate opens her eyes as David straps her in. She calls Continuity to tell Brenner it is them. In the distance, Dorian can see the explosions and tells the pilot to land on a fishing trawler, promising the frightened people that all they want is a ride to Malta. On the ground, Kate is feverish and David has her taken to the hospital. There are sick people everywhere, none receiving treatment. The director insists just a couple of hours after their arrival; they simply heal on their own. Kate sketches the ark and he tells them that the Knights of Malta are in the catacombs. Dorian sees David and Kate take off in a helicopter, heading inland. He orders his men to find them transportation. David remembers the stories of miraculous healing that St. Paul was responsible for in early Mdina, and wonders if it has anything to do with the spontaneous healing going on there now. They set up camp in the lobby of St. Paul's Catacombs. Janus suggests they search in pairs and David agrees, pairing him with Kamau. David tells Shaw and Chang to go first, arming Shaw with only a knife.

Kate tells David that the Alpha's bones are in the Ark. She reveals her involvement in the experiment that slowly spun out of control, and admits that Dorian is also a large part of the past as well. In the hospital above, Brenner visits his nephew. He receives answers from the W.H.O. and British Intelligence and learns that both Shaw and Janus are frauds. As they explore the catacombs, Chang remembers who Adam is, and Adam cuts his throat, arming an explosive and running deeper into the tunnel. Kamau hears Chang cry out, and turns to Janus to see him holding something. A brilliant light renders him immobile and Janus steps past him. David also heard the cry for help and urges Kate to keep moving. Up ahead, the tunnel ends in a burial room and a voice calls out telling them not to move.

Milo tells the others to lower their weapons and greets them. He leads them to where the Ark sits. The top is taken off and Kate takes a genetic sample. Several soldiers break from the group to lead them back to the surface and as soon as they see daylight, they turn but the guards are gone. David listens to the voice mail from Brenner as Kate



works and turns his weapon toward the approaching footstep he hears. Dorian sees their helicopter and has the pilot land nearby. When he learns about the catacombs, he knows why they are there, but there is still no word from Shaw. Janus emerges from the tunnels and Kate tells him they found the Alpha. David asks about Kamau, and Janus tells him they were separated. After helping Kate with the sample, she uploads it to Continuity and Janus ducks back into the tunnels to see the Alpha for himself. Kate calls Brenner to tell him she sent him the sample, and he tells her about Shaw and Janus. David hears footsteps and turns, raising his gun, but the figure stops.

Analysis

Neither Kate nor her partner trust Dorian to manage the ship while they rush to rescue the last living Neanderthal and Kate knows that if Dorian is responsible, she bears part of the burden for helping him. In the world's current timeline, Dorian is in an out of the Atlantean memories. He can't imagine why they don't understand that there is only room for a single sentient race to exist in the universe because of limited resources. They are at war for the very lives, and General Ares is convinced that coexistence between themselves and another species is impossible. (This attitude is prevalent in our current reality as well. Humankind fears contact with another sentient species, as is evident by the myriad of alien invasion style media we create. In all of our imagining, aliens come for land, for resources, but not to coexist with us.) Kate is feverish and David takes her to the hospital which is crowded with sick people, but no one is treating them. Brenner insists that after a couple of hours they simply get up and walk out healed on their own. Kate sketches the Ark, and gets directions to the St. Paul's Catacombs. They go in search of the Ark which Kate now knows contains the Alpha male's remains.

This is strikingly reminiscent of the story of Noah's Ark with details that could have been confused with the passage of time. It is impossible not to make the connection and consider Kate's partner who assured her that giving early man religion was a mistake and would be used to man's detriment, but since both Dorian and Kate were unable to access these memories until recently, it is clear that there was still someone working to make changes to the genetic structure of man. So far, Kate and David have no idea who that is.

Once in the Catacombs, they split into groups of two to search for the Ark. As her dreams increase, Kate is beginning to realize just how involved in everything she has been since the beginning. Above, Brenner learns that Shaw and Janus are both frauds. Chang recognizes Adam just before Adam cuts his throat, and Janus disables Kamau with a weapon from another world. Kate and David reach a chamber where Milo greets them and leads them to the Ark. Kate collects a sample of genetic material. Milo sends soldiers with them to the surface while the rest remain to guard the Alpha. Above, Dorian spots their helicopter as David and Kate reach the entrance. He checks for a message from Adam, and when there isn't one, he worries that Adam may be dead. The idea is unthinkable. This close to unraveling it all, Janus and Adam close in on their own



agendas. Kate calls Paul to tell him she's sent him data, and learns that both Adam Shaw and Janus are frauds.

Discussion Question 1

What items or events in this story could be seen as an adaptation of another and in which ways?

Discussion Question 2

What miracle occurs and what is the most likely explanation?

Discussion Question 3

What legends of Malta tie into the Ark directly or indirectly throughout history?

Vocabulary

inevitable, perpetuate, coexistence, megalithic, adjacent, maturity, expediency



Section 14: Part III: The Atlantis Experiment: Chapters 87-92

Summary

They recognize Kamau who appears to be blinded, and tells them Janus is responsible. Brenner calls to tell them that one therapy was identified, and they are going forward with it. David arms himself and goes back into the tunnel to get Janus, sure that Chang is already dead. Shaw plants explosives in the Catacombs, backtracking when he hears approaching footsteps. Shaw lets Janus pass. David follows and when he is also past Shaw heads for the exit as David and Janus proceed deeper into the tunnels. Janus takes the quantum cube out of his pocket. He activates it to disable the soldiers and Milo who still guard the Alpha, and then he goes in without issue. He takes the Alpha's femur and smashes it against the wall, revealing the implant installed years ago. He crushes it and turns to find David holding a gun. Brenner's nephew is only semi-conscious, but Paul hopes there is still time. Kate waits for David to reappear, but instead Shaw barrels out, knocking Kamau out of his chair. He stabs Kamau, and takes the gun from Kate just as Dorian and his soldiers enter. Shaw activates the bombs, and David covers Milo with his own body when the explosions occur. A few rocks hit him until a dome of light shelters them from further harm. Kate tells Dorian the cure has already been found, but Dorian doesn't care. He wants the code in her head. He drags her out.

David realizes that Janus and his cube are shielding him. Janus fiddles with the cube and David tells him that Dorian is taking Kate to Antarctica. Janus admits if that is true, they will likely all die. They agree to save Kate together, and Janus uses the cube to create an opening that is as smooth as if a laser had been used. Milo stirs and David tells Janus that he is the last of the Immaru. In the helicopter Kate is strapped to the seat and her hands are tied. Adam admits to having killed Martin for fear that he would recognize him. Dorian laughs at her, enjoying that she never saw the betrayal coming. She hears a voice telling her he betrayed them, and opens her eyes to find she is back in Gibraltar. Janus tells her that he's locked down the primary ship which was hidden on the opposite side of the moon. Now none of them could return via the portal door. He sets traps for Ares as well. He tries to modify the time devices to undo all that they had done. Another explosion rocks them and she can't hear Janus anymore, but she feels him lift her up.

