

# **Broken Angels Study Guide**

**Broken Angels by Richard Morgan (author)**

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# Plot Summary

Broken Angels is a novel by author Richard K. Morgan and is one of the novels in a series of Takeshi Kovacs novels. In this novel, the setting is the 25th Century and it takes place in space. The main character is Takeshi Kovacs, a former U.N. envoy soldier. Kovacs is now an independent warrior. In the 25th Century and in the world which Kovacs lives, when someone dies, they can be resleeved or put into a new body. While Kovacs is recovering from war injuries in a hospital, he meets a rogue pilot by the name of Jan Schneider. Jan Schneider talks Kovacs into working on a mission with him to dig up a hidden Martian spaceship.

A corporate executive called Matthias Hand is funding the project. Hand provides everything that Kovacs and Schneider need to uncover the Martian spaceship and the hidden world that lies beyond its gate into space. Kovacs and Schneider have their own archaeologist, Tanya Wardani. Kovacs and Schneider rescue Wardani out of the internment camp that she is being held in. Wardani is one of the top archaeologists in her field.

The trio recruit some of the best soldiers in the war to help with their expedition. Not knowing what they are up against, they encounter challenge after challenge when the crew lands on the planet where they are plan on digging up the Martian spaceship,. Giant mechanical spiders, radiation sickness, and a feeling that there is a mole in their group that is trying to sabotage the mission are just a few of the obstacles.

In the end, some of the crew members die for the cause. Others become traitors. The biggest traitor of them all turns out to be the least likely culprit, the archaeologist, Tanya Wardani.



# Chapters 1 and 2

## Chapters 1 and 2 Summary

In Chapter 1, Lieutenant Kovacs arrives at a hospital station that is floating in a confidential location in space. The Lieutenant is there because his sleeve, which is apparently how the Lieutenant fights, is damaged from the war that he was fighting in on the Northern Rim. The doctor scans his identity using a bar code on his left temple. She also gives him some medication to sedate him and help with the pain. When the Lieutenant wakes up, he is resting on a fjord, which is a visualization to help him recover while his sleeve is undergoing repair. A virtual Isaac Carrera, who is the founder of the most feared mercenary in the Protectorate, tells the Lieutenant that his sleeve is in repair for 10 days and that he is sending an update of casualties so that the Lieutenant can use his downtime to come up with some tactical fighting plans.

In Chapter 2, when the Lieutenant wakes up a week later, he is in the re-sleeving unit of the hospital. The doctor tells him that they have to discharge him early because of the fighting. She shoots him full of endorphins, which makes him feel great now, but she tells the Lieutenant that when the endorphins wear off that his left shoulder only has two-thirds functionality and that his lungs are not fully recovered from a chemical that was used when he was fighting his last battle. The doctor tells Lieutenant Kovacs to get some light exercise to help with his healing since he is not fully healed by the time they are ready to ship him out. Lieutenant Kovacs runs into several other recuperating patients while walking on the axial deck. While smoking a cigarette, Lieutenant Kovacs runs into Jan Schneider, who tells the Lieutenant about a Martian starship that he found.

## Chapters 1 and 2 Analysis

The fact that the Lieutenant is being sent out of recovery before he is fully healed foreshadows him suffering injury or death in a future battle. In addition, since the Lieutenant is not fully ready to return to battle, his men's safety might suffer as well. It seems as if medicine is advanced enough in the future, when this book takes place, so that almost any ailment, injury or health problem is fixable. It foreshadows Schneider hiring Kovacs to go find and dig up the starship to find out what the ship holds.



# Chapters 3 and 4

## Chapters 3 and 4 Summary

In Chapter 3, Lieutenant Kovacs and Corporal Schneider land on Sanction IV and ask to interrogate one of the detainees from the internment camp. The lieutenant is taken to see the commandant. The lieutenant requests one of the detainees, which is a woman archaeologist, Tanya Wardani. The commandant grants the lieutenant permission to take the archaeologist from the planet. The commandant also mentioned that the archaeologist is a popular woman. Tanya Wardani is brought to Lieutenant Kovacs and Schneider. They get in the space shuttle and leave the planet.

In Chapter 4, as the spaceship shadow flies West, Kovacs notices Tanya Wardani had the luck of War Shock Syndrome. As they prepare to land, the shuttle they notice there are some mines in the water that start shooting at them, so they prepare to fight back. As the lieutenant and Schneider fight back against the machines in the water, the shuttle is shot down and plunges beneath the waves. As the shuttle floats back up to the surface, the lieutenant heads toward the back of the shuttle to make repairs.

## Chapters 3 and 4 Analysis

The fact that Lieutenant Kovacs is requesting an archaeologist foreshadows him carrying out the plan to dig up the Martians the shuttle that Schneider says he saw. The fact that others have an interest in taking the archaeologist suggests that somebody else is also aware of the Martian spaceship.

The lieutenant the jazz that part of the war after his establishing a civilization after the Martian civilization is gone. The problem is the humans that are now trying to run the planet in space do not know how to run the planet properly because the Martians did not leave a guide behind. The lieutenant also and eight that Tanya Wardani and Schneider had a previous relationship, but does not indicate whether it was platonic or romantic.



# Chapters 5 and 6

## Chapters 5 and 6 Summary

In Chapter 5, Kovacs uses a power he has to help bring Tanya Wardani back from her shock of being a detainee at the interment camp. Kovacs and Wardani sit by the fire in the planet where they've landed. Kovacs listens to Wardani talk about her archaeological digs and asks if he is still an Envoy. Kovacs says he's no longer an Envoy. Wardani knows Schneider as Mendel. Schneider joins them by the fire to plan how to dig up the Martian spaceship.

It appears as if Kovacs was kicked out of the Envoys because of a psychiatric problem. The plan to get to the Martian dig site foreshadows a fierce battle with the Protectorate, which is ironic because Kovacs will be fighting against his own men. Rather than fight, it seems as if Kovacs has a plan to infiltrate from the inside, using his position in the Protectorate to get them safely on Mars.

In Chapter 6, as Schneider works on the shuttle, Wardani keeps him company. Kovacs strolls up to a mountain overlooking the sea, which brings back memories of his dream about the ocean. Kovacs mentions archaeologists dig to try to figure out the Martian civilization that is now extinct. Even though archaeology is a science, they haven't advanced enough to do it any other way than to dig.

The trio lands on the planet where Dig 27 is located, which is a former dig location for the Archaeologist Guild. As Kovacs and Wardani disembark, a heat passes between them. The trio is greeted by several residents of the planet, one an 8-year-old boy, Djoko Roespinoedji. Djoko escorts the trio to a room where there is a buffet. Kovacs and Schneider tell Djoko they want to sell him the shuttle for \$6 million.

## Chapters 5 and 6 Analysis

Kovacs's dream and an intuitive feeling foreshadows something negative is in the near future. Kovacs refers to digging up the Martian spaceship as a metaphor for robbing graves. The heat that passes between Kovacs and Wardani foreshadows a future romance between the two. The attempt to sell the shuttle to Djoko indicates Kovacs and Schneider are attempting to raise money for the supplies they'll need to dig up the Martian spaceship.



# Chapters 7 and 8

## Chapters 7 and 8 Summary

In Chapter 7, Schneider and Kovacs have been in the capital city of Landfall for two weeks. Dressed in their Wedge uniforms, they cross the bridge. After assessing the open area around the tower, they cross back over the bridge.

Dressed in civilian clothing, Schneider and Kovacs are acting as security for Wardani, who is acting as an artist. They are meeting with an art promoter because they are interested in selling Wardani's work. After selling the work, the three head to a café to wait for a shuttle they were waiting to arrive at the promoter's office. Kovacs bombs the shuttle and goes up the stairs to the promoter's office. He kills the soldiers in the promoter's office. Kovacs cuts the cortical stacks from the spinal cords of the soldiers and leaves.

