

The Country of Ice Cream Star Study Guide

The Country of Ice Cream Star by Sandra Newman

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Plot Summary

"The Country of Ice Cream Star," a novel by Sandra Newman, is the story of fifteen-year-old Ice Cream Star. Ice Cream, known as Ice, sets out to find a cure for the disease that kills everyone before the age of twenty-one. Set several decades into the future, Ice grows up with her brother in what was formerly the United States of America, now called the "Nighted States." Most people in the country speak in stunted and fragmented English, including Ice. Originally from the shores of the Chespea Water (the former Chesapeake Bay), Ice and her tribe –the Sengles –have moved to Massa Wood, formerly the western part of the state of Massachusetts.

Ice and her people live in peace and friendship with the neighboring Lowells, who live at the old Lowell Mill. However, Ice and her people live in a tense peace with the Nat Mass Armies, a tribe of warrior-minded people. Complicating the situation is that Ice is in love with Mamadou, the NewKing of the Armies. Meanwhile, Ice's brother, Driver, leads their own tribe. Driver ultimately becomes stricken with the disease known as posies, meaning his days are numbered. He has long sought to merge with El Mayor, leader of the Lowells, in order to better defend against the Armies during the frequent wars that break out. Now he is desperate to do so.

While out scavenging through Sleeper homes –the houses and properties of people who fled to Europe when the disease first broke out –Ice and her people discover a man named Pasha. Pasha, who is white, is striking to Ice and everyone else because they are black. Also, Pasha is thirty years old. This is unheard of to Ice and her people because most die in their early twenties. At first, they are very suspicious of Pasha, but slowly warm up to him realizing he is not at all like the roving bands of white slavers that came through the area years before. It is through her conversations with Pasha that Ice learns he is a scout for the Russian Federation's operations in America, and that the Russians have a cure for the disease. Pasha also warns Ice that the Russians are forcing captured locals to fight for them, and slaughtering them if they refuse. He explains that a massive Russian military movement is headed south, and that Ice and her people must flee.

Ice tasks herself with two causes: saving her people and saving her brother. She begins sleeping with El Mayor, convincing him and most of the Lowells to join forces with the Sengles and move south. As they move south, the Nat Mass Armies warriors pursue. The Armies are stopped and executed by the Marianos, soldiers from the City of Marias, formerly New York City. The City of Marias is a theocracy ruled by twelve apostles. The apostles utilize a warped version of Catholicism in which any black girl found living with a white man is considered to be Mary, Mother of Jesus, while the white man is seen to be Jesus. Ice is believed to be the latest incarnation of Mary, so she is elevated to rule Marias and its four-hundred-thousand people.

Ice and Pasha continue to warm toward one another, with Pasha confessing that in the past, he was a ruthless killer for the Russians, and murdered the mother of his daughter when she did not try to protect their daughter from being raped during a war. Pasha now



seeks to atone for his past. He loves Ice, and in some ways sees her as a daughter. He and Ice work to urge the Marias to join with Quantico, a warrior city of young Marines. Quantico is made up of the former areas of southern Maryland, Washington, D.C., and northern Virginia. With Marias under her control, Ice heads south to make a treaty with the Marines of Quantico. An alliance is made. While in Quantico, Ice speaks with a Russian prisoner named Razin, whom she says she will protect if he can get her the cure. He settles on ten cures.

In the final battle, the Russian Federation easily defeats the combined armies of Quantico and Marias. Ice is captured. Because Razin has survived, he has sent on ten cures to New York. He now decides he will bring her to Europe to use her as propaganda on behalf of the Russians, which the rest of the world looks unfavorably upon for their brutality in Africa, South America, and the United States. Pasha goes with Ice. While the details are never provided, Ice concludes her story by saying that she was able to bring the cure to everyone in the Nighted States, to save them all.



Section 1: In Massa, Tober 2 – Vember 1, Chapters 1 – 15

Summary

Chapter 1: My Trouble Its Beginning, Tober 2 – Ice Cream “Ice” Fifteen Star is a member of the dark-skinned Sengles, a nomadic group of thieves and hunters. She has a brother named Driver Eighteen Star and a brother named Mo-Jacques Five Star who dies of “posies.” The rest of Ice Cream’s family is long dead, having originally come from the Two Towns near the Chespea Water. They left due to the arrival of the “neckface murderers” many years before. They now inhabit the western part of Massa. The Sengles are prone to the plague that has wiped out most of humanity, called “posies” or “WAKS.” It kills people by the age of twenty-one. Most of what is known about the disease comes from eighty-year-old evacuation notices. The notices reveal that all people not suffering from WAKS would be evacuated by bus to safe zones, such as the Ramada Inn in Westford, Massachusetts. Anyone suffering from WAKS would not be transported.

In the present, on Tober 2, Ice’s favorite little, Keepers Eight, has scouted out an abandoned, wealthy neighborhood. The decision is made to go in and scavenge. Ice becomes part of a scavenging party with Jermaine Fourteen, Asha Badmouth Fifteen, Driver Eighteen. Two horses accompany them. There is Ice’s horse, Money; and there is Big Smoke who pulls the sledge. The group recovers canned foods, medicines, alcohol, and a plastic toy baby doll which is taken to be bad luck by Keepers. Baby dolls are seen as omens of death. Ice, who is very realistic, is even disturbed by Keeper’s reaction. Ice tries to calm herself by reminding herself that people die all the time anyways. The group tries to focus on the idea of Europe, a place some believe to be a myth, and a place others believe the Sleepers (those who abandoned their homes) to have gone. It makes Ice Cream consider the evacuation from decades before.

Ice admires her brother, Driver, who is wealthy from his scavenging and with whom all the girls want to have babies. Driver has already fathered four children, three of which still survive. Driver consistently reminds Ice to be responsible, be alert, keep her cool, and scavenge well. He reminds Ice she is well past the age to begin bearing children, but Ice doesn’t want to have babies because of “something false.” This angers Drive, who begins coughing. This worries Ice, who does not want her brother to die of posies. It is then they notice a house on fire. Inside, several people rush about. A single boy escapes the fire. He is blonde-haired and white-skinned, a legendary Sleeper thought to have been long gone from Massa.