David prods Janus for information while they wait for the cube to create an exit. He tells David everything, including the massacre of his home world, and explains how the resurrection tubes work. He tells David how he tried to resurrect his partner after Ares killed her and how that resulted in Kate getting her memories. Then he reveals that the Alpha was the piece of the therapy he required to roll back every genetic update they'd done, leaving humans as they'd found them. Dorian relives the struggle Ares faced, learning how he ended up in the tube, and finally understands his place in it all.



Analysis

Kamau is blinded by Janus, and Kate can tell that he doesn't want to let David down. Adam places explosives in the catacombs, hiding while Janus and then David pass by going deeper into the caverns. Shaw is grateful, barely able to admit to himself that David is his better in hand to hand combat. He had been searching for a way to eliminate David since the beginning, and watching him he has come to appreciate how capable the man is. Now, having left Kate behind, it appears that Adam finally has the upper hand where David is concerned. Janus reaches the Ark and disables the guards, again taking advantage of technology earth doesn't have. He breaks the Alpha's femur, retrieving the original chip that allowed all of the genetic modifications over time. He accesses the history of the chip, seeing how the Alpha and the Ark had come to Malta in the hopes that isolation would save them until he and his partner returned, which of course they never had. History continues to repeat itself as the Immaru are conquered by invaders, much as their own race had been on their home planet. He sees how the Greeks recognized the Atlantis story, recording and spreading it. The Greeks followed the same fate as those they'd conquered, becoming civilized before falling to the Romans just as the Phoenicians had fallen before them. Black Death causes the next fall of civilization, and Janus can see how the implant had affected each group. Shaw attacks Kamau, stabbing him to death. Kate sees him do it, but part of her can't believe that she has been betrayed again by someone she trusted. She can't bring herself to shoot him, and Shaw insists she should be grateful that it isn't in her to take life. Dorian arrives, and greets Adam warmly and this is the first time that Dorian reveals Adam is his brother.

Janus shields David from the falling rock using the cube again. The technology and variety of uses displayed with the cube are incredible, but David hardly has time to appreciate this fact in the face of everything else they are dealing with. Janus tells David who he really is - one of the original aliens to have landed here - and he reveals that the latest cure sent to CDC will cure what ails all of humanity. Something about his statement sounds wrong, and David stalls him by telling him that Kate has his partner's memories, and now that Shaw has Kate, they are in danger. Janus doesn't believe him, but David proves it by telling Janus some of what Kate has remembered. Janus tells David he needs his absolute cooperation, having observed that during stressful circumstances, David prefers to be in control. He makes David promise to follow his instructions and when Janus learns that Milo is the last Immaru, he agrees to take him also. In the helicopter, Dorian taunts Kate, telling her that while she is clever, her blind spot is people rubbing in the fact that she never was able to see betrayal coming. It amuses him. She closes her eyes, and her mind replays the initial betrayal, during which Janus tries to undo all of the genetic changes they'd made by using the bell.

David questions Janus who admits that his was an older species, focused on finding human life. He explains how the universe is made for it. In fact, through quantum entanglement, all humans are linked to the Origin Entity which has influence throughout the universe. They refer to the search for creation as the Origin Mystery. He goes on to discuss the precautions they took when they came to Earth, and David tries to absorb it



all, undoubtedly feeling like Alice down the rabbit hole. On their world, he tells David, they were allowed to live a hundred years except for in some cases where someone of great achievement might be honored by being 'archived'. General Ares was one such person, and he was in a suspended state along with the remains of the Atlanteans killed on their home world and reveals that psychologically, reviving them would be cruel. He reveals how Ares convinced Kate to modify the Atlantis Gene further still without his knowledge, but admits that he knows she acted because of the guilt she faced for something she'd done that had led to their end, but Janus doesn't elaborate. The more Janus talks, the deeper into the hole David falls as Janus explains his part in David's life; his resurrections; and what he'd hoped would be accomplished. Now, the new therapy uploaded to the CDC will return humanity to the point it was at when the lander first arrived.

Dorian enjoys having hurt Kate and leans back his head to rest, falling into the well of memories along with her. He and Kate both relive his efforts to get to the deep space vessel; find the suits and activate a case; teleport to a mountaintop beside a volcano about to erupt and drop a cylinder in. Then, creating another door, he comes out on the bridge. The air is draining and he sees himself crawl to a tube so that he can live. He wakes finally understanding it all, feeling a sense of completeness for the first time just as Kate had after her memories erupted full scale. Dorian considers the scale of brilliance required to accomplish what Ares has, and relishes the idea that soon he can talk face to face to with the man he considers to be just like a father to him, wondering what else the man had to treat them.

Discussion Question 1

Who created the Fermi Paradox, what exactly is it and what is its purpose?

Discussion Question 2

What is the Origin entity and how / why was its discovery important?

Discussion Question 3

What pattern does Janus discuss with David does he claim repeats itself again and again throughout human history?

Vocabulary

disoriented, manipulated, cavernous, appendages, resilience, colluded, paradigm



Section 15: Part III: The Atlantis Experiment: Chapters 93-98

Summary

Paul checks in on his nephew to find him awake but uncommunicative. Janus tries to explain to David that in his opinion, devolving the human race is the only way to keep them safe. When the cube opens a way out, David leads them to the entrance where Kamau is dead on the floor. The helicopter is gone but Milo tells David that the Knights have a plane. Dorian drags Kate out to a glowing portal nearby and the three of them cross over it together. The air is close, but the ship recognizes Kate and the oxygen is returning. She knows now that she is intelligent enough to win. David is cleared to land at Ceuta where the Berber chief greets him, smiling. They drive until Janus tells David to stop next to a rock face. Janus disables a force field and they follow him inside to the area where David had been before. Janus tells them that now they have to wait, trusting Kate to know what to do. David wants Janus to give him the cure but he assures David that as 'Atlanteans', he and Kate will both survive. To David, that is unacceptable. Dorian tells Kate to release Ares from the tube he is in. She is counting on Janus as she opens the tube and Ares climbs out. When the portal door opens, David follows the cube that will lead him to Kate. When Ares is free, Kate lunges for Dorian, hoping it is distraction enough. David grabs Kate and they run for exit. Ares grabs Dorian and drags him to his feet, telling him that Janus activated the self-destruct. Adam cries out and Ares tells Dorian to make a decision. If he stops to save Adam, they will all die. Reluctantly, Dorian leaves with Ares, leaving Adam behind. Janus enters the final sequences, knowing he will not survive, but content to know that he has saved Kate's life. The last thing he does is leave an audio file. Ares pulls Dorian through the portal just as explosions ring out. When he catches his breath, he points to the rows and rows of tubes, telling Dorian they are his people now.

