

# **The Bone Clocks Study Guide**

## **The Bone Clocks by David Mitchell**

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# Plot Summary

Holly Sykes is a child when she first hears voices. She's soon comforted by an Anchorite who introduces herself as Miss Constantine. Holly is soon afraid of Miss Constantine and tells her mother about her fears. When Holly's mother, Kath, seeks help, she finds a psychiatrist named Dr. Marinus, who immediately puts an end to Holly's connection with Miss Constantine. What Kath and Holly don't know is that Marinus is really a Horologist who has been reincarnated over several lifetimes and is part of the ultimate battle of good-versus-evil against the Anchorites.

The Anchorites befriend children who are gifted with various psychic abilities. They convince the children to go willingly with them to a Chapel where the Anchorites literally feed on the children in order to keep themselves young. Through this process, they are immortal. Miss Constantine had been grooming Holly for that role and it's only Marinus' intervention that saves her.

Holly becomes a teenager and has a fight with her mother over Holly's involvement with a boy. Holly, believing she is in love and in the right, runs away from home. Her younger brother, Jacko, disappears the following day and everyone assumes that he's run away in search of Holly. Holly is devastated, believing it's her fault that Jacko disappears.

As an adult, Holly encounters Marinus again, this time in a different body, and discovers that her brother Jacko had died of a childhood illness. From that time, his body was held by a Horologist named Xi Lo. It was actually Xi Lo who disappeared and Holly is recruited to join the Horologists in what will be their final battle against the Anchorites. Holly learns that there have been dozens of victims of the Anchorites over the years and that there is a slim chance that Xi Lo – known to Holly as Jacko – might be saved in the process.

Although she wasn't aware of it, Holly has served as a host to another Horologist, Esther Little, who encountered the teenaged Holly when she was running away from home. Esther sees future events and leaves clues for Marinus that help him reweave Esther's memories into a full version of herself, though Esther is functioning without a body during the final battle against the Anchorites.

The Horologists make their way into the Chapel and the battle begins. There are casualties on both sides and it appears the Horologists will lose, but a last-minute effort by Holly saves Marinus. She literally strikes Miss Constantine in the head with a rolling pin, making it possible for her to escape. Marinus manages to get away with the help of an Anchorite who cares deeply for Holly.

Decades pass. Holly makes a life for herself and her daughter Aoife. Aoife and her husband, who is from Iceland, are killed in a plane crash along with many others during a "Gigastorm," leaving Holly to raise her granddaughter, Lorelei. Holly eventually adopts a young refugee, Rafiq, who has diabetes. As their part of the country faces looting and

a total breakdown of government, Holly fears for her adopted children more than for herself.

Just as her fears hit a peak, a huge ship arrives. Rafiq is fishing and someone from the ship asks for Holly and Lorelei by name. Rafiq is afraid but Holly soon discovers that Marinus is in yet another body, this time as a vital adviser to the Icelandic government. Marinus has located Holly and, using his Horologist abilities, manages to convince the government that Lorelei is vital to their country's well-being. Iceland, being one of the few remaining functional countries with electricity, oil, medicines, and technology, has the insulin necessary for Rafiq's survival.

Holly, knowing that her life is nearing its end, knows the best chance of survival for Rafiq and Lorelei are to go with Marinus. They part with many tears and with Holly's profound thanks to Marinus for this final act of care toward her family.



# A Hot Spell: 1984 - June 30

## Summary

The story opens in the section titled "A Hot Spell: 1984." The first chapter is "June 30." Holly Sykes wakes in her bedroom in Kent. Her first thoughts are of her boyfriend, Vincent Costello. She hears her mother, Kath, and wonders if she somehow knows about Vincent. Downstairs, she encounters her younger siblings, Jacko and Sharon. She hears her dad, Dave, dealing with a delivery to their pub, The Captain Marlow. Kath confronts Holly about Vincent and the argument culminates with Kath slapping Holly. Holly walks out of the room.

Jacko stops her as she's leaving the house. He's drawn a maze and pleads with her to memorize every bit of it. Holly is taken aback by his plea and by his statement that he knows she's leaving home to move in with Vincent.

On the way to Vincent's house, Holly sees Ed Brubeck, a boy from her class at school. She ducks into a doorway to avoid him. She then runs into her older brother, Brendan, and says she's going to work on a school project with her best friend, Stella. Holly knows Brendan will share that information with Kath. At Vincent's house, she finds Vincent in bed with Stella and she rushes out, not sure what to do now but certain she doesn't want to go home.

She continues walking along the Thames and is very thirsty. She sees a woman fishing and learns her name is Esther Little. Esther is another Horologist but Holly doesn't know that. Esther agrees to share her tea. She then writes "my long name" on the jetty with a piece of chalk, saying it's instructions for someone years from now, and that it will wash off from the jetty but will remain in Holly's memory. She then says that she might someday need asylum. Holly thinks Esther is crazy and agrees that she'll offer asylum in return for the tea.

Holly continues walking and thinks that her parents might be getting worried by now. She expects her dad might have even decided to visit Vincent. Holly decides she'll sleep out for two nights, then decide what to do next. She takes a nap and Ed Brubeck wakes her. He tells her it's about five miles to the next town, Allhallows, and after some indecision, Holly accepts a ride on the back of his bicycle. Ed talks about working the previous summer at a produce farm called Black Elm Farm, and his plans for this summer. They have fish and chips and then Ed helps her get into a church where they spend the night after Ed calls home.

## Analysis

Holly's relationship to her siblings is not deeply explored in the book, other than her fondness for Jacko. She doesn't seem that close to her sister, Sharon, or her brother, Brendan, as a child but they grow into a deeper connection in early life. Jacko is not the



typical little boy and everyone – including Jacko – seems to be aware of that. He likes to listen to Chinese radio stations and he often says things that are wise beyond his years. It's not until later that the reader and Holly learn that Jacko actually died sometime before the events of the first chapter and that the Horologist Xi Lo is living in Jacko's body. Xi Lo has been alive for many generations which explains the wisdom and he was originally Chinese which explains the interest in Chinese radio stations.

As Holly is leaving the house, Xi Lo (in Jacko's body) confronts her. He says he knows she's planning to move in with Vincent and urges her to take the maze he's drawn for her. Holly tries to placate him but he's insistent that she memorize the maze completely so that she could work it in the dark. Xi Lo seems to have knowledge of the future and knows that Holly's life will one day depend on her ability to get through a maze in this configuration. Holly, because this is the last time she sees the person she knows as her little brother, will memorize the maze.

In the first chapter, Holly talks about her memories of the summer when she was seven years old. She recalls hearing vague voices and she comes to refer to them as the "Radio People." She has a nightmare one night and wakes to find a lady seated on her bed, reassuring her that everything is alright. The woman identifies herself as Miss Constantine. Holly finds herself strangely comforted by Miss Constantine's presence, especially when Miss Constantine says she has made the Radio People disappear. But later, Miss Constantine apparently arranges an "accident" for a classmate who has threatened Holly. Holly realizes it's no coincidence and she tells her mother about Miss Constantine. This results in Holly's first encounter with a Horologist named Marinus.

Kath gets a referral to a psychiatrist named Dr. Marinus. Neither she nor Holly realize that Marinus is involved with the Horologists. Marinus takes only a few minutes to put an end to the psychic episodes, thereby ending Holly's usefulness to Miss Constantine. Marinus knows why Miss Constantine has contacted Holly but doesn't relate this information to Holly at this point. It's only much later that Holly learns the full truth behind this first contact with Marinus.

There are several pieces of important information given in the scene where Holly meets Esther Little. First, Esther knows at least some details about the future. She predicts she'll need asylum and Holly, not knowing what that means, agrees to offer it. Actually, Esther will be attacked and will hide within Holly to recover, a process that will take many years. Esther writes "my long name" on the jetty and says it's a message for someone who will be looking for it years in the future. That person will be Marinus and he'll be searching for a way to make Esther "reweave" herself into being. Esther has been reincarnated dozens of time and her "long name" is a culmination of all those lives. When Marinus recites them, Esther will be able to reconnect the shards of her memory.

Another important piece of information is a ship that's in the river. The name of the ship is "Star of Riga" and Holly notices it, briefly wondering if Riga is a place. Marinus is nearby and also sees the ship. Esther uses the name of the ship in a message to a woman within instructions that she is to give that information to Marinus at the



appropriate time. This serves as a way for Marinus to know how to find Esther's instructions within Holly's memory.

Ed and Holly have some deep conversations during their evening and night together. Ed says Holly has to think about the reason she's leaving home. He talks about the "second umbilical cord" that has to be severed. This cord ties a child to their parents during their childhood and it's only after an argument with the parents that the child is ready to find their own way in the world. Ed says that if Holly is staying away from home because she's hurt that this cord has been cut, she should rethink her situation. He says he knows her feelings might be hurt but that it had to happen at some point.

In this section, the reader sees the beginning of some themes, including the battle of Good Versus Evil. The Anchorites and Horologists are constantly at war because the Anchorites "decant" their victims in order to maintain their perpetual youth. The Horologists try to stop them. This results in an age-old clash that continues for decades to come.

## Discussion Question 1

Describe Holly's relationship with her parents. Could her argument with her mother be the snipping of this invisible "second umbilical cord" Ed refers to?

## Discussion Question 2

Describe Jacko as Holly knows him. How does the information that Xi Lo is in Jacko's body explain away his idiosyncrasies?

## Discussion Question 3

Describe Holly's first meeting with Marinus and Esther Little. Make predictions of the long-term effect of these meetings on Holly's life.

## Vocabulary

labyrinth, navigate, crooning, busker, queuing, groyne, dubious



# A Hot Spell: 1984 - July 1, July 2

## Summary

Chapter two, July 1, opens with Holly waking up to memories of Stella and Vincent. She plans to go first to Rochester and leaves before Ed wakes up to save his argument that she should go home.

Holly comes to an underpass and sees Jacko, though she knows it can't really be Jacko, she feels certain that it is. She jogs into the underpass and the shape of the opening changes as she nears the middle. Then Holly sees Miss Constantin walking alongside her. She sees a picture of a man who has a black spot in his forehead that turns into an eye. The scene evolves with Miss Constantin thrown by a blue light. Another man helps Miss Constantin up and she points her finger, which looks like a talon, at Holly. Holly hears a voice say "I'll be here" then the underpass returns to normal. There's no one else around and Holly worries that she's having a relapse into the confusion of her childhood.

Holly telephones Gabriel Harty at Black Elm Farm and he says she can have a job if she shows up that evening for work the following day. She stops at a service station and encounters a couple named Heidi and Ian. They agree to give her a ride. They have strong political opinions and are delivering a newspaper called the "Socialist Worker." They go to a house that belongs to Heidi's family where Ian cooks a meal.

Holly cleans up the kitchen then joins Heidi and Ian. She sees black dots on Heidi's arm and first believes it's ants. She tries to get them off but discovers that Heidi is catatonic. Ian looks the same. There's a man in the house and Holly recognizes him from her vision in the underpass. His name is Rhimes and he demands to know Holly's name but says she must be Esther Little or Marinus. The man decides Holly really isn't one of the Horologists and tells her to run. She does but feels herself pulled back to the house.

Rhimes asks about Esther Little and, when Holly mentions asylum, says Esther plans to use Holly as a "mobile safe house." Suddenly, Heidi's body, apparently hosting Marinus, is walking though it doesn't look normal. Rhimes fights and kills Heidi. When he is focused on Holly, Esther (in Ian's body) stabs Rhimes. Esther apologizes that Holly had to witness the murders. Esther falls down and tells Holly that the body is dying. She says she'll hide "deep" in Holly and instructs Holly to touch Ian's forehead. Holly does.

Esther redacts Holly's memories of the events at Heidi's house and Holly finds herself at a bridge on her way to the farm. She sees Vincent and Stella at a cafe and continues her journey. She settles in at the farm and meets several other young people who are working there. She lies about her age and situation.

July 2 opens with Holly realizing that her period is a few days late but that she can't imagine that she's pregnant. She knows, however, that her memory has been changed





and that makes her unsure of everything. During the first day of work, everyone hears a radio report about the murders of Heidi and Ian. Holly has no memories of being there. Everyone is on edge. Holly is talking to another of the workers that evening who urges her to consider going back home. As they are talking, Ed arrives on his bicycle. He says Jacko has gone missing and that everyone thinks he's with Holly, meaning the authorities aren't really searching for him yet. Ed promises to accompany Holly home and to help her get through the coming ordeal.

## Analysis

Holly's attitude toward her mother continue to drive her actions, and her relationship with her parents is among the themes of the story. Holly imagines what people will say and feel when she's been gone for a few days. Her relationship with Jacko is also important because he disappears soon after Holly leaves home, and she will always feel responsible.

The scene inside the underpass is chaotic and confusing, and some aspects of it will remain a mystery to the reader. The black spot that grows into an eye in the forehead of the man in the painting is a "chakra eye." This is used by the Horologists when they want to see beyond what the human eye can detect.

Holly believes she sees Jacko at the underpass though he's some twenty miles away, at home. She knows that even if he had come looking for her, he wouldn't have been able to guess where she is. Though she feels certain that it really is Jacko, she can't logically explain how that would happen. It seems likely that she's seeing an image of Jacko from his trip to the Chapel, which will be explained later in the book. Xi Lo, in Jacko's body, actually does go missing from home on that morning and he is never seen again. Marinus and some of the other Horologists believe that he is still alive in the Chapel but he isn't recovered during the final battle that destroys the Chapel.