Chapter 2: Of Roos Before – The Sengles refer to white-skinned people as “Roos.” The Roos are a roving people who wear deerskin and attacked the Sengles and other tribes in the past to take on slaves. They have not been seen in years.



Chapter 3: Of Tober 2, Prolonging – The boy that Ice, her brother, and the others find is not like the deerskin Roos. This boy wears normal clothing, including jeans. He tries to escape. Driver shoots at the boy, causing the boy to crouch and pull out his own gun. Ice intervenes, approaches the boy slowly, and gets him to give up his gun. This is how Ice receives her first gun, she explains, and how her “Pasha Roo” first came into “Sengle town”.

Chapter 4: Of Crow my Animose – The boy is tied up and put on the sledge. Ice undoes her Patagonia jacket, then gives it to the Sengle littles who sympathize with how cold the boy seems. The boy says “spaseep,” which is thank you in his own language. They journey into the Sengle town. The town is filthy with garbage lying scattered about. Ice sees Crow Sixteen, her old childhood friend, eating Nilla wafers. Crow has turned out hard and unkind. He is angered that a white boy has been brought back to town. It doesn't matter to him whether the boy is a Roo or a Sleeper. He antagonizes Ice, saying that perhaps she finds the boy attractive. Keepers steps up and says the boy is hers, and that Ice has no part in it. Driver then declares the new gun from the boy will go to Ice. Ice and her group camp in the woods near the town to avoid the smell. Keepers cuddles up with the white boy to sleep.

Chapter 5: My Parley to the Christings – Driver sends Ice to the Christing Tophet house about finding a place for the boy to stay. John of Christ is one of the remaining Christings in the area, the others having fled the Murder Wars some years before. The Christings are noted by the crosses they wear, their longer lives, and their beliefs. John is a kind man who works hard and has thirteen wives. John welcomes Ice into his home. One of his wives, Susannah Fifteen, is very intelligent and sits in on the conversation. One of his children, Japhet Twelve, also mills about. Ice speaks about the boy staying in John's cellar, but John says the Roos are not Christing. He and Susannah decide to pray about it. It is then that Ice notices one of their children has the posies. John ultimately decides against taking the boy in.

Chapter 6: Of Pasha Roo – Ice practices firing her gun, then heads to find the boy and Keepers. Keepers explains that she has picked up some of the boy's language, and reveals his name to be Pasha. Keepers also reports that Pasha is thirty years old – which stuns Ice. Ice does not believe it at first, but considers the fact that maybe Roos are immune to posies, or just live longer. She wonders if maybe they have a cure for posies. Ice knows she must go hunting, so she heads off to find more bullets for her gun and to speak with El Mayor.

Chapter 7: At Lowell Mill – Ice rides her horse to Lowell Mill through the woods. The Lowells are a wealthy family tribe that lives in an old factory building. Their names are given according to their jobs (such as First Gardener or Second Plumber). Ice tells El Mayor Lowell about Pasha. El Mayor is skeptical but considers that maybe the whites of the world live in a place no infected by the plague. Ice also explains she fears her brother will die and that Crow will take over. El Mayor and the Lowells hate Crow and do not like the thought of him ruling the Sengles. Ice begins to cry. El Mayor comforts her. Ice considers how El Mayor is working on radios, determined to make one work.



Chapter 8: By Driver's Hiding Meadow, Tober 3 – 15 – Ice considers how her Sengle tribe has been made safe and relatively well-off under the leadership of her brother. She knows if Crow takes over, everything will fall apart. There are thirty-eight members of the tribe altogether. Posies has appeared on Driver's leg. He tells Ice that their tribe is too small. Driver believes the Sengles should merge with the Lowells. He worries the tribe will be easy for the Nat Mass Armies to make into slaves.

Chapter 9: Of Nat Mass Armies – When the Sengles first came to Massa woods, Ice explains, they had immediate peace with the Lowells and Christings, but constant trouble and war with the Nat Mass Armies. The Nat Mass Armies are dominated by males, while females are kept merely for sex, reproduction, and use as slaves. Their twelve, fit warriors are noted by feathers worn in their hair. They are now ruled by the ruthless NewKing Mamadou. While Driver worries about the tribe's future, Ice worries about his health and posies in general.

Chapter 10: Of Pasha Roo His Lies – Pasha is now no longer feared by the Sengle, for he lives among them. Ice and Keepers question him on a nightly basis. He is slowly learning English. His answers are sometimes cryptic, sometimes truthful, and sometimes lies. For example, he says that all Roos live west of the mountains and all Roos live under the sea and breathe water.

Ice recalls a book she read about a spy named Jack Devont when she was in her bookish days. It makes her wonder if Pasha is spying for his tribe. When she sees Pasha about to share food with Villa, a sexually promiscuous girl, Ice becomes angry and drags Pasha away. Pasha takes his gun and says he would be happy to hunt. Ice holds out her hand to Pasha for the gun. But, he mistakes her gesture and puts his hand in hers. It causes Ice to catch her breath. Then, Crow suddenly arrives, ready to kill Pasha. Ice calms Crow down. Crow thinks that Pasha wants Ice for sexual pleasure.

Chapter 11: By Hunts with Pasha Roo, Tober 15 – 29 – As Driver grows sicker, he becomes more concerned about the Armies. Meanwhile, Ice takes Pasha hunting. Pasha is an excellent shot and hunts very well. Ice is amazed. She explains to Pasha that when a sergeant, or leader of the tribe, first displays signs of posies, he is considered dead and removed from power. Driver holds on only because his disease isn't visible outside of his clothing yet. Ice reveals that soon, the NewKing Mamadou must take a wife, and it makes her upset because the Nat Armies always choose Christings for Queens, never Sengles. This upsets her because she has had a romantic history with Mamadou. A runner then arrives from El Mayor, asking Ice to come at once.

Chapter 12: Tober 29 Its Feary Night – Ice brings Pasha to meet El Mayor. El Mayor is very interested in meeting Pasha. He mentions that he has managed to get a radio to work briefly. He has tuned in to 91.5. Rooish and Panish are spoken on that station. Shattered bits of voices can be heard. The voices are speaking about giving aid and safety. Pasha becomes angered, then says they all must leave from Massa Woods to go as far away as they can.