Kate goes to the computer and begins to enter the procedure to reverse the resurrection and return her to herself. David tries to tell her that the therapy Janus gave Continuity will roll everything and everyone back to the beginning. He asks her if she can fix it, and she can, but not if she wants to fix herself. She tells him that more and more of her is slipping away, and David promises her that much like she did for him, he will help her to remember who she is. Kate's choice was simple. Save the people, or save herself. She pulls out her computer and sees what Janus did. Kate and David go above ground to call Brenner and upload the new therapy. Brenner sounds different, and in that moment, Kate realizes that Brenner has already administered the therapy Janus created on his own group. All she could do now was hope that he would be able to remember what to do.

Paul Brenner is confused, and finding it hard to concentrate. He remembers that he is supposed to do something and sees one of his machines blinking with 'one result'. In a moment of clarity, he transmits the result to all other Orchid Districts. BBC broadcasts



on the first day after the plague with reports that the initial feelings of fog and confusion were temporary side effects related to the cure. A one hundred percent rate of cure is being reported. Immari International are ordered to leave all coastal areas, and huge populations were heading for the mountains. Some people speculate that the Immari withdrawal might signify the beginning of a larger counteroffensive. Paul walks through Continuity and finds one other analyst with nowhere to go. He stops in to see his nephew before leaving and is stunned by how much better he is. He tells him to rest because soon they're going home. He would wait before telling him about his mother. Kate stands watching the sun set and asks David what comes next. Despite her assertions she'd changed, David assures her that her actions keep proving that she hasn't. Together they go down to check on Milo.

Analysis

Paul wanders the halls at Continuity, but is devolving and can't figure out what's going on. David considers the consequences of devolving the entire human race, erasing all advancements, deleting all leaps mankind had made since the first ship had initially arrived and argues with Janus. David discovers Kamau's lifeless body at the entrance, stabbed to death and quietly mourns the loss of a friend. Dorian has taken the helicopter, but Milo says the Knights have a plane if David can fly it. Kate wakes and realizes that this time history won't repeat itself. She knows the game plan now, and the players, and she is smarter than she was before. Dorian takes Kate and Adam to the portal he left open, and together they enter the ship which recognizes Kate and begins to circulate air again. Dorian wants Kate to free Ares from his pod and Kate knows that Janus will be ready for anything, so she frees Ares but in that moment also attacks Dorian to provide enough confusion that Janus might enter undetected. David follows a cube programmed to find Kate while Janus sets the self-destruct mode. David and Kate escape to safety but Dorian is faced with a moral dilemma. Adam is unconscious on the floor and Ares tells him there isn't time to save him. After a short hesitation, David leaves his brother and what is left of his own humanity behind with Adam on the floor, escaping with Ares. At the same time, and faced with a similar choice, Janus gives his life for Kate's. Ares takes Dorian to the resurrection ship telling him that the row upon row of 'Atlanteans' in suspended state are his people now.

Kate is also faced with a moral and personal dilemma. She wants nothing more than to go back to being herself, and begins programming the sequence that will return her to the woman David loves but before she can, David tells her that the cure Janus gave Continuity will take them back to the equivalent of Flintstones reruns. Kate has time to program only one sequence and must choose between saving everyone, or saving herself. David knows that the woman he loves is still there when she enters the sequence that will save humanity and then calls Paul to tell him. Paul has already employed the sequence given to him earlier, and is already losing the ability to think or concentrate. All Kate can do now is hope that he stays together long enough to complete the distribution of the new sequence. Paul sort of remembers being the head of a trial and with effort, more comes back. He barely manages to send the new formula out to all of the Orchid Districts. It isn't long before BBC is broadcasting the end of the



plague. People are told that the confusion and memory lapses were temporary drug side effects, and the overall recovery rate soars to 100%. The Immari are asked to leave the coastal areas, and flock to the mountains. Kate worries that now she will never be back to the person David fell in love with, but he assures her that her actions proved that she is still there. The rest he can help her to remember, he says, reminding her that he never gives up on those he loves. Reassured, they go down to see Milo together.

Discussion Question 1

What is the problem with the therapy Janus created and uploaded, and what motivates him to do this?

Discussion Question 2

What characters are forced to make decisions of sacrifice, and how do their decisions affect outcomes?

Discussion Question 3

Why is David unconcerned that Kate cannot return herself to the woman he fell in love with?

Vocabulary

regression, devolution, sustenance, treacherous, schematic, euphoria, synchronized



Characters

Kate Warner

Kate is the doctor whose hands it rests in to repair or eradicate the Atlantis Plague, and is the only one who appears to be immune to the disease. As such, she is the perfect candidate to carry out the trials in a search for a cure. In the process, she learns that the history of evolution as she knows it is not entirely accurate, and fearfully discovers that in order to fix things she might be required to make a larger sacrifice than she'd ever thought. For the previous ten years, Kate has been searching for a cure for autism. Recently her adopted father, Martin saved her from the structure under the Bay of Gibraltar after her biological father, Patrick Pierce had helped her escape from a similar construct under the surface of Antarctica. Martin recruits her to help find a cure for the Atlantis Plague sweeping the world, and during her efforts, she begins to remember. At first, the memories are like dreams, but clear and familiar somehow. She remembers events that occurred inside the structure she thought of as being the lost city of Atlantis. She remembers historical times - times when she and a partner she can never quite see monitored Neanderthal man, and followed his tribe's progress. She eventually remembers that it was by her hand that the Atlantis Gene that started everything was administered in an effort to help the Neanderthal's survive a super volcano.

Kate's memories come as a result of having been confined to a resurrection tube in one of the two ships that came to Earth a long time ago. The first ship that she and her partner, whom she later realizes is Arthur Janus, arrived on was a research vessel. As evolutionary biologists, they were seeking the answers to the Origin Mystery - and in the process hoping to come one step closer to the Origin Entity. When it appeared that the life they were studying on Earth was in jeopardy, she intervened. A second ship arrives lifetimes later with a contingent of people from her home world which was overrun by a superior enemy. Piloted by General Ares, his intentions are to recruit an army to help him repel this threat.

Kate is born to a mother long dead and placed in a resurrection tube found by her father, Patrick in 1918. She is delivered by scientists many years later, and begins life as Kate Warner. Her memories of another lifetime don't begin until she reaches the age at which her original entity died. Then, like being force fed, the memories pour into her.

At this time, she has fallen in love with David Vale, and he with her. When he almost dies, she gives him a transfusion of her own blood which gives him the Atlantis Gene which is the alien mix that saves him from the plague along with her. Their love is a love of the ages which propels them both to find each other again and again, while working to save the world.



David Vale

David is thirty three years old and one of the best hand-to-hand fighters that Dorian has ever seen. He is six foot three inches tall and has broad shoulders. When Kate is rescued by Martin, David is left behind to fight Dorian and the Immari army waiting above the Antarctica ship. She listens to the news for any word of him or his efforts, and as the days pass, she worries. When he sleeps, somehow they are connected at times, and it is as though she is right there beside him. All he wants to do is find her. David comes to life again in the resurrection tubes more than once, and each time the experience is unnerving. He opens his eyes again, and sees the previous version of himself lying on the ground a few feet away. Dorian lies across him, apparently having died as a result of the injuries inflicted by David. Looking up, he sees Dorian looking back at him from another resurrection tube.