The full details about the events at Heidi's house are cloaked in conversation and changing bodies. Heidi seems to have been housing Marinus while Ian seems to have been housing Esther. Rhimes is obviously an Anchorite and there are references to a recent battle between the Anchorites and Horologists with losses on both sides. Rhimes kills the bodies of Heidi and Ian but Heidi, who is really Marinus, stands up again and fight back for awhile. Then Rhimes is just about to kill Holly when Ian, who is really Esther, stabs him in the back of the head. The Anchorites are mortal in the sense that they can die if their bodies are fatally injured. They are immortal in the sense that they feed off young psychics to maintain eternal youth.

Holly has a dream on July 2 about being pregnant. She hasn't yet faced the fact that she might really be pregnant after her sexual relationship with Vincent, but she is. The details of her pregnancy are not revealed but she apparently has an abortion later. During this dream, Holly imagines that her mother instructs her to ask the baby for the identity of its father. Holly asks and the baby says, "When Sibelius is smashed into little



pieces, at three on the Day of the Star of Riga, you'll know I'm near." This is yet another reference to the Star of Riga but the remainder of the message remains a mystery.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Describe the scene at Heidi's house and the actions of Esther and Marinus.

## **Discussion Question 2**

List what is known at this point about Horologists and Anchorites.

## **Discussion Question 3**

Why doesn't Holly want to go home at this point in the story, and what happens to change her mind?

## **Vocabulary**

negotiating, wafts, magnanimity, wiles, traipse, reprisals, subjective, gabbling, communism, sycophants, propaganda, revisionist, shameless, weaselly, wiles



# Myrrh is Mine, Its Bitter Perfume, 1991 - December 13, December 20, December 23

## Summary

The next section is "Myrrh is Mine, Its Bitter Perfume, 1991." December 13 opens with a musical practice at Cambridge. Hugo Lamb, a student, is watching when he meets Immaculee Constantin. She tells Hugo that the rules of life and death can be "rewritten" to include "the perpetual deferral of death." Hugo comes back to consciousness to discover he has lost several hours and that the building he's in is closing.

He later meets with some of his friends, including Richard Cheeseman who has been hired to write a review for Crispin Hershey's book, "Desiccated Embryos." At a bar later, Hugo encounters Elijah D'Arnoq, a fellow student he'd met once at a rifle club meeting.

In December 20, Hugo is at home with his family for the holiday. Hugo spends time whenever he's home with a man named Brigadier Reginald Philby. He's in the Riverside Villas, is confined to a wheelchair, and unable to speak coherently. Hugo reads to him though the Brigadier sometimes becomes upset and rants about stamps. In fact, Hugo has stolen some very valuable stamps from the Brigadier and steals more during this visit.

Hugo stops for a sexual encounter with a woman who wants to meet Hugo's family. Hugo says their relationship is casual, that he's never taking her home to meet his parents, and that it should end now. He then goes to a car dealership where Vincent Costello works. Hugo explains that he has a friend who owns an Aston Martin. He says the friend is in financial trouble and might be looking to sell the car. Hugo and Vincent work out details and Hugo promises to put the friend in touch, if he decides to sell.

In December 23, Hugo stops at the shop owned by Bernard Kriebel Philately who sells stamps. Bernard knows Hugo as Mr. Marcus Anyder, a false identity Hugo has created for himself. Hugo sells the newly stolen stamps for ten thousand pounds. He then deposits the money into an account in Anyder's name.

Hugo encounters a man who is scraggly and apparently homeless during his day. That evening at home, he sees the same man outside his house. The man announces that he is really Miss Constantin and that she is there to plant "a seed" within Hugo. She says she knows Hugo better than he knows himself and then simply walks away.



## Analysis

Hugo Lamb isn't one of the good guys of this story though he partially redeems himself when the Horologists and Anchorites have their final battle. Hugo is smart and ambitious. He is a college student but has already set up a false identity and is feeding money into accounts held by that fictional character. He manipulates his friends into losing money and Hugo profits from those encounters. He is ruthless and seems to care little for anyone other than himself.

Hugo's chance meeting with Elijah D'Arnoq is not a chance meeting at all. D'Arnoq is a member of the Anchorites and is likely making contact with Hugo on purpose, though whatever he gathers from the meeting is not revealed to the reader.

Richard Cheeseman is a minor character but he plays a role in the life of Crispin Hershey. Richard is a budding writer during the December 13 chapter and is elated that he's been chosen to write a review of Crispin's book, "Desiccated Embryos." He defends the book and ends up in a fight over it, which leads to Olly taking him to the hospital. Later, Richard will write a scathing review of another of Crispin's books and that will begin a feud between the two men.

More of Hugo's bad character is seen in a conversation with one of his college friends. Jonny Penhaligon calls Hugo and announces that he's seriously in debt after a poker game. Hugo says he helped Jonny get into the game and that he has to pay the debt. Jonny says he doesn't have the money and Hugo suggests he sell his car. The car belonged to Jonny's deceased father and he doesn't want to sell it. Hugo doesn't offer Jonny a way out other than selling the car and Jonny seems to agree that he'll think about it. As soon as they hang up, Hugo calls the student Jonny owes and announces that he thinks Jonny will sell the car. It seems the game was rigged so that Jonny would lose and that Hugo is going to profit from the situation. The tragic part of this is that Jonny later drives himself off a cliff rather than face giving up the car, which is an important link with his father.

The Anchorites and Horologists are imaginary groups and the casual reader may have trouble keeping track of their abilities and limitations. It seems impossible for Miss Constantin to appear as the beautiful young woman Hugo encounters on the Cambridge campus and later to appear as an old, homeless man. This might be explained by an early conversation with Holly in which Miss Constantin says she has mastered the ability to leave her body behind as she travels to destinations of her choosing. The reader has seen the Horologists who inhabit bodies, including Heidi, Ian, and Holly, and it seems this is what happens with Miss Constantin.

It's obvious that Hugo is being recruited by the Anchorites because they see a level of ruthlessness in him that is vital to the continued survival of the group. Hugo doesn't care who he hurts as he tries to gather money but he also doesn't care about hurting other people by sleeping with anyone who captures his attention. His second meeting with Immaculee Constantin is filled with mystery. He sees this homeless man in town and the "man" then appears at his parents' home, identifying himself as Miss Constantin. She



says she wants to plant a “seed” in Hugo. That seed is the idea that they might be telling the truth about perpetual youth and the curiosity to obey when they call to him to follow them, and he will do exactly that when the time comes.

Miss Constantine is a member of the Anchorites and she is obviously trying to get Hugo's attention. The Anchorites are perpetually young because they literally feed off psychic children. Their victims die in order to feed the Anchorites. This Cost of Immortality is one of the themes of the story. The Anchorites have to keep killing young psychics in order to remain young, which means they need ruthless people to join their ranks. Hugo fits that profile and is exactly the kind of self-centered, ruthless person who could kill someone to get what he wants.

## Discussion Question 1

Describe Hugo's meetings with Miss Constantine.

## Discussion Question 2

What is known about Hugo's character from these chapters? What kind of person is he and what drives him?

## Discussion Question 3

Why do you believe the Anchorites are drawn to bring Hugo into their group?

## Vocabulary

prolix, cohesion, coercion, perpetuity, enigmatically, verbatim, aspersion, haranguing, piqued, pragmatism, diatribe



# Myrrh is Mine, Its Bitter Perfume, 1991 - December 29, December 30, December 31, New Year's Day 1992

## Summary

December 29 opens with Hugo at a ski lodge in the Alps with several of his friends, including Rufus Chetwynd-Pitt, Olly Quinn, and Dominic Fitzsimmons. Rufus and Hugo race down the mountain. Hugo knows he won't win but knows this victory will make Rufus more susceptible to losing at games of chance later in the day. Hugo takes a serious fall and Holly Sykes, who works at a local bar, helps him up but refuses further advances. At the bar later, Olly announces that Ness broke up with him and the four men discuss possible reasons, including that she has another boyfriend. Hugo announces that he is "immune" to love and has never been in love.

Hugo leaves a glove at the bar on purpose then claims to have left it accidentally and returns so that he has an excuse to talk to Holly. Again, she refuses his advances.

In December 30, Hugo and the others are staying at a chalet owned by Rufus' family. Richard Cheeseman calls with news that Jonny drove himself over a cliff, committing suicide. Hugo waits that afternoon by the ski lifts until Holly appears but she again rebuffs him, refusing to ski back down with him.

In December 31, Hugo goes to the bar where Holly works to find her cleaning. He helps and she agrees to have coffee with him. They talk for awhile, including generalities about Holly's background. Hugo finds his friends have partnered up with three girls who claim to be background singers for a famous singer. Hugo says they are hookers but the other three swear they aren't.

In New Year's Day, 1992, Hugo wakes to the disturbing thought that his father is going to call. A short time later, the phone rings and it's Hugo's dad who says an officer with the Art and Antiques Recovery Division is looking for Hugo. He doesn't know any details and Hugo manages to sound perplexed, though he knows it has to do with the stolen stamps.

Hugo learns that the girls who came home with his friends are demanding a thousand dollars each and the three friends don't have enough cash to pay up. Two "burly men" appear at the house and Hugo escapes to his room where he gathers his belongings and sneaks out through a window before his friends can ask him to help pay.

Hugo goes to the bar and considers options. He knows he can assume Marcus Anyder's identity and leave town but wonders if he has the nerve. He tells Holly he doesn't have anywhere to stay and she says a storm is headed for them, meaning transportation will



be at a standstill. She invites him to stay at her apartment. Hugo realizes that he is falling in love with Holly and identifies the feeling as something much different from lust.

During the evening, they talk about their lives. Holly asks Hugo for one stupid mistake he's made and he struggles to find something plausible without being as horrible as his role in Jonny's suicide. Holly then talks about Jacko's disappearance. She says she is responsible because Jacko wouldn't have left home if she hadn't run away. She expects the usual responses from Hugo, including that it wasn't her fault. Instead, he says she is being rude to Jacko by running away to hide rather than making the most of her life. He points out that there are hundreds of children on the streets of London in need of help.

They have sex and seem to have made a connection. Hugo wakes later and finds a postcard from Ed and a necklace that's in the shape of a maze. Hugo is jealous over the postcard and curious about the maze. He plans to ask Holly about it. Hugo gets in the shower and Holly goes to work, leaving a note that says he's welcome to join her at the bar or leave without fear that she'll create a problem. He knows he's headed to the bar.

On the way, Elijah D'Arnoq addresses him from a car, saying Miss Constantin "sends her regards." D'Arnoq then says Hugo can get in now and discover the truth or "die wondering." Hugo considers the options. He worries that he'll eventually tire of Holly and find the magic of their love is gone. Hugo learns that D'Arnoq was given the same choice and he says he would still make the choice to get in the car.

Hugo gets in the car and the man in the backseat introduces himself as Mr. Pfenninger. He says he is a member of the Anchorites of the Dusk Chapel of the Blind Cathar of the Thomasite Monastery of Sidlehorn Pass, better known as the Anchorites. He says his role is to ensure the group's survival by recruiting new members. The conversation continues and then Hugo finds himself outside the car and on a steep mountainside. D'Arnoq is there and says this is the site of the Thomasite Monastery of the Sidlehorn Pass. He says the Anchorites searched Hugo for "passengers" during his memory lapse. Miss Constantin arrives and asks if Hugo is joining them.

## Analysis

In the chapter set on December 29, Hugo is still trying to figure out the truth about his meeting with Miss Constantin. He considers that he might have imagined both meetings or that he's the result of an elaborate hoax perpetrated by his friends. His third option is that he proof that "mind walking" is possible but he doesn't accept that it can be possible outside a fantasy novel. He dismisses the other theories as well but simply cannot dismiss the events or come up with a plausible explanation. The fact that it's on his mind means he will later be nearly desperate for answers and will willingly go when members of the Anchorites summon him.

Hugo is caught off guard by news of Jonny's suicide. He asks if Jonny left a note, apparently wondering if it will mention the fact that Jonny owes money over a poker game. The amount is rather large and Hugo seems to know that Jonny doesn't have the



money to pay up. Hugo had the entire scenario planned, including the suggestion that Jonny sell the car to get the money, but Jonny's suicide apparently surprises him completely. This is a sign of Hugo's lack of consideration for the feelings of anyone other than himself. His main concern, as he's talking with Cheeseman, is whether Jonny left a note that might implicate Hugo's role in the situation.

That evening, the conversation turns to Jonny's suicide. Rufus is wealthy and Jonny's family had once been wealthy. Rufus says he believes the pressure of being that first poor generation of the wealthy family pushed Jonny over the edge. He says there is a great deal of pressure on the wealthy that they not be the ones to lose the wealth. He says that, coupled with the fact that Jonny didn't have a single friend he could call on in his time of need, prompted the suicide. The irony is that Jonny did call on Hugo and that Hugo could have solved the situation to save Johnny's life.

Hugo believes he is in love with Holly and he seems to believe that the emotion is real, but the minute he's approached by the Anchorites, he distrusts the feeling. This is another example of his character. He doesn't believe the love can be real and expects that the minor problems of life will begin to make him dissatisfied with any life he builds with Holly.

Hugo sees the pendant in the shape of a maze as he's leaving Holly's apartment. This pendant is an exact replica of the maze drawn by Xi Lo in Jacko's body as Holly is leaving the house. The maze is a symbol of Jacko's love for Holly and will be the reason Holly is able to escape death during the battle of Good Versus Evil that occurs years later in the Chapel.

## Discussion Question 1

Why does Hugo ultimately decide to leave Holly behind?

## Discussion Question 2

What is Hugo's reaction to the news that authorities are searching for him?

## Discussion Question 3

What is Hugo's role in Jonny's death and how much responsibility does he take for his role?