Chapter 13: Of the Radio Speech – Ice and El Mayor are both unnerved by Pasha’s warning. Pasha explains he fears a Murder War. El Mayor explains the language of the radio is mostly Sleeper English, and that he has been carefully taking down words which include “sixteen days” and “treatment for WAKS.” Pasha explains it is a trap to lure people in, who are then used by the Roos to fight and do their dirty work for them in exchange for their lives. El Mayor orders all his Firsts and Seconds to plug in radios and listen to the broadcasts. The entire broadcast message is eventually assembled. The radio broadcast announces it is the American Mission of the Russian Federation, that anyone over the age of ten is to report to an unidentifiable location, that these people must cooperate, and that they will be given cures for WAKS. The announcement then lists the current areas the Russians are reaching out to.

Chapter 14: The Parley on the Roos – Ice wants to steal the cure for Driver. Pasha explains the Russians have cures for many things, including many different ways to kill people. Pasha confesses he is an agent for the Russians, being ordered to bring in children. He says he cannot do it again. He says the cure is no longer in Massa, but will be in Washington to the south, an old Sleeper city. Pasha agrees to bring Ice to Washington. However, at this point, he does not know how he will accomplish this. Ice vows to travel the “Nighted States” and to bring the cure to every person in the country.

Chapter 15: Of Crow His Treachery – In the morning, Ice discovers Crow sneaking away from the village, taking the rabbits and animals from Sengle traps, and bringing them to the Nat Mass Armies camp. There, Ice sees NewKing Mamadou, and is stunned by how handsome he has become. She then watches how Karim goes into a hut with Crow and another Roo. Ice thinks about how Mamadou promised to make her his queen back in the summer. As Crow leaves, he sees Ice and begins running. Ice chases after him and catches him. Crow says he knows that Ice visited Mamadou’s hut in the summer. Ice counters, realizing that Crow likes other boys –something forbidden. Crow says he cannot be the leader once Driver is gone.

Analysis

From the beginning of the story, the themes of dystopianism and a post-apocalyptic are strong and easily seen. The WAKS virus –commonly known to Ice and her people as posies –has infected everyone in what was formerly the United States of America, now known as the “Nighted States,” having broken out some eighty years before. The reader should note that the term “Nighted States” is not merely a matter of the stunted, broken English spoken by Ice and her people, but it is symbolic of night, or darkness, having overtaken the United States.

Based on scant evidence that can be found, both Ice and the reader realize that those able to flee the outbreak of the disease fled either west over the mountains, or east to Europe. The disease has ravaged people living in the northeastern and mid-Atlantic United States ever since, so much so that Pasha’s appearance is startling less that he is white, but more because he is thirty. Contemporary readers will see thirty as a very young age, but Ice and her people see thirty as an ancient age. They have never known



anyone to be so old before. It makes Pasha's information about the Russian Federation and its operations believable. Of particular interest to Ice is Pasha's confirmation that there is a cure for posies. It is therein that Ice Cream takes it upon herself to bring the cure to all those afflicted in the Nighted States.

It is clear in the post-posies world that the Russian Federation has emerged as the globe's lone superpower. If anything of the United States remains, it is west of the Appalachian Mountains and probably unable to do anything about posies, let alone the invasion of the Russians. That the Russians are withholding the cure demonstrates their desire for power and control at whatever cost is needed to sustain their power –and clear evidence of a dystopian world. The Russians should, as a matter of moral justice, be freely distributing the cure rather than killing and forcing locals to fight for them. There is a clear denial of justice by the Russians, and justice too shall become an important theme in the novel. Ice's desire to bring the cure isn't a question of moral ethics or saving lives, but is a matter of actual justice.

Pasha's reasoning for helping Ice and her tribe is that he is tired of his own Russian people and how they are conducting their operations. Pasha says he simply cannot bring in any more children to the Russians to either die or be used as cheap soldiers. His efforts to help Ice are not only a matter of justice, but a leap for redemption. Pasha's sole focus through the novel, as the reader will come to see, will be redemption. But bringing in children to the Russians is the least of Pasha's moral and legal crimes. This pales in comparison to what the reader will learn about Pasha toward the end of the novel. Nevertheless, it makes Pasha's seeking redemption all the more poignant.

As the novel unfolds, the theme of war also becomes central to the novel. While Ice and the Sengles are friends with, and live in peace with the Lowells, they are in a near-constant state of war with the Nat Mass Armies. At present, there is a tense peace. The Lowells worry about who will come to rule the Sengles when Driver dies. They do not want unnecessary war that might come at the hands of a bad ruler of the Sengles. However, the tribal wars that have gone on in Mass are nothing compared to the war that the Russians will bring, explains Pasha. He urges Ice and the Sengles to flee south, away from the Russian advance. Indeed, the Russians will use any number of dystopian tactics to ensure their control, such as promising a cure for those locals who journey in to see them –and either killing them or forcing them to fight Russia's wars instead.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Ice Cream take upon herself the task of bringing a cure to Driver and the Sengles, as well as all people in the Nighted States? Why does Ice Cream have faith that a cure exists?

Discussion Question 2

What does Pasha agree to help Ice Cream do? Why does he explain he is willing to help?



Discussion Question 3

Why do Ice and the Lowells worry about Crow coming to rule the Sengles? Why does Crow himself say that he cannot be the leader?

Vocabulary

finicky, jittery, edifice, prolonging, akimbo, perilous, wistful, accustom, impish, paragon, treachery



Section 2: In Massa, Tober 2 – Vember 1, Chapters 16 – 30

Summary

Chapter 16: Of Papa Tea – Hate You Fourteen Ka reports to Ice that Pasha has been summoned to the Lowells. Ice shares with Driver the news of the cure and that the Sengles must flee. Ice is sent to get papa tea for Driver, who promises to think on the Roo threat. Back in Sengle town, Roo discovers that Keeper has a gun.

Chapter 17: Of Rooish Gift – Keeper explains it is a gift from Pasha. Pasha then returns to the village with a pack full of goods and a rifle. Hate You wants to know where Pasha finds things like candy and cigarettes, but Pasha isn't forthcoming. Ice speaks to Pasha privately. She explains she saw a Roo with the Armies, which causes Pasha to pale. Pasha reveals the Lowells will be leaving the area, and that the boy seen by Ice is Deema. Pasha also reveals that the Russian Federation ships will not be in Washington until January. Pasha hands over a note to Ice from El Mayor, who says he has seen evidence of the Federation's killing and that this has convinced him to flee. A great commotion is then heard from the Christings.