In Chapter 8, Wardani, Kovacs, and Schneider head for a hotel to check in for the night. When Kovacs sweeps the room, he finds three bugs—two over the two beds and one on the shower. Wardani takes 10 minutes to set up her equipment in the hotel room.

After Wardani uses her equipment to clean the spine, Kovacs picks up the skull cap of one of the soldiers and leaves. He says he's going to talk to someone.

Kovacs arrives on the porch of a house. The house belongs to a man named Deng. Kovacs takes them both to a virtual desert and threatens to leave Deng there if Deng doesn't tell Kovacs who Deng's commander is. Deng finally admits it is Matthias Hand. Kovacs finds this surprising because Hand is a corporate exec, not a soldier.

## Chapters 7 and 8 Analysis

The mission across the bridge is a reconnaissance mission to evaluate what Kovacs and Schneider are up against when they pursue whatever it is they're after.

It appears as if the trio have been casing the promoter's office to gauge the coming and going of the soldiers. Stealing the weapons and cortical stacks of the soldiers indicates the three are stockpiling supplies to carry out their ultimate mission—digging up the Martian ship.

Wardani is setting up machinery to use the spine of the soldiers Kovacs cut out, which is apparently how to turn these soldiers into warriors that are working on the side of Kovacs, Schneider and Wardani.

Kovacs seems to be using the cortical stack, which is the art of the spine Wardani cleans to see if it is a soldier he wants to resleeve, or bring back to life, and is sane enough to do so. In other words, Kovacs is recruiting more soldiers for their mission.





# Chapters 9 and 10

## Chapters 9 and 10 Summary

In Chapter 9, Kovacs is meeting with Matthias Hand at the auction house. Kovacs throws Deng's cortical stack on the table between them and Hand puts it in his pocket. Kovacs negotiates a deal with hand to fund the excavation of the Martian ship.

In Chapter 1, Hand, Kovacs, Schneider, and Wardani go on a virtual tour of Dangek, which is where the Martian ship is buried. They discuss the details on where the ship is buried under a collapsed ledge. They also discuss the ways in which the ship could or would have been buried. In addition, they discuss the manpower required to uncover the ship without attracting too much attention.

## Chapters 9 and 10 Analysis

Kovacs infers that the art piece they sold to the promoter is what caused Hand to send the soldiers to the promoter's office. Kovacs also infers this was their way of getting Hand's attention. Kovacs is using another funding source as leverage to get Hand to convince Mandrake, Hand's boss, to fund the project.

While discussing the reasons causing the burying of the ship, several theories are discussed. Kovacs and Hand, however, infer the Martians hid the ship on purpose. In addition, they infer that the Martians may have hidden dangerous items to unleash once the humans open the gate. Hand also seems to be taking a romantic interest in Wardani.



# Chapters 11 and 12

## Chapters 11 and 12 Summary

In Chapter 11, Kovacs, Wardani, and Schneider are having drinks in a bar. They get into an argument about Kovacs being "buddies" with Hand. Wardani also confronts Schneider about his attitude. Schneider says his attitude stems from watching a 6-year-old girl die after bombing her bunker and then Schneider walks out. Kovacs and Wardani finish talking and decide to walk back to the hotel before the curfew.

In Chapter 12, Kovacs, Schneider, and Wardani are having breakfast the next morning when Hand meets up with them. They all leave on a shuttle to start recruiting soldiers for the dig. Hand tells Kovacs that they were being followed by two humans and a cyborg on the previous night's outing. The ship lands in Thaisawasdi Field, which is in a colony hobbled back together from war bombings. When Kovacs and Hand disembark, they walk to a location where a large machine is piling up cortical stacks that are for sale. Kovacs and Hand are able to obtain fresh, warrior-grade cortical stacks.

## Chapters 11 and 12 Analysis

Ironically, even though Hand and the trio are on different sides, and Hand tried to have the three killed, they are all working together now to uncover the Martian ship. Hand convinces Mandrake to sponsor the dig and Kovacs, Schneider and Wardani will be managing the process.

Kovacs mentioning the darkness outside symbolizes a cover. In other words, the darkness hides who they are to general population. In addition, the darkness foreshadows that some harm may fall upon them on the way back to the hotel.

The man in charge of selling the cortical stacks, Semetaire, recognizes Kovacs as a Wedge without his uniform on. This suggests the man has some type of power to read minds or that someone has tipped him off about Kovacs.

# Chapters 13 and 14

## Chapters 13 and 14 Summary

In Chapter 13, Kovacs and Hand sort out the good cortical stacks from the psychotic and damaged ones. The two also discuss the need to wipe out the city of Sauberville in order to carry out the mission. In addition, Kovacs and Hand discuss some benefits they can offer to the soldiers and workers they end up recruiting. When the final 212 candidates are narrowed down, Hand uses a virtual version of him to interview each one. Kovacs and Hand go to the roof of Mandrake Towers for fresh air, to smoke a cigarette and talk. They talk about the man, Semetaire, who runs the cortical stack selling operation and they discuss relationships. Three months later, the virtual Hand has narrowed it down to 11 cortical stacks. Then Hand and Kovacs use themselves for final selection from the 11 possible candidates.

In Chapter 14, Kovacs and Hand narrow the 11 down to a final six candidates. Kovacs remembers some of the soldiers were ones damaged, wounded and killed in the war.

## Chapters 13 and 14 Analysis

There are numerous religious references and symbols in this section of the book. Semetaire dressing in a top hat and coat symbolizes his role as Ghede, who is the lord of the dead. Hand also questions Kovacs's religious beliefs, since Kovacs is from Harland's World, which has an unscannable halo surrounding it that Hand attributes to a heavenly or angelic characteristic.

Hand finds it ironic that Kovacs doesn't want to command the operation. Instead, Kovacs wants Sutjiadi to be the commander. Kovacs finds it ironic Hand would think he wants to be in command after reading Kovacs's file.



# Chapters 15 and 16

## Chapters 15 and 16 Summary

In Chapter 15, Wardani finds Kovacs on the roof and they enter into one of the suites to talk. She asks if they're done recruiting. Je inquires about her work on the software. Wardani asks Kovacs to have sex with her to restore the emotions he fixed when they picked her up from the camp. Kovacs agrees. They go downstairs to virtual racks where you can order or choose scenarios for having sex, which Wardani chooses underwater and a beach setting, including a waterfall. When they finish, they swim to the beach, where they have sex again.

In Chapter 16, when Kovacs and Wardani return, they are taken hostage by Kempists. It's really Wardani they want. Kovacs fights them off and he and Wardani make it to the door of the virtual booth. Kovacs instructs the guards to get Hand. Hand comes to assess the situation and Wardani learns of their being followed going home from the bar. Hand believes it is the clone of Deng that was following them. Hand also tells Kovacs and Wardani the Kempists bombed Sauberville with a 100 percent casualty rate.

## Chapters 15 and 16 Analysis

Kovacs and Wardani having sex is a symbol of cleansing. Wardani is still trying to cleanse the emotions from being in the camp. The fact she picks a water location to have sex is also symbolic, as water typically has a cleansing or baptizing effect. The bombing of the city of Sauberville by the Kempists suggests they know about the buried ship as well. Which is also why they're trying to kidnap Wardani.



# Chapters 17 and 18

## Chapters 17 and 18 Summary

In Chapter 17, the new crew is undergoing virtual training and getting used to their new sleeves. Hand points out a new crevice in the virtual world where the Martian ship is.

In Chapter 18, as the shuttle launches with all of the new crew on board, they are talking about getting used to their new sleeves. As the crew is getting ready to land on the planet, the Mandrake government briefs the crew on the danger they are flying into when they reach the planet. The crew also finds out that the bombing on Sauberville occurred from the ground level.

## Chapters 17 and 18 Analysis

The crevice indicates the Kempists may have already started excavating the site.