## Vocabulary

scion, misogynist, bereavement, chasm, aphrodisiac, vindication, problematic, metamorphosis, utterly, ineptitude, runic





# The Wedding Bash, 2014 - April 16, April 17

## Summary

"The Wedding Bash, 2004," opens with a chapter titled April 16. Holly and her family are gathered for Sharon's wedding to Pete Webber. Holly's brother Brendan is there along with her parents, Kath and Dave. Holly's partner and the father of her child, Ed Brubeck, is also present. Ed is a journalist working as a foreign correspondent though he has promised Holly he's going to give it up in order to remain nearer their daughter, Aoife. However, he knows he's addicted to the thrill of being in the middle of the action.

While everyone else is out for pre-wedding events, Ed goes back to the hotel with Aoife. When Holly returns, he admits that his editor has asked him to go back to the Middle East for another few months. Holly is furious and says he has to choose between his job and his daughter. Ed counters, asking Holly what she'd do if he told her she could no longer help the homeless and runaways as she does now. She insists it isn't the same.

In April 17, Ed and Aoife go for a walk on the nearby pier. Miss Constantin introduces herself as an old friend of Holly's. She looks closely at Aoife's forehead but doesn't find what she's looking for. She walks away and redacts the memories of both Aoife and Ed so that neither remembers meeting her. Aoife sees a booth on the pier advertising the fortune teller Dwight Silverwind. She is furious when Ed refuses to pay for a reading, lets her balloon go, and screams that she hates Ed for never being at home.

The wedding is held and Ed interacts with several members of Holly's family, including Kath and Dave who have sold the pub and seem content with their lives. He visits for a while with Holly's Aunt Eilish who recalls Jacko, saying he didn't seem "remarkable" until after his bout with meningitis at age five. She says that Jacko was different eighteen months later and "knew things about the world" that seemed strange for a little boy. She says she once asked him about his identity and he said he was "a well-intentioned visitor" who was keeping Jacko's memories safe. Eilish then says that she was supposed to tell Ed all this because of "the Script." She understands that Ed doesn't believe in the precognition or second sight, but that she and Holly have gifts. She says that Ed should trust in Holly's gift when the time comes, even if he doesn't believe in it.

Ed agrees to take a nap with Aoife though he plans to sleep only for a bit. When Holly returns to the room, Ed is still asleep but Aoife is missing. They begin a frantic search and Ed rushes to the pier, believing Aoife might have gone to the fortune teller's booth. He arrives and Dwight Silverwind says he hasn't seen Aoife since she was there with Ed. Dwight offers to help with the search, saying he believes he's "scripted" to remain with Ed through this event.



When they arrive back at the hotel, Holly seems to pass out. Holly mutters some slurred words that sound like “ten-fifteen.” Dwight says the words were a message but not from Holly. He questions Ed who admits that Holly had some episodes when she was younger. Dwight pushes, saying the words are a code and the Ed can figure them out. Suddenly, Ed sees the pigeonholes that hold the room keys, and note that the key to room 1015 is in place. He grabs it without being seen and rushes to the room where he finds Aoife has locked herself in and fallen asleep.

Ed and Holly talk back over the entire situation after Aoife is in bed. Holly says it felt as though she was channeling the words of someone else when she said the numbers. Though Ed has always been skeptical, he now urges Holly to write about it. Later, Ed tells Holly about the two men he'd worked with and their deaths. He also admits that he is a “war zone junkie.” Later, he remembers the day Aoife was born and their first breakfast as a family.

## Analysis

One of the main points of these chapters is the relationship between Holly and Ed. These relationships are an important theme in the book. Their relationship is strained because of Ed's desire to remain in Middle East where he works as a journalist. He claims that he isn't a “war junkie” but he knows he's quickly bored whenever he isn't working in the dangerous situations. Ed's biggest problem now is that the two men he had hired to help him navigate during his most recent assignment were killed on the job. Ed feels responsible, saying they wouldn't have been at that place at that time except that they were working for Ed. He says that if he doesn't go back to continue the assignment, those two men would have died for nothing. This attitude seems in keeping with the advice Hugo gave Holly that pushed her into beginning her work with the homeless and runaways. He says she was disrespecting Jacko's memory by not doing the best she could with her life. Ed seems to feel the same about his role in journalism after these two men died.

The confrontation on the pier between Aoife and Miss Constantin is dangerous because she carefully examines Aoife's forehead for a sign of the “invisible eye.” This is one more example of the theme of Good Versus Evil. She sees that Aoife isn't gifted with the extra sight that Holly had as a child and she mentions it aloud, saying it's “a pity.” She then says that Aoife's uncle had “magnificent” sight, referring to Jacko, and that Holly's had been sealed shut by a “wicked magician.” Miss Constantin is obviously trying to figure out if Aoife is a candidate for use by the Anchorites. Though the meeting seems to be over without any additional danger, the reader will likely remember that Miss Constantin is in the area when Aoife goes missing later in the section.

Holly's Aunt Eilish gives important insight into Jacko and seems to have seen things about the child that no one else realized. She talks about Jacko at age five and says that he was a typical little boy without anything that really stood out to her. Then he had meningitis and she didn't see him for a year and a half. At age seven, Jacko was a completely different child. Eilish describes it as a knowledge about things that little boys



really shouldn't know about the world and people. As an example, she says he once used the word "puerile." Then she says that Jacko's body and talk seemed to be the same but that his "soul" had changed. This is a look at some facts about the reincarnation of the Horologists. At one point, it's stated that Xi Lo inherited Jacko's love for Holly when he took over her body, indicating that some aspects of the host do remain when the host dies and the Horologists takes over. The reader doesn't know, at this point, that Jacko had actually died but this conversation is meant to plant the idea.

Eilish's reference to the Script is not the first time it's been mentioned because Esther Little also talks about the Script as does Dwight Silverwind. This idea of life being "Scripted" or fated is one of the themes of the story. It is never defined outright but the Script apparently refers to the series of events that will occur over the course of the coming years. Eilish's purpose in telling Ed the story of Jacko is to urge that he trust Holly's abilities, even if he doesn't believe in them. This will be important when Aoife goes missing. The Script leads several people to perform specific actions, mainly aimed at keeping the Horologists on track toward their final battle against the Anchorites.

As Eilish prepares to leave after her conversation with Ed, she tells him that no one has as much time as they think they have. She doesn't say that she's referring specifically to Ed, but he does die soon after this meeting and it may be that she knows.

Ed feels responsible for the deaths of two men during his most recent time in the Middle East. Taking Responsibility is an important theme in the book. Ed believes that returning to the country to continue his work will honor the memories of the two men but anything less will mean they died for no reason.

## Discussion Question 1

Why does Ed want to return to the Middle East to continue his work as a journalist?

## Discussion Question 2

Describe the meeting with Miss Constantin and what that means for Aoife.

## Discussion Question 3

What does Aunt Eilish say about Jacko when she's talking with Ed? Why does she tell him the story? Does it work?

## Vocabulary

atrocious, apocrypha, pithy, florid, habituate, puerile, substantiate, rancid, edict, sanction, acolyte



# Crispin Hershey's Lonely Planet, 2015 - May 1, 2015; March 11, 2016; March 12, 2016

## Summary

"Crispin Hershey's Lonely Planet, 2015," opens with May 1, 2015. Crispin Hershey is a writer who had success with his first novel but is struggling after Richard Cheeseman writes a scathing review of his second book. He is working through a book tour though he has begun to hate the drudgery of dealing with people who have read Cheeseman's review. His agent is losing interest as well. After being interviewed, Crispin joins other writers for a book signing. He first thinks he has a huge queue of people waiting for him but discovers all but a few are lined up for Holly Sykes who has written a "spiritual memoir" called "The Radio People."

Later, a woman named Soleil Moore confronts Crispin, demanding that he read her manuscript, "Soul Carnivores." Crispin rudely dismisses her. Crispin endures a party later but hates every minute of it. Another budding author, Nick Greek, is among the mix. Crispin knows the only reason he is enduring the tour events is that he needs to boost his profile in order to keep book sales up.

In March 11, 2016, Crispin is on another tour, this time with a stop in Colombia. He is on the verge of divorce and has little contact with his two daughters, Juno and Anais. His newest novel, "Echo Must Die," has sold a "respectable" number but nothing compared to what Crispin and his publishers expected.

Crispin encounters Richard Cheeseman and is sarcastic in his view of Cheeseman's efforts as a literary critic. He makes it sound as if he isn't angry at Cheeseman and even spends some time drinking with him. Later, Crispin's Spanish language editor gives Crispin a gift of some drugs. He promises the drug is "very pure" but warns Crispin to use it or get rid of it before going to the airport.

He later meets Holly. She's accompanied by her own Spanish language editor, Carmen Salvat. A few hours later, Cheeseman has had a lot to drink and Crispin helps him to his room where he promptly passes out.

In March 12, 2016, Crispin goes to Cheeseman's room while he knows that Cheeseman is out. Using the spare door key he'd snatched the previous evening while helping a drunk Cheeseman to his room, Crispin goes inside and puts the drugs in an obscure pocket on Cheeseman's luggage. He then calls the Heathrow Customs Agency and says that Richard will be entering the country the following day with drugs in his suitcase.



## Analysis

Crispin Hershey is a writer with limited success as a novelist. At several points during this section, he addresses the reader of this book directly. The second paragraph of the section begins with “Dear Reader.” The section is written in first person and it has something of a different tone because of the shift.

Crispin is jealous of Holly from their first meeting at a book fair. He notes that she is signing dozens of copies of her book and that she has something nice to say to every single person requesting that she sign their copy. Crispin believes she's so nice because she hasn't been through many book signings yet but it's more likely that Holly is simply a nice person who appreciates that people are reading her book. By contrast, Crispin is accustomed to having an adoring following and believes he can keep their loyalty without being nice in person. Crispin will later come to respect Holly and eventually will love her, though he never acts on those feelings.

Soleil Moore approaches Crispin with a manuscript that she demands he read. She says she wants him to publish it to help her spread her message. She then says the words that the readers of this story have begun to expect - “You're in the Script.” She doesn't say that her book or her message are part of the Script, but that Crispin is. It may be that his death is part of the coming events because Holly is standing at Crispin's graveside when she encounters Marinus just before the Second Mission against the Anchorites. The First Mission has already failed as the story opens and the Horologists will soon battle the Anchorites again. Holly becomes an important part of that battle. The reader will recognize two themes in this scene. The question of a Script is addressed and it seems that Crispin has a role to play in the coming events, if the reader believes there is a Script and that Soleil is part of that Script. The second theme seen here is Good Versus Evil. Soleil obviously believes she is part of that battle and is taking on what she sees as her role.

There seems to be no end of tie-backs among the characters. One character's interaction with another later becomes a more important event that often leads to yet another interaction with some other character. Richard Cheeseman is one of these characters. He is a budding literary critic when he is introduced and actually gets into a fight defending Crispin's first book. He later slaughters Crispin's second book and then encounters Crispin during a book tour. At this point, Cheeseman has written a book of his own called “Man in a White Car.” The book is obviously based on Jonny's suicide and Crispin says the book is awful. The fact that Cheeseman makes Crispin angry then leads to Crispin's quest for revenge which results in Cheeseman spending years in a foreign prison.

## Discussion Question 1

Describe the relationship between Richard Cheeseman and Crispin Hershey.



## Discussion Question 2

What is Crispin's attitude toward Holly and her role as an author?

## Discussion Question 3

What do you see as the most important theme of the book up to this point? Give at least three examples of the theme in the story.

## Vocabulary

dilute, infantile, ghastly, drivel, halcyon, misogynist, insipid, paradigm, opine



# Crispin Hershey's *Lonely Planet*, 2015 - February 21, 2017; August 20, 2018;

## Summary

In February 21, 2017, Crispin is on another book tour and has a stop in Perth, Western Australia. He is derisive of the work of another author who makes a comment aimed at Crispin's recent divorce from Zoe. She then makes a scathing remark about Crispin's "advocacy of a convicted drug dealer. She's referring to Richard Cheeseman and Crispin says Cheeseman is a victim of a "miscarriage of justice." Crispin says the thirty grams in Cheeseman's suitcase must have been planted there but the other author says the jury concluded he was "above Colombian law." Crispin argues that drug smuggling is a crime against the country of origin and that Cheeseman should have been tried in a United Kingdom court. Crispin knows he can secure Cheeseman's release by confessing to owning the drugs himself, but he believes that he could not survive the stint in prison. He says it's better to be alive with a guilty conscience than dead.

Crispin goes on a day trip to Rottnest, a small island nearby. He goes to a lighthouse on the island and finds that Holly and Aoife are already there. Holly says they will leave but Aoife argues, saying they've only recently arrived and that Crispin won't mind sharing the view. Crispin joins them for their picnic and learns about Aoife's plans for the coming year, including plans to study archaeology in the fall. Crispin asks about Aoife's father and reveals that he knew Ed, who was killed by a missile strike in Syria. Aoife goes for a walk, leaving Holly and Crispin alone.

Crispin thinks that Holly's book is ridiculous but doesn't say so. Then Holly asks if he can feel other people around them. Crispin doesn't want to admit it, but he can feel other presences. Then Holly begins to talk but it's obvious that it's not really Holly talking. She tells about the people who arrived on the island, bringing pain to the natives and capturing some as slaves. The slaves' souls can't cross the water, meaning their souls are ripped from their bodies during transport. Holly's head jerks backwards and strikes the lighthouse. Crispin holds her to keep her from hurting herself again and Aoife rushes up.

Aoife knows what's happening and says it's obvious Crispin hasn't read Holly's book. Holly's eyes return to normal, indicating the episode has passed. She is embarrassed and they leave together on the ferry. They are picked up on the mainland by Carmen Salvat.