David was trained by the CIA. He is strong, capable and intelligent, as well as being able to adjust to any given situation. The second time he is killed by Dorian, he wakes in a tube in a different location. He thinks about the night in Gibraltar spent with Kate and resolves that if he finds her again, he will never let her out of his sight. His intelligence and training serve him well in that age old battle between good and evil as he works to find the love of his life and help her to restore the world to its former state.

Dieter Kane (aka Dorian Sloane)

Dorian is about forty three years old. His father was a military man with interests in Immari International as well. The only thing he remembers doing with his father together is attending military parades. As a young child, he wanted to play trumpet and march at the front of the Kaiser's army. His arms and legs bore the scars of the beating he got from his father. When Dieter is placed in the tubes, he is a sweet boy and sixty years later, when he is resurrected, he emerges mean and a borderline sociopath. The scars vanished during his rebirth and emergence from the tubes in 1986.

Dorian has always known he was destined for something great, but when General Ares tells him that he is him, the truth is too hard to absorb. Ares appears to him as an avatar of himself, and directs Dorian to find Kate and return her to the ship so that she can free him. Dorian does so, employing the only family he has left - his adopted brother Adam Shaw. Dorian is a ruthless and self serving man who is only concerned with his own power and well-being. This fact becomes abundantly evident when he is willing to leave Adam behind to die in order to save himself and Ares.

Paul Brenner

Paul is a doctor for the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia. He has been dealing with Kate Warner by satellite phone and internet in an effort to find a cure for the plague. He respects and admires her, and even develops a sort of crush on her across the miles.



His sister and her son are both infected with the plague, and Paul works diligently to try to find the answers that will save them. When the solution finally comes, it is too late for his sister, but his nephew will survive. Paul is one of just a small handful of people who will be ultimately responsible for saving the world.

Martin Grey

Kate's adopted father, Martin brings Kate to Marbella, Spain where he encourages her to strive to find a cure for the Atlantis Plague. Well past the age of sixty, the last several months are beginning to take their toll. He has a haggard look and a soft, grandfatherly voice.

Martin becomes a victim of the plague but he begins to recover after a shot is given to him of an experimental drug aboard a plague barge that Adam and Kate get him onto. Realizing that Martin might recognize him, Adam uses the first opportunity he has when they are alone to break his neck and eliminate the threat. His research, and the intelligent notes he leaves behind for Kate are more than instrumental in helping her to find a cure.

General Ares

Ares is the Atlantean in Antarctica who uses Dorian as a champion for his cause. He is more than six feet tall, and has almost translucent white skin. Clean shaven, he has only a thick shock of white hair on top of his head which looks somewhat oversized compared to the rest of him. The General has a full head of white-gold hair which he wears pulled back flat and down against his head.

General Ares was to live forever, offered a place in a resurrection tube on his planet until an invasion causes him to improvise and save the many of his species that are on the resurrection ship with him. He takes them to Earth in the hopes that he can bring them back.

Arthur Janus

One of the doctors working for Immari research, Dr. Janus is an evolutionary biologist and virologist. One of his primary interests was in viral evolution and specifically, how viruses adapt and mutate. He was working for the World Health Organization in Algiers when the news of the plague first hit. He made his way to Ceuta, and was assigned to be Dr. Chang's assistant.

Janus is also the partner that Kate originally came to Earth with. He is an evolutionary biologist who has worked through his entire life in the hopes that one day he can give his life for hers. In the end, he does just that, ending his life to save hers, knowing there will be no resurrection. He goes to that death at peace with himself.



Dr. Nigel Chase

Dr. Nigel Chase is the scientist that Sanders insists should investigate the Atlantean case that Dorian brought to the surface in more detail. He has a sister named Fiona who he dearly loves, and it is for her that he hires her son Harvey as his assistant, so that he has a job and is out of the house. It is a decision he often regrets. Nigel is a nuclear engineer, and though he spent some time working on nuclear warheads in the eighties, his focus has primarily been with nuclear power systems.

Kamau

A former Clocktower operative, Kamau is now using the rank of Captain and is the second in command to Alexander Rukin at the Ceuta base. Kamau recognizes David immediately, and swears his allegiance to him as soon as they are alone together; assuring him that he hasn't forgotten that David saved his life three years earlier in the Gulf of Aden.

Kamau helps David to overthrow the Immari base, and is later killed by Adam Shaw in the Catacombs where the Alpha was hidden in the Ark.

Adam Shaw

An SAS soldier, Adam tells Kate, he is the fifth to attempt to rescue her. In truth, he is the adopted brother to Dorian Sloane and his loyalties have nothing to do with the SAS. His mission is to bring Kate to his brother Dorian.

Adam, like his brother, will use any story to his advantage, and has no issues with double crossing, killing, or anything in between in order to accomplish his task. His deception is something Kate doesn't realize until after Adam kills Kamau in the entrance to the Catacombs.

Qion

At ninety-four years of age, Qion is one of the monks at the monastery in Tibet where Kate and David take refuge. He devotes his life to educating the youngest of their sect, Milo, and preparing him for the most important mission of his life. Milo is the only one who will be able to take the Ark to safety while Qion and his brothers sacrifice themselves for the greater good.



Helena Barton

Helena is Kate Warner's mother. She died in 1919 and her husband placed her and the fetus she was carrying into a resurrection tube. Helena could not be saved by the tube, but Kate continued to develop in her womb until she is born in 1979.

Nwella

The Berber chief's daughter, Nwella is a prisoner in the Moroccan Immari camp, and is the girl that Rukin offered David on his first night. Nwella is rescued during the raid that is orchestrated by David.

Alexander Rukin

A former Clocktower operative, Rukin is now a 'Major' in the Immari army and is charged with the command of the Ceuta base until a new commander can arrive.

Timothy Ray Brown

Timothy Brown, later known as the Berlin patient, was cured of HIV in 2007 when he was given a full bone marrow transplant from a donor with the genetic mutation: CCR5-Delta 32. That mutation made his cells immune to HIV and cured him of the leukemia as well.

Shen Chang

One of the scientists that is working toward a solution to the plague, Shen Chang is on a plague barge in the Mediterranean when he first meets Kate, working for the Immari like most scientists. Shen is sixty one years old and had been employed by Immari Research ever since he finished school. It didn't take him long to learn about the atrocities that could be attributed to Immari and he spent most of his career trying to prevent as many of them as possible from becoming a reality. When he meets Kate, he confesses that he and Dr, Janus have been working on a cure based on the Orchid research, but have withheld it from Immari. He also confesses to have been the lead scientist at the Qino facility run by the Immari and had in fact been on staff when she'd been subjected to the Bell experiment.

Raymond Sanders

Raymond is a man who enjoys power. In Dorian's absence, he has risen to the top of the Immari heap in Cape Town, South Africa. He delivers orders without regard for the advice of his staff.



