

Born (Born Trilogy) Study Guide

Born (Born Trilogy) by Tara Brown

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



Contents

Born (Born Trilogy) Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Chapters 1 through 4.....	5
Chapters 5 through 9.....	8
Chapters 10 through 12.....	11
Chapters 13 through 14.....	14
Chapters 15 through 16.....	16
Chapters 17 through 20.....	18
Chapters 21 through 24.....	21
Characters.....	24
Symbols and Symbolism.....	27
Settings.....	29
Themes and Motifs.....	30
Styles.....	32
Quotes.....	34



Plot Summary

Born is the first book in a trilogy by author Tara Brown. The novel follows 19-year-old Emma as she navigates a world filled with disease and danger 10 years after the United Nations initiated a series of events that have devastated the planet. Initially a loner, Emma gradually gathers a circle of trusted friends and decides to take action rather than merely survive.

Emma has been alone in the 10 years since 2012, when her father died just as the world was collapsing as the result of a series of environmental disasters and man-made evil. The powers that have taken over the world are trying to create a new race of perfect people by carefully breeding out disease and weakness, and women Emma's age are in constant danger of being captured and taken to breeder farms, where they are forced to bear children. Other dangers abound, including people who have been infected by a deadly plague and wander the earth seeking victims of their own.

The daughter of a survivalist, Emma has vowed to take care of herself and help no one until a young girl named Anna knocks at her door one night seeking help for her brother Jake, who has fallen into a deep hole and injured his leg. Emma reluctantly helps, but soon finds herself drawn to the pair and realizes she is lonely.

After being captured by men who plan to sell her to the breeder farms, Emma meets another young captive named Meg and the two escape together, but when they arrive at Emma's farm house, they find that Jake and Anna have been captured. As they search for them, they come upon a camp run by Jake and Anna's brother Will, who has been thought dead, and learn that the group is planning a rebellion. Jake is eventually found, but Anna has been taken to a breeder farm, so Emma hatches a plan to allow herself to be captured in order to rescue her friend.

On the way to the farm, Anna meets Sarah, a very young girl who is terrified and latches onto her. Once inside, they find that the facility is pristine and something of a haven from the difficulties of their normal lives, but they also learn that although it is common knowledge that the women are given comfortable lives in the city after they have borne three children, the truth is that they are killed. With the help of an old friend of her father's and a friendly nurse, Anna,

Emma and Sarah escape by hiding in a garbage truck filled with dead bodies and return to the camp.

Throughout these events, Emma has been torn between feelings for Jake, who is sweet and funny, and Will, who is more challenging. Both seem to be pursuing her, but her years of isolation have not given her the tools she needs to sort out her feelings, although she eventually realizes she is in love with Will.

Emma is haunted by what she learned at the facility and decides to stage a raid on the breeder farm and free the women and children. With the help of Will and others, she is



successful, so Marshall, who runs one of the rebel camps, asks her to raid other farms as well. During the first such raid, she and others manage to get inside, but as she is about to implode the building, she is shot with a tranquilizer dart and before she blacks out, she sees Marshall's face hovering over her.



Chapters 1 through 4

Summary

Chapter 1

Chapter 1 opens with the narrator leaving a cellar she has been hiding in for four days. She is in an abandoned farmhouse that used to belong to her grandmother and she muses about the world being dead. After filling a backpack with jars of preserved food, she quietly leaves, being careful to ensure no one is around. After running through a wheat field and forest, she sees Leo, a timber wolf, who is waiting for her and greets her warmly. After again checking to be sure they are not being followed, they begin the walk home, which will take all day.

Chapter 2

In Chapter 2, the narrator is sitting in her small cabin when she hears a timid knock on the door. It frightens her, but she gets a gun and opens the door to find a young girl of about fifteen. She is crying and begs the narrator to help her brother, who has fallen into a hole. The narrator is afraid the girl is being used as bait by the infected, but reluctantly goes with her and together they pull her brother from the hole. He introduces himself as Jake and says his sister is named Anna. He is tall and handsome, and the narrator finds herself thinking about kissing him. Jake's leg is injured, so she takes them back to her cabin and pulls out the large piece of wood that has pierced his leg. She also learns that Jake and Anna, who appear to be alone in the world, have been watching her for two months, and she thinks they must leave as soon as she has taken care of Jake's injury.

Chapter 3

In Chapter 3, the narrator, who finally identifies herself as Emma, or Em, tells Anna that she learned all her skills from her father, who was a survivalist and is now dead, as are Anna's parents. Em takes her bow and arrow into the forest to hunt pheasant, thinking about how at first she was afraid of the forest but now it has become part of her family. After downing a pheasant, she suddenly feels a sharp pain in her thigh and thinks Anna has shot her because they want her cabin, but she soon learns that a military man was approaching the cabin and Anna shot him. Anna is hurt that Em think she would shoot her after she helped Jake, but she also makes it clear that she will do anything to protect her brother. They make it back to the cabin and then Em passes out.

Chapter 4

In Chapter 4, Emma awakens to learn that although Anna has difficulty reading, she used Emma's survivalist books to remove the bullet and stitch up her leg. We learn that it has been ten years since the panic began and everyone fled the cities, and Emma's father died in the beginning so she has been alone all along. She survives by not helping other people and she muses that Jake and Anna are the first ones she has ever



helped. They agree that someone will come looking for the dead sniper so they will go to another of the houses where Emily hides supplies. However, Anna did not stitch the wound correctly, so the chapter ends with Emma restitching it herself while thinking about the day her father took her to ride the carousel at the San Francisco Pier.

Analysis

The first section introduces Emma, Jake and Anna and begins to establish the book's premise. However, the author is slow to reveal details, so the situation is still somewhat fuzzy at this point.