In August 20, 2018, Crispin is on another tour, this time with Nick Greek as the star of the tour and Crispin tagging along. Crispin and Carmen are living together in Madrid. Crispin is happy and in love. Just as they are about to get an apartment together, Carmen says she wants to slow down their relationship. Crispin is crushed.





Crispin bumps into Holly. He asks about Aoife and learns she's in love with a young man from Iceland named Orvar. Holly approves of the match. The talk turns to the day at Rottnest. Holly explains that she's had moments of psychic phenomenon most of her life. She says she could sometimes know what numbers dice would land on for dozens of rolls in a row. She once saw an old man in the Captain Marlow and knew that she would never see him again. He died of a heart attack the following day. Holly said she never told anyone other than one great-aunt, Eilish.

Crispin is obviously skeptical and suggests that Holly is seeing something happen, then imagining that she knew the result ahead of time. She challenges him to flip a coin and she gives him a sequence of whether the coin will land on heads or tails. She then says she sees Crispin on his knees but doesn't know what it means. The sequence is correct then Crispin drops the coins. When he's on his knees retrieving it, he realizes that Holly had predicted it.

Holly says she only gives Crispin the demonstration because she wants to tell him something that has been with her since their first meeting. She says she sees a "spider, a spiral, and a one-eyed man," but doesn't know what it means. Crispin says if Holly can't explain it, it might be random. She immediately agrees and he knows that she's just trying to end the conversation, which has become uncomfortable for her. Crispin accuses Holly of profiting from her "gift" through the book and she leaves. He plans to reach her the following morning to apologize. At the door of his room, he finds a manuscript in a beautifully embroidered black back. It's titled "Your Last Chance" by Soleil Moore.

## Analysis

Crispin is obviously feeling guilty over his role in Richard Cheeseman's arrest. Cheeseman was arrested in Colombia, apparently when the Heathrow officials notified the Colombian officials of Crispin's phone call. Cheeseman is now serving his time in a Colombian prison where there's no access to even the most basic supplies. Crispin and Cheeseman's sister have worked to get him moved to a U.K. prison and to provide for some of Cheeseman's basic needs. Crispin has set up a website to keep Cheeseman in the public eye and it's well known that he's advocating for Cheeseman's release.

There's another tie-back in this chapter. Dominic Fitzsimmons was a student at Cambridge along with Cheeseman and his friends. Dominic is now an undersecretary for the Ministry of Justice and he is working on Cheeseman's case as well.

Crispin's time spent with Holly and Aoife at the lighthouse in Rottnest is the beginning of a friendship between Holly and Crispin, though Crispin doesn't yet admit it. Holly's Relationships, including this friendship, are part of the themes of the book. At this point, Crispin is still derisive of Holly's book though he is more polite to her than he is most people. As they are sharing a picnic, he notices things about Holly, including that she has the signs of a "full, fraught life." He thinks to himself that they might become friends if Holly hadn't written the ridiculous book about angels. He thinks that the book only





appeals to the “gullible women disappointed with their lives.” What Crispin hasn't yet admitted to himself is that he's also disappointed in his life. He continues to judge the writing of others too harshly and to believe his writing is wonderful. In fact, he's finished his final book and will soon be forced into teaching college as a means of supporting himself.

Holly and Crispin talk about Holly's abilities and about her reasons for writing “The Radio People.” Crispin blurts out that Holly has profited from the book and she doesn't deny that, but she says she has another reason for writing it. She had hoped that Jacko was still alive and that someone would help him return home, if they read the book. That never happened but there was immediately a few people who claimed to be Jacko. They contacted Holly's family but all were eventually determined to be fakes. The fact that Holly continues to miss her brother and wants him to return home even years later is an example of the importance of Holly's Relationships, which is one of the themes of the book.

Holly talks about the spiral, the spider, and the one-eyed man, and says that it has something to do with Crispin, though she can't tell him the significance. This is an example of foreshadowing. Richard Cheeseman will visit Crispin and the reader will learn for the first time that Cheeseman has lost an eye. He is wearing an eye patch, making him a one-eyed man. The foreshadowing is obviously designed to make the reader jump to the conclusion that Cheeseman is a threat. Actually, it won't be Cheeseman who kills Crispin, though he will die shortly after Cheeseman's visit.

## Discussion Question 1

What is the message Holly has for Crispin? Guess what the words might mean.

## Discussion Question 2

What is Crispin's attitude about Cheeseman being in jail?

## Discussion Question 3

What does Holly say was her motivation for writing her book?

## Vocabulary

estuary, nubile, deface, diktats, dominated, venue



# Crispin Hershey's Lonely Planet, 2015 - September 17, 2019; September 19, 2019; September 20, 2019; December 13, 2020

## Summary

In September 17, 2019, Crispin is in Iceland. He and Carmen are no longer together. Cheeseman is in his third year in prison. He always carries a photo of himself with his two daughters but suddenly realizes it's inexplicably missing. He receives a phone call from Dominic Fitzsimmons who works for the Ministry of Justice and has been working to get Cheeseman released. He says Cheeseman is being released on Friday. Crispin continues to feel guilty over his role in Cheeseman's imprisonment and calls himself a coward and perjurer.

In September 19, 2019, Crispin receives a call from the officials regarding his next book. He's told that the publishers are no longer interested in his next book, which is far overdue, and that he has to repay the advance he'd been given.

In September 20, 2019, Crispin knows that Cheeseman is flying home by now. Crispin becomes disoriented in the woods and suddenly sees a hand appear out of thin air. It's Hugo Lamb who says he has some questions about Holly Sykes. Crispin tries to walk away but is picked up by an invisible force, held some ten feet in the air, and squeezed. He then shows Crispin the missing photo of Crispin and his daughters, and says the girls will have a long, happy life only if Crispin answers the questions about Holly.

Crispin is really afraid. When Hugo asks what he knows about Holly's powers, he says he knows very little. He recounts the time at the light house but says Holly has never mentioned Esther Little, the Dusk Chapel, or the Anchorites. Hugo then says that Crispin suffered because of Richard Cheeseman's book review but that Crispin certainly got even. He says Cheeseman will never suspect Crispin's role, unless someone plants the idea in his head. Then Hugo gives Crispin directions to get back to his car and redacts all the other memories of their meeting.

In September 23, 2019, Crispin encounters Holly again. He notes that she's thin and he worries about her. Holly talks about the success of her book and the result of that success. She says her first boyfriend, Vincent, contacted her to say that he was working in a Porsche dealership and that she should stop in for a test drive. She talks about the number of "fake Jackos" who reached out to the family, most looking for money.

Holly checks and says the three words are still present with regard to Crispin's future, though she doesn't have an explanation. She also says that she has been diagnosed



with gall bladder cancer, and that it's serious. Crispin gets a photo text from Carmen. It takes some time before he figures out it's an ultrasound "with a tenant."

In December 13, 2020, Crispin is teaching school. A student tells Crispin that there's a man asking for him. The man is Richard Cheeseman and he's wearing an eye patch. They talk and Crispin reveals that he now has a son, though the boy and Carmen live in Spain. Crispin feels that Cheeseman knows that Crispin planted the drugs and is looking for revenge. Cheeseman says he's known for a long time but decided not to confront Crispin because Crispin was trying to help get him out of jail. Crispin says he has always despised himself for being such a coward. Cheeseman says he's thought of all kinds of ways to kill Crispin but now doesn't know what to do. Crispin expects to die but finds himself suddenly alone.

Crispin calls Holly and Aoife answers. She says Holly is not doing well. Sharon, Holly's sister, says a new doctor has dropped in with a new treatment option. Crispin wraps up the call with plans to visit the following week.

A young woman appears in his doorway and identifies herself as Soleil Moore. Crispin doesn't remember her but she reminds him that she gave him her poetry manuscripts. She says Crispin's time with Holly proves that he's "written into the Script." She says her manuscripts outlined the methods used by the Anchorites and that her first plan had been to let Crispin help her get the message out through her writing. She says she must now go to her backup plan and apologizes ahead of time. Crispin realizes a few seconds later that he's been shot. Soleil Moore says that she will now be famous for having killed Crispin, a famous author. As he is on the floor, he notes the spirals that make up the pattern in the carpet and watches a spider. His final thoughts are of Holly's vision about him.

## Analysis

Crispin is on a boat in Iceland and notices other tourists are in small groups, including families with children. He realizes that he should have brought his own daughters along and tries to will them to call him. By now, he's been divorced for awhile and seems to be losing touch with his daughters completely. He has lived a selfish life and seems to be realizing that he's paying the price for that selfishness. This is one example of a character who Accepts Responsibility, which is a recurring theme in the book.

In the final chapter of the section, Crispin catches a glimpse of himself in a mirror and he's shocked by what he sees. He has aged, probably even more than normal because of his financial and personal problems. He's now a teacher and doesn't seem to care for the job. He also seems to have given up writing. At one point, Crispin admits that he's been trying to be "witty" for years and that it's "liberating" to simply give up on the process. This acceptance of the aging process is a minor theme in the book, especially when weighed against the reincarnation and perpetual youth of the Horologists and Anchorites. The scene can also explain why some of the characters are so willing to pay the price for perpetual youth.



Soleil Moore rants about her sister who was apparently taken by the Anchorites. She seems determined to make the world aware of the war between the Anchorites and the Horologists, but doesn't know how to go about it. She isn't mentioned again.

When Richard Cheeseman arrives wearing an eye patch, the reader will likely jump to the conclusion that Cheeseman will kill Crispin. He seems to consider it and he tells Crispin that he's given a great deal of thought to how he might torture the man who put him in prison. When Crispin met Hugo Lamb, Hugo indicated that Richard Cheeseman wouldn't know who planted the drugs unless someone suggested it to him. Cheeseman, however, indicates that he's always known and that he only held off taking action because of Crispin's efforts to free him.

As Crispin is talking with Sharon, she reveals that a new doctor is seeing Holly. This doctor is barely mentioned in this chapter but is later identified. Marinus has a new body at this point in the story and saves Holly's life.

As Crispin is considering that Cheeseman might kill him, he runs through a series of thoughts and memories. One of them is that his son will grow up without a father and he hopes that the boy might learn about Crispin through his writing. Another is that the news of his death will hurt Holly, and Crispin regrets that pain. This seems to indicate that he and Holly have become ever closer over the years but they are deep friends rather than having any romantic ties. This is yet another example of the importance of Holly's Relationships, which is one of the book's major themes.

## Discussion Question 1

Describe the final meeting between Crispin and Cheeseman. Compare what the reader expects to happen to the events that happen.

## Discussion Question 2

Describe Crispin's character. What are his strengths and weaknesses? Is he likeable?

## Discussion Question 3

What is the relationship between Holly and Crispin at the end of Crispin's life?

## Vocabulary

connived, perjurer, moniker, dawdles, charisma, tabloid, malevolence, egregious, redact, reunification, prognosis, maudlin



# An Horologists Labyrinth: 2025 - April 1; April 3; April 4

## Summary

The section titled “An Horologists Labyrinth: 2025,” opens with the chapter dated April 1. The section is presented in first person from the perspective of Marinus who is now in the body of Dr. Iris Fenby. For the sake of clarity, he will continue to be referred to as Marinus.

Marinus arrives at the Horologists' safe house, 119A, in New York City, where his servant, Sadaqat, is waiting. Marinus receives an audio letter from a man who tells the history of the deaf school founded by his father. The man says that Esther Little came to him in 1984 with a large donation to the school. In return, she asked that he send a package to Marinus when a porcelain statue on a shelf in his office breaks. He says that just happened in a freak accident.

Marinus wonders about the validity of the claim but accepts that it sounds very much like Esther Little was reacting to some piece of the Script. Esther tells Marinus that she isn't dead, as he'd assumed, and that he will find her deep in the memories of a person he'll meet in Blithewood. She goes on to warn that “an enemy” will soon plant the idea for the Second Mission, and that the war between Horologists and Anchorites will be over in a week.

That night, Marinus receives a call from Elijah D'Arnoq who says he wants to defect from the Anchorites and will help the Horologists defeat them. He says he wants to bring an end to the decanting. Marinus doesn't believe D'Arnoq's motives are genuine but accepts that Esther has seen this as part of the Script.

In April 3, Marinus arrives at Poughkeepsie where he's picked up by a taxi driver named Wendy Hanger. Wendy strikes up a conversation and asks her passenger, who she sees as a black woman named Iris, knows Marinus. Marinus (in Iris's body) is surprised. Wendy then relates the story of her youth. She says she was an addict, homeless, and tried to commit suicide. A woman named Esther Little is nice to Wendy and tells her that she'll need to pass on a message on the day she becomes a grandmother. That event happened earlier that morning. The message is, “Three on the Day of the Star of Riga.” Marinus says he can “potentially” make sense of the message.

Marinus arrives at Blithewood's campus where a Horologist named Oshima directs him to a small cemetery. There, Marinus isn't surprised to find Holly visiting Crispin's grave. Marinus tells Holly they “need to talk” and introduces himself as Marinus. Holly refuses to believe it. After a few minutes of conversation, she walks away.



In April 4, Marinus recounts his first meeting with Esther Little. She tells him a little about herself, including her “real name,” which is a compilation of all the lives she's lived before her current life as a native woman living in the jungle of Perth. Marinus discovers she's had 207 identities prior to the current one. Esther has his memories her real name and says that Marinus can always find her by returning to this place.