Kosta

Kosta is Raymond's assistant.

Patrick Pierce

Kate's biological father, Patrick helps Kate escape from the Bay of Gibraltar by exploding two nuclear bombs.

Adi and Surya

Two Indonesian children that Kate included in her Autism study, Adi and Surya are eight and nine years old, respectively. They both enjoy math, using it a way to keep themselves occupied.

Berbers

The Berbers are a local tribe in Morocco.

Proto-Indo-Europeans (PIE)

One of the most important ancient peoples in world history, the Proto-Indo-Europeans were the precursor civilization for most people living in India, Europe and the Middle East. Half of the current world's population is directly descended from them. PIE lived in either the Eurasian Steppes or Anatolia which is now southwestern Russia or Turkey. Martin believes that the Immaru were descended from the PIE.

Immaru

The Immaru are a group of Tibetan monks who lived in isolation in the Tibetan mountain range. Scientist Martin Grey is convinced that they are direct descendants of the Proto-Indo-Europeans (PIE) who had tremendous impact on the evolution of humankind. The PIE were the civilization that were the precursor for most people living in the Middle East, Europe and India today. Half the population of the world is directly descended from PIE groups. Historians have used language as a basis for tracing the origins of people today. The PIE lived in either the Eurasian Steppes or Anatolia, known today as southwestern Russia or Turkey. They were the guardians of the Ark which contained the remains of the Alpha male who Kate treated first when he was a Neanderthal.

Immari

The Immari are a group that splintered from the Immaru who had grown impatient with the myth and allegory and wanted to pursue answers in archeology or science. The Immari became a large conglomeration with hands in scientific pockets, financial holdings, and assassins willing to do whatever they were instructed to in order to maintain their standard of living. The Immari soon had agents in countries around the world, ready to react at a moment's notice. The Immari continue to work with the gene therapy, and are instrumental in creating the Orchid Districts as well as the Orchid drug itself to combat the unfavorable effects of their gene manipulation.

The Immari eventually wiped out all of the Immaru with the exception of Milo, who was entrusted with the sacred information given to them by the Atlanteans. The Immari concentrate on the small group of people who appear to either be immune to the gene therapy, or whose response to the therapy is accelerated intelligence. Everyone else they are willing to sacrifice in order to construct an army of superior human beings.



Symbols and Symbolism

Great Leap Forward

The Great Leap Forward is the name given to the effects caused by the introduction of the Atlantis Gene in the human population 70,000 years previous to current day.

Atlantis Plague

The Atlantis Plague is a plague that evolves at the genetic level, transforming the genes so that some rapidly evolve while others devolve.

Atlantis Gene

The Atlantis Gene is a gene that was introduced into the human population 70,000 years earlier, causing the first 'Great Leap Forward' in our species, it is a sophisticated combination of biology and quantum technology.

Orchid

Orchid is the name given to the miracle drug created by Kate's father which offers some a cure for the Atlantis Plague at first but begins to lose efficacy and patients suffer 100% mortality within 72 hours when it does.

Orchid Districts

Orchid Districts are the massive camps that people are herded into after the plague begins.

Immari International

Immari International is the name of one of two sides that emerge during the crisis. They believe in doing nothing and allowing the plague to force an evolution of sorts for those who survive.

Orchid Alliance

The Orchid Alliance is a group that engages in open warfare with the Immari, believing that they have to fight for the survival of the human race.



Suitcase

The suitcase is what the Atlantean insists Dorian take to the surface with him; it is actually nothing more than a way to deliver the next radiation therapy to humankind.

Gas

Gas is what the Immari drop in Old Town to subdue former pets who are now roaming in half wild packs.

HERV's

Called 'human endogenous retroviruses', these 'viral fossils' are remnants of former infections that were integrated with the DNA of the hosts sperm and then transmitted on to the next generation.

Clocktower

Clocktower is an organization running covert operations worldwide with the aim of keeping the world safe, but it is absorbed into the Immari when they gain control from the inside.

Destiny

Destiny is the name of the plague barge being used in the Mediterranean Sea.

Operation Genesis

Operation Genesis is the name given to the mission Dorian gave Adam to find Kate Warner and bring her to him.

Anthems of the Dying

Anthems of the Dying is the title of one of two books given to Milo by Qion before he is sent on his quest. Scording to Qion, is the guide to their future. It contains three stories – one about a girl whose father sacrificed everything for; one about a couple who searched across a wasteland for the treasure left by their ancestors that was their only hope of curing their people who were dying and the last was about a man who killed a giant and became a king but gave the power back to the people instead. Qion had assured him that there would be people coming to them for help, pursued by a great dragon, and that his purpose in life was to see that they survived.



The First Tribes of Humanity: A History

The First Tribes of Humanity: A History is the second of two books given to Milo by Qion before he is sent on his quest.

CCR5 Delta 32

CCR5 Delta 32 is a mutation present in sixteen percent of the European population. This mutation allows those who have it to be immune to HIV, smallpox and other viruses.

Genome Symphony

The Genome Symphony is an algorithm that is created by Continuity that can predict gene expression whenever a gene therapy or retrovirus is introduced to a given genome; it will hopefully predict the way a person might respond to the plague and the therapy introduced.

Euthanasia Protocol

Euthanasia Protocol refers to the standing orders given to Continuity that if the Immari become a viable threat or if Orchid fails, they are to issue orders of cancellation to the implants so that those that are dying will do so more rapidly leaving them only with Orchid survivors.

Ark

The Ark is the vessel which has contained the Alpha's bones since his death, and it has been protected by the Immaru ever since.

Quantum Cube

A Quantum Cube is a device that Janus uses to create blinding light that disorients and temporarily blinds anyone in its sight once activated.

Quantum Entity

Quantum Entity is a subatomic substance that is pervading the entire universe, discovered by the 'Atlanteans' and which they eventually learned to access.



Quantum Entanglement

Quantum Entanglement is the name given to the fact that all humans are linked by way of the quantum entity which links all humans to the Origin Entity.

Origin Entity

The Origin Entity is an entity that links / connects every human life.

Origin Mystery

Origin Mystery is the name given to the search for the Origin Entity.

Beacon

A Beacon is a shroud used by the Atlanteans to keep anyone else from seeing the extent of human's growth and advancement. It was deployed to follow Earth's orbit.

Tapestry

The Tapestry is revealed by the Immaru, having been handed down for thousands of years and many generations. It depicts a total of four floods. The first is a flood of fire which scientists believe represented the Toba Catastrophe which was a volcanic eruption that occurred 70,000 years ago. This event changed the human race, and reveals that a 'god' saved a band of humans near death by giving them a transfusion of some kind which enabled this primitive group to survive the volcanic winter that followed and caused a change in the wiring of the brains of humans. The second flood shown on the tapestry is one of water. This section of the tapestry shows the god telling humans to move inland and to repent. Most ignore the warnings but the Immaru believed the warning, and carry a large box (similar to the ark as shown on Indian Jones) into the highlands. This ark contained the final remains of the alpha – the founder and chief of the tribe that the Immaru saved so many years previously. The third is a flood of blood which is a global apocalypse and the fourth flood depicted is one of light. This final flood was to be the salvation of mankind. The Immaru were the guardians of this historic chronicle of the history of mankind.