Chapter 18: Of Taken Queen – John and his wives are celebrating because one of their daughters has been selected by Mamadou to be Queen. John comes to call for Driver for Queen church. She tells him that Driver is taken bad with posies, and that she will attend in his place. The daughters who have slept with Driver begin crying at this.

Chapter 19: My Sergeant Time Beginning – At the midday meal, Ice speaks to her tribe. She declares the Sengles will leave the Massa Woods with the Lowells, as a great threat is coming. She explains she will also be asking the Christings to come with her. Ice explains there is a cure for posies to the south and that people can live to be more than sixty. She also reveals the Armies are dealing with the Roos. That night, Ice goes to speak with Driver where he has gone to be by himself in the hiding meadow. There she reveals the tribe will be moving south. It begins to snow.

Chapter 20: The Spring When I Love Mamadou – Ice reveals that a year before, the Sengle-Army Wars erupted. She recalls seeing Mamadou in a skirmish, then following him home. After the war, she began visiting the Armies' camp every night with the intent to kill him. She recounts that one night she managed to find him alone. Her attempt to kill him was easily overpowered. Afterward, Mamadou sent her home. Ice recalls that her second attempt led to her being pinned to a tree, sexually turned on, and licked by Mamadou. This led to their first night of sex. As the months passed, Ice remembers, all she wanted to do was have sex with Mamadou. She remembers how it led to him to promise her that she would be Queen.



Chapter 21: Tober 31 Its Evil – Ice dresses as beautifully as she can with Hate You's help for the Queen church. On the way to the ceremony, Ice passes by Tribulation, the plough mare of the Christings. The horse is dead. Up ahead, Ice discovers the Christings' Tophet home and church burning. Ice hears screaming from the Christing children. She runs into the burning building. There, she orders the older children to grab younger children and flee the house.

Chapter 22: What Been at Tophet House – Ice sends a girl off to bring up the Sengles. Ice then learns from the children that John had learned from the Lowells about the Armies dealing with Roos, at which time he sought to walk away from the marriage ceremony. The Armies then responded with deadly force, killing Japhet and taking away the women while setting the house on fire to burn the children alive. Jermaine arrives with the Sengles. She tells him to bring the children back to Sengle town while she runs off.

Chapter 23: Of Rescue Desperations – Ice comes upon the Armies camp, where she discovers the warriors drunk and celebrating. She charges into the camp, looking for Mamadou, but is quickly caught and stripped naked. One of the women in the camp secretly gives Ice a knife as she is being brought before Mamadou. He unties Ice. Mamadou reveals that John of Christ has run off, that the Christing wives have been taken as sex slaves. Mamadou denies that his men have set the house and church on fire. He then seduces Ice into sex. Ice then tries to stab Mamadou, but he stops her. Mamadou says the Christing wives have been taken as a result of John trying to back out on the marriage ceremony agreement. He asks Ice to be his Queen. Ice demands to know what deal Mamadou has made with Deema. Mamadou won't speak of a deal, but says that all people in the area will be his or will belong to the Roos. He says there is no escaping the Roos. He decides to bring Deema to see Ice.

Chapter 24: Of Deema Roo – Ice decides to become Mamadou's Queen, and will ask for the freedom of the Christing wives as a trade. Deema and Karim come to see Ice with Mamadou. Ice demands to know about the fire. Deema blames it on a match from a cigarette. He also says the fire was only a small one. Ice says otherwise. Deema then punches Ice in her breast. Ice then stabs Deema in the gut. He punches Ice in the face. Then, he is shot by Pasha who suddenly appears. Pasha then shoots Mamadou and Karim.

Chapter 25: Our Fleeing – Pasha gives Ice Mamadou's rifle. Ice and Pasha then head to the sex slave house, where they gather the Christwives. They return to Sengle town. Ice is in severe pain from having been so savagely beaten. Sengle town is empty, so they go on to Lowell Mill. There, the Lowells take in Ice and Pasha. They discover the Sengles have taken refuge with the Lowells as well. El Mayor then orders Pasha to leave.

Chapter 26: First Runner, Army Born – First Runner Lowell, a pretty girl, helps to clean and bandage Ice's injuries. Ice then goes to see El Mayor.



Chapter 27: By El Mayor His Sleeproom – El Mayor explains John of Christ was drunk, along with almost everyone else, which in turn led to John being beaten and barely escaping. Ice believes that no one is worth less than anyone else, so the Christwives and their children did not deserve the fates Mamadou had intended for them. El Mayor agrees. He goes on to say that he and almost all of his people will be leaving, although some two dozen wish to remain. The Christings, he explains, will also be staying. El Mayor says he is now suspicious of Pasha after Pasha showed him some photographs of the victims of the Russian Federation. In one such photo, a Roo stands with his foot on the neck of a dead little girl. Ice refuses to believe Pasha is bad. El Mayor asks Ice to sleep with him. Ice says she will think about it, but must now go to see her Sengles.

Chapter 28: The Papa Sickness – Ice goes to see her Sengles. They are happy to see she is safe, but most worry about a journey south in winter weather. Word then comes that Driver is in bad shape, having intentionally taken too much papa tea. First Runner brings Ice to her brother. There, she finds her brother is asleep. She also finds Pasha there as well. Pasha reveals it was he who found and brought Driver back, that Driver wanted to kill himself so Ice could move the tribe freely. Ice inquires about Pasha's past. Pasha admits to having killed children with Deema in the past. Ice tells Pasha to get out. Ice begins crying.

Chapter 29: Of Stolen Children – There is a commotion that night. Ice Cream is summoned to the brick gate, where the girl from the Armies who gave her the knife seeks an audience with her. Ice and the girl sit down in the kitchen. She reveals herself to be OldKing Hak's girl, but has since been raped by every male member of the tribe. She reveals that Mamadou has actually not been killed. Many in the Armies want revenge on Ice, but Mamadou doesn't blame her. Ice explains she and her group will be leaving soon. Hak's girl tells Ice she can keep the horse she has ridden in on, and notes that it wasn't stolen from the Lowells.