Holly agrees to meet Marinus based on a photo he gives her of Hugo Lamb, who still appears as he did at age 25. Holly says she knew Hugo years earlier but that he would now be in his fifties, just as she is. Marinus gives her an overview of the situation, including that Hugo joined the Anchorites in 1992 and hasn't aged since. Hugo is living as Marcus Anyder and faked his death. Holly also discovers that Marinus, as Iris, treated her for cancer only a few years earlier. He then says that Hugo's “mentor in the dark arts” is Miss Constantin.

Marinus says that Hugo is now seeking out innocent people as prey, just as Miss Constantin sought out Holly as a child. He says that if Holly hadn't been frightened into reporting the situation and seeking help, she would have been taken instead of Jacko. Holly is at a loss for words. Marinus apologizes for the intrusion into her life. He gives her a key and pleads with her to take it, just in case he is telling the truth. She takes it and leaves.

## Analysis

There is a great deal of information about the Anchorites and Horologists in this section of the book, mainly revealed through conversations. For example, Elijah D'Arnoq talks about decanting innocents in order to maintain the perpetual youth. He says they decant these innocents and then drink the “Black Wine.” The word “animacide” is used to describe the process. The “Blind Cathar” is the man who built the Chapel of the Dusk where the Anchorites perform their rituals. The Cathars were a group of Christians in the Medieval ages who sought the ultimate purity, but they were ultimately heretics.

Marinus does meet with D'Arnoq, along with members of the Horologists. They are all skeptical that D'Arnoq's desire to defect is real and there are concerns that they are rushing into a Second Mission. The First Mission was years in the planning and it failed. They look into D'Arnoq's memories and find that he appears to be telling the truth but know that the Anchorites could have planted false memories to lend credibility to D'Arnoq's claims. Marinus feels they have to take the risk because the Anchorites continue to kill innocents. He says they have to look for a means of attacking the Anchorites once they are inside the Chapel. They are also aware that the Horologists must have some tricks of their own or they would not risk the confrontation.

Esther Little goes through a great deal to set the various pieces of the puzzle in motion. She ensures the loyalty of the people with messages by helping them with grand gestures. She gives the deaf school enough money to function for several years. She pays for a private room and leaves the deed to a house for Wendy Hanger, giving her a fresh start and the hope of a better life, which she has ultimately created for herself. In



an interesting turn of events, Wendy stays home from work on the day Marinus arrives in town. This means she should have missed her chance to relate the message but she is called in specifically to pick Marinus up from the airport. Marinus redacts the memories of Esther and of relating the message so that Wendy won't continue to fret over them.

Holly has survived the cancer but isn't well. Her survival seems to be mostly because of Marinus, who treated her as Iris. Marinus and the other Horologists look after Holly all her life.

Holly has had her share of crazy people seeking her out, mainly because of her book. The things she describes in the book are fantastic and there's little doubt that lots of people will fake information in order to get some of her time. This makes her more skeptical of Marinus than she might otherwise have been. She has come to relish privacy and initially just plans to dismiss Marinus. She does agree to meet with him and he begins to try to explain about the Horologists and the Anchorites. Holly is skeptical and doesn't really want to believe what he's saying. Then Marinus says that Holly was on the verge of being abducted by the Anchorites when she became frightened and told adults about the voices and Miss Constantin. At that point, she was taken to Marinus who sealed her eye and ended the contact. While Holly and Marinus are talking in this chapter, Marinus says that the Anchorites would have taken her if that hadn't happened. He then says Holly would have been taken instead of Jacko. Marinus seems to indicate that Jacko was taken by the Anchorites because of his psychic abilities but the reader will soon learn that Jacko was really Xi Lo, another of the Horologists. If that's true, it seems that Xi Lo would have known to escape from the Anchorites or that the other Horologists would have helped keep him safe. This is never explained.

There is a historical look at Marinus and Esther Little. Marinus turns forty years old in his life as Pablo Antay Marinus in 1871. This is his thirty-sixth body. He travels and winds up in Perth with a group of men acting as his guide through the rough, unsettled area. Marinus suddenly finds himself surrounded by natives and his guides are "frozen." A woman among the natives says one of the guides planned to kill Marinus. The woman says she was Esther Little in a previous life and had taken the body of a native girl when Esther died. Her current name is Moombaki. Though he imagines that Esther won't care about the Horologists and other details about their kind, Marinus is thrilled to find another person like himself. He seems to be hopeful that there are still others, undiscovered, so that the Horologists are not an endangered as he'd feared.

Esther Little has Marinus memorize her "real name" during their time together and this will later become the key to reweaving her so that she can help in the battle against the Anchorites. It might be that Esther already sees pieces of the Script and knows Marinus will need that information, but it may also be that she simply gives him this information without knowing why.

The real reason Marinus wants Holly to join them is that she is the host for Esther Little. Marinus and the other Horologists know that they need Esther if they are going to fight





the Anchorites. Because the Anchorites believe Esther is dead, she will be an important advantage for the Horologists.

## Discussion Question 1

Do you believe that D'Arnoq is truly seeking to escape the Anchorites? Why or why not?

## Discussion Question 2

Describe the first meeting between Esther Little and Marinus.

## Discussion Question 3

Why does Holly initially resist Marinus and his efforts to recruit her?

## Vocabulary

parallax, trills, apostasy, angst, geriatric, eccentric, egress, incarnate, meted, voracious, fickle



# An Horologists Labyrinth: 2025 - April 5

## Summary

In April 5, a Horologist named Arkady “dreamseeds” Holly in an effort to get her to 119A. There, Sadaqat is showing off the new garden he's created on the rooftop. He is apparently a loyal servant. Holly arrives and looks around the house. She learns some details about the Horologists, including that their current bodies can die but they will return in another body after 49 days. None of them knows why or how it happens. Each time they are resurrected, they switch genders. There is no cost associated with the reincarnations, unlike the Anchorites' method of retaining youth.

They explain to Holly how the Blind Cathar was sentenced to death for witchcraft but disappeared before he could be executed, apparently absorbed into the walls of the Chapel so that he became the Chapel. Part of the compound was destroyed and a man named Baptiste Pfenninger sent to oversee some reconstruction. He discovered an Aperture that led to the Chapel and entered into a pact with the Cathar.

They also reveal to Holly that Jacko's body was host for Xi Lo. Holly is skeptical at first but they offer clues, including the changes in Jacko's manner and his wisdom. Holly says she has spent years trying to get past the guilt over Jacko's disappearance, and that she can't stand the pain they're putting on her. As she prepares to leave, Arkady subspeaks to Marinus, urging him to make her stay in order to retrieve Esther. Marinus says it's “too much” for Holly and they allow her to leave. A few minutes later, D'Arnoq calls Marinus. He says Constantin has sent a group of Anchorites to kidnap Holly.

Marinus and Oshima follow Holly and see a group of Anchorites, posing as police officers, pick her up. They tell her that Aoife has been in an accident and that they are supposed to take her to the airport. Oshima and Marinus “transverse” into the car and save Holly. By the time they get her back to 119A and reassure her that Aoife is safe, Holly is exhausted.

Marinus recalls one of his reincarnations. He arrives in the body of a young slave girl named Klara. He begins to look for a way out of the horrible conditions of life as a slave and befriends a young priest's wife. The priest and his wife, the Koskovs, soon ask to have Klara move to their home to train as a servant there. Marinus, as Klara, continues to manipulate the situation, garnering the attention of the priest's uncle to get the priest posted in Saint Petersburg. Marinus continues to live with the priest and his wife, though he is granted his freedom. One day, a couple visits and Marinus discovers they are Horologists named Xi Lo and Holokai. They invite Marinus into their group of Horologists and he accepts.

Holly wakes and they assure her that they have a Horologist standing guard over Aoife to keep her safe. Holly learns of the coming battle between the Horologists and Anchorites. One of the Horologists, Unalaq, says “it's all over for all of us” unless the



Horologists win. Holly asks how many Horologists are alive to fight the war and is told there are “hopefully” nine.

Holly learns the truth about Jacko's abduction. Xi Lo was in Jacko's body at the time. Marinus, Ester Little, and Holokai were also hiding in Jacko's mind. They correctly believed that the Anchorites would abduct Jacko and that the Horologists hiding inside him would have a chance to fight the Anchorites and perhaps destroy the Chapel. The Horologists killed five Anchorites but the Anchorites killed Xi Lo and Holokai. Any Horologist killed in the “dusk” of the Chapel is fully dead and doesn't return.

Marinus says that he and Esther reweave themselves in Heidi and Ian where they encountered Rhimes, set on killing them for good. That was the scene in Heidi's house that Holly no longer remembers. With this, Holly realizes that Esther has been hiding inside her all these years.

Holly agrees to let Marinus try to reweave Esther. He goes into Holly's memories and finally locates the day Holly is walking along the river and meets Esther, shortly after seeing the ship named the Star of Riga. Marinus doesn't know how to reach Esther until he sees her writing on the dock, “My Long Name.” Marinus recites it and Esther is recovered.

## Analysis

Early in this part of the book, Marinus says he doesn't really know why he and the other Horologists continue to fight the Anchorites. He says it would be possible for them to each go their own way and to simply avoid each other. However, there is a major difference between the Anchorites and the Horologists. The Horologists are born into the life and then reborn into the life. Their origins are not spelled out but they cannot recruit new people to be Horologists. The Anchorites have the ability to recruit. Marinus describes their perpetual youth as a twisted version of the life of a Horologist. It seems that the Anchorites might eventually take over the world, if not checked by the Horologists. Marinus then points out that any Horologist who simply uses his many lives to amass wealth or power would be complicit in the deaths enacted by the Anchorites. This is one example of the recurring theme of Accepting Responsibility.

Hugo Lamb was not a nice guy when he was young and the reader doesn't see him again until this section of the book. By now, Hugo is living as Marcus Anyder as an Anchorite. It seems, based on his early life, that he would be well-suited to this life of subterfuge and cheating. The fact that the Anchorites have to live this kind of life is an example of the Cost of Immortality, a major theme in the book. Marinus is called on to treat a man who is a psychic but the man literally disappears before Marinus arrives. He then gets a text message that indicates the Anchorites have taken the man. Marinus believes the message is from Hugo and wonders if there's some significance.

As the Horologists are telling Holly the history of the Chapel, they mention the dot that appears in the forehead of the icon of the Blind Cathar. They describe it and Holly



realizes that she saw that same image on the day she followed Jacko into the underpass. As she reveals this, the Horologists consider what it might mean. They believe it might have been Xi Lo contacting Holly or that it might have been a “cord” between Jacko and Holly as psychosoteric siblings. Holly's relationships continue to be a common theme seen in the book.

There is a focus on several of the Horologists at various times in the story. Arkady is somewhat comical in this section. He's just past his teen years in this reincarnation and there's a comment that this has finally made it possible for him to travel alone. He is also battling acne and there are several humorous remarks about his age, even though he's already lived multiple lifetimes.

The Horologists are able to “suasion” people. It literally means they subconsciously persuade them into specific actions. At one point, the Horologist named Oshima suggests that they suasion Holly into letting them search her memories for Esther. Marinus objects. He says that it's “against the Codex” to do so, which refers to a set of rules by which the Horologists live and operate. He also points out that Holly is psychosoteric, meaning she has psychic abilities and might accidentally redact her own memories, eliminating any chance they have of reaching Esther.

The word “psychosoteric” is used throughout the book. It refers to any of the many psychic-like abilities exhibited by the various characters. In most instances in this guide, the word “psychic” is used interchangeably with “psychosoteric.”

“Echo Must Die” is the book that Crispin wrote that Richard Cheeseman killed with a bad review. As Marinus is following Holly through the city, he notes that the book has been made into a movie. This is another of the tie-backs seen throughout the book that don't really add any meaning to the main story but that creates a sense of connection between the characters.

The Horologists are not in control of their reincarnations. They change gender with each new body, meaning a Horologist who is a male in one life will be reincarnated as a female. Situations such as being reincarnated as a slave would limit the ability to do anything useful in the war against the Anchorites. For years, the Horologists reincarnated as women were unable to travel alone because of social dictates. It's noted that Arkady has only recently become old enough to travel by himself.

At one point, Holly is thinking that the “war” between the Horologists and Anchorites is pretty small and that it doesn't really matter. The Anchorites are stealing a few people every year and Holly seems to have the idea that it's not that important. Then the Horologists point out to her that her brother was among those taken by the Anchorites. Even though she has learned that Jacko was not really her brother but was host to Xi Lo, she loves him even years after his disappearance. This brings it home to her that every innocent taken by the Anchorites is important to someone.

The setting is the real world though most of the action occurs in the future. There are references to real events and some references to future events that are clearly meant



to be believable but are also humorous. In this section, there's a reference to "Justin Bieber's fifth divorce."

Marinus talks a little about the Script while he's searching Holly's memories. He says that the Script loves foreshadowing and that there are some cases of "counter-scripting" that have to be avoided. He also finds a great many details about Holly's life. For example, he sees her time with Hugo Lamb and realizes that Hugo apparently did love Holly. This will be important to Marinus's survival.

Esther's years inside Holly were necessary because she was badly injured in the first battle against the Anchorites. She spent the forty years healing.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Why do the Horologists continue to fight against the Anchorites?

## **Discussion Question 2**

What are the differences between the Horologists and Anchorites?

## **Discussion Question 3**

What are some of the problems the Horologists might face in their reincarnated forms?

## **Vocabulary**

Complicit, cloister, discernible, accursed, congregation, bestowed



# An Horologists Labyrinth: 2025 - April 6, April 7

## Summary

In April 6, Esther moves to Unalaq's body. Unalaq laughs as she realizes Esther is present. Esther reveals that there's a crack in the Chapel. They begin to talk about their plans to destroy the Chapel. Esther was next to Jacko when Xi Lo left his body behind. Xi Lo said, "I'll be here," which the others think might have been a planned act on his part. If so, Xi Lo might be alive within the Chapel. This prompts Holly to volunteer to go along. She says she wants to help save the man she knows as her brother, even if it's really Xi Lo she's saving instead of Jacko.