Settings

Orchid District in Marbella, Spain

Kate Warner wakes in the Orchid District in Marbella after she and two of the autistic children that were her test subjects are rescued. Called the Orchid District, it is the site at which Martin is desperately trying to find a cure for the Atlantis Plague. Orchid Districts are set up around the world and most of the remaining populations fled to them in the hopes of finding a cure. Given a drug called Orchid in the interim, their symptoms slowed and scientists hoped they had enough time to find a way to reverse the plague sweeping the Earth.

Kate is tasked with administering the trials to infected patients, and struggles to deal with the staggering deaths involved. Unable to remain entirely clinical, she names each patient for the record. She takes samples, conducts autopsies and provides comfort to the victims while somehow managing to avoid infection herself.

The Orchid District in Marbella is the first landing zone of the Immari soldiers on the European continent. Slowly sweeping the planet, they offer those who are the survivors inheritance of the Earth. They paper the region with leaflets that promise a new world, freedom, and the choice to accept the evolution of their species as a result of the Atlantis Plague.

Camp Camelot

Located in Cape Town, South Africa, Camp Camelot is the Immari training camp is where super soldiers are being trained. Pushed to the limits of their endurance, some of these soldiers are able to run at a top speed of almost 35 kilometers an hour carrying packs weighing twenty-seven kilograms. The base commander, Raymond Sanders pushes each group harder than the next in order to find their limitations. He is oblivious to the fact that three percent die during training.

Kosta, who is Raymond's assistant, suggests that the abilities of the soldiers are plateauing and leveling off. He even tells Sanders that they are well beyond the point at which returns diminish, but Sanders doesn't care. He threatens to have Kosta join the next group of recruits if he continues to balk.

What finally changes his mind, and compels Sanders to finally move his troops to Antarctica for the final assault on the ship buried there is the information he receives that Dorian Sloane has emerged from the Antarctic ship with a metal case after being gone for nearly eleven weeks.



Atlantean Antarctica Ship

This is the name that refers to the Atlantean ship which is located in Antarctica.

Prism

The Immari Operations Base in Antarctica is called Prism.

Bay of Gibraltar

The Bay of Gibraltar is where a massive structure is located beneath which Kate now believes is the lost city of Atlantis.

Marbella Orchid Ghetto

Previously glitzy hotel towers, the Marbella Orchid Ghetto is a fenced in area in which current surviving victims of the Atlantis Plague are being held.

Old Town

Old Town is the region of Marbella that Martin insists he, Kate and the boys have to reach if they have any hopes of escaping the Immari.

Mediterranean Sea

The Mediterranean Sea is where the plague barge that Chang is working on is currently located.

Cape Town, South Africa

Cape Town, South Africa is the location where Raymond Sanders is in charge of training super soldiers in preparation of an attack in Antarctica against the Atlanteans.

Britain

Britain is where Martin wants Kate to go to ensure her safety.



Resurrection Ship

The Resurrection Ship is a ship that contains rows of tubes that assemble a new body which is an exact duplicate of the body it received a death signal from. This copy includes every cell and memory of the body or vessel that died.

Jebel Musa

Jebel Musa is the name of the hill overlooking Ceuta on which David is found after he manages to get out of the tube in Gibraltar.

Gulf of Aden

The Gulf of Aden is where David saved Kamau's life during a Clocktower operation three years before he runs into him again in the Immari stronghold of Ceuta.

Immari Corporate Research Campus

Immari Corporate Research Campus is located outside of Nuremberg in Germany and this campus is where an explosion occurred which coincides with a change in the effectiveness of the Orchid compound.

Isla de Alboran

The Isla de Alboran is a small island in the Mediterranean and is where David is considering taking Kate and the others.

Marbella, Spain

Marbella, Spain is where Martin and Kate work towards a cure for the plague until it is unsafe for them to stay there and Kate realizes that humanity is standing at the edge of extinction.

Alpha Lander

Alpha Lander is the name of the ship that Kate and her scientific partner used to get to Earth and study humankind from.



The Great Siege of Malta

The Great Siege of Malta is the name given to the invasion of Malta by Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent of the Ottoman Empire in 1563 when he had sailed in with a fleet of almost two hundred ships and fifty thousand troops – the largest in the world at that time.

St. Paul's Catacombs

Located in Rabat, Malta, St. Paul's Catacombs are where the bodies of Pagans, Jews and Christians alike are laid to rest side by side. They contain miles of tunnels and stone rooms and were used as a hiding place by Maltese residents when under attack by invading forces.

St. Paul's Grotto

St. Paul's Grotto is where St. Paul lived his life simply after being shipwrecked on Malta.

Rabat

Located on the other side of the old capital of Malta, Mdina, Rabat is believed to have been settled before 4000 B.C., and is on one of Malta's highest points of the island.

Megalithic Temples

Declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO, the Megalithic Temples are believed to be the oldest freestanding constructions on the earth, dating back to 3600 B.C. or earlier.

Fertile Crescent

Fertile Crescent is the name given to the crumbling primitive settlement thought to be the birthplace of civilization.

Mdina

Mdina is said to have been the site where St. Paul lived after being shipwrecked on Malta on his way to Rome to be tried as a rebel. Mdina is the old capital of Malta.

Stonehenge

Stonehenge is the name given to the megalithic monuments said to have been created in 2400 B.C., over a thousand years after the temples built on the island of Malta.



Themes and Motifs

Immaru vs. Immari

In *The Atlantis Plague* by A.G. Riddle, the Immaru are a group of Tibetan monks who lived in isolation in the Tibetan mountain range. Scientist Martin Grey is convinced that they are direct descendants of the Proto-Indo-Europeans (PIE) who had tremendous impact on the evolution of humankind. The PIE were the civilization that were the precursor for most people living in the Middle East, Europe and India today. Half the population of the world is directly descended from PIE groups. Historians have used language as a basis for tracing the origins of people today. The PIE lived in either the Eurasian Steppes or Anatolia, known today as southwestern Russia or Turkey.

The Immari are a group that splintered from the Immaru who had grown impatient with the myth and allegory and wanted to pursue answers in archeology or science. The Immari became a large conglomeration with hands in scientific pockets, financial holdings, and assassins willing to do whatever they were instructed to in order to maintain their standard of living. The Immari soon had agents in countries around the world, ready to react at a moment's notice. The Immari continue to work with the gene therapy, and are instrumental in creating the Orchid Districts as well as the Orchid drug itself to combat the unfavorable effects of their gene manipulation.

The Immari eventually wiped out all of the Immaru with the exception of Milo, who was entrusted with the sacred information given to them by the Atlanteans. The Immari concentrate on the small group of people who appear to either be immune to the gene therapy, or whose response to the therapy is accelerated intelligence. Everyone else they are willing to sacrifice in order to construct an army of superior human beings.