The crew gets a first glance at the ship they are boarding to fly to the Martian shuttle dig site. Ameli Vongsavath is especially impressed by the ship's capabilities. A ground-based bombing suggests the people responsible for the bombing were already residents of the planet, rather than someone or a group that flew overhead to bomb the city.



# Chapters 19 and 20

## Chapters 19 and 20 Summary

In Chapter 19, when the crew lands the ship, the Nagini, on the planet where the Martian dig is to take place, it is as if they are landing in a snowstorm. The white snow-like material is fallout from the bombing. The chapter provides a glimpse into what life was like for the colonists when they first landed on Mars. When they disembark into the Sauberville area, they board a ship in the waters of the planet. Dead bodies are scattered around and rats are eating up the food that was left behind. The crew works on killing the large rats so they can continue their mission. They also find two dead, but chained bodies in the nets thrown overboard from the ship.

In Chapter 20, Kovacs describes how seeing the Martian ship in person in no way compares to the sketched and virtual tours he's seen before. Sutjiadi suggests they use their shuttle to clear the rock away from the front of the artifact so they can work on exploring it.

Hand prohibits them from blowing up the rock. He says they'll have to work in the cavern to avoid damage to the gate and exposure of the gate to others. Sutjiadi suggests they point their shuttle at the gate so they can fight back if something comes from behind the gate. Wardani explains the Martians weren't evil, but just a technologically advanced society with wings.

By dark, the living quarters for the crew are assembled. Kovacs goes to Wardani's lab to talk to her. Wardani explains to Kovacs that the only people who knew about the site were the people on her team, but the records they filed to report an obelisk object no longer exist.

Kovacs suggests the dead bodies in the net they find might be members of Wardani's team who came back to try to uncover the gate.

## Chapters 19 and 20 Analysis

The crew debates as to why the bodies were hidden in the water over the side of the boat because they war has not reached this planet yet. When one of the crew notices the cortical stacks of the two dead bodies are gone, they realize it is just to hide the bodies so that an investigation never took place. While Vongsavath puts the crew to work to inspect the ship and find out who the people were and what happened to them, he asks Kovacs with a look that passes between them to go with him to look at the gate, which is the opening of the Martian shuttle.

There is an inference the Martians have rigged the ship to send signals to them when someone boards the ship or opens the gate. Even though the Martian population is supposed to be gone, it could be they're hiding behind the gate.



Ironically, Wardani tells Kovacs that they have no idea what sits behind the gate or what they may unleash when the gate opens. The fact that the records of the find are missing suggests someone else knows about the gate and may even be responsible for obliterating Sauberville.



# Chapters 21 and 22

## Chapters 21 and 22 Summary

In Chapter 21, when Kovacs wakes up at 5 am, he sees Schneider toweling off from a shower and brushing his teeth. Schneider says its Jiang and his martial arts that woke him up, so Kovacs gets up to get ready for the day too. When Kovacs emerges from the living quarters, he sees a breakfast table piled with food, so he invites Jiang to join him. Jiang and Kovacs talk about Kovacs's former life as an Envoy soldier. They discuss the difference between being a soldier and the mission they are on now. Sutjadi calls for a meeting, so when Kovacs finishes breakfast, he heads to the meeting and Jiang goes to shower and change for the meeting.

Sutjiado sends Sun and Kovacs to set up a sensory system around the perimeter of the dig area. When they do this, they notice that the Kempist bombing has changed the entire landscape of Dangek, including allowing the water to flow up closer to the land because a lot of the land was blown away.

During the mission, Kovacs and Sun come across a huge gray mass that looks like a writhing giant maggot. On Sanction IV, they use maggots of a smaller size to heal wounds. Kovacs and Sun call in reinforcements and Sun suggests they send a scan of the object to Hand to see if there is something on file that tells them what it is. Kovacs says they know what it is.

In Chapter 22, when the crew shows Hand the scans of the big gray mass, he says it's a military nanosystem, but is nothing to worry about. When Kovacs confronts Hand alone, Hand confesses everything to Kovacs. Hand admits that the mass is a smart nanosystem, which means that when it "hatches," it becomes what it needs to adapt to the situation. In some cases, it became huge grasshoppers that could jump 75 meters at a time, armed with guns. In another situation, it became a gas cloud.

Hand admits that the only way to stop the mass is with a special code that he doesn't have. Hand also says that the mass will activate when it reaches the sensory system that Sun and Kovacs placed around the perimeter. Once the mass reaches the sensory system, this is what will cause it to morph into what it needs to be to survive. Hand also tells Kovacs the authorization code to stop the mass is available to the Wedge and anyone fighting on the cartel side of the war. Hand says the only thing that will get them off the planet alive is to send a message to Mandrake about the mass, which will put Hand in the good graces of Mandrake rule and possibly provide him with the codes they need to stop the mass.

## Chapters 21 and 22 Analysis

Schneider mentions to Kovacs that half the crew is psycho, which foreshadows at least one member of the crew losing their mind and causing some kind of trouble before the





mission is over. During his discussion with Jiang, Kovacs is indirectly pointing out that there is an inner struggle within Jiang—that of whether he is still a soldier or an independent person working on a mission.

During conversations, several of the characters mention that in a few days things will change. Kovacs mentions that in a few days, the crew will no longer be able to taste the flavor of food. Sun mentions that in a few days none of them will have a libido. This seems to foreshadow that after spending a few days on a planet bombed with chemicals that the chemicals and radiation will change the crew.

Kovacs mentioning that they know what the giant gray maggot is suggests that the radioactivity has made the normal maggots used for healing into radioactive sized maggots.

When Hand tells Kovacs and the rest of the crew that the mass is simply a harmless nanosystem. None of them really believe him, but Kovacs is the only one that confronts Hand. Kovacs instincts are correct because Hand knows more than he is telling the rest of the crew.



# Chapters 23 and 24

## Chapters 23 and 24 Summary

In Chapter 23, Wardani continues to work feverishly on her drawings, sketches and plans for infiltrating the gate. It seems as if the nanobes, which are the things in the nanosystem, have engaged because it is causing Kovacs to throw up and feel sick. They expect the other crew members to start feeling the symptoms soon. Sutjadi is ready to fight the nanobes, but they need to make sure Wardani is ready to infiltrate the gate first. Wardani and Kovacs talk about opening the gate, Kovacs telling Wardani she only has about four days left until the nanobes reach them. Wardani says she believes she has analyzed everything she needs to open it and she tells Kovacs to let Hand know she'll be ready in two days. When Kovacs goes to Hand, he finds Hand performing some kind of religious or spiritual ritual. Kovacs mentions to Hand that Vongsavath says the Nagini system shut down on its own for five or six minutes and Kovacs suggests Hand arm himself.

In Chapter 24, Vongsavath takes the Nagini for a test flight and everything seems to be functioning properly. The next day when they open the hatch to the shuttle, noxious fumes escape, again, as if someone is trying to sabotage the mission. Kovacs, Hand and Vongsavath talk about whether it is someone on the crew or a Kempist that is sabotaging the mission. Kovacs suggests that the leakage is causing behavioral interaction in the minds of people that come into contact with it, which is what led the war to break out in the first place. Wearing oxygen masks, the three re-enter the Nagini and find the ship is utterly useless. Only one good buoy remains intact. They decide to tell the rest of the crew that the corrosion in the ship is from faulty equipment rather than sabotage.

## Chapters 23 and 24 Analysis

Kovacs, Wardani and some of the other crew members are starting to show the signs on radiation sickness. Eventually, this sickness will kill them, if the nanobes don't get to them first. Ironically, Wardani doubts her ability to open the Martian gate on time, even though she and her team have done it before. This doubting could be from the radiation sickness or it could be from something else. In another twist of irony, Hand is not showing signs of radiation sickness, which implies he might have access to some medication or form of protection that is prohibiting the radiation from making him sick. "Corrosion from within" is symbolic of the fact that one of the crew members is purposely trying to sabotage the mission, but Kovacs, Hand and Vongsavath don't know who it is.