We learn that Emma is a loner partly by choice. As a survivalist, her father passed along a number of skills that have enabled her to survive, and he also gave her the philosophy that she can trust no one and must look out for herself. She is strong and capable, but also somewhat fatalistic because there are so many dangers around her, including people who have become infected with a horrible disease that causes sores, bleeding eyes and madness. The decision to open her door to Anna is a difficult one because Emma is suspicious of everyone, but it is a decision that changes her life.

Jake is immediately established as something of a goof. Although he is older than Anna, he has no survival skills or instincts and Emma thinks many times that his carelessness will get them killed eventually. Anna, on the other hand, is capable and fiercely loyal to her brother, a trait that Emma grudgingly admires, realizing it is very different from her own loner tendencies.

The cabin in which Emma lives most of the time becomes an important symbol in the book. Both the cabin and the farmhouse serve as ties to her past and reminders of the life she led before the disasters occurred. Her father died, and she was left on her own at age nine.

This section also establishes Emma's relationship with Leo, the wolf with whom she has a deep connection. He is more like a dog than a wild animal and seems to understand what Emma says to him.

We also see Emma's immediate attraction to Jake, stirring up feelings that are completely foreign to her.

Discussion Question 1

What do we learn about Emma from the author's description of her cabin and the farmhouse? What impressions do you get of her former life?



Discussion Question 2

When Emma hears the knock at her door, why is she reluctant to open it even though a young girl is begging for help? What do you think prompts her to open the door and ultimately help Jake and Anna?

Discussion Question 3

Jake and Anna are siblings but they are very different. What do you know about each of them at this point? How do you think they have survived on their own?

Vocabulary

Persuade, pollute, corrupt, embrace, linger, novelty, constricted, pristine, jostle, penetrate, saunter, signify, hackles, timid, hypnotic, emerge, dejected, resigned, gaunt, agitation, scrutiny, remainder, devastating, vulnerable, grimace, quarantine, candor, tattered, anemic.



Chapters 5 through 9

Summary

Chapter 5

In Chapter 5, Emma is devastated when they leave the cabin because although Jake says they will come back, she knows it will never be safe. As they are walking toward their next destination, they come upon several of the infected feeding off a man who is still alive. Emma kills several with her bow and arrow, and then she is shocked when Anna kills the others with a gun Emma has given her. Anna tries to kill the infecteds' victim but isn't strong enough to use Emma's bow so they agree to make one for her. Jake and Emma talk about their mutual love of reading Robin Hood and Emma sees joy in him, something she has not seen for a long time and her attraction to him gets stronger. Jake and Anna reveal that they have been close enough to see the city, which is on the edge of the desert but still has electricity and running water. They also tell Emma that they think the farms are still up and running, and the babies go to the city after they are born.

Chapter 6

In Chapter 6, they arrive back at the farmhouse. Emma hates coming back so quickly but it is their best option. She learns that Jake and Anna have an older brother, Will, who was taken and they assume he is dead. Their father tried to teach them survival skills, but Will and Jake were goof-offs and that is why Jake is now less competent than his younger sister. Jake's leg has become infected, so Emma leaves to get medication for him, insisting that Anna stay behind with Jake and instructing her on how to amputate his leg if she is not back in three days. Emma realizes she feels less lonely with Anna around.

Chapter 7

In Chapter 7, Em runs for hours until she reaches a town, narrowly evading capture by a group of men before she enters the gates. Inside, she barter for several vials of antibiotic and a room for the night.

Chapter 8

In Chapter 8, Em is awakened by a woman who says she has been sold out to the breeders, but the woman helps her escape through an underground tunnel just before the men come to take her. As she slips away from the town, she hears women begging with the men who are taking them to the farms. Returning to the farmhouse, she finds that Jake's condition has worsened, but she gives him the first dose of the antibiotic and hopes it works. He asks her to lie down beside him and they tell each other stories from their past, then he kisses her.



Chapter 9

In Chapter 9, Jake's fever has broken overnight and he sleeps soundly while Anna and Em hang out together. Em goes out to kill a bird for dinner, but is captured by men who saw her in the town and placed in a cage along with a 15-year-old girl who introduces herself as Meg. As the men get drunk around a fire, Meg manages to pick the lock on her cage but before Em can pick hers, one of the men takes her out of the cage and starts to rape her, but Meg stabs him and they escape. They run back to the farmhouse together, but Jake and Anna are nowhere to be found.

Analysis

The book's premise gradually becomes more clear in these chapters. In the new world order, special "farms" have been established for the purpose of breeding an elite group of children. In order to accomplish this, young women are captured and taken to the farms against their will. This provides additional explanation about the wide variety of dangers Emma and other young women face. In addition to the possibility of being killed by "the infected" -- those who have contracted an unnamed disease that causes, among other things, madness, they are in danger of being forcibly taken to the breeding farms. The new world is now shown as a misogynistic place in which women are seen simply as incubators with no value beyond breeding.

The author also begins to ratchet up the horror as the characters come upon the infected eating someone who is not yet dead. This reinforces the madness into which the world has devolved, but the need to kill the victim as an act of mercy is not something that particularly horrifies Emma and the others because at this point in their lives, they have seen and experienced incredibly horrific things. This incident is disturbing for them, but not in a life-altering way. Similarly, Emma is quite matter-of-fact when she instructs Anna on how to amputate Jake's leg if she does not return in time with the medication he needs.

Anna also emerges as a strong character when she offers to kill the infected's victim herself and in her willingness to cut off Jake's leg if it becomes necessary. Even though Jake is older, Anna is depicted as the stronger of the two and the one most capable of coping with the challenges they face in the new world order.

Meg is also introduced as another strong female character. Although she is young, she is fearless enough to stab the man who is attempting to rape Emma.

Again in this section, Emma continues to embrace others in a way she has not done since her father died and she was left to face the world alone. Not only has she taken Jake and Anna into her home, she risks her life to get medication to save Jake's, and when she encounters Meg at the camp, she barely hesitates before taking another straggler into her life.



Discussion Question 1

How is life in the town different from the rural life Emma has been living? What similarities are there?