The Tapestry Chronicle

The Immaru reveal a tapestry that had been handed down for thousands of years and many generations. It depicts a total of four floods. The first is a flood of fire which scientists believe represented the Toba Catastrophe which was a volcanic eruption that occurred 70,000 years ago. This event changed the human race, and reveals that a 'god' saved a band of humans near death by giving them a transfusion of some kind which enabled this primitive group to survive the volcanic winter that followed and caused a change in the wiring of the brains of humans. The second flood shown on the tapestry is one of water. This section of the tapestry shows the god telling humans to move inland and to repent. Most ignore the warnings but the Immaru believed the warning, and carry a large box (similar to the ark as shown on Indian Jones) into the highlands. This ark contained the final remains of the alpha – the founder and chief of the tribe that the Immaru saved so many years previously. The third is a flood of blood which is a global apocalypse and the fourth flood depicted is one of light. This final flood was to be the salvation of mankind. The Immaru were the guardians of this historic



chronicle of the history of mankind. This was something that Kate instructed the Immaru to create as a failsafe so that the knowledge would continue to be handed down. The tapestry chronicle is given to Milo just before he is sent from the monastery. The Immaru knew that they were about to be attacked, and as the only young person in the monastery, Milo was entrusted with the sacred knowledge given to them by the Atlanteans.

Atlantis Aliens

In 'The Atlantis Plague' by A.G. Riddle is a captivating story that suggests aliens have been monitoring and studying our planet for as long as humans have existed. In fact, they not only studied us, but saved us from certain extinction when they foresaw a natural disaster that would be devastating to mankind. In his story Riddle describes two factions of Atlanteans who have differing opinions as to the degree of help or interference in our lives that is acceptable. The first group, consisting of two anthropological scientists, came to Earth to study mankind. When they realized that an extinction event had occurred, one of the scientists gave the Atlantis Gene to a primitive man to help him to survive. This gene was a sophisticated type of communications and survival gene, but our primitive species wasn't ready for the kind of information they were given, and periodic adjustments were required as the experiment rapidly spun out of control. Using gene therapy retroviruses, they gave humans incremental updates. The end of those alterations occurs when their ship is destroyed and the science team is killed.

The second ship arrived after their home planet was invaded and overrun by another alien of superior strength and abilities. The lone survivor and a ship full of Atlanteans in stasis travelled to Earth. He hoped to enlist the best of the best of the human race to create an army that would help him fight and defeat the aggressive aliens that attacked their Atlantean home world, surmising that it is only a matter of time before they come to Earth as well. To that end, they are willing to sacrifice that portion of the human population that does not thrive as a result of the gene therapy introduced by the Atlanteans. He continues the gene manipulations after the scientists are gone.

The Resurrection of Life

When Kate Warner begins to get her Atlantean memories back, she tells David as much as she can remember. Part of her explanations involves the Atlantean's ability to disable the gene that causes aging by simply manipulating genetic material. Aging, she tells him, is just a programmed death of cells. The Atlantean race however had soon realized that this kind of manipulation in most cases was a mistake, and soon ruled that it was taboo to disable aging. They felt that it represented a greed for life that revealed insecurity on the part of the person who wanted it done. By forgoing aging, a person reveals that they are not ready to move on. They are clinging to a youth that is unfinished, and they are unwilling to move beyond that point. By forgoing death, an Atlantean advertises their life is unfinished, or worse still that they felt their life had no



value and they were unhappy with the life they'd lived. Either way, the disabling of the aging gene was forbidden except for in the most stringent cases.

There are some groups that are encouraged to disable aging and as such, maintain the age that they are currently at. One of those groups would include deep space explorers such as Kate and her partner had been. Since they are a science expedition, similar to evolutionary anthropologists, their work was considered dangerous enough to rate exception and resurrection. If either of them were killed in the field as a result of primitive world research, they were programmed to be resurrected to resume their work as it was impractical to try to send a replacement team. As such, she and her partner would be resurrected should harm befall them, and they would return with all of their memories intact right up until the moment they lost their lives.

In the case of Kate Warner, she began life in her dead mother's womb inside a resurrection tube, placed there by her father. When she was delivered, years later, she was born as a child rather than being resurrected as an adult like all others. As such, she didn't get the memory download that accompanies each resurrection until she reached the age of maturity at which time the memories were downloaded into her as though she were a sponge. At that time, she remembers Ares, and recognizes him as Dorian.

Styles

Point of View

The Atlantis Plague is a fictional account of the evolution of life on planet Earth and is told from several first person perspectives. The narrative is reliable and consistent, each perspective clearly defined and well developed. While the story could have been told from a single perspective, it is likely that the impact of the story would have been lost had that been the case.

The main character, Kate Warner, is a scientist who is studying how autism affects people and searching for a cure. She has no idea in the beginning that she retains the memories of one of the two Atlantean evolutionary biologists who came to this planet to study our evolution when man was still in Neanderthal stages.

The evolutionary biologists that came to early Earth came in search of creation which they believed was both the origin and the final destination for the consciousness of mankind. Termed the 'Origin Mystery', they sought the link that would bring them closer to the Origin Entity. When a geological event threatened the species on this planet, knowing that all life is connected to the Origin Entity and therefore important in its own right, the scientific explorers gave our species a gene which enabled them to survive the disaster. They were followed to Earth however by a General from their planet who escaped decimation by yet another alien species who invaded their world. General Ares came to Earth hoping to create and recruit an army capable of repelling this threat to mankind.

Language and Meaning

In The Atlantis Plague, the language used is patterned around the different groups involved. One group consists of scientists, and the scientific community. Their concerns revolve around genetic samples, gene manipulation, and searching for a cure for the Atlantis Plague. They are well educated, well-spoken individuals who are driven to find answers to the mystery of the plague that is wiping out millions of Earth's population.

A second group, while also intelligent and well-spoken, are more geared to a military action and reaction to the circumstances they face. The language revolves more around weaponry, military tactics, invasions, and defense strategies. As such, they employ the use of modern and even futuristic weaponry, and operate using a militaristic hierarchy.

A third group of people are simply caught up in the middle of everything. They consist of a wide range of ordinary people from a myriad of backgrounds, all fighting to stay alive. The Atlantis Plague either kills its victims, causes them to devolve, or to evolve in drastic measures either way. They are herded into containments called Orchid Districts where they are monitored, sampled and divided into groups according to their own response to the Plague.



Despite the multiple groups with varying agendas, the story is clear and concise, easy to follow, and hard to put down.