Kovacs infers to Vongsavath that someone is trying to sabotage the ship and he indirectly suggests it is Jiang. Kovacs believes that the two dead people they found in

the fishing nets were killed for trying to open the gate and that the same people are now trying to kill them for trying to open the gate as well.



# Chapters 25 and 26

## Chapters 25 and 26 Summary

In Chapter 25, the crew notices the mass has emerged into large mechanical spiders that are moving around in self-built spider webs. Someone suggests they bomb the spiders, but someone else says they'll just adapt, but that bombing them will buy the crew some time so they can continue their mission to open the gate. Kovacs and Deprez share a bottle of whiskey while they watching the bombing of the spiders and their webs from a distance. They talk about the first time each of them killed someone. Schneider, Hansen and Cruickshank then join the party. As the party continues, Cruickshank makes a pass at Kovacs and they end up having sex. Cruickshank also tells Kovacs she has seen Schneider and Wardani sneaking off together, insinuating they are having sex. Kovacs is hearing a voice in his head, Semetaire's voice.

In Chapter 26, when Kovacs wakes the next morning, his head feels like it is splitting open, which he thinks is a combination of a hangover and the fact he is dying from radiation poisoning. After a quick breakfast that Kovacs doesn't eat much of because he's having a hard time keeping food down, they all head to the briefing room. Sutjiadi tells the group that one of the outer sensors is down, so he wants to send some people out to see if something is living, or to bring back wreckage of any kind for analysis. When he asks Wardani when they can open the gate, she tells him possibly tomorrow.

When Hansen and Cruickshanks return, they report there is no wreckage. In fact, they say there is no sign that the mass, spiders or their webs ever existed. As Kovacs and Sun are talking later, they see Schneider emerge one after the other from the hatch of the Nagini. Kovacs notices a look about Wardani that Kovacs recognizes. Then Wardani collapses and when they ask her what's wrong, she admits she's dying like everyone else. Wardani also tells them she opened the gate today.

## Chapters 25 and 26 Analysis

The men and women of the crew having sex with each other is symbolic of the fear they have because death is in their face. The voice Kovacs is hearing in his head indicates that the radiation poisoning is getting to him and that Kovacs is dying.



# Chapters 27 and 28

## Chapters 27 and 28 Summary

In Chapter 27, the crew stares at ultraviolet land dancing around in the cave. None of them knows what it is but Wardani says that they think the Martians could see better in ultraviolet light without any type of aid. When Wardani says she is only needed again when they are ready to close the gate, Hand says they'll be calling in a Wedge team now to take over the cave and that they won't be closing the gate of the Martian ship. Kovacs and Sutjiadi both feel a pulling sense coming from the Martian shuttle. Sutjiadi has an outburst suggesting that humans don't belong on any of these planets following in the footsteps of a race that the humans are not ready to understand - the Martians.

In Chapter 28, Cruickshank, Kovacs, and Jianping prepare the Nagini. They test the shuttle to ensure it is capable of takeoff and is in working order. Suddenly, wiry cables cut through Cruickshank - cutting her body into multiple pieces. The cables then shred Hansen's legs above the knee. Kovacs uses his guns to kill the wires. The remaining crew loads up the supplies they can on to the Nagini and takes the shuttle up so that it hovers over the planet rather than being vulnerable on the ground. The retrieval system vacuums up the body pieces of Cruickshank and Hansen and puts them in their own body bags. What the retrieval system doesn't find is the weapons belonging to Cruickshank and Hansen.

## Chapters 27 and 28 Analysis

The reality of the situation is finally hitting some of the crew members, especially Sutjiadi. In combination with the radiation sickness, Sutjiadi starts to realize how ill-equipped they are to deal with the situation staring them in the face. It infers the nanobes have transformed into the thin and sharp wires that kill Cruickshank and cut off Hansen's legs. The missing weapons of the two crew members the nanobes killed foreshadows the nanobes somehow using the weapons against the crew when the nanobes mutate into their next structure. The crew realizes that right now hard ammunition kills the nanobes, but soon none of that will work either when the nanobes figure out how to change once again.



# Chapters 29 and 30

## Chapters 29 and 30 Summary

In Chapter 29, Hand and Sutjiadi are arguing about whether to take off now or mark the site as Mandrake property first. Kovacs tells the crew that the nanobes are really there to kill Hand and if the people at Landfall find out Hand isn't dead it's just a matter of time before they send something else after them to try to finish the job off. Hand admits that the Wedge are answering to the Cartel. Kovacs says their only chance for survival is to wait the hour until the gate opens, to fly the shuttle in, drop the buoy and fly out. The crew watches as the wires try to infiltrate the Martian ship but the ultraviolet light from the ship is not allowing the wire nanobes to infiltrate it. Then, the ship flies into the open gate and into space.

In Chapter 30, as the Nagini flies into space, all the crew can see is stars. It seems as if they also see a ship of some kind that starts to fire missiles at them. The crew realizes it is just space junk floating and then a dead body with no eye sockets and a yelling mouth bumps into the front window of the Nagini. Wardani cries and says a name. The crew finds four more dead bodies floating in space. When the retrieval system brings them on board, Wardani recognizes them as colleagues that were working on the dig with her. When Sun reports the buoy placer is damaged, Wardani tells them they can place the buoy inside the loading dock of the Martian ship and that the gate is already open for them to do so. Kovacs confronts Wardani asking her why the archeologists didn't go in but she says she doesn't know. Wardani also says the only way for them to find out is to go into the loading dock themselves.

## Chapters 29 and 30 Analysis

Apparently, Wardani recognizes the floating corpse. It is assumed that the five people went through the gate of the ship in their vacuum suits, but that the gate snapped shut and left them floating in space to die. One of corpses is assumed to have killed himself because he has a gunshot through his helmet and head.



# Chapters 31 and 32

## Chapters 31 and 32 Summary

In Chapter 31, the Nagini flies into the loading dock of the Martian ship. The crew sees a machine there that has electricity but is not active. Hand suggests they find a safe place for the buoy and then they can explore the ship to satisfy their curiosity. The crew hears singing coming from one of the corridors in the ship and Wardani says it's a songspire, which is a Martian tree that gives off a mustard and cherry aroma and sings. As Wardani is heading back to Nagini because Sutjadi says something to make her mad, Kovacs and Wardani hear something or someone singing the Wedge neurachem. They find a forest of songspire growing in one of the corridors. The twisting way they are growing suggests they are communicating with one another.

In Chapter 32, Sun and Kovacs are searching for a place on the ship to plant the buoy. They come to an outside platform that is exposed on all sides by space. At the same time, they find two Martian in flight but stuck in a metal webbing. The Martians are dead. As Wardani is trying to figure out a way to bring the Martians down so she can study them, Hand stops her, saying that this ship and everything on it is Mandrake Corporation property. While Sun is installing the buoy, Vongsavath radios to Kovacs saying that they've found another human body.

## Chapters 31 and 32 Analysis

Wardani implies that the whirring of the grav drivers is waking up the songspires and causing them to react. While songspires are not normally combative or dangerous, it puzzles Wardani the way the songspires are growing and reacting to the activity onboard the ship.

The position of the Martians and the fact they are in netting suggests they were trying to escape from something, but were captured in the process. The dead Martians seems similar to the dead archeologists because they both seem to be fleeing something in space—something that eventually caused their deaths.

It is ironic that when the Martian fled that they didn't flee using the starship. While Martians left entire cities behind, nobody understands why they wouldn't use a starship to escape whatever they were escaping from or leave behind whatever they were leaving behind. It suggests that something or someone wouldn't allow them to blast away on the starship but instead killed them or took them away against their will.