Chapter 30: By Middy Night – Ice Cream is still stunned by news that Mamadou is still alive. She vows to forget her love for him. She then goes to see El Mayor, asking him to let Hak's girl stay in exchange for Ice's sleeping with him. El Mayor agrees. He confesses his love to her. Ice tells him she loves him, knowing secretly she must fall in love with him to ensure the evacuation.

Analysis

The political situation between the Christings, the Nat Mass Armies, and the Sengles completely breaks down as this section of the novel begins. What was originally meant to be a marriage ceremony has broken down into a murderous event due to the evil work of Deema. It is clear the Russians are interested only in war, sowing confusion and discord among the locals, and in reaping more power for themselves. Again, the Russians are willing to do whatever they must in order to gain and keep more power. Deema's casualness about trying to murder children is disgusting. It is strong evidence of a dystopian government in action. The reader should note that it is Pasha who comes to Ice's rescue by shooting Mamadou, Karim, and Deema.



War will break out between the Sengles and the Armies. Only by joining forces with the Lowells can Ice either avoid or win a war. Ice commits herself to this alliance, knowing that only by ensuring the immediate survival of her people will she be able to ensure their long-term survival by way of a cure. War threatens to derail everything for which Ice is now working. Thankfully, the Lowells are very willing to receive the Sengles. Ice chooses to offer herself to El Mayor as a matter of politics and love because it is not only the Sengles that she now seeks to save in the short term. She also wishes to save as many of the Lowells as possible. To do this, they will need to travel from what was formerly western Massachusetts down to Washington.

It is not only the Russians whom Ice is seeking justice from, as the reader sees through the destruction of the Christings' home and church. Injustice exists by the hand of the Armies as well as it does by the Russians. The rituals and traditions born of living in a post-apocalyptic world, including the sexual reproductive methods of the Armies, speak to the utter injustices previous generations were forced to face in that they could either not afford to flee, or were not allowed to flee. But now injustice exists on entirely new levels, as females have come to have significantly little power or say in the things that go on in the world. Among the Armies, for example, girls are seen only as ways to do chores, satisfy sexual urges, and reproduce. The reader will remember that Ice, for example, never expected to lead her people because she is a girl.

Yet Ice proves herself to be a competent leader, willing to do whatever must be done to ensure the safety of her people. This includes her sexually-based politics and her willingness to trust Pasha. It is recognizable that Pasha is desperately trying to redeem himself, choosing to kill one of his own and choosing to stick by Ice even though this will more than likely mean death for Pasha. It is clear that Pasha fears a fate worse than death –and that is dying without having sought to make things right for his own past.

While Pasha's motives are clear, the motives of others remain less so. Of particular interest, as the reader will note, is OldKing Hak's girl. The girl's giving of a knife to Ice, and her appearance at Lowell Mill is inexplicable. It is, perhaps, that the girl is seeking justice of some kind against those who in the past have wronged her –the Nat Mass Armies –but her sudden appearance and refusal to speak too openly about herself make her motives suspect. She clearly has ulterior motives for seeking to help –motives which will become crystal clear in coming chapters.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Pasha rescue Ice from the Armies' camp? What does Pasha's decision to shoot Deema have to say about Pasha and about the Russians?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Ice decide to encourage her own people and the Lowells to move south? How does Ice persuade the Lowells to do this?



Discussion Question 3

Why does Ice continue to trust Pasha, even when evidence demonstrating that he should not be trusted is presented to her? Do you believe Ice is right to continue to trust Pasha? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

travail, rambunctious, lingering, bellicose, squalling, vanity, rile, cantering, artifice, ferocious, imbecile



Section 3: In Massa, Tober 2 – Vember 1, Chapter 3 – Through Bandon Woods, Vember 1 – 28, Chapter 45

Summary

In Massa, Tober 2 – Vember 1

Chapter 31: Our Last Departure – Ice begins getting her Sengles ready to leave. She decides to pay her brother one last visit, but First Physician tells her that Driver does not want to see her. It is then that Ice hears the laughter of Hak's girl in Driver's room. Ice is then called to the Easter Gate, where the Christings' cows are being brought through and where Pasha is waiting with two rifles. He insists she will need one on the coming journey. Back inside, while Ice gathers ammunition, John of Christ thanks her for saving his family but says they will be remaining behind. Still, 190 Lowells and 37 Sengles gather together and leave to begin the journey.

Through Bandon Woods, Vember 1 – 28

Chapter 32: Our Journey, Vember 1 – 26 – Ice leads the group of travelers and animals, including Driver, down Old Highway 495 into Connecticut. They encounter others along the way, who either run in fear or threaten Ice's group to keep them moving. As they move farther southwest, they find no other people. Pasha makes sure Ice carries a rifle at all times. The days are spent journeying, while nights are spent having sex. The only disagreement is over the possibility of a cure to the south. Not everyone believes it, and few trust Pasha. Pasha and Ice speak of Pasha's photos. He explains the killings in some of them were mistakes. Pasha explains he has been to war in Venezuela, where he learned Panish; in Africa, and in Europe. Pasha also explains he worries about a pretty girl of fifteen like Ice accidentally being caught in a camp of professional soldiers from Russia. She tells him rape is nothing new to her. He also explains that getting the cure from the ships will be incredibly difficult. Ice thanks him for saving her at the Armies camp. Pasha says he is falling in love with her. Ice tells him she is falling in love with him.

Chapter 33: The Simper, of Her People – Driver's only comfort seems to be from The Simper, Hak's girl. Ice explains to Driver that she and El Mayor have begun sleeping with one another, for the good of the Sengles. Driver is disturbed, wishing his insistence on merging the two groups didn't mean that his sister would have to sell herself. Driver thinks El Mayor is only using Ice. Ice then goes to speak with Hak's girl. Hak's girl reveals her name to be Maria Soledad. Maria reveals she comes from a city that still functions with electricity and gasoline-powered cars, and that the majority of the population is Catolico. Maria believes she is meant to birth a savior, like Mary and



Jesus. Maria hopes to find a white man for this. Ice tells her not to take Pasha, since Keepers has grown attached to him.