In April 7, the Horologists are in New York about to embark on the battle. D'Arnoq arrives through an Aperture. The Horologists and D'Arnoq enter the steps leading to the Chapel and finally arrive at the Chapel. Marinus, using his chakra eye, finds the crack. Miss Constantin addresses Holly as the battle rages. She says the Horologists lied about Jacko's death and makes threats against the rest of Holly's family. The battle rages with first the Horologists and then the Anchorites seeming to have the advantage. Iris's body is killed by a flying table, leaving Marinus without a body and worried that the Dusk might actually kill him. He enters Holly and then Esther breaks down the Chapel as her final act. Marinus cloaks Holly from view.

Marinus, inside Holly, leaves the Chapel. The path divides and Holly notes Jacko's initials in a wall. She directs Marinus that direction. A few minutes later, they come to another turn and Holly realizes that she is in the maze drawn for her by Jacko. She has a necklace made to mimic the maze and knows it by heart. She takes over control of her body and begins to rush through the maze.

As they hurry along, the Dusk pursues them. Miss Constantin catches up and Holly kills her with a rolling pin. When Marinus questions her, she says she picked it up from the kitchen, feeling that everyone else had magical weapons at their disposal and feeling she needed something for her own protection.

They find a golden apple and Marinus realizes that this is the key to Holly getting back. Holly touches it and Marinus steps out of her, knowing the portal will be enough to take only one person back. He expects to die but then encounters Hugo Lamb. Hugo hasn't tried to confront Holly and says it's because he once loved her. Marinus suggests that he and Hugo, united in one body, might have enough strength to summon the Aperture.

## Analysis

There is a lengthy conversation as Holly and the Horologists prepare and plan for the coming battle. The Chapel has a crack and Esther believes it can be destroyed by using



that crack. There are dangers, however. The Dusk is a cloud-like mist that will flood the Chapel when it's destroyed, and that Dusk will kill anyone caught inside. Even Horologists caught in the Dusk will permanently die.

The house at 119A is magical, though the details aren't revealed. The house is filled with antiques collected over the lifetimes of the Horologists who live there. At one point, the Horologists arrive and the house "recognizes them."

Not all the Horologists are reincarnated at random. Those who are are called Returnees and they have no control over their new hosts. This is an example of the Cost of Immortality because they sometimes land in undesirable circumstances. The others are called Sojourners and they apparently have control. Marinus, while talking to Holly, says no one knows how, why, or when they are chosen.

The plan for the battle against the Anchorites is convoluted and often confusing. One aspect of the plan is for the servant, Sadaq, to remain at a particular spot and guard the entrance to the Chapel. The Horologists already know he's a traitor to their cause and they are prepared when he appears in the Chapel, bent on stopping them.

When Holly and Marinus enter the maze, Marinus works out the details of what is happening. He realizes that Xi Lo's soul entered into the Chapel when the Anchorites and Horologists were embroiled in their first battle. This is why Xi Lo said, "I'll be here." But rather than being there as a Horologist or even as a soul, he became the maze, knowing that only Holly would be able to navigate it in order to escape back to the real world. This maze is a symbol of the love Xi Lo (as Jacko) has for Holly. This is also an example of the idea that there is a Script controlling the actions of various characters, and that Holly, Xi Lo, and Marinus are part of that Script. This Script is a theme seen throughout the story.

The reader is left hanging in the final scene between Hugo and Marinus. Hugo says that he was recruited by the Anchorites but that he always had a problem giving in to authority figures. The Anchorites recruited him because he was ruthless and willing to do anything to get his own way, but they failed to recognize that he would turn on them for the same reasons. The golden apple is a means for Holly to get back to the real world but there's only one portal available. Marinus knows, however, that Anchorites can all summon an Aperture, which is another portal to and from the Chapel. While Hugo isn't strong enough to summon it along, he and Marinus unite. The reader doesn't learn until much later that they are successful and they both survive. Hugo will no longer be perpetually young and Marinus will be reincarnated into yet another body.

## Discussion Question 1

What do you believe happens to Marinus and Hugo after the end of this chapter? Support your ideas with facts from the book.



## Discussion Question 2

What is the significance of the maze and how does Holly know how to navigate through it?

## Discussion Question 3

How does Miss Constantin die and why is her death somewhat ironic?

## Vocabulary

prophecy, inevitable, tampered, susceptible, contingency, abysmal, conjuring, abominable, vermin, semantics, vernacular



# Sheep's Head, 2043 - October 26, October 27, October 28

## Summary

The final section is "Sheep's Head, 2043. October 26 opens with Holly imagining a voice that says "He is on his way." She doesn't know what it means and her thoughts are interrupted by her dog barking furiously. Holly and the dog, Zimba, arrive outside in time for the dog to kill a fox but Holly loses four of her chickens.

The world is chaotic with governments falling and basic technology failing. There are few goods to be had. Aoife and her husband died in a plane crash, leaving Holly to raise her granddaughter, Lorelei. She is also raising a young refugee named Rafiq. She lives in the house left to her by her Great-Aunt Eilish.

In October 27, Holly evaluates her current life. She says some people look at the "Endarkment," which brought an end to limitless technology, electricity, and conveniences, as an act of God though it was brought on by people. Holly's situation with her two children is on the verge of desperate. She is provided a few basic necessities each month but they are becoming more inadequate as time passes.

The majority of goods can be obtained at a weekly market. Holly depends on eggs to trade for items she and the children need that can't be grown at home. There's a local race for political control and diesel is a very short supply.

Holly talks on video chat with Brenda who describes looters and having to kill one of them men trying to rob his neighborhood. Holly suddenly realizes that the situation is not going to be better in her lifetime and that she'll never see Brendan again. The call is cut short and Holly wishes she had asked about her sister, Sharon. Holly finds herself wishing for one of the Horologists to appear and take the children to safety.

In October 28, Holly worries that a nuclear problem in England will affect her home as the winds blow off the ocean in her direction. Holly becomes very concerned about the insulin supply necessary for Rafiq. The government has been providing enough for him but she has a very limited amount available and knows Rafiq will die without it.

Holly is visiting her neighbor, a woman named Mo, when some men arrive in jeeps. She sends Lorelei and Rafiq to hide. The men identify themselves as military but dressed in ragtag garments that make it plain they are nothing more than looters. They take Mo's solar panels, leaving her in a serious situation. They are preparing to go to Holly's house when there's an explosion in town. The men rush away, leaving Holly's panels intact. She knows it's a matter of time before they return.





Holly learns that there was a battle in town and that the government has fallen. She is increasingly worried about the fate of the children as she recognizes the signs of the returning cancer.

Rafiq is fishing when a large ship arrives just off the coast. He rushes home and tells Holly that some men from the ship are asking for her by name. Commander Aronsson of the Icelandic Marines introduces himself. One of the men from the ship is identified as Mr. Harry Veracruz, an adviser to the Icelandic president. The Commander says that Lorelei is to be repatriated to Iceland, based on her father's status as a citizen of Iceland. After only a few moments, Holly realizes that Harry Veracruz is really Marinus.

Marinus says he's always watched out for Holly and that this is the final act of protection he can perform for her. Iceland is the one remaining part of the world with a functioning society, government, and military. Holly asks about insulin and he says there is a medical facility that manufactures it.

Marinus says he can't bring Holly and the rest of her family along but Holly pleads with him to take Rafiq. He agrees that he can suasion enough people to get Rafiq into the country, based on the fact that he's Lorelei's brother. He says some are unsympathetic to foreigners who want into the country and that he believes he can accomplish it only because Lorelei and Rafiq are children.

Holly urges Lorelei to go though she doesn't want to leave Holly alone. By pointing out that she's saving Rafiq as well, Holly convinces her granddaughter to leave. Marinus leaves behind a huge stash of supplies that will provide for Holly and Mo for years to come. He also leaves behind a means of communication that doesn't depend on electricity for power. This means Holly can keep in touch with Rafiq and Lorelei. Holly remains at the shore, watching Lorelei leave, and knows that her own voyage is nearing its end.

## Analysis

It's during this final section that Holly remembers meeting a “posh” woman at an abortion clinic. Holly, at sixteen, was “a scared, weepy mess.” The woman tells Holly that people can live with a lot of problems. Holly doesn't know what the woman means at the time, but looks back on it from decades later and realizes the woman was completely correct. This is only a vague look at the abortion but it's obvious this is the child conceived by Holly and Vincent.

Marinus tells Holly the basic details of his life after leaving her in the maze. He says it was a “circuitous” path back into society and that he was eventually resurrected in an orphanage in Cuba. The years passed and he was finally able to reunited with the few Horologists who remained. He says he had been watching out for Holly but the technology failures made it difficult to find her, though they knew she'd settled in Ireland. Marinus has Accepted Responsibility for Holly, a theme seen throughout the story in the lives of several characters. His current action to take Lorelei to safety is an example of



that theme. Another theme is seen in this final chapter as Marinus tells briefly about his life as an orphan. The Horologists have no control over the body to which they return. While Marinus doesn't give any details, it seems likely that he has gone through a great deal in order to get back to his responsibility as a Horologist.

The final section of the book is devoted to the harsh life Holly is living at this point in time. The world is falling apart and Holly is deeply worried about the two children in her care. It seems an act of fate that Lorelei is eligible to become an Icelandic citizen and that Marinus is in a position to make that happen.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Describe Holly's life at this point in time. What are some of the hardships she faces?

## **Discussion Question 2**

What is the final act of caring Marinus performs for Holly?

## **Discussion Question 3**

How does Holly come to be caring for the two children and why is she concerned about their future?

## **Vocabulary**

fuddled, feckless, incommunicado, placebo, ambivalent, remnants



# Characters

## Holly Sykes

Holly is a teenager exhibiting typical teenaged angst as the story opens. She loves her family but rebels against the rules and demands placed on her by being part of that family. Holly runs away from home briefly as a show of anger over her mother's reaction to her boyfriend, but she later deeply regrets that action. From a young age, she is psychosoteric. She hears voices that she refers to as the “Radio People” and attracts the attention of the Anchorites who literally feed on children with psychic-like powers. Marinus finds her before the Anchorites can use her and puts a stop to the voices, at least for a while, which takes her off the Anchorites' radar.

While she's a teenager, Holly has a vision of her brother, Jacko, who is really the host for Xi Lo, another of the Horologists. She doesn't believe the vision but later comes to realize that she'd seen an important event in the Horologists' history and in their war against the Anchorites. Holly believes she's to blame for Jacko's disappearance and it's not until she connects with the Horologists as an adult that she realizes this isn't the case.

Holly has a chance encounter as a teenager with a Horologist named Esther Little and makes a promise to serve as asylum for Esther, if the need arises. Esther does seek sanctuary in Holly's body and hides there for decades until Marinus finds and recovers her mind.

Holly is a giving and loving person for her entire life. Holly writes a book about her early experiences with the “Radio People.” She has a daughter named Aoife who dies in a plane crash, leaving Holly to raise her granddaughter, Lorelei, and an adopted refugee. As her life nears an end, the world falls into chaos but Marinus appears, taking the two children into his custody and easing Holly's mind about their chances of survival.

## Marinus

One of the Horologists, Marinus is reincarnated each time his body dies though it is possible for him to die in such a way that he will not return. Marinus first appears as a Chinese psychiatrist when Holly is a child. He sees Holly because she is hearing voices and a specific person she calls Miss Constantine. Marinus recognizes the situation for what it is – an Anchorite set on using Holly to feed the immortality of a group of Anchorites. Marinus puts a stop to the situation, effectively saving Holly from the Anchorites' plan.

Marinus is next seen when Holly is an adult. By then, he is reincarnated into his next life – a black woman named Iris. Marinus is in New York when he sets out to recruit Holly to help the Horologists save the world from the Anchorites. Marinus reveals himself to Holly and eventually persuades her that he's telling the truth. Marinus then sets out to



find Esther Little who has sought asylum within the recesses of Holly's mind. He finds her and uses clues left by Esther to help her reweave herself back into being.

Marinus appears for the final time as the book is coming to a close. He is reincarnated yet again and has become an important adviser in the Icelandic government, the final functioning country in the world. Marinus has convinced the government that Holly's granddaughter, Lorelei, is vital to the country's survival. He has only a few minutes to spend with Holly but she convinces him to also take along her adopted son, Rafiq, who is in desperate need of insulin. Marinus is obviously sad to say good-bye to Holly but has done her an immense kindness by taking both children into his care.

## Jacko

Holly's little brother, Jacko actually dies when he is very young but his body is inhabited then by a Horologist named Xi Lo. The little boy's disappearance coincides with Holly running away from home and she always feels that his disappearance is her fault.

## Esther Little

One of the Horologists, she is able to see many details about the future and puts details in place to help control the future, especially as it relates to Holly and the Second Mission against the Anchorites. When she meets Holly for the first time, Esther knows she'll have to seek asylum inside Holly and leaves a message for Marinus to help her reweave herself back into being. She is a kindly old lady when Holly meets her on the pier and doesn't have a body of her own when she participates in the Second Mission.

## Aoife Brubeck

Daughter of Holly Sykes and Ed Brubeck, she is an outgoing youngster who loves her mother deeply. Aoife accepts Holly's episodes of channeling without question but Holly later notes that Aoife might be skeptical if she knew all the details of Holly's experiences with the Horologists and Anchorites in New York. She dies in an airplane crash during the "Gigastorm of '38" along with her husband, Orvar, leaving behind a daughter, Lorelei.