# Chapters 33 and 34

## Chapters 33 and 34 Summary

In Chapter 33, the body is in a spacesuit and he has plenty of oxygen left. While the crew doesn't know what he died of, it isn't suffocation. When Schneider and Hand join the rest of the crew, Kovacs notices that Hand is armed. Kovacs also notices that Hand is showing signs of radiation sickness, but Schneider is the glowing symbol of health. Kovacs and Hand drag the dead body back to the Nagini, which takes some time because they are both failing from radiation sickness. When Kovacs joins the crew for dinner, he confronts Schneider, asking Schneider when Carrera is going to show up. While Schneider denies it, Kovacs explains to everyone else that the redone illuminated tattoo and the new sleeve Schneider is wearing is what's keeping him from falling ill like the rest of them. While some of the others are bandaging the hole Kovacs shot in Schneider's hand, all of the lights on the ship light up. The crew realizes they are under attack, but when Kovacs calls for Schneider, he realizes Schneider is gone. Kovacs, Deprez and Jiang chase after Schneider in a gun battle, but Schneider makes it to the Nagini and flies off—leaving the rest of the crew behind. Jiang dies.

In Chapter 34, the rest of the crew radios in to Kovacs and Deprez telling them that they're not in danger. Kovacs and Deprez return to the platform where the rest of the crew is watching a battleship on a big screen. The crew suggests this is a replay of something that took place in the past rather than what is happening now. Kovacs admits that he rigged the Nagini to explode upon re-entry through the gate, so hopefully Carrera believes they all blew up in the explosion. He suggests they gather the spacesuits from the recovered bodies and use these to shuttle each other back and forth through the gate and back to the planet.

The crew feels the ship shuttle and Kovacs realizes that the Martian ship is automatically returning fire against the ship that is approaching it on the screen. As numerous shadowed figures stand to land on the dock of the Martian ship, Hand begs for Kovacs to kill them all. Kovacs begins shooting the rest of the crew. Sun kills herself again. The shadows turn out to be winged Martians. Kovacs goes into darkness.

## Chapters 33 and 34 Analysis

It is ironic that a corporate exec, such as Hand, is now armed. Once dressed and acting as if he stepped out of the pages of a GQ magazine, Hand has now become one of the crew in a sense—the sense that he is fighting for his own life now too. It is also ironic that Schneider isn't showing any signs of radiation sickness. This suggests that he has access to a drug or some item that is preventing him from getting sick, while all of the others are starting to suffer from the symptoms.





It appears as if Schneider is a traitor and is working for Carrera, so he has been setting the crew up the whole time. Schneider leaving the rest of the crew behind foreshadows their deaths being the same as the Martians and the other human bodies they've found since blasting through the gate of the Martian ship and landing in its dock. Kovacs going into darkness suggests that he turns the gun on himself and commits suicide.



# Chapters 35 and 36

## Chapters 35 and 36 Summary

In Chapter 35, Kovacs is at the beach having a conversation with Semetaire. Semetaire shows Kovacs that he has Kovacs's cortical stack and indirectly tells Kovacs that Kovacs must do what Semetaire says or that he'll end up on the crucifix behind Semetaire. When Kovacs looks at the figure hanging on the crucifix, Kovacs notices that it's him. Kovacs shoots Semetaire and retrieves his cortical stack. Kovacs then starts to think about how to get off the beach.

In Chapter 36, Kovacs starts to wake up in a familiar area. He also hears voices he recognizes talking about Kovacs waking up and recovering. Kovacs recognizes the people as Carrera's Wedge. Carrera himself comes to find out from Kovacs what happened and Kovacs tells him. The Wedge doctors are working on the other bodies. Some will live by resleeving, but others will not.

## Chapters 35 and 36 Analysis

Kovacs is either dreaming or in a state between living and dying. Kovacs hanging on the crucifix is a religious symbol, such as Jesus hanging on the crucifix, both Kovacs and Jesus standing as symbols that sacrificed their lives for others. It seems as if Kovacs is holding back some information from Carrera because Kovacs doesn't know if he can fully trust him. Kovacs acts as if his Envoy status is what caused him to kill anyone that was backstabbing him and then worry about living from there. Carrera seems to buy Kovacs's story.



# Chapters 37 and 38

## Chapters 37 and 38 Summary

In Chapter 37, Kovacs waks Jiang from his compression chamber to tell him they are alive and that Kovacs's old unit came to save them. When Wardani and hand wake from their own bubbles, they start arguing again about the Martian spaceship and the technology the Martians left behind. Tony Loemanako, one of Kovac's former comrades, comes into the room to summon everyone who is awake to a meeting. Before the meeting starts, Hand tries to threaten Carrera and Carrera shoots and kills Hand. Carrera requests a knife and cuts the cortical stack out of Hand's spine. As Kovacs, Wardani, and Sutjiadi and the others look up where Carrera is pointing, millions of the electronic spiders are spilling out and attacking them.

Carrera then reveals it is just Sutjiadi they are after for killing a Wedge officer. Kovacs feigns ignorance.

In Chapter 38, the officers clean the spiders off of the remaining crew. Carrera leads Kovacs away for a full debriefing. During the briefing, Kovacs tries to save Sutjiadi from execution but Carrera tells him it's not negotiable. Carrera also tells Kovacs that onlu Sun and Kovacs didn't show signs of being blasted with the stunblaster. Sun doesn't show signs because she shot herself, but Kovacs and Carrera do not understand why Kovacs doesn't show the signs. When Kovacs returns to the sleeping quarters, he asks the medics to give him sleeping pills to sleep through Sutjiadi's execution, which angers Wardani because she thinks they should do something to stop the execution.

## Chapters 37 and 38 Analysis

It appears as if Carrera saved the crew he could to obtain the information he wanted out of them. Once he obtains what he needs, he murders Hand and then allows the spiders to bite and kill the rest of the crew that has woken up since their reoperation. In the end, it is just Sutjiadi Carrera wants for killing two of the Wedge officers in the war. Kovacs not showing signs of being shot implies that someone saved him from dying or that he didn't shoot himself as it implied earlier in the novel. Carrera also suggests that the soldier Sutjiadi killed and Kovacs share so many similarities that they could be the same person. It foreshadows that the soldier Sutjiadi killed was resleeved as Kovacs.



# Chapters 39 and 40

## Chapters 39 and 40 Summary

In Chapter 39, Sutjiadi starts screaming from the execution just before dawn. Kovacs removes the inhibitor the Wedge has installed to each of them on the back of their heads and sends Vongsavath to bring Loemanako to him. When Loemanako arrives, Kovacs rips his throat out and then instructs the others to help him remove the suit Loemanako is wearing. Kovacs puts on the suit and tells the others he's going outside to kill Sutjiadi and the spectators. He wants Deprez to go to the ship, the Chandra, kill the crew inside and make sure it is in working order to fly off. Kovacs tells Vongsavath to stay put because he needs her in one piece to fly them out on the Chandra.

In Chapter 40, Kovacs and Deprez head toward the shuttle, Chandra's Virtue. In the process, they can hear Sutjiadi's screams as he is being tortured to death. Kovacs and Deprez fight and kill the soldiers in the shuttle so they can steal the shuttle. The two then blow up the platform where the Wedge is torturing Sutjiadi. As Kovacs is fighting off another Wedge soldier, Carrera attacks and kills Deprez. Carrera escapes before Kovacs can catch and kill him. Kovacs asks Wardani if it is easier to shut the gate than it is to open it because Carrera is on the other side of the gate.

## Chapters 39 and 40 Analysis

When Kovacs can't control his emotions about Sutjiadi being executed in typical Envoy fashion, he suspects the inhibitor has something to do with it, so he removes it. Kovacs realizes that he has to turn against his own soldiers in order to save the lives of the crew he has been working with for the past few months—and to save his own life.