Chapter 34: Of Danger Its Arrival – Pasha is constantly on alert, always worried about what might come. Blue papers with the word “BIMBO” written on them are discovered. Pasha warns Ice that they should be posting guards at night. A message is delivered to Ice that night. It reads, “We here. The NewKing come for you.” Ice shares the note with Pasha, who wonders if the Nat Mass Armies are alone, or if they have Roos with them. Pasha worries that something will happen to Ice. He tells her that Mamadou is not her friend. Jonah and Keepers then report that Maria, the Army horse, and Piglet horse are missing. Pasha and Ice scout out through the woods in the direction from which the note came and Maria went missing. As dawn breaks, they hear gunfire somewhere. A horse comes dashing through the woods. The body of Army warrior Malik is found dead on the ground. Pasha and Ice are then surrounded by some forty boys, each with guns and brown coats. Suddenly, their leader, Maria Soledad, appears on the scene.

Chapter 35: The Roding People – Maria has Pasha tied up. She says that she will take good care of Ice. She intends no harm, but only to bring Ice to her town. They are put into cars, which is stunning to Ice. The convoy of cars drives into town. At the gas station, Ice sees eight Armies have been taken prisoner and tied up. Soledad says that twelve apostles will be selected, while the Lowells and Sengle remain safely behind in the town. She will be one of the twelve. She and her people look upon Pasha as representative of Jesus. Soledad then begins to execute the Armies warriors one by one. Ice tells Pasha he will be alright.

Chapter 36: To Marias – Pasha, Ice, Soledad, and Carlos journey by car to what seems to be a major protected city, guarded by dozens and dozens of young people. Maria Soledad explains it was once New York, but now it is known as “Marias.” There are thousands upon thousands of people in the city. Ice is amazed. Much of the city is lighted by electricity and is very clean. Soledad reveals that the city trains thousands of children at a time for war, saying it is evil but sometimes necessary. She reveals that in the city, marriage occurs between one man and one woman, rather than one man and several women. She also tells Ice to pretend to be Maria, and to say that Pasha is Jesus. Early Ten and Catty Ten then give Ice more information about the city’s apostles, who each rule a section of the city. Ice realizes that the entire point of her being brought to Marias was to rule the entire city because everyone truly believes she is Mother Mary.

Chapter 37: My Questioning for Maria – Ice Cream is brought before the ruling apostles, including Pedro of Inud borough, Juan de Quinta, Felipe, and others to see if she is truly who Soledad says she is. Ice is stunned at how they speak perfect English. Having been coached by Soledad, Ice Cream explains that war is evil but necessary sometimes and that all rape is bad. However, she says homosexuals should be left alone though homosexuality should be discouraged. Pedro and Juan are disturbed by this, for it is their custom to imprison homosexuals. If Ice chooses to rule, she will be allowed to bring twelve of her own apostles into an advisory role, while the current ruling apostles actually stay in power.



The Sacrament of Redemption is called for, in which Ice Cream must stab Pasha in a sacrificial manner as in the case of the Crucifixion, but Ice refuses to do this. She realizes her life now hangs in the balance. She is then taken to Ermano Anselm, who explains her test of proof will come the following day. It is through Anselm that Ice learns more about the City of Marias. The city is always ruled by a Maria who is found with a white man. When a Maria dies, the next Maria is sought. It is in emulation of their faith. The white man must always be killed after Maria Condenada, Our Lady of the Living Jesus, whose white man had sex with her and tried to rule, causing a civil war. Ice asks what she must do to leave. Anselm explains that Ice is not free to just leave. She has two choices. She can kill Pasha, or she will be killed.

Chapter 38: Of Medicals – Anselm brings Ice before two blue ermanas, or medical examiners. They take blood and urine samples from her. They then give her a virginity test, which she clearly fails. Anselm then appears in the room, and tells Ice she will be “all right.” She is then given an injection and passes out.

Chapter 39: The Night Beyond Our Life – Ice Cream wakes up groggily in a very well-decorated room with Pasha. Pasha asks how she is doing. She realizes she has had something inserted into her vagina that doesn't feel right. She also learns she has been given a forced abortion. Pasha explains he is aware of the test of proof. He also reveals he has learned of the city's past, in which there were some whites immune to WAKS, some of whom that lived their lives out in the city, or fled to the surrounding country. Eventually, Pasha explains, white males were selected to be paired with black females, and the surviving whites in the area went extinct. Pasha reveals that Marias controlled territory of a hundred miles in all directions, only to begin a war with the Marines of Quantico, and to lose badly. Only the Inud borough still longs for war. All other parts of the Marias City do not want to fight unless they have to. Pasha shows Ice a map in which the Marianos have noted Washington to be part of Quantico's territory. Pasha reveals that if the Marianos and the Quanticos team up, they can defeat the Roos together. Ice Cream has no idea how this could be possible. Pasha then confesses much of his past, including the wars he fought in and how when he was younger, he killed recklessly. He also confesses he has attempted suicide several times, but has always been revived by others.

Chapter 40: Of Proofing – Two girls named Altagracia and Mercedes beautify Ice for her proof the next morning. Altagracia talks about how whites are evil and were “homosexual selfish”. This angers Ice because she knows skin color has nothing to do with goodness or badness, especially when it comes to Pasha. She hurts inside knowing that Pasha must die so she can unite two cities against the Roos. Ice is then taken outside to a public area decorated beautifully with flowers where thousands watch. She is brought to Pasha, who is already injured with a stab wound showing where the speak that Pedro brings forward must be driven. She cannot bring herself to kill Pasha. Instead, she undertakes the proof of twelve cups. If she can drink from each cup and survive, it will be God's Will that she lives and she and Pasha will be safe. She expects that one of the cups will be poisoned, but this is not so. The people explode in cheers as Ice and Pasha walk hand-in-hand through the city.



Chapter 41: Of Anselm Weasel – Ice Cream and Pasha return to the palace, the Ministerio. Guards surrender their rifles to Ice and Pasha, and the others quickly back out of their way. Safely inside, Ice Cream excitedly hugs Pasha. Anselm then arrives to give Ice Cream the private elevator key to her rooms, and secretly explains that fake poison –nothing more than water –was put into one of the twelve cups. It now truly appears as if Ice has survived poison. She asks about what has been put into her body between her legs. Anselm explains it is a small piece of metal that will prevent her from becoming pregnant. Anselm reveals the city and its territories need to be run responsibly and that he will be there to help her do so. Four hundred thousand people are counting on Ice.