## Ed Brubeck

Aoife's father, he is in love with Holly Sykes as a young man. He is the person who tells Holly about working on the produce farm and is the one who alerts Holly that Jacko is missing. Ed becomes a journalist and covers dangerous foreign settings. He dies there in a missile strike.



## Miss Immaculee Constantin

The second among those recruited as an Anchorite, she is skilled at recruiting children who willingly go to their deaths in order to feed the Anchorites. She identifies Holly when Holly is still very young but frightens her away before Holly can be decanted. She also recruits Hugo Lamb. She dies when Holly strikes her with a marble rolling pin in the labyrinth after the Chapel is destroyed.

## Hugo Lamb

Hugo is a young man attending college at Cambridge when he's approached by Miss Constantine. He is selfish, ruthless, and willing to cheat and steal in order to make money. He creates a false identity under the name Marcus Anyder and saves money under that name. Hugo is attractive and meets Holly Sykes by chance during a skiing trip. The connection between Hugo and Holly is instant and he recognizes it as true love despite his own determination that he won't ever fall in love. Hugo gives in to the offer made by the Anchorites and lives as one of them until the fall of the Chapel. His fate is unknown.

## Richard Cheeseman

A student at Cambridge and friend of Hugo Lamb, he becomes a literary critic and winds up in jail after Crispin Hershey frames him for drugs. Cheeseman knows that Crispin is responsible and hates him for it.

## Crispin Hershey

A writer with some limited success, he is self-centered and egotistical. He blames the failure of a new novel on Richard Cheeseman's negative review and is never able to get past that. He frames Cheeseman for drugs, expecting that he'll be picked up in the United States and will be publicly embarrassed over the situation. Instead, Cheeseman is held in a foreign prison and Crispin has to live with the guilt of knowing it's his fault. Crispin knows that he should confess but can't bring himself to take Cheeseman's place. Crispin loves Holly though he never acts on those feelings.

## Kath Sykes

Holly's mother, she is a hard-working woman who takes care of her family, home, and business. She is dedicated to her children and Jacko's disappearance hits her hard. She and Holly don't get along well when Holly is a teenager but it's obvious she is trying to do what's best for Holly.



## **Dave Sykes**

Holly's father tries to remain out of the arguments between Kath and the children. He is the owner of a bar and is an easy-going person who obviously loves his family.

## **Vincent Costello**

The young man Holly believes she loves as the story opens. Vincent is actually carrying on an affair with Holly's best friend, a fact that ends their relationship. Holly and Vincent apparently become pregnant together but abort the child. Vincent's fate is unknown.

## **Johnny Penhaligon**

A classmate of Hugo Lamb, he becomes involved in a poker game based on Hugo's introduction and loses a great deal of money, indicating the players cheated Johnny. Johnny has a car that belonged to his deceased father and Hugo suggests Johnny sell the car to pay his debt. Johnny is heartbroken over the situation and commits suicide, driving himself off a cliff in the car.



# Symbols and Symbolism

## Bone Clocks

This name is a reference to the fact that humans age normally as opposed to the Horologists. Horologists, literally translated, are people who study and measure time, and they are reincarnated at the end of each life with memories of their previous lives, meaning they aren't typical children. By contrast, the Anchorites never age. The humans, or Bone Clocks, are the only characters of this story who age normally.

## Horologists

These are the "good guys" of the story, they are a small group of people who are tasked with stopping the Anchorites. Literally translated, Horologists are people who study and measure time but the Horologists of this story are supernatural beings who are resurrected and live indefinitely. They can be killed and this is a real concern as they head into their Second Mission against the Anchorites. Only a few of them survive and they do win against the Anchorites. The Horologists are symbolic of the "good" in the recurring Good Versus Evil theme of the book.

## Anchorites

These are the "bad guys" of the good-versus-evil theme of the story. The Anchorites don't resurrect into other bodies but simply don't age. They literally feed off children who have psychic abilities but they have to convince the children to give themselves willingly. The Anchorites are apparently exterminated in the Second Mission with the exception of Hugo Lamb but he will have aged normally without the ability to renew himself at the Chapel. The Anchorites symbolize the "evil" in the Good Versus Evil theme seen in the book.

## Radio People

This is the name given to the voices Holly hears as a child, it's also the name of the best-selling book she writes about her experiences as a child with psychic abilities.

## The Script

The Script refers to an account several of the characters follow as a means of reaching a specific conclusion. Many people know about the Script and that they are supposed to be part of the events leading up to the ultimate battle between the Anchorites and the Horologists. In most cases, the Script is a feeling that a person is to do some specific



action, as seen in the case of the fortune teller who urges Ed to think about Holly's words as a means of finding their missing daughter.

## **The Star of Riga**

This is a ship that Holly sees about the same time she encounters Esther Little. The name of the ship becomes a code word used by Esther to help Marinus locate her in Holly's memories.

## **The Invisible Eye**

This is an eye that appears in the middle of the forehead of a person with psychic abilities. Holly has the eye but Marinus effectively seals it in order to put her out of reach of the Anchorites. The Horologists also have the eye and it helps them during their battle against the Anchorites. Miss Constantin looks for the eye on Aoife but is disappointed to find that it doesn't exist. While the eye is a symbol of psychic powers, it is also the thing that draws the attention of the Anchorites, which tends to lead to the death of the psychic person.

## **The Second Mission**

This is an attempt by the Horologists to put an end to the Anchorites. The First Mission occurs before the opening of the book and the Second Mission includes Holly. The Second Mission is successful in destroying the Chapel though several people are killed in the process. Hugo Lamb is apparently the only Anchorite to escape.

## **Room 1015**

This is a room in the hotel where Holly, Ed, and their family is staying during Sharon's wedding. When Aoife goes missing, Esther speaks out through Holly, giving the room number of where Aoife can be found. This is the first time that Ed fully accepts that Holly's abilities are real and prompts him to suggest she write about it.

## **The Chapel**

This is the place where the Anchorites go to decant the psychosetoric children they abduct. This is also the place where the final battle between the Anchorites and Horologists takes place. The Chapel is destroyed by the Horologists, putting an end to the Anchorites' ability to feed off psychic children. It is also referred to as the Chapel of the Dusk.





# Settings

## The Labyrinth

A maze that is seen after the battle in between the Horologists and the Anchorites, the labyrinth leads away from the Chapel and certain death for Holly, Marinus, and anyone else caught there. Xi Lo, in Jacko's body, had drawn the maze for Holly years earlier and made her promise to memorize it. Holly does memorize it and it saves her life after the battle.

## Cambridge

This is the college where several of the characters attend together, including Hugo Lamb, Richard Cheeseman, Olly Quinn, and Jonny Penhaligon. There are several specific settings within this overall setting, including a bar where the friends often spend time together and the campus building where Hugo first meets Miss Constantine.

## The Captain Marlow

This is the name of the bar owned by Kath and Dave Sykes. This is also where Holly works some as a teenager. All the children are familiar with the bar and there are several scenes set in this bar. This is where Holly sees an old man and knows without a doubt that it will be the last time she sees him; he is found dead shortly after that and is one piece of evidence of Holly's psychic abilities.

## 119A

This is the house in New York where the Horologists live and gather. The house has magic properties and "recognizes" the Horologists, granting them admittance. It's a safe place for the group to gather and this is where they plan their attack on the Anchorites.

## The World in 2043

Holly is living in Ireland in 2043 and the world is in chaos. There is limited technology and people are struggling just to survive. Governments are falling and there are fights for control of what's left. Iceland remains the one safe place with a government, military, industrial sector, and society largely intact. The problems in Ireland are not unique and Holly hears from her brother Brendan that looters have recently attacked his neighborhood.



# Themes and Motifs

## Good Versus Evil

The idea of Good Versus Evil is prevalent throughout the book and there are multiple examples of this theme. The most important is seen in the battle between the Horologists and the Anchorites. The Anchorites use children as a means of fueling the immortality of their group. They are ultimately evil because they don't care about the people they kill and they are selfishly killing for their own gain. The Horologists are good in comparison and engage in a battle aimed at bringing an end to the Anchorites. The Horologists manifest as humans and are therefore subject to the human mistakes and failures, but they try to stop the cruelty perpetuated by the Anchorites.

There are many examples of the various people who are good battling against the evil people. Marinus and Miss Constantin each have an interest in Holly when she is young. Miss Constantin plans to use Holly to fuel the perpetual youth of the Anchorites and Marinus wants to save her. Ultimately, Marinus wins out but the Anchorites still manage to take other people. At one point, Marinus says the Anchorites are stealing a few people each year, and each of those people is an example of evil winning out.

The Second Mission is the ultimate example of this theme. The Horologists plan to fight the Anchorites in an attempt to destroy the Chapel, thereby eliminating any possibility that the Anchorites will continue to function. The Horologists go into the battle knowing they might die but hoping that they will at least score a victory for good.

Another example of this theme is seen in the final chapter of the book as the world's governments and armies lose control. There is an immediate push for power and goods. Holly's brother tells of a group of looters who are trying to rob his neighborhood. Several people are killed during the ensuing fight. A similar situation occurs in Holly's village when a ragtag group claims to have the authority to take whatever they want. They take solar panels from Holly's neighbor, Mo, and try to take goods from the village. A fight occurs there as well with casualties on both sides. The good people who are simply trying to survive are forced to fight against the evil groups trying to take control.

## The Quest for and Cost of Immortality

The idea of immortality is appealing to most people and the Anchorites are willing to go to great extremes to achieve this. Hugo Lamb is a prime example of this theme. He has just spent a night with Holly Sykes and discovers that he is in love with her. This is, in Hugo's mind, true love that he had never expected to find. But as he is headed to meet her, he encounters members of the Anchorites. They tell him that this is his one chance to learn about them and he takes it rather than going on to meet Holly. In Hugo's case, he is willing to give up his one chance at this kind of true love.



Hugo and the other Anchorites have to kill psychics in order to maintain their youth. In most cases, they find innocent children with the requisite psychic abilities and befriend them so that the children go willingly to their deaths. The Anchorites kill dozens of people and apparently see this as an acceptable cost for their own immortality. They are also willing to kill off the Horologists in order to keep their way of life safe.

The Horologists have immortality as well, but most are reincarnated into random bodies each time their current body dies. This means the Horologists are sometimes put into complicated situations, as is seen with Marinus who is reincarnated as a slave girl who has to find a way into a better situation. The Horologists are unable to procreate, meaning they can have relationships but will never experience the joy of parenthood.

The Horologists could have become a group of wealthy people who reunite in each lifetime. They could have used their immortality to build wealth and power for themselves and the group as a whole. They don't do that but focus instead on the need to keep fighting against the Anchorites in an effort to keep the psychic children safe from the decanting.

## Fate or the Script

The idea that events are fated ahead of time is important to the story. Esther Little is one person who puts events into play in order to reach specific conclusions. Some forty years before she disappears into Holly's mind, she sends Marinus an audio message instructing him to go to a specific place in order to meet someone he'll recognize. When he arrives, he finds that Holly is there. Esther has taken asylum inside Holly and this action puts Holly and Marinus together. Esther takes several other similar actions, including having Marinus remember her "long name" decades before their meeting with Holly. Then she leaves Marinus a clue that this name will be the key to reweaving her into being after the years spent inside Holly.

Dwight Silverwind advertises himself as a fortune teller but admits that he's really more of a student than a master. When Aoife goes missing, Ed believes she might have gone to Dwight's booth on the nearby pier. Dwight hasn't seen Aoife but says he'll remain with Ed because he senses that he's Scripted to do so. When Holly utters the words "ten-fifteen," Dwight urges Ed to figure out what she's talking about. Without Dwight's comments, Ed might simply have moved on without noticing the room key that led to Aoife's recovery.

Another example of this theme is seen in Holly's ability to kill Miss Constantin. The Anchorite threatens Holly's family during the battle in the Chapel and this makes Holly furious. When she and Constantin meet again in the maze, Holly kills the woman with a rolling pin. Holly then reveals that she'd literally stolen the rolling pin from the kitchen because she felt she needed some sort of weapon.

There are many other examples of this theme seen throughout the book. Aoife marries a man from Iceland, which happens to be the final secure country when the world's



governments and technology fail. This means Aoife's daughter, Lorelei, is eligible for citizenship. Holly has a one-night stand with Hugo Lamb before he's recruited by the Anchorites. It's Hugo who helps Marinus escape from the maze.

## Accepting Responsibility

Marinus is the main character who describes this theme and its purpose in the lives of the Horologists. The reader has to remember that the Horologists like Marinus are reincarnated in life after life, but always retain the memories of their previous lives. They also have the power of suggestion, meaning they can bend people to their will. This means that Marinus and the other Horologists could amass wealth and power, then manipulate themselves into a position to use that wealth and power in each of their lives. Marinus says there are times when he wonders why he continues to wage war against the Anchorites rather than enjoying himself in his various lifetimes. However, he can't bring himself to ignore the fight, which he sees as his responsibility. He says that if the Horologists simply sat back and enjoyed themselves, they'd be as guilty as the Anchorites.

Another character who exhibits this theme is Holly. She feels responsible for Jacko's disappearance and briefly tries to run away from her family and the memories, but soon returns to build a life for herself. She helps homeless people and runaways and sees this as her responsibility. Ed Brubeck exhibits a similar sense of responsibility when he plans to return to the war-torn Middle East. He says that he has to let people know about the atrocities of the region in the hope that his reports will change something.