Kovacs intends to go through the gate to find and kill Carrera. Once he accomplishes this and comes back through, he wants Wardani to shut the gate.



# Chapters 41, 42, Epilogue

## Chapters 41, 42, Epilogue Summary

In Chapter 41, Kovacs asks Wardani why she didn't stun him when they were on the Martian ship. She says she chickened out but Kovacs doesn't believe her. Vongsavath returns from looking for survivors with one survivor, which Kovacs shoots. As Kovacs lands on one of the loading docks, he starts to hallucinate, such as seeing dead Martians come alive. He decides to sit and wait out the medication he has been taking for a couple of hours. Carrera wakes Kovacs up, laughing because one of the Martian robots led Carrera straight to Kovacs. Kovacs gets Carrera to lift the faceplate on his suit and throws a bioagent at him that eats Carrera's face and then Kovacs shoots Carrera.

In Chapter 42, Kovacs is telling the entire story to Roespinoedji. Kovacs gives Roespinoedji the machine that makes him the proud owner of the Martian spaceship. Kovacs suggests Roespinoedji name the ship the Wardani. Wardani hasn't spoken to Kovacs since he killed the last Wedge soldier before they went after Carrera and landed back on Roespinoedji's planet. The following morning, the technicians come to work on the shuttle under Vongsavath's supervision. Vongsavath sends Kovacs to talk with Wardani. Wardani and Kovacs go to a café, where Wardani admits she is the one that called in the Kempists when they were on Dig 27 originally. She also says she's going to stay on and work for Roespinoedji and that he's going to get her a new sleeve. Kovacs continues to confront Wardani for being the one that was sabotaging the crew and equipment when they were at the dig site, even for killing her own people and putting their bodies in the net and floating them into space at a previous time. Wardani admits to it all. She also admits it was the Kempists that were bankrolling her original dig there. Wardani says once she and her team realized it was a warship, they wanted to hand it over to the Kempists but she didn't, which is why she killed them all. Vongsavath calls Kovacs and tells him the ship is ready and that they can leave tonight. He walks to the ship with Wardani and waves goodbye to her as he embarks.

Epilogue. Kovacs and the rest of the remaining crew members, except Wardani retire to an afterlife house. At the home, which is on the beach, the purpose is for them to recover from their previous injuries so they can live another life again. Kovacs has a big bank account waiting for him in his next life from the sale of the Martian warship.

## Chapters 41, 42, Epilogue Analysis

Kovacs plans to have Wardani shut the gate to shut Carrera out in space, where he will eventually die. Kovacs also intends on going into space to kill Carrera. When he catches up with Carrera, they have a firefight. It's ironic that two men that were once fighting for the same side of the war are now fighting against each other. Rather than

fighting for the causes of the war, Kovacs and Carrera are now fighting for their own lives and their own greed.



# Characters

## Lieutenant Takeshi Kovacs

Lieutenant Kovacs is one of the officers fighting for the Protectorate against Kemp, who is the owner of the planet the war is over. Lieutenant Kovacs is attached to the Wedge unit. The Lieutenant is injured in the war, so he is taken to a hospital floating in space. While at the hospital, the Lieutenant has his sleeve repaired and is able to rest, relax and recover on a fjord, which is really just a visual projection screen that makes it appear as if he is on the fjord.

Kovacs is the main character in the novel. He ends up working with Schneider and an archaeologist, Tanya Wardani, on an expedition to uncover a Martian ship on Dangek. Even though Kovacs is not the commander of the crew that ultimately works to open the gate and excavate the Martian ship, Kovacs plays a pivotal role in the entire mission. In the end, Kovacs ends up saving the lives of the majority of the crew members from various battles and catastrophes.

## Corporal Jan Schneider

Corporal Schneider meets Lieutenant Kovacs when they are both recovering at the hospital. Schneider tells Kovacs about a Martian spaceship he and his men found while on a mission. Schneider convinced Kovacs to go on a mission to find the spaceship and what might be inside of it.

Schneider suggests to Kovacs that they break one of his former lovers and an archaeologist, Tanya Wardani out of internment camp to help on the mission as well. When Tanya Wardani and Jan Schneider were together, Tanya knew him as Mendel. By the end of the novel, Schneider has become so selfish about saving his own life from the Martian spaceship that he steals the Nagini ship the crew uses to land on the planet for the dig, and leaves the rest of the crew members there to die.

## Isaac Carrera

Isaac Carrera is the ex-Vacuum Command captain. He is also the founder of the most feared mercenary unit in the Protectorate. As a soldier, Lieutenant Kovacs describes Carrera as "an exemplary soldier, commander and tactician," and sometimes he is a politician. Hand tells Kovacs later in the novel that Carrera is in the pocket of the enemy and therefore is not on the side of his soldiers at all.

It turns out that Carrera is a traitor and that all he cares about is putting money in his own pocket. Toward the end of the novel, Carrera and Kovacs have a gun fight and Kovacs kills Carrera in space.



## **Tanya Wardani**

Tanya Wardani is an archaeologist Kovacs and Schneider get out of an internment camp by showing official documentation that she is needed in an interrogation process. Wardani is the expert on the dig to help them make all of the preparations necessary to open the gate and explore the Martian ship.

In the end, however, it is Wardani that ends up being a traitor. Wardani is the one responsible for setting all of the attempts on their lives in motion. It turns out she killed her original team of archaeologists and plans to do the same with the crew working to excavate the ship as the novel unfolds. She doesn't succeed in killing everyone, however, and ends up working on Martian artifacts for Djoko on Dig 27.

## **Djoko Roespinoedji**

Djoko Roespinoedji is an 8-year-old boy on the planet where Dig 27 is located. He has dark skin and a fine bone structure. He also possesses a handsome sleeve that Kovacs expects to grow androgynously beautiful. Djoko is a neutral in the war so he is not on any particular side of the war. He is the one Kovacs and Schneider make a deal with to sell the Martian spaceship to once they excavate it.

## **Matthias Hand**

Matthias Hand is a tall and good-looking corporate executive. Hand is the representative for Mandrake, which is one of the people in charge on one side of the war. Hand turns out to be very greedy and manipulative. All that he cares about is how much money he can make and who he can make the money off of.

## **Ole Hansen**

Ole Hansen is one of the soldiers chosen by Kovacs and Hand for the mission. He is a Caucasian man with calm blue eyes. He lost his team in a bombing in the desert. Hansen was in a unit by the name of Soft Touch.

## **Yvette Cruickshank**

Yvette Cruickshank is one of the soldiers chosen by Kovacs and Hand for the mission. She is a 22-year-old black woman. She wears steel jewelry and green and black quickplant plugs. She seems to enjoy danger and seeks dangerous missions.





## **Jiang Jianping**

Jiang Jianping is one of the soldiers chosen by Kovacs and Hand for the mission. He has Asian features and wear an amused smirk on his face. He is an expert at making the human body shut down. He is a huge advocate against the Kempists.

## **Ameli Vongsavath**

Ameli Vongsavath is one of the soldiers chosen by Kovacs and Hand for the mission. She is a pilot with skin the color of copper. She has one gray eye and one brown eye. The gray eye was issued to her in the hospital after gunfire blew out her data feeds that plug into her cheek under the eyeball.

## **Luc Deprez**

Luc Deprez is one of the soldiers chosen by Kovacs and Hand for the mission. He is tall with dirty blonde hair. His style is untidy and unkempt. He is Caucasian with green eyes and sharp lined facial features.

## **Markus Sutjiadi**

Markus Sutjiadi is one of the soldiers chosen by Kovacs and Hand for the mission. He is a man with almond-shaped eyes. His expression and demeanor seem unshakable. His cortical stack is wanted for prosecution for executing a soldier, Dog Veutin.

## **Sun Liping**

Sun Liping is one of the soldiers chosen by Kovacs and Hand for the mission. Has Mongolian features and she committed suicide because she was invaded by some kind of a virus before she could eject from her plane over a war zone.