Chapter 42: The Parley for My War – A ceremony with the apostles is held in an enormous room for the official signing of the document that will make Ice the ruler. She seeks a provision on a military alliance with Quantico against the Russians to secure the cure for posies. The apostles are divided on this. Some flat-out find it laughable they would fight with the Marines rather than against them. Proof is sought. A plan is devised to capture Roos to verify the story of the cure. With this, Ice signs the royal contract.

Chapter 43: Simon and the Maria Gone – Anselm tells Ice the hunt for Roos should take about ten days due to the uses of trucks and horses. Ice wonders why Simon Zelote, commander of the armed forces, has not been summoned to send soldiers on the search. Anselm reveals that Simon isn't being bothered right now due to heartache over being in love with the last Maria. He explains further that Marias commit suicide rather than to die the lingering death of posies. This is done when a new Maria is selected to replace her. Continuity matters, Anselm says. With no god, there can be no government and no order. Anselm then requests that whoever the father of Ice's aborted baby was be brought to him.

Chapter 44: My Worst Apostle Met – Ice meets with Crow. He and Mamadou are the only survivors of the Armies, thanks to a request from Ice. Crow explains that Mamadou is keeping his mouth shut about his previous life with Ice. Crow then tells Ice they are the only ones from their area left, that the Roos have come and killed everybody.

Chapter 45: The Roos in Massa Woods –Crow reports that the first sign of trouble came from a Rooish plane overhead, which then proceeded to drop bombs. Mamadou sent some warriors to see what had been bombed, Crow explains. He reveals that it was the Lowell Mill, and all buildings along the way to the mill that were targeted. Dozens and dozens are killed, Crow explains. Crow goes on to recount how the Armies sought to leave, only to be captured by the Marias forces.

Analysis

Ice is successful in her efforts to convince the majority of the Lowells, the surviving Christings, and the Sengles to move south. It is a small victory on a long road of battles and trials that still lay ahead. Ice becomes something of a symbolic Moses figure, leading her people through the figurative desert of the fallen Nighted States to the



Promised Land –in this case, wherever the cure is to be found. The world through which she moves is full of the earmarks of apocalyptic catastrophe –including abandoned homes, small villages scraping by to survive, and the rusting relics of the country before posies broke out. The tragedy of the landscape also evinces the fact that dystopianism and injustice reign supreme, as the Russians have refused to actually help those afflicted not only with suffering from posies, but from suffering in such living conditions. The reader should note that the City of Marias still has electricity and working cars, luxuries not enjoyed by others. But, all that glitters is not gold. The Marianos are incredibly dangerous, as evidenced by their executions of most of the members of the Armies.

Dystopianism does not exist merely among the Russians and those who refuse to help the afflicted. Dystopianism also exists within the tribal framework of what remains of the United States. It is through the mystery of OldHak's girl, who identifies herself as Maria Soledad, that a new form of dystopia appears. Soledad is a native of the former New York City, now known as the City of Marias. There, despite the technology and luxuries the citizens enjoy, a warped version of Catholicism is practiced, and the city is ruled theocratically by a board of twelve apostles. The City seeks out black girls living with white men to be their rulers. That Ice and Pasha should be together makes them a perfect target for Soledad to bring back to the City of Marias. Power is vested in the hands of the Maria and her appointed apostles, though the real power is wielded by the reigning apostles.

The apostles will do whatever they need to in order to retain power. This includes either forcing the Maria to kill her Jesus, or forcing the Maria into a poisoned wine ceremony, which itself is a farce for the sake of earning a Maria's loyalty, obedience, and silence. This is exactly what happens in the case of Ice and Pasha. Anselm expects to continue running the show by staging the drinking ceremony so it would appear as if Ice is favored by God. Anselm approaches the ceremony from a pragmatic point: the city needs a Maria to run and for Anselm and his men to retain power. They will go so far as to be dishonest in the sight of God while pretending to be upholding His will in order to do this. It demonstrates clearly that Anselm is not someone Ice can trust. Anselm's sending out of an expedition to find more Roos to verify the story of a cure is unnerving as a result.

Ice realizes she is essentially stuck. She cannot simply walk away from the Maria throne, because if she does, she will be killed and then no one will be able to save her people. Yet, she also knows that such a role as Maria –though it will cost her invaluable time –will also mean her people will be safely protected in the city, and it will mean she may be able to marshal the city's forces against the Russians. She and Pasha consider that the forces of both Marias and Quantico together may defeat the Russian Federation in a war. This will be a difficult sell to the City of Marias for two reasons. First, they have been at war with the Quanticos before, and consider them to be the arch enemy. Second, they have not been in an actual war with the Quanticos –or anyone –for years. This intense dislike of war, and desire for peace, will be difficult to overcome.



Through all of this, Pasha remains committed to Ice. Even during the intended ceremony where it is expected that Pasha will die, Pasha does not flinch from the sacrifice. His determination to redeem himself far exceeds anything expected. However, it also begs the question of Pasha's loyalty to Ice. Redemption is one thing, but loyalty to Ice is something else. Pasha could very easily have escaped and saved himself, or he could have attempted to help their group of refugees escape; but, he does not do so. It is clear he has some personal and emotional investment in Ice that compels him to stay.

Discussion Question 1

What is Soledad's true intent in befriending and earning the trust of Ice? Does Soledad's entry into the picture seem to help or hurt Ice's efforts to find a cure? Why?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Ice decide to become the Maria for the City of Marias? Why do the apostles accede to the drinking test rather than the sacrificial killing of Pasha?

Discussion Question 3

What do Ice and Pasha hope the City of Marias will join them in doing? For what reasons will such a plan prove difficult?

Vocabulary

discontent, politics, lurking, superstitions, populous, artifact, fixity, consternation, sacrament, plenitude, theoretically, exasperation, maladies



Section 4: Through Bandon Woods, Vember 1 – 28, Chapter 46 – Of Godding in Marias, Vember 28 – Cember 25, Chapter 60

Summary

Through Bandon Woods, Vember 1

Chapter 46: The Gunroom Talk – Crow explains the NewKing wants to speak with Ice. He also finds it selfish that Ice didn't kill Pasha. Ice then asks a girl named Tamara about Mamadou's whereabouts. After explaining that Mamadou is at the firing range, Tamara brings Ice to him. Ice tells Mamadou about the plan to bring back evidence of the cure by captured Roos, and Mamadou agrees to go on the quest. He says he will even fight Ice's war for her because in the end he plans to take her away.

Chapter 47: Last Talks of this Enormous Day – Ice Cream meets with her brother, Driver, who looks very thin and very ill. Still, he is in a good mood. She explains the plan for war to Driver. It makes Driver happy to think of war against the Roos. Ice then seeks El Mayor for comfort.

Of Godding in Marias, Vember 28 – Cember 25

Chapter 48: First Godding Days, Vember 28 – Cember 10 – The following night, the search party, led by Mamadou and including First Runner and Crow, sets out to capture Roos. Meanwhile, Ice gets used to ruling the City of Marias. Each day begins with church for her and Pasha. Receptions are had for important visitors. Anselm takes time to teach her about the city. The wealthiest residents of the city speak Panish and live in homes with electricity and running water. These people live in the boroughs of Inud and Metropolitanano and even use paper money. The English live in bad areas. El Mayor, meanwhile, begins to panic that Ice is spending so much free time with him, knowing that to sleep with Ice will mean death for him. El Mayor is also jealous of the bond that has come to exist between her and Pasha. Meanwhile, Pasha urges Ice to go into hiding if the coming war is lost. Ice tells Pasha he must also go into hiding should that happen.

Chapter 49: Of Spying Various – Two weeks pass. Ice impatiently awaits word of the expedition to Massa woods. Meanwhile, Ice is unnerved by the fact that the city is not preparing for war as she believes it should be. Her guards, Julio and Bea reveal it is because the authorities don't want to panic people into believing they are going to war against Quantico. Rumors reveal that Simon Zelote held more power than Anselm and ran the city through his Maria, leading Ice to hope Simon can be her friend and ally. El



Mayor is sent to spy on Felipe, the most suspicious of the city's apostles. El Mayor reports that Felipe has had psychological tests run on Ice, because Felipe truly does believe that Ice is favored by God. Driver's health continues to decline. Word has spread of the Roos through the city, leading to unhappiness among the people. Anselm explains that any rebellions will be crushed, as they have been crushed many times in the past. Pedro, Anselm reveals, does not like Ice for the knowledge she has brought to the city.

Chapter 50: Of Vanish People Their Appearance – It is Nochebuena, the night before the Birthday of Christ. Ice worries about how religious Jermaine is becoming. El Mayor continues to be jealous of Pasha and Ice's power. El Mayor comes to see Ice, saying he has news. He believes he has seen Mamadou dressed in soldier clothes in Metro. El Mayor is sure of it. Ice can't imagine why Mamadou would have come back alone. Suddenly, word comes that Simon Zelote wishes to see Ice.

Chapter 51: By Simon Zelote – Ice meets with Simon, a handsome boy of average height. Simon says he has heard rumors of war. Ice tells him the war will not be against Quantico. Simon says Quantico consists of a hundred thousand people and millions of land mines and heavy weapons. The Marines train in war from childhood. Ice Cream explains her plan to fight the Russians and steal the cure. Simon then reveals they have known about the Russians and the cure for years, because that last several Jesus figures have all been captured Russians. The only thing the Marias City leaders did not know until Ice came was when the Russian attack would come. People like Pedro, Simon says, do not want war but only the cure. They are willing to sell the city out for the cure. Only a few dozen people will be saved. Simon says that the rest are considered by Anselm and Padre to be livestock. Simon reveals he was forced out of politics under penalty of death and that he has not been hiding due to heartbreak. Simon is now ready to fight for his city and for his life.

Chapter 52: Of First Rebellions – Ice feels desperate, knowing the fate of hundreds of thousands of people now rests on her shoulders. Ice meets with Pasha and her serving girls, saying she has no one else she can trust. She tells them to spread the word about the Roos. She reveals the secret plan about trading them all for the cure. The girls become enraged. Tamara reveals rumors that Mamadou's expedition is hiding out in the Loisaída projects, along the Loisaída River. Ice knows it is only a matter of time before Anselm and his men come for her. Ice's Sengles must be sent into hiding, she says. Ice then goes to see Driver, who reveals he is no longer afraid of dying. Ice says this is because he will receive the cure. Outside, they can now hear gunfire. Ice blames it on Navidad celebrations.

Chapter 53: Nochebuena Its First Murders – Ice and Pasha are taken captive by Pedro's soldiers and brought outside. Ice is angry that Pasha has not gone off to hide. One of Pedro's cars shows up. Ice and Pasha are forced into this car. Anselm joins them. Ice and Pasha believe they will be executed. Suddenly, the car comes under rifle fire by unknown attackers. The car swerves and stops. Ice and Pasha rush out. Anselm is executed by three gunshots to the face. Two of the attackers, Pepi and Taco, reveal



themselves to be Felipe's men. They will be bringing Ice and Pasha to Felipe, explaining that Mamadou has begun a war.

Chapter 54: The Search to Massa Woods – Taco recounts the events of the search in Massa Woods, saying a group of twenty boys under the command of Juan. Taco reveals that on the fifth day of the expedition, two Roos were captured and that Mamadou believed Juan was going to betray them all to the Russians. Taco explains they come across a small town, in which some five hundred children have been locked up. Taco also reveals they come across other towns where everyone has been murdered. Taco goes on to say that there were no older children anywhere the expedition went. Taco explains that Juan wanted to abandon the small children, while Mamadou wanted to bring them to safety. Mamadou led a rebellion against Juan as the Russians approached in the intent to spring a trap, and turned back to Marias to take the city from the corrupt apostles.

Chapter 55: The Metro Speech – Ice is brought to Metropolitan, where she will be safe under Felipe's protection. Felipe and thousands of others come to meet Ice, bowing before her. Ice then addresses the crowd, telling them about the cure, about the need to save the city, and about how she will not abandon them whether the war to take the city is won or lost. Everyone cheers.

Chapter 56: Felipe His Religions – Ice and Pasha are brought to Felipe's house. Felipe tells Ice that her denials she is acting for God means she is indeed genuine. He says that the spirit is indeed in her. He believes that the Bible tells of such a situation in that a cure must be found for the great disease of the Apocalypse. Ice asks after El Mayor. Felipe responds that El Mayor does not want to see Ice right now.

Chapter 57