When Holly learns about the battle between the Horologists and the Anchorites, she willingly takes part. She doesn't know how she might be able to help but feels that it's her responsibility to help save Jacko, if that's at all possible. She feels this responsibility even though she knows that Jacko is actually a Horologist named Xi Lo.

Holly also shows her deep feelings of responsibility toward others when she takes in a refugee, adopting him to raise as her own son. She is already raising her granddaughter when Rafiq appears on her doorstep, and she could have turned him over to the authorities. She does, insisting that she will take responsibility for him. A similar act of responsibility is seen when Marinus shows up to take Lorelei to Iceland. Holly seeks to get Rafiq out of the country as well, knowing that his chances of survival are much higher in Iceland than in Ireland. She knows that she'll miss the children but also knows they'll be safer if they leave. She doesn't however, ask Marinus to help her escape.

By showing up to take Lorelei to Iceland, Marinus is showing his own sense of responsibility toward Holly. He has been watching her for years and taking Lorelei is the final act of caring in his power.



## Holly's Relationships

Holly carries on with a fairly normal life despite the fact that she is a key player in the battle between the Horologists and the Anchorites. Holly has parents and siblings, and she loves them deeply despite the problems during her teenage years. She loves Jacko deeply and describes a connection with him from the moment of his birth. Even when she finds out that Jacko died as a child and that his body was host to the Horologist Xi Lo, Holly continues to love him and willingly goes into the battle between the Horologists and Anchorites because there's a chance she might save him.

As a teenager, Holly has a boyfriend, Vincent, and becomes pregnant by him, eventually choosing to abort the baby. She has friends and the heartaches that accompany those friendships, especially when one of her friends cheats with Vincent.

Holly befriends and has a romance with Ed Brubeck. Their early relationship is one of friendship and it's Ed who alerts Holly to the fact that Jacko is missing. Their romance occurs years later and they have a child together. The relationship between Ed and Holly is somewhat rocky, mainly because of Ed's dangerous job as a journalist. Holly is devoted to their daughter, Aoife, and equally devoted to her granddaughter, Lorelei. When she is old, she adopts a young refugee named Rafiq and is as devoted to him as she is to Lorelei.

Another important relationship in Holly's life is her one-night love affair with Hugo Lamb. Hugo falls in love with Holly and it seems they might have been happy together, but Hugo is recruited by the Anchorites and walks away from their relationship.

Holly also has a series of relationships with Horologists. She meets Marinus when she is very young and he is in the body of a Chinese doctor. She meets him again in two other bodies and it's obvious that he has been watching out for her over the years, even when she didn't know who he was. Her relationship with Esther Little is complicated by the fact that Esther winds up hiding in Holly's mind for decades. Esther is silent and invisible to Holly during those years but owes Holly a debt of gratitude for providing the asylum necessary to keep Esther alive.



# Styles

## Point of View

The story is written from a limited perspective but the point of view varies, depending on the setting and characters. In some cases, as in the chapters devoted to Marinus, the story is written in first person.

The Atemporals who are resurrected randomly alternate the gender of their hosts with every resurrection. For example, Marinus is a male psychiatrist when he sees the teenaged Holly. By the time they meet again decades later, Marinus has been resurrected into a new body and this time he is a female named Iris. For the sake of clarity in this study guide, the Atemporals who change genders are referred to as the gender in which they are originally introduced. That means Marinus is referred to as “he” even when he is in the body of Iris.

The limited perspective means the reader is left in the dark about many details that would otherwise help explain events and themes. For example, the reader sees Jacko only through Holly's eyes. Holly is a teenager when Jacko is part of her life and she cares deeply for him, but doesn't interact with him a great deal in the story. Jacko is really a reincarnated Horologist named Xi Lo by this point in the book, but the reader has no clue about this because of the limited perspective.

In some cases, the limited perspective leaves the reader with questions that are later answered. Holly encounters the Horologist named Esther Little early in the story and Esther says she will need Holly to give her asylum later. Esther also writes an instruction on the pier but it's not clear why until much later. Esther almost dies and has to enter Holly secretly in order to reweave herself. The instruction on the pier is so that Marinus will later be able to recall Esther from Holly's memory.

## Language and Meaning

The story is a fantasy with places, people, organizations, and events created for the story. As such, there is an entire vocabulary built for the story. These include places that do not really exist, such as the Chapel where the final battle between good and evil takes place. The Horologists are Atemporal, meaning they can exist without a body. They can also communicate without saying anything aloud. These communications are referred to as “sub.” For example, Marinus “subadmits” that he doesn't know what's about to happen next, meaning he communicates that to the other Atemporals without actually saying any words aloud. “Subspeak” is common in the portions of the book that focus on Marinus and the war between the Horologists and the Anchorites.

In the last section of the book, the reader is decades in the future. The words there represent that futuristic setting and there are references to fantastical events, such as the “Gigastorm” that brings down airplanes and takes many lives.



The author uses many words that the average reader may not know. Words such as unctuousness, prolix, puerile, and apocrypha are used throughout the book. In addition, words such as Horologist and Anchorite, both real words with real-world meanings, are given fantasy meanings. This makes the book somewhat difficult to understand. Add to that the fact that many of the events are so fanciful as to be unbelievable and the reader may sometimes have trouble grasping the chain of events.

## Structure

The story is divided into six sections and each section is further divided into chapters. Each of the sections is identified by title and year, and most of the chapters are then identified by date. This makes the reader aware of the passage of time between specific events. The first section is *A Hot Spell: 1984*. The three chapters in this section are titled June 30, July 1, and July 2. In this section, the reader is given some details about Holly's life as a teenager and before, including the disappearance of Jacko.

Section two is *“Myrrh is Mine, Its Bitter Perfume: 1991*. The seven chapters in this section are December 13, December 20, December 23, December 29, December 30, December 31, and New Year's Day, 1992. In this section, Holly has put some distance between her and her family and meets Hugo Lamb. It's also in this section that Hugo is lured away by the Anchorites.

Section Three is *The Wedding Bash 2004*. The two chapters are April 16 and April 17. Holly is an adult and is involved in a relationship with Ed Brubeck who is a journalist. They have a child together and when Aoife goes missing, Holly has an episode that leads Ed to find their daughter. Ed then encourages Holly to write about her psychic experiences.

The next section is *An Horologist's Labyrinth: 2025*. The chapters are April 1, April 3, April 4, April 5, April 6 and April 7. This chapter is presented from the perspective of Marinus and includes the final battle between the Horologists and the Anchorites along with Holly leading the escape from the maze.

The final section is *Sheep's Head: 2043*. The chapters are October 26, October 27, and October 28. The world is in chaos and Holly is responsible for two children when her local government falls into the hands of renegades intent on looting. Marinus makes an appearance in the final section, this time in the body of an Icelandic official. He takes Holly's granddaughter and adopted son to safety as a final act of goodwill toward Holly.

The story flows chronologically but there are flashbacks to explain past events and to offer details that occur before the first chapter. The scene in which Holly first meets Marinus happens prior to the first chapter and the details of that event are presented as a memory Holly has. In some cases, details are never given. For example, early in the story Holly is concerned because her period is late. She then learns that Jacko has disappeared and the details about her pregnancy are never revealed. Much later in the

story, a brief paragraph tells about Holly's encounter with a woman at the abortion clinic, indicating that she must have had an abortion.





## Quotes

Promise me you'll memorize the path through it, so if you ever needed to, you could navigate it in the darkness. Please.

-- Xi Lo as Jacko (June 30 of "A Hot Spell: 1984" paragraph 67)

**Importance:** This is Jacko's final conversation with Holly. She doesn't know that it's really Xi Lo who is talking to her and that this will one day save her life, but Xi Lo apparently already knows the details of the final battle between the Horologists and Anchorites.

What is born must one day die. So says the contract of life, yes?

-- Miss Constantin (December 13 of "Myrrh is Mine, Its Bitter Perfume: 1991" paragraph 44)

**Importance:** This is Constantin's first contact with Hugo Lamb and she's capturing his interest in the hope of recruiting him for the Anchorites. She goes on to say that this contract can sometimes be "rewritten."

I created Anyder not only as fake account holder to own and obscure my ill-gotten gains, but to be a better, sharper, truer version of Hugo Lamb.

-- Hugo Lamb (December 31 of "Myrrh is Mine, Its Bitter Perfume: 1991" paragraph 84)

**Importance:** Hugo has just been accused of cheating by one of his friends and he suddenly fears that he hasn't been as clever as he had hoped. His world is crashing down around him and Hugo is starting to worry that he's going to be caught in one or several of his scams and schemes.

Your uncle's invisible eye was magnificent, and your mother's was enchanting, too, before it was sealed shut by a wicked magician.

-- Miss Constantin (April 17 of "The Wedding Bash: 2004" paragraph 43)

**Importance:** Constantin is talking to Aoife. Ed is present as well and neither Aoife nor Ed know what Constantin is talking about. She's looking for the invisible eye in the middle of Aoife's forehead and is obviously disappointed to find there isn't one.

I spent four years on 'Echo Must Die,' and that pube-bearded Cheeseman murdered it in eight hundred words.

-- Crispin (March 12, 2016, of "Crispin Hershey's Lonely Planet: 2015" paragraph 29)

**Importance:** Crispin has planted the drugs in Richard Cheeseman's suitcase and is now trying to decide whether to leave it as is or retrieve the drugs. He seems to feel a bit of guilt even at this point but also feels that Cheeseman has wronged him and that this is justice.



If he'd confessed, I'd have been out in days. He let me rot.

-- Richard Cheeseman (December 13, 2020, of "Crispin Hershey's Lonely Planet: 2015" paragraph 54)

**Importance:** Richard has just revealed that he knows it was Crispin who planted the drugs that landed him in prison and that Crispin could have confessed and liberated Richard at any point. Crispin believes Richard is going to kill him and is surprised when he doesn't.

If the First Mission was Scripted, then maybe, maybe, it was not the crippling defeat that we've believed it was for the last forty-one years. Yet how the deaths of Xi Lo, Holokai, and Esther Little be part of a bigger scheme?

-- Marinus (April 1 of "An Horologist's Labyrinth: 2025." paragraph 14)

**Importance:** Marinus has just received the letter from the deaf school and the package sent on behalf of Esther Little. He is suddenly considering some alternatives to what he believed happened all those years ago.

Hugo Lamb now sources prey, just as Miss Constantin sourced you. And if she hadn't scared you into reporting her so that Yu Leon Marinus was informed about and inoculated you, she would have abducted you and not Jacko.

-- Marinus (April 4 of "An Horologist's Labyrinth: 2025." paragraph 115)

**Importance:** Marinus is meeting with Holly but Holly remains skeptical of the facts as Marinus presents them. This comment, that she would have been taken instead of Jacko, hurts her because she has never stopped feeling guilt over Jacko's disappearance.

Because if we spent our metalives amassing the wealth of empires and getting stoned on the opiates of wealth and power, knowing what we know yet doing nothing about it, we would be complicit in the psychoslaughter of the innocents.

-- Marinus (April 5 of "An Horologist's Labyrinth: 2025" paragraph 16)

**Importance:** Marinus is explaining why he and other Horologists continue to fight against the Anchorites rather than turning a blind eye and enjoying their lives.

Hugo Lamb now sources prey, just as Miss Constantin sourced you. And if she hadn't scared you into reporting her so that Yu Leon Marinus was informed about and inoculated you, she would have abducted you and not Jacko.

-- Marinus (April 4 of "An Horologist's Labyrinth: 2025." paragraph 114)

**Importance:** Marinus is meeting with Holly but Holly remains skeptical of the facts as Marinus presents them. This comment, that she would have been taken instead of Jacko, hurts her because she has never stopped feeling guilt over Jacko's disappearance.



Because if we spent our metalives amassing the wealth of empires and getting stoned on the opiates of wealth and power, knowing what we know yet doing nothing about it, we would be complicit in the psychoslaughter of the innocents.

-- Marinus (April 5 of "An Horologist's Labyrinth: 2025" paragraph 16)

**Importance:** Marinus is explaining why he and other Horologists continue to fight against the Anchorites rather than turning a blind eye and enjoying their lives.

Xi Lo transversed in, like a bullet. And ... the instant before he vanished, I heard Xi Lo subtell me three words: I'll be here.

-- Esther (April 6 of "An Horologist's Labyrinth: 2025" paragraph 72)

**Importance:** Esther and Marinus are explaining the situation to Holly. Esther says she was standing beside Xi Lo, who was inside Jacko's body, when his soul left the body. She says the soul wasn't "dragged out" like most victims of the Anchorites would be, but shot out "like a bullet." She seems to believe that Xi Lo left his body willingly and then said that he would be waiting, indicating that he might still be alive and ready to help with another attack against the Anchorites.

Footage of catastrophes flowed so thick and fast through the thirties that it was hard to keep track of which coastal region had been devastated this week, or which city had been decimated by Ebola or Ratflu. The news turned into a plotless never-ending disaster movie I could hardly bring myself to watch.

-- Holly (October 26 of "Sheep's Head: 2043" paragraph 20)

**Importance:** Holly is describing the fall of the world. She goes on to say that she doesn't have to deal with that anymore because technology has failed to the point that there isn't an abundance of communication, meaning she doesn't know what's going on in other parts of the world.

My first thought is, 'Thank Christ, she's saved.' My second thought is, 'I can't lose my granddaughter.' My third thought is, 'Thank Christ, she's saved.'

-- Holly (October 28 of "Sheep's Head: 2043" paragraph 271)

**Importance:** The Icelandic officer has just announced that he's here to take Lorelie to Iceland based on her status as the fact that her father held Icelandic citizenship. Holly knows the situation for the children is serious and worries that they won't survived if they remain in Ireland with her.