# Objects/Places

## Smart Mine

A smart mine is a machine built to sense objects and shoot missiles at them. Generally, the smart mine attaches itself to the seabed as a form of camouflage. When Wardani, Schneider, and Kovacs first land on the planet, these smart mines try to shoot them out of the sky.

## Soft or Standard Archaeological Find Token

Soft or Standard Archaeological Find Token is an unpopular global currency. The currency exchange rate for the Soft is low compared to the Latimer franc. The Protectorate uses the U.N dollar as its currency.

## Landfall

Landfall is a city on one of the planets that has a spaceport where shuttles can land. The city is in a semidesert plain in the southern hemisphere. Landfall is the city where the original colonies landed a century ago. Landfall covers two-thirds of the plain, is home to 12 million residents and 30 percent of Sanction IV's overall population.

## Dig 27

Dig 27 is the planet where Djoko lives. It is also the planet Kovacs, Wardani and Schneider land on to negotiate a deal to sell the Martian spaceship to Djoko, once they excavate it. Dig 27 is a planet that has remained untouched by the war. It is also the planet where Wardani opts to stay and work as an archaeologist after the Martian spaceship mission is complete.

## Cortical Stacks

Cortical stacks are part of the spinal cord in the base of the neck. The cortical spinal cord holds the characteristics of the person who uses the cortical stack. Semetaire mines cortical stacks when people die and then resells them so that people can put the cortical stacks in another human being to bring them to life.



## **Kalashnikovs**

Kalashnikovs are the two weapons that Kovacs uses to fight battles. It appears as if the guns are built into his sleeve, arms, and clothing. Kovacs uses the weapons to kill the soldiers in the promoter's office and on numerous occasions throughout the novel.

## **Martian Spaceship**

The Martian spaceship is the artifact mission Kovacs, Schneider and Wardani set out to excavate. When they hire a crew and uncover the ship, they find ultraviolet light technology that humans do not use but seems to be common for Martians. The Martian ship is the setting for the majority of the second half of the novel.

## **Songspires**

The Martian ship also holds songspires, which are singing trees. The trees give off a scent of almonds and cherry. The way the songspires on the Martian ship are intertwining as if they are communicating with each other.

## **Sleeves**

Sleeves are a mechanism that create the persona of the person wearing the sleeve. The sleeve changes the wearers appearance, characteristics and attitude. A new sleeve is what brings people back to life that have died.

## **Mandrake Towers**

Mandrake Towers is the headquarters where Matthias Hand works for Mandrake. The towers hold living quarters, offices and more. It is in the virtual booth of the Mandrake Towers that Wardani and Kovacs have sex. The tower is also the location where Kovacs and Wardani are taken hostage by the Kempists.



# Themes

## War

The novel is set in the early 25th century during a war that is taking place for colonies in space. Although the war is in space, it draws humans that came to colonize the planets from Earth to participate in the war. The war draws these humans to take over planets and territory for particular religious beliefs and control. The war for the crew that signs up to participate in the excavation of the Martian ship is about hiding their mission to uncover the Martian ship from the powers that are fighting for control. The crew is also battling the unknown of what sits behind the gate of the Martian spaceship.

The novel begins in what appears to be a hospital recovery center that is floating in space. However, the narrator tells the reader almost immediately that it is possible in the 25th century for them to bring dead people back to life by spending recuperation time on the floating hospital and by resleeving, which is a way to bring dead people back to life.

The war also symbolizes the fight for greed and survival. While characters, such as Wardani, Schneider, and Hand start out working for the same cause, they end up letting their greed get the better of them. Each character sells out the rest of the crew in order to get paid or to save their own life.

## Competition

In general, there is competition in the war itself. There are opposing forces that are trying to take over the different planets and territories in space. Specifically, however, there is competition between two of the main characters in the novel, which is Kovacs and Schneider. Even though Schneider comes to Kovacs for help to excavate the Martian spaceship, the two compete primarily for the attention of Tanya Wardani. Tanya Wardani was previously involved with Schneider and appears to become involved with him again while they are on the planet trying to excavate the Martian ship. Wardani also has sex with Kovacs because she is drawn to him for his healing powers, which helped her to overcome the ill-effects of being in the internment camp as a prisoner.

Competition even exists among the crew members on the excavation. Even though they all were hired for the same goal, they argue about the best way to handle everything. Competition exists in almost every decision the crew has to make. This includes when to take off for the excavation, how much training they need, when to open the gate of the ship, and how much to explore the ship.

## Teamwork

When it appears that something or someone is killing people that know about the Martian ship, most of the crew comes together to help each other survive. Since nobody

knows what or who killed the people that came before them, and for that matter what caused the Martians to become extinct, the crew watches each other's backs. One of the primary themes of the book is teamwork.

For the best interest of science, the team works together to find and excavate the Martian spaceship. Then, they work together to see if there is any technology or information they can learn from what the Martians left behind. Initially, they have to learn to delegate the duties according to their own expertise. The ultimate goal is to figure out what the Martian ship is and what happened to the Martians that once inhabited it.



# Style

## Point of View

The novel is written in the first-person point of view. The novel is written as though Takeshi Kovacs, is the narrator. The narrator is both telling the story as it happens, but also provides glimpses into the past about events that brought the characters where they are today.

The point of view of this novel is an intimate point of view that allows a reader to connect closely with the main characters. The reader cares what happens to the narrator and to the other crew members on the mission. The point of view also allows the author to inject his own opinions into the narration and to expand on the events taking place around the main characters without having to move out of character or interrupt the flow of the narration. Hence, the point of view works well with this novel and the author's writing style.

## Setting

The novel is set primarily on different planets in space in the 25th century during the war. The setting of this novel is important because the time period is in the future, where humans are living in space. The main characters of the novel are struggling with the atrocities of war.

The setting of this novel works well with the plot. At first the reader is not aware that the events lead the characters to uncover a Martian ship. However, as events unfold, the war continuously leaks into the consciousness of the characters. The primary plot of the novel focuses on the fear of the war that has motivated most all the characters in the novel for their own purposes.

## Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is somewhat stiffer than the language readers of modern novels might be used to. Although the language of the novel is not formal, it uses language that has not yet made it into daily usage because the plot of the novel takes place in the future. The language includes a lot of terminology to explain futuristic times in what is a made up time and place for the readers. The language is educated, strong and descriptive enough that it creates a flow that leaves the reader impressed with the words as much as the plot when the novel is done.

The language of the novel is appropriate to the plot because it is accurate to the characters in the novel and the education level of the writer. The novel is not in love with its own words, but it is descriptive enough that the reader finds enjoyment in the words as well as the plot. The language is not difficult to understand, however, and everything

is clear in its context. For this reason the language of the novel fits well with the plot of the novel.

## **Structure**

The novel is divided into forty-two chapters and an epilogue. Each chapter is between four pages and fifteen pages long. The chapters tell the story both in exposition and dialogue. The author also injects his own voice in the chapters, giving his opinion of the events surrounding the setting of the novel as well as the actions taking place within the plot.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows the war and the characters as they go through the war. One subplot follows competition and relationships between the characters. Finally, the third subplot is teamwork. All these plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



## Quotes

"Hello, Lieutenant Kovacs. Sorry this is only a recording, but Evenfall has left us in a bad situation and there wasn't time to set up a link. The medical report says your sleeve can be repaired in about 10 days, so were not willing to go for a clone-bank option here. I want you back on the Northern Rim as soon as possible, but the truth is, we've been fought to a standstill there for the moment and can live without you for a couple of weeks. There's a status update appended to this recording, including the losses sustained in the last assault. I'd like you to look it over while you're in virtual, set that famous Envoy intuition of yours to work. God knows, we need some fresh ideas up there. In a general context, acquisition of the Rim territories will provide one of the nine major objectives necessary to bring this conflict" Chapter. 1, p. 7).