Structure

The Atlantis Plague is the second in a series by A.G. Riddle that began with The Atlantis Gene. This work of fiction is just under four hundred pages in length and is divided into three sections, each named to reflect the most poignant information within. This novel is further divided into ninety-eight chapters which range in length from one to ten pages, averaging four pages overall. The three sections of this book are one hundred and thirteen, one hundred and fifty eight and one hundred and eleven pages respectively. The first section, titled 'Secrets' reveals the barest minimum of information to several key characters who are deeply entrenched in the mystery that is the Atlantis Plague. In this section, the key characters are introduced, and their connected histories are hinted at. In the second of three sections, titled 'Truth, Lies & Traitors', A.G. Riddle begins to reveal how convoluted mankind's path really is. This section reveals some of the forces that are working against each other as mankind struggles to survive the plague. In the final segment, titled 'The Atlantis Experiment', the truth of the Atlantis Plague is finally revealed.

The story is fast paced, and action packed as several groups work either together or against each other in an effort to manipulate mankind to their advantage. The first group, containing scientists that begin with Kate Warner and Arthur Janus begin altering early man by implanting the Atlantis Gene into one of the sole surviving Neanderthal males after a super volcano nearly wipes out all life on the planet. While they are adjusting and tweaking the implant given to the Neanderthal male, a message from their home world reveals they have been invaded and overrun, occurring in just a twenty four hour period of time by a much stronger species.

While these two alien explorers who have come to Earth as evolutionary biologists are trying to save mankind, their counterpart has other ideas. General Ares arrives in a resurrection ship with a contingent of their people. He has other plans. Ares believes that there is only room for one sentient species in the universe, and as such, humans would have to be eliminated, but not before they aid him in eliminating their common enemy – the species that attacked his home world.



Quotes

There are guards outside this building, and if they see you, they'll take you into custody, or worse, shoot you on sight.

-- Martin Grey (chapter 3 paragraph 10)

Importance: Kate's adoptive father Martin explains the importance of Kate maintaining her anonymity as anything less is likely to get her killed. Most of the world believes she is directly responsible for the outbreak called the Atlantis Plague.

I want you to save the human race from extinction.

-- The Atlantean, Ares (chapter 9 paragraph 4)

Importance: The Atlantean named Ares tries to convince Dorian that he has only the survival of the human species at heart. He is surprised that with all of his intelligence, Dorian is unable to set aside his fear and hatred to see the truth behind his words, but continues to try anyway.

You've really shaken off that used up, rode hard and put away wet look you wore so poorly.

-- Raymond Sanders (chapter 18 paragraph 6)

Importance: This is Sanders attempt to get under Dorian's skin and to humiliate him. He wants to show whoever is watching in the observation room that he is in charge and that there is nothing to fear from Dorian.

We believe the viral components of the Atlantis Plague were added to the human genome tens of thousands of years ago.

-- Martin (chapter 21 paragraph 23)

Importance: Martin is trying to give Kate as much information as he can in the hopes that she can better understand the plague and participate in the creation of a cure, as he is afraid that now that he carries the infection himself, he will not survive to do so.

Immari International has the courage to do what must be done, to save the lives we can and offer peace and closure to those we can't.

-- Dorian Sloane (chapter 34 paragraph 19)

Importance: This is the speech made by Dorian Sloane via a large outdoor screen made from bed sheets to a new group of people brought into an Orchid District. He broadcasts his message of hope for the survivors in an effort to recruit more able bodied people to their cause and those who abstain are simply packed in with the sick and dying, and are dumped with them out at sea from plague barges.

I assume the British have mined the straits to cut him (Dorian) off from the Mediterranean.



-- Kamau (chapter 39 paragraph 27)

Importance: Kamau tells David that Dorian Sloane is on his way to the Ceuta Base where they are, and as such, David knows that they have limited time to prepare and take the base, as once Dorian arrives, he will surely recognize David.

There are far worse things in life (than death... previous sentence) – one being living a life you aren't proud of.

-- David Vale (chapter 51 paragraph 1)

Importance: David wants the men to understand that the cause they are fighting for is just, and that by doing so they will give the people in Europe a chance to perhaps stand against the Immari.

It seems there are still some who endeavor to fight for a world where everyone can be saved, and the BBC will continue to bring you reports of their heroism, so long as it exists.

-- BBC Broadcast (chapter 56 paragraph 6)

Importance: This is one of the few remaining stations still broadcasting in a world that is falling apart. This particular broadcast was made after it was discovered that the Berber freedom fighters had taken part in overthrowing the Immari base in Ceuta. The BBC is expressing its joy over having discovered that somewhere in the world, there are people who still believe that everyone has a right to survive, and is willing to fight for that right.

I don't care where she (Johanna) goes, she just better be gone when I get back.

-- Dorian (chapter 59 paragraph 23)

Importance: When the pilot that Dorian saves dies anyway, despite his best efforts to save her, he takes it as a sign that the Ares side of him is the correct one. He decides that the time he spent on sentimentality was wasted, and as such does not want his attachment to Johanna to continue as it is his opinion that his feelings for her makes him weak. As such, he instructs the Captain to get rid of her before he returns to the ship.

A mind that dwells in the past builds a prison it cannot escape.

-- Qian (chapter 65 paragraph 2)

Importance: Milo uses these words of wisdom to help him focus on the task at hand rather than be drawn into a well of self-pity and sadness over the loss of his friends and the only home he'd ever known.

It (The Atlantis Gene) causes the body to emit radiation, a sort of subatomic download of data.

-- Kate Warner (chapter 72 paragraph 7)



Importance: Kate explains the significance of the Atlantis Gene to David after she wakes from yet another 'download' of memories. This is significant because it explains to David how the Atlantis Gene is able to replicate a given Atlantean, restoring them to the moment before their deaths with all of their memories intact.

If we consider the Tibetan tapestry, which we all agree is the key to Martin's code and chronology, there is a very clear piece of treasure in the depiction: the ark the primitives carry into the highlands at the time of the flood and the fall of Atlantis.

-- Janus (chapter 76 paragraph 17)

Importance: In the helicopter on the way to Malta, Janus and David continue to hash out the significance of Martin's message. Janus believes that part of the message from Martin is meant strictly for Kate, and is correct in assuming that the 'treasure' mentioned by Martin is actually the Ark that was left in the care of the Immaru for so many generations.

Their science and their morals blind them to the truth, the unmistakable reality: that this world, and the universe that surrounds it, has enough room for only one sentient race.

-- General Ares (chapter 82 paragraph 16)

Importance: General Ares struggles to understand why his two Atlantean compatriots can't seem to understand that there is no room for a second sentient race in this universe. He believes that only one such race can survive, and as such, is willing to do whatever it takes to ensure that they are the last race standing while the two scientists from his planet are more concerned with saving mankind.

I am one of the two scientists who came here a very long time ago to study the hominins on this planet.

-- Janus (chapter 89 paragraph 6)

Importance: In this revelation, Janus explains that he is one of what the humans have been referring to as an Atlantean, having come to Earth with Kate to study our species.

I never give up on anyone I love.

-- David Vale (chapter 98 paragraph 17)

Importance: David tells Kate how he really feels and despite the fact that she believes she has changed and isn't the woman he knew, he reassures her, reminding her that by saving the human race rather than choosing to save herself and return herself to the woman he knew, a big part of her was still in there, and he wasn't giving up.