Discussion Question 2

What are some of the things that are revealed in these chapters about the new world order? Can you begin to predict other things that might be revealed later?

Discussion Question 3

After being a loner for such a long time, why do you think Emma takes Meg into her life?

Vocabulary

Haven, semblance, simultaneous, indicator, oblivious, peripheral, flex, guarantee, mutate, contagious, compensate, pout, grimace, exertion, irrational, misguided, unnerve, distinct, medieval, ambush, perk (noun), initial, muted, eternity, douse, disoriented, recede, affinity.



Chapters 10 through 12

Summary

Chapter 10

When Chapter 10 opens, five days have passed with no sign of Jake and Anna. Meg annoys Em with her constant chatter, but when she reveals that her mother and aunt were recently killed by the others, Em makes a silent vow to never leave her. Meg thinks Leo is trying to point them toward Jake and Anna, so they go in search but are captured by a man with a gun, who takes them to a camp filled with people. They are not the others, and they welcome Meg and Em, giving them food and clean clothes. A very kind woman named Mary takes Em to a lake, where she feels free for the first time as she swims in the clear, cold water. One of the young men in the camp turns out to be Jake and Anna's brother Will, whom they thought was dead, so she tells him what she knows about them.

Chapter 11

In Chapter 11, Will and Em set out for her farmhouse to look for Jake and Anna, leaving Meg and Leo behind with Mary and the others. When they arrive, they find that the house and barn have been taken over by the infected, so they sneak away and Emma is sad that she might never be able to return to her childhood home. As they look back, they see the men who captured Emma and Meg, then they find a bandage from Will's leg on the ground and realize the men have probably captured him and Anna, but they have broken a series of tree branches to mark a trail. Will kisses Emma and she feels a little guilty since Jake kissed her too.

Chapter 12

In Chapter 12, they stop for the night and Will tells Emma that when he and his siblings were found hiding in a house, he allowed himself to be captured and taken to the work farms to give Jake and Anna a chance to escape. He escaped with some others and they want to start a revolution, then he tells Emma the story of how the problems began. In 2012, the United Nations held an environmental conference and the U.S., Canada and China pulled out because they refused to slow their pollution to the recommended level. The U.N. then instigated a plague, using a vaccine to control it as they saw fit, but it mutated. At the same time, the U.N. placed bombs in the ocean along the Japanese coastline, wiping out Japan and making the West Coast of North America a target for huge tidal waves. The U.N. decided to restart humanity but set it up to succeed by building breeder farms where only the fit and healthy were allowed to reproduce. Girls there breed every three years and only up to three times, and the pregnancies are accomplished by artificial insemination. The U.N. runs the military, which is corrupt, and they have built six cities worldwide and plan to clean every inch of the world. They are leaving the people in the borderlands alone until they have this part of the world cleaned



up, with disease bred out, then they will round everyone up because they cannot be allowed to breed. The chapter closes with Emma asking whether the babies created by science are different, and Will says yes.

Analysis

The discovery of the camp is a new turn for the plot of *Born*. Previously, any group of people the characters have encountered have been portrayed as threatening and in some cases, even evil. Emma has offered sanctuary to Jake, Anna and Meg, but now for the first time she finds and is able to accept sanctuary from others.

The most important purpose of this section is the explanation Will provides of how the world collapse happened. The author sets the beginning in our present time, providing an opportunity for her to put forth some political views about the environment, the United Nations and the devastation that can be caused when powerful people overreach. She also harkens back to World War II when Adolph Hitler tried to create a perfect race, but taking it a step further with the idea of facilities where the breeding of that race actually occurs. The ideas are complex, but this chapter helps the reader begin to make sense of some of the things that have occurred so far, including the breeder farms, the cities, and the infected.

Emma's budding sexual feelings also get more complicated in this section. After avoiding other people for the past decade, she is immediately physically attracted to Jake, but now finds herself attracted to his brother Will as well. Her feelings in this section begin to set up the triangle that will be an important element of the plot going forward.

Discussion Question 1

Why do you think Emma's experience at the lake have such a profound affect on her?

Discussion Question 2

Consider Will's description of how the world declined into its current state. Do you think something like this is possible? Why or why not?

Discussion Question 3

Compare and contrast the camp in which Will lives with the town Emma visited to obtain medication.

Vocabulary

Bunker, animated, diversion, remorseful, agitated, sacred, savage, tirade, levity, subtly, nonchalant, aghast, sarcasm, embedded, raspy, trance, intimidated, commanding, gawk, raucous, commotion, stoic, immune, cyclical, silhouette.



Chapters 13 through 14

Summary

Chapter 13

In Chapter 13, Will and Emma arrive at a camp that Will started and is now run by a man named Marshall, and Emma is immediately jealous when a girl named Star greets Will with a kiss. They soon find Jake, who says Anna has been taken. Emma looks at Marshall's maps and finds the location of the nearest breeding farm, and she plans to get picked up on purpose so she can rescue Anna. Emma, Jake and Will set out for the farm and Emma is hurt when she overhears Jake tell Will that they kissed, but it was a mistake. Will later reveals that he knows the layout of the breeding farm because he was there for a while, being forced to provide sperm donations.

Chapter 14

In Chapter 14, Emma succeeds in getting captured, but first tells Jake and Will to leave if she is gone more than two weeks, adding that she and Anna would probably be pregnant by that time anyway. She is surprised to find that one of her captors is an old friend of her father named Serge, and when he recognizes her, he secretly protects her. In the truck, an 11-year-old girl named Sarah attaches herself to Emma, so when they are taken into the farm, where Serge whispers that he will rescue her, Emma insists that the girl stay with her. Both of them are tested and found to be healthy, so they have an opportunity to shower and are given white robes, pants, slippers and a delicious meal. Emma also gets a physical exam during which the doctor breaks her hymen and expresses surprise that she is still a virgin. Emma quickly finds Anna, tells her Will is alive, and learns that she has not been impregnated yet because she needed to get healthy first. Emma also learns that only white women are being bred and the only people of color are workers.

Analysis

The author uses a contrasting technique in describing the breeding facility. On the surface, it is something of a paradise compared to the lives Emma and Anna have been living. Everything is clean and pristine, which is emphasized by the fact that the decor is entirely white. The girls have access to hot showers and clean, white clothing. They are served food that is not just servicable, but the most delicious they have ever experienced. They are treated with kindness by the staff.

All of this comfort and comparable luxury lulls the inhabitants into a state of acceptance while in fact, they are being treated so well because it is necessary to ensure they are as healthy as possible in order to give birth to healthy babies. The pristine surroundings mask the horrible, ugly truth of the facility's purpose and the evil that lies behind it.



In other developments, Emma begins to widen her circle even more when she takes young Sarah under her wing. In a short period of time, she has evolved from a mistrustful loner to someone who welcomes and protects strangers who need her.

The book's love triangle also deepens when Emma becomes jealous of Will's apparent relationship with Star, and again when she overhears Jake say that kissing her had been a mistake. In addition, Will's character comes into clearer focus with the revelation that he was held captive at a breeding facility and forced to provide sperm donations to inseminate the girls there.

Discussion Question 1

Why is meeting Star such a confusing development for Emma? How does she handle the situation? Do you think her reaction is right or wrong?

Discussion Question 2

In what ways does the atmosphere inside the breeding farm contrast with the facility's true purpose?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Emma take Sarah under her wing so willingly and vow to protect her?

Vocabulary

Paranoid, radiate, centennial, disheartened, daunting, strategically, lumber (verb), scavenger, vigorously, stoic, anticipate, smirk, rein, feint, repetitive, majestic, commodity, casualty, grimace, traumatize, gingerly, transformation, rebellion, muster, bewitch.



Chapters 15 through 16

Summary

Chapter 15

In Chapter 15, several days have passed and the girls are enjoying the food and comforts of their new environment when a nurse named Louise comes with a message from Serge saying they must leave tomorrow. Although everyone believes that when the women have finished breeding, they are given nice homes in the city, Louise says that isn't true. In fact, they are killed and the bodies hauled away in a garbage truck, and the plan is for the girls to stow away in it. Louise gives them a key card and a map of the premises to help them find the dumpsters. They sneak out, get into black body bags and into a dumpster, then are dumped into the back of a truck along with many bags of dead bodies. After riding for a few minutes, they climb onto the ledge of the truck and jump out, sustaining only minor injuries except for Anna's broken arm.

Chapter 16

In Chapter 16, the girls, who are now filthy again, make the long walk back to the camp, helped by the broken branches Will and Jake left to show them the way. By the time they arrive, Emma has a serious infection but eventually recovers. She is thrilled to see both Will and Jake and finds herself torn between them. Emma tells Will about the breeders being killed, and when Will kisses her and asks if there is something between her and Jake, she says she does not know what she wants and he replies that he will keep fighting for her. Emma, Jake, Will, Anna and Sarah start walking toward the other camp to retrieve Meg and Leo, and Emma is increasingly drawn to Will, thinking that if she is not careful, she will lose herself to him.

Analysis

The horrors of the breeding plan are fully revealed in this section. Previously, it has been believed that once a girl has born three babies, she is given a nice condo and a good life in the city, but in fact, the opposite is true, and the terror of being dumped into a truck filled with dead bodies as they escape provides another stark contrast to the peaceful life inside the facility. The author makes a further point when, after noting previously that only white babies are being bred because they are deemed superior, it is a black nurse who helps Emma, Anna and Sarah escape.

Discussion Question 1

What are some of the qualities that now make Emma more attracted to Will than to Jake? What are the qualities she dislikes about him?



Discussion Question 2

What forces come together to enable Emma, Anna and Sarah to escape from the facility? Are any of them surprising?

Discussion Question 3

When Emma tells Will that the women at the facility are being killed for no reason, he replies that it does not seem like no reason to the people in charge. Explain why killing the women makes sense in the new world order.

Vocabulary

Stark, mosey, suction, massive, instinctual, sanctuary, abyss, lurch, avalanch, massive, obvious, natter, cringe, dislocate, buckle (verb), compensate, aflame, capability, remnant, illusion, intimidated, predator, taut.



Chapters 17 through 20

Summary

Chapter 17

In Chapter 17, the group arrives at Emma's farmhouse and finds it deserted now. Suddenly shots ring out and Serge attacks Emma and prepares to rape her, but Leo appears and kills him. Anna, Will and Emma kill the other men who are with him and Will is impressed at what a good shot his sister is. Emma asks Leo about Meg and is disturbed by the anxiety he displays so they load up with supplies and head for the camp, where they find that Meg has entered a sexual relationship with a man named Eric, who is about twice her age. Emma attacks him even though Meg says he is her boyfriend and tries to stop her.

Chapter 18

In Chapter 18, Meg is furious at Emma but eventually understands that the relationship was wrong. Emma and Mary take Sarah to the lake and Emma swims naked and is soon joined by Will, Jake and Anna. Anna berates Will for leaving her and Jake even though he insists that he searched for them for years, but she forgives him when he says he will never leave them again. Emma accidentally takes Will's clothes instead of her own and when she returns them to him in a dark tent, he kisses her and clearly wants sex, but she pulls away and leaves. Later, sitting around the fire, Emma feels like she is camping, not hiding in the woods as the world falls apart.

Chapter 19

Chapter 19 finds Jake and Emma at the lake watching Sarah and Leo swim when Jake apologizes for kissing Emma since she now feels weird around him, but she says she is glad he did it. They return to the camp and kiss, and Emma begins hatching a plan to return to the breeding farm and free the women there. Jake remarks on how much she has changed and she thinks about how much she now cares about others. Will finds her crying and comforts her when she tells him that some of the body bags ripped open on the truck and the women's bodies had been gutted.

Chapter 20

In Chapter 20, Will tries to convince Marshall to help with a raid on the breeding farm, but he insists that Emma is mistaken about the women being killed. Emma talks with a couple of other women in the camp and quietly recruits a small group to go with her to the farm. One of the women, Nan, says she has been to the city and has seen the children, who are like little adults with bad tempers. She saw a pack of twelve-year-old kids kill an older woman and smile about it. After another pang of jealousy over Star, who appears to be Will's girlfriend, and an angry encounter with Will in which he grabs



her arms hard and shakes her, she thinks that her emotions are shutting off again and she plans to return to her cabin after saving the women and children at the farm.

Analysis

The plot takes a surprising turn when Serge, who was a lifelong friend of Emma's father and was directly responsible for enabling her to escape from the breeding farm, reappears as another face of evil. In a world that has been turned upside down, it is difficult to know who to trust. In a previous chapter, we learned that people of color are not considered desirable, yet it is a black nurse who helps the girls escape. In the same manner, someone who appears to be the epitome of kindness and safety unexpectedly becomes a threat.

Sexuality again emerges as a theme when Emma learns that young Meg has been sleeping with a much-older man, someone who apparently has maneuvered these situations with young girls in the past. Again we see the changes that Emma has undergone as she immediately attacks the man in an unwelcome attempt to defend Meg. While it is clear that Meg is too young for a sexual relationship, Emma is not, yet she continues to fight her feelings for Will.

Chapters 19 and 20 are primarily used to set up the upcoming raid on the breeder farm. Like Emma and Anna, many of the women in the camp demonstrate extreme bravery by volunteering to help with the project although it will be very dangerous. Throughout the book, the female characters have emerged as the strong leaders while the men are portrayed as unreliable and sometime dangerous.

Discussion Question 1

What happened to Emma at the breeding farm that affects her feelings about having sex with Will? What impact does it have on her?

Discussion Question 2

Discuss Emma's relationship with Leo. What makes her feel so close to him? In what unusual ways do they communicate?

Discussion Question 3

Discuss the sibling relationship among Will, Jake and Anna. In what ways are they alike and different? How does each relate to the other?

Vocabulary

Slink, leer, expectant, pervert, mesmerized, mastermind, viral, fleeting, dilemma, contemplate, instinctive, roguish, brainstorm, tactful, tolerate, eke, delicate, pension.



Chapters 21 through 24

Summary

Chapter 21

In Chapter 21, the ragged group of people prepare to set off from the camp. Star makes a remark that angers Emma, then she becomes angry when Will calls her a child and shows him the bruises he caused on her arms. He apologizes and says he did not mean to hurt her, but their relationship is at an impasse. As they walk down the mountain, Emma thinks that being with Jake makes her happy while being with Will makes her feel something stronger and scarier that she cannot name. Later, Will tells her that Marshall is a disease specialist who escaped from the breeder camp with him. The other people at the camp are those whom Marshall freed from a work farm with the help of Star's brother, a CIA technician who has a fortress near the farm and knows how their system works. When Emma asks about Star, Will says he saved her from the breeder farm but leaves it at that.

Chapter 22

In Chapter 22, a young woman named Muriel serves as bait for the truck but the plan to ambush the men falls apart when a group of the infected arrive and Muriel is taken. Someone attacks Emma and when she awakes, she hears Will arguing for her life to be spared as others in the group say the rule is a life for a life and she has apparently gotten Muriel killed. Emma and Leo slip away and get to the breeder farm, where she manages to free a large group of women and children as the building is imploded. As Emma prepares to return to the building to save more, Will appears and carries her into the woods.

Chapter 23

In Chapter 23, Emma learns that after she slipped away, Will and the others staked out every exit to the breeder farm so they could help when she freed the women and children. A woman named Mona tells Emma that Marshall will be angry because Emma's daring raid has shown him up, and that she and some of the others are tired of Marshall making plans that never come to fruition. When Emma asks Will about Star again, he finally tells her that she was brutally raped and he saved her, and she has been very attached to him since then. Emma realizes she is deeply in love with him, but tells him he needs a girl like Star who needs to be taken care of, whereas she needs someone like Jake who does not try to save her. Arriving at the camp, Emma is surprised when Marshall is nice to her and asks her to lead raids on the other breeder farms. That night, she and Will sleep together but do not have sex, and she tells him that she loves him.

Chapter 24



In Chapter 24, the book's final chapter, the group leaves for the next breeder farm and free a group of women from a truck on the road. The women tell Emma that some men are going house to house looking for a girl who travels with a wolf. They also say that every part of the world is breeding its own people – blacks in Africa, Asians in Asia, etc. However, Canada is rumored to be free still. They reach the facility and go in, then everyone splits off to do the jobs they have been assigned. Emma is in a steam room with Leo, preparing to blow up the building, when she and the wolf are both shot with tranquilizer darts. The last thing she sees before she blacks out is Marshall's face.

Analysis

The book concludes with Emma continuing to emerge as a strong female hero. Even though the plan with Muriel goes astray, she goes on her own to the farm and manages to free most of its inhabitants with no help, although Will and the others are there to assist once the women and children are out of the building.

The character of Marshall, who has barely been mentioned before, begins to emerge a bit more in this section and the author provides a few clues that foreshadow events to come. We learn that he has freed people from a work farm, but also there is concern that he will resent Emma's role in raiding the breeder farm. The fact that he is a disease specialist might be a clue or perhaps simply a red herring. Concerns that he makes plans but never follows through could point to a hidden agenda that prevents him from acting, and when Emma sees his face before she blacks out, it is unclear whether he is there to save her or to harm her. In short, the author uses much of this section to set up reader interest in the second installment of the trilogy.

This section also seems to somewhat resolve the book's love triangle as Emma finally realizes that while she is drawn to Jake, she is in love with Will. However, while he is compassionate in many ways, he also exhibits some violent tendencies that the author hints will be explored in future books.

Discussion Question 1

Discuss the character of Emma. In what ways has she changed since the book began? What experiences are responsible for those changes? Do you think she will follow through on her vow to return alone to her cabin after the breeder farms have been shut down?

Discussion Question 2

Compare the characters of Will and Jake as seen through Emma's eyes. What characteristics attract her to each one? What characteristics repel her?



Discussion Question 3

The book ends on a suspenseful note, leading the reader to the second book in the Born trilogy. Name and briefly discuss three things you predict will happen in the next installment. What has the author done in this book to lead you to those predictions?

Vocabulary

Ambush, voluntarily, hover, abrupt, intense, fortress, momentary, abort, gauge, scurvy, sprint, slither, fiasco, loath, cower, taint, contempt, navigate, dwindle, subside, detonate, implode, fruition.

Characters

The Infected

The Infected is a group that includes thousands of people who have contracted a devastating disease that causes horrible sores, bleeding eyes, and insanity.

Emma

Emma is a nineteen-year-old girl who has been on her own for the past ten years since the death of her father. She is the ultimate loner, having survived completely by her own wits since a series of events led to a world filled with evil, disease and danger, particularly for young women like Emma

Her father was a survivalist who taught his young daughter many valuable skills that have enabled her to exist on her own for such a long time. Most of the time, Emma lives in a remote cabin that belonged to her father, but occasionally she makes the dangerous trip to an equally-remote farm house where she lived as a child and now keeps a secret stash of supplies. She lives and travels with her only friend -- a wolf named Leo, who protects her and seems to communicate like a human.

Emma's life changes dramatically when she reluctantly opens her door to young woman in distress. Although she is wary about interacting with anyone, she gradually embraces relationships with a number of others who become a family of sorts, and she even considers the possibility of love.

Anna

Anna is a fifteen-year-old girl who knocks on Emma's door in desperation when her brother Jake falls into a hole and she needs help to rescue him. Although she is young, Anna is accomplished at survival and fiercely loyal to Jake, with whom she has been existing alone for several years since their parents' deaths.

In contrast to Emma, Anna is open and friendly, and these traits form the basis of the friendship that eventually develops between the two young women. Anna is a quick learner who rapidly learns new survival skills from Emma and she turns out to be a crack shot. Her grit and determination is again demonstrated when she is captured and taken to a breeder farm and whenever there is any threat to the people she cares about.



Jake

Jake is a 21-year-old man and the brother of Anna and Will. He is good looking and very tall -- a trait that makes him attractive to Emma but also poses a danger when trying to hide from those who mean to hurt him and the others.

While his siblings are more serious, Jake is goofy and funny. His lack of survival skills and sometimes even common sense cause him to be dependent on Emma and Anna in many circumstances, but he does eventually make an effort by learning to break off twig to mark his path when he is separated from his friends.

Jake is also part of the book's love triangle that also includes his brother Will and Emma.

Will

Will is the older brother of Jake and Anna. In the book's early chapters, his siblings believe that he is dead because he was captured several years earlier and has not been seen since. While Anna, in particular, is angry when she first learns that Will is alive and has not found them, he later tells her that he searched for years but was unable to find his brother and sister.

Will, like Emma, is a survivor. He allowed himself to be captured in order to give Jake and Anna a chance to escape, then was taken to one of the breeder farms to serve as a sperm donor. He escaped and helped at least one young woman to escape as well, and now has helped form a rebellion movement and is instrumental in helping Emma shut down one of the breeding facilities.

Although he has a bit of a violent streak and is something of an enigma, he seems to genuinely care about Emma, who finds herself falling in love with him.

Meg

Meg is a young girl who meets Emma when both are captured and placed in cages to be taken to the breeder farms. Although she is raw and impulsive, she also exhibits bravery and becomes an integral part of Emma's "family."

Sarah

Sarah is a young girl who latches onto Emma when they are captured and taken to a breeder farm. She is only a child and she immediately touches Emma's heart, prompting her to vow to take care of Sarah and protect her under all circumstances.



Marshall

Marshall is the leader of a rebellion camp who frustrates his companions by making plans but failing to follow through, leaving doubts about his commitment.

Mary

Mary is a kind, affectionate woman who lives at one of the rebellion camps.

Serge

Serge is an old friend of Emma's father who recognizes her when she is captured and taken to a breeding facility. Although he helps her escape, he later reappears and tries to rape her.

Louise

Louise is a black nurse who works at the breeder farm and helps Emma and the other girls escape.

Star

Star is a young woman who was rescued by Will after she was brutally raped at a breeder farm and now clings to him.



Symbols and Symbolism

Farm House

The Farm House is a remote house that was Emma's childhood home. For her, it provides a link to her childhood and her family, and it also serves as a storage place for her secret stash of supplies.

Forest

Much of the area in which Emma and the others travel is covered by a thick forest. It can be both a comforting place of safety and a place of great danger.

Broken Oak Tree

A broken oak tree is at the edge of the forest on Emma's route between her cabin and the farm house. It serves as an important symbol for her because it is the place where Leo waits for her as well as the entry into the forest where she finds safety.

Cabin

Prior to the beginning of the book's plot, Emma has spent most of her time in a remote cabin built by her father. It contains her most prized possessions and is a safe haven for her as well as a link to her father.

Emma's Rules

Emma maintains a set of rules that enable her to survive on her own in a dangerous world. She breaks a key rule when she opens her door to Anna and begins helping others rather than simply ignoring their needs and existing on her own.

Breeder farms

The evil people who have taken over the world operate breeder farms to which young women are taken and artificially inseminated in order to breed a perfect race.

Towns

The towns that continue to exist are places of great danger, but they are also a necessary stop in order to procure certain commodities such as medications. They are walled off and strictly controlled in terms of who can enter and how long they can stay.

Before and After

Emma and the other characters frequently refer to the concept of Before and After. Before refers to the years before 2012 -- the time when the United Nations started a series of events that threaten to destroy the world -- and After refers to the decade since then.

Shower

When Emma is taken to the breeder farm, she is soon given an opportunity to take a hot shower and change into clean clothes. For her, the shower is a very significant reminder of her former life when simple things like hot water were taken for granted.

Granny's Books

Emma's cabin contains a set of books that were owned by her grandmother. They serve as a link to her childhood and her beloved grandmother, and also as a gateway into fictitious worlds that provide an escape from the life she now leads.

Settings

Camps

Emma and the other characters spend time at two of several camps that have been established by Will and other characters who are organizing a rebellion to fight against the new world order.

Emma's Farm House

The book opens with Emma leaving her secluded farm house, where she spent her childhood with her father and grandmother. She and other characters return to this location at other points in the book. It is something of a safe house for Emma and contains secret stores of supplies such as canned food and weapons.

Emma's Cabin

Emma spends most of her time at a secluded cabin deep in the woods. It was built by her father, who was a survivalist.

Town

Early in the novel, Emma goes to one of the few remaining towns to get medicine for Jake's infected leg wound. The town is walled off for protection and inhabited by a sinister group of people, some of whom betray Emma and sell her to the breeding farm.

Breeding Farm

Young women in the novel are captured and taken to breeding farms, which are specialized, fortified hospital facilities. There, they are artificially inseminated and forced to give birth in an attempt to create a perfect race of people.

Forest

Much of the novel takes place in the thick forest that surrounds Emma's cabin and the rebellion camps.

Themes and Motifs

Survival

Much of the novel encompasses the overarching theme of survival. When the book opens, Emma is sneaking through the forest to get back to her cabin, very fearful, and she feels enormously threatened when Anna knocks at her door. The author takes several chapters to eventually roll out the backdrop for her fear -- a world that has been destroyed by sinister forces and ideas gone wrong that have left thousands of people infected with deadly disease and others in danger of being captured and sent to breeding farms.

Emma owes much of her ability to get along to her now-deceased father, who was a survivalist even before the world turned upside down and passed on his skills to her. This gives her the ability to care for herself and fend off those who would harm her, but it has also left her with the idea that she can trust no one and to let anyone into her life would threaten her very survival.

This idea slowly begins to change when she reluctantly helps Anna and Jake, then gradually lets others into her life as well. Through those relationships, she meets others who are likewise doing what they can to survive, and she begins to realize that having meaningful relationships provides not only physical protection but also the key to emotional survival. As the novel progresses, Emma evolves from being a loner who does not care what happens to others into an activist who risks her own life to enable others to survive.

Learning to Love and Trust

When the novel opens, Emma trusts no one, and with good reason. Her father, a survivalist, taught her that this is the only way she can survive as the world around her deteriorates and she has lived by that rule for 10 years. It has served her well until Anna knocks on her door and Emma reluctantly lets her in, which also opens the door to friendship and love.

The process is a gradual one, but in time Emma realizes that she is lonely and enjoys the company of Anna and Jake, and she is also physically attracted to Jake -- another new feeling for her. When Jake's injured leg becomes seriously infected, she has evolved to a point at which she leaves them at her farm house to retrieve medicine for him, and it is her growing friendship with them that enables her to also embrace Meg when they meet. Later, when she meets Will, she must learn to trust someone not only with her safety but also with her heart as she finds herself falling in love with him, something that would have seemed impossible to the girl she was when the story began.

Armageddon

One of the prevailing themes of Born is that of Armageddon, or the end of the world. In the ten years that have passed since 2012, the United Nations has implemented a series of actions that have turned the world upside down. It began with the U.S., China and Canada refused to slow down the pollution their countries were causing, which began a gradual worldwide environmental crisis. At the same time, the UN instigated a plague and used a vaccine to control it in the areas they wanted to preserve, but the disease mutated, leading to countless people contracting a horrific illness. The UN also set off bombs in the ocean that wiped out parts of Asia and caused lethal tidal waves in other areas, including the West Coast of North America. In order to preserve humanity, the UN decided to create a superior race and set up breeding farms where appropriate young women were imprisoned and forced to give birth to babies created through artificial insemination from carefully chosen donors. Crime and corruption have ensued, and the plan is to gradually wipe out anyone who does not fit in the new order.

Styles

Point of View

Born is written in the first person point of view with Emma, the primary character, as the narrator. This method works well for this book because it enables the reader to experience everything that happens through Emma's own eyes. We know what she knows, we feel what she feels and we experience events in real time as they happen to her.

This technique also gives the author an opportunity to provide background as she sees fit, but only through Emma's point of view. As the novel progresses, we gradually learn more about her background, but only as she reflects on her father, grandmother, childhood and the world as it existed before the events of 2012 and after.

We also see the other characters through her eyes, which gives us only her perspective but hinders our ability to glimpse into their own thoughts and feelings, so we are left to form our opinions of them with only the information Emma provides from her individual perspective.

Language and Meaning

The book is written in the present tense, taking place in real time as the novel's events happen and expressed from Emma's perspective. This technique provides a sense of realism as the reader experiences events as they occur.

The book's language is modern English with standard vocabulary. It is easy to read and contains an appropriate balance of exposition and dialogue, which keeps the plot moving at a steady pace.

Structure

Born is divided into 24 chapters of varying length. The chapters are numbered but untitled. There are no other subsections. It begins darkly as Emma leaves her farm house to return to the cabin. The tone is ominous and threatening. This tone continues in the first few chapters, but it begins to lighten as Emma gradually welcomes other people into her life and forms friendships.

The plot is complex and requires the reader to pay careful attention to understand everything that occurs. The author takes some time before explaining what has happened to make the world the way it is, so it is easy to become confused in the early chapters as it is unclear what is happening or why, but things become more clear as the plot progresses.

Since the book is written in the present tense, most of the events take place in real time as they occur, but background is provided through Emma's reflections.



Quotes

I wait for the night to feel less intimidating but it never does. I want Will as deeply as I loath him. I smile and think about Jake. His soft touch, his shy kisses, his funny smile. He is everywhere but where it matters. My heart belongs to Will.

-- Narrator/Emma (Chapter 22 paragraph 4)

Importance: Emma has finally made her decision and realizes that while she cares about Jake, she is in love with Will.

I have watched children left on the road screaming. I've watched teenage girls dragged into the woods and been forced to listen. I've survived because I watched and listened. I've ignored everyone at every cost. Several times I have lain under a truck wth my eyes closed and waited for it to end. Waited for the screaming to stop.

-- Narrator/Emma (Chapter 2 paragraph 9)

Importance: This begins to establish the concept of what will later be revealed to be breeding farms. It also provides information about how Emma has survived and the horrific things to which she has been exposed.

No matter what happens, my father didn't die so I could waste my life on strangers."
"They don't feel like strangers anymore though.

-- Narrator/Emma (Chapter 5 paragraph 2)

Importance: This is among the first indications that Emma has begun to evolve and allow other people into her life.

Jake smiles and I see it. There is joy inside of him that I have never seen before. When I see it in him, I know I saw it in the world before. It's just been so long, I forget how it felt to be near it. I want to be near him. He makes me feel things I've only read about.

-- Narrator/Emma (Chapter 5 paragraph 13)

Importance: This quote is important for several reasons. It signals the beginning of Emma's feelings for Jake, but it also gives her a feeling that she has not experienced in a decade. She was just a child when her father died and the world changed, so she has only the vaguest memories of the old world when people were happy and joyful. Seeing this in Jake not oly brings back an old feeling, it also is something of a new experience for her since she has little memory of experiencing joy herself. It also reminds the reader of the important role her grandmother's books play in Emma's life, as they are her only link to the way things used to be.

Jake's face is haunted. I swear I see guilt but I leave it.

-- Narrator/Emma (Chapter 6 paragraph 12)

Importance: This quote hints at things that are later to be revealed about Jake, Will, and Anna.



I opened the cabin door and suddenly my life feels lost. I knew I would regret opening the stupid door and helping her. I never imagined the regret would be being separated from them.

-- Narrator/Emma (Chapter 10 paragraph 2)

Importance: This signifies the fact that in the short time she has known them, Jake and Anna have already had a profound effect on Emma's life, making her care about someone for the first time since her father died.

Here eyes are glassy under the light of the dark sky, 'Then leave the rest of it where it happened. They ruined everything ten years ago, we can't let them ruin the future, too.

-- Mary (Chapter 10 paragraph 14)

Importance: In this conversation with Mary, Emma begins to get the idea that there could be a future even though the world seems doomed at this point.

The footsteps leave the hay around us. The moaning and ragged breath becomes harder to hear, as distance is put between us and them. It's always us and them.

-- Narrator/Emma (Chapter 11 paragraph 4)

Importance: This references the concept that "us and them" is not just the infected vs. the healthy people. The entire world is divided into shadowy enemies that Emma and her companions must be wary of.

They want the diseases and illnesses bred out. They won't allow those people to live and breed.

-- Will (Chapter 12 paragraph 10)

Importance: This is the most horrific of all the things Will tells Anna about why the world has become such a disastrous place and explains the purpose of the breeding farms.

I nod and reach into the flames to turn the potatoes. The fire licks at my skin but I ignore it. It hurts. It's a warning of pain to come if I continue to stick my hands in the fire. Sitting between the two men I can't help but feel like it's appropriate.

-- Narrator/Emma (Chapter 13 paragraph 11)

Importance: This is a good description of Emma's inner dialogue as she tries to sort out her feelings about Jake and Will.

The little hand in mine is hot. My hand is sweating. I want to switch hands or just drag mine up and down my pants for a second, but I don't. I wrap my hand around the small hand. I won't look away. I won't let it suffer and cry while I hide. I am different now.

-- Narrator/Emma (Chapter 14 paragraph 13)

Importance: This marks the completion of Emma's evolution from a distant loner into someone who cares deeply for others and actively tries to help them. Earlier, she would have simply turned away from Sarah but now that is impossible for her.



I don't know. Most girls what? My stomach hurts like a monthly cramp for a second. He steps back and removes bloody gloves and I see a glint of metal. 'All done.

-- Narrator/Emma (Chapter 14 paragraph 8)

Importance: This passage demonstrates how naive Emma is about sex and women's bodies, as she does not recognize the fact that the doctor is surprised she is a virgin and is puncturing her hymen.

It's not no reason to them. These women will live long healthy lives and become a burden to society. They will require help and old age assistance. The New World Order is all about breeding to succeed not recreating the entire population. They don't want the women, just the babies. Grown people are harder to brainwash. They want the new children to see that what they have done was for the greater good.

-- Will (Chapter 16 paragraph 14)

Importance: This passage provides an excellent explanation of the thought process behind the UN's plan to breed a perfect society and the reason they kill the young women when their jobs at the breeding farms are complete.

I hear my father's words in my head, 'Survival means taking from everyone else. It's just you and me, Em. It's us and them.'" "But my circle of hugs and warmth grows and it's not just him and me. I feel Anna join and Jake. Then Sarah, who is nervous of the wolf and hugs only me. Will hovers over us.

-- Narrator/Emma (Chapter 17 paragraph 8)

Importance: Despite having used her father's guidance to help her survive, Emma now realizes that he was not right about everything and knows it is valuable to invite others into her life.

My dad warned me, if I cared about anything, I would care about everything." "He kisses my lips once more, 'We broke you.'" "I shake my head and pull away from him, "You saved me.

-- Jake and Emma (Chapter 19 paragraph 9)

Importance: This is the first time Emma has admitted to anyone why she has kept other people at bay, and also admitted how important her new friends have become to her.

The world is growing distant to me again. My emotions are shutting off. When I am done saving the women and children, I am going back to my cabin.

-- Narrator/Emma (Chapter 20 paragraph 6)

Importance: Emma's conflicting feelings about Jake and Will are making her fearful and she is considering returning to her old ways to avoid potential pain.