"Exactly what I've been looking for. Someone with some common sense. Lieutenant Kovacs, I'd like to make you a proposition. Something that will involve you getting out of this war not only alive but rich - richer than you can possibly imagine" (Chapter 2, p. 10).

"Less than three months ago. We had a little raid. Kempists. They beat the perimeter machines and got inside, very high tech considering the state they're in, in these parts. Very high tech. Considering. They came for her" (Chapter 3, p. 20).

"And what are you going to be doing all this time" (Chapter 4, p. 28).

"You've done something to me. I can feel it here. It's like. Opening" (Chapter 5, p. 29).

"The war isn't this far south yet" (Chapter 6, p. 41).

"Here we go. Stay here, both of you" (Chapter 7, p. 53).

Because if you, I'll turn your cortical stack over to Mandrake and they'll probably resleeve you. That's a one-time special offer, Deng. Grab it while it lasts" (Chapter 8, p. 63).

Very well. I'll be back shortly. But you have a little to learn about the art of negotiation, Lieutenant Kovacs" (Chapter 9, p. 73).

"I can see why Schneider is so burned on her" (Chapter 9, p. 80).

Don't be obtuse, Kovacs. That slick streak of used coolant in a suit. You're fucking bonding with him" (Chapter 11, p. 85).

"You were followed last night" (Chapter 12, p. 91).

"What, no more mystical than the songspires? Trees of stone that sing to the rising and setting sun? No more mystical than a gate that opens like a bedroom door onto" (Chap. 13. p. 102).





"And you still thought I wanted to command. Are you fucking insane" (Chapter 14, p. 111).

"Well, there's one particular emotion I need bending back into place now, and I don't really see any other way to do that than by fucking you" (Chapter 15, p. 115).

"By the way. The Kempists airburst a marauder bomb over Sauberville an hour ago. High yield, hundred percent casualties" (Chapter 16, p. 128).

"Hand, the recruits aren't used to those sleeves yet. Not by a long way" (Chapter 17, p. 133).

"You'll settle into it. Sleeping helps" (Chapter 18, p. 139).

"So why hide these guys at all" (Chapter 19, p. 147).

"This artifact. You claim it's a gate. Can you give me any guarantee that nothing will come through it from the other side" (Chapter 20, p. 151).

"When you put on that uniform, you're saying in effect that you resign your right to make independent decisions about the universe and your relationship to it" (Chapter 21, p. 161).

"The corporations did it. Not governments. Not politicians. Not this fucking joke Protectorate we pay lip service to. Corporate planning gave us the vision, corporate investment paid for it, and corporate employees built it" (Chapter 22, p. 170).

"This is the pinnacle of their technology. The only one we've found in five hundred years of scratching around on more than thirty worlds" (Chapter 23, p. 178).

"Whatever leakage we had back in Landfall seems to have followed us here. Or do you think someone from outside crept into the camp last night and did this" (Chapter 24, p. 184).

"I wasn't going to tell you this, but seeing as well, I guess you can deal with it. Seen the two of them sloping off together a couple of times now. And Schneider always comes back with this big shit-eating grin, so I figure, you know" (Chapter 25, p. 201).

"I'm dying, just like everyone else in this neighborhood. That's what's going on" (Chapter 26, p. 210).

"With the buoy established, we can notify the Cartel and bring in a full team. With Wedge support, I imagine we can render this a cease-fire zone rather rapidly." (Chap. 27, p. 214).

"It's an interlocking configuration but the components don't actually touch. They must be related to each other purely through field dynamics. It's like a, I don't know, a very



strong electromagnetic muscle system over a mosaic skeleton. Each nanobe generates a portion of the field, and that's what webs it in place" (Chapter 28, p. 221).

"The only thing that gets us out of here in one piece is deployment of the buoy, or something like it. With a Mandrake flag on the starship, all bets are off and we are home free" (Chapter 29, p. 225).

"You're not interested in the money, you don't care who ends up with the property rights, and you certainly don't mind dying. So why should anybody else, right" (Chapter 30, p. 240).

"I don't know about the rest of you but this looks to me like an infestation" (Chapter 31, p. 250).

"But this is a fucking starship. What could make them leave something like that" (Chapter 32, p. 259).

"I figure you sold out to Carrera rather than go into virtual interrogation" (Chapter 33, p. 265).

"Shoot me. Shoot us all. Use the stunner, Kovacs. This is what killed the others" (Chapter 34, p. 279).

"You're not going anywhere my wolf pack puppy. You're staying here with me. We've got some accounts to process" (Chapter 35, p. 284).

"I'm an Envoy. The strategic plans was to kill anyone who tried to backstab me. Surviving afterward, well, that's a binus if you can do it, but if you can't. I'm an Envoy" (Chapter 36, p. 293).

"Back on the beach, man. Wedge came and pulled us off the ship. Carrera's Wedge, my old outfit. Fucking rescued us, Jiang. The Wedge" (Chapter 37, p. 294).

"Someone had to clear a path for your little quest, and Matthias Hand arranged for it to be our mutual friend Joshua Kemp" (Chapter 38, p. 311).

"Plan's simple, Luc. I'm going to kill Sutjadi and everyone else out there. While that's going on, I need you to get inside the Chandra and check for crew or conscientious objectors to the entertainment. Probably be a few each" (Chapter 39, p. 322).

"Carrera made it. Then he got out the forward escape hatch, painted himself in polalloy, and is by now on the other side of the fucking gate" (Chapter 40, p. 330).

"Was it so bad, fighting for the Wedge? You were guaranteed resleeving at all times, and it's not as if a man of your training was ever likely to suffer real death" (Chapter 41, p. 338).



"You know when I worked most of this out? On the swim back to the gate. See, I was pretty much convinced it'd be closed by the time I got there. Wasn't quite sure why I thought that at first, but it sort of fell in place. They'd gone through the gate, and the gate had closed on them. Why would that happen, and how did poor old Dhasanapongsakul end up on the wrong side wearing a T-shirt? Then I remembered the waterfall."

Chap. 42, p. 356



## Topics for Discussion

Who is Lieutenant Takeshi Kovacs? What brought him to the hospital on Sanction IV? What does he do when Jan Schneider proposes a deal to him? Why? What does Kovacs recall about his previous life? What is the most important moment in Kovacs's life? Why is this important? How does it change his life?

Discuss the relationship between Kovacs and Schneider. Are they friends? Is there competition in their relationship? How does Kovacs feel about Schneider? How does Schneider feel about Kovacs? Why does Schneider think he is in competition with Kovacs? What does he do about it? What happens to Schneider?

Discuss the relationship between Kovacs and Wardani. Are they friends? Is there competition in their relationship? How does Wardani feel about Kovacs? How does Kovacs feel about Wardani? Why does Wardani have an affair with Kovacs? What happens to Wardani? Why?

Discuss the relationship between Wardani and Schneider. Are they friends, lovers or do they have a different relationship? Is there competition in their relationship? How does Wardani feel about Schneider? How does Schneider feel about Wardani? Why does Wardani still defend Schneider even after he leaves her and the rest of the crew behind?

Discuss the war. What impact does the war have on the characters of the novel? How does it motivate them? Why is the war an issue to the characters? Does the war have anything to do with Schneider's actions against Kovacs? What impact does it have on Wardani's desire to expose the truth? How does each character learn to deal with the war?

Who is Matthias Hand? What convinces him to make a deal with Kovacs? What is Hand's motive when he first makes the deal? Does his motive change as time progresses? Why is this important? How does it change his life?

Who is Tanya Wardani? What brought her to the internment camp? What does she do when Jan Schneider and Takeshi Kovacs break her out? Why? What does Wardani recall about her previous life? What is the most important moment in Wardani's life? Why is this important? How does it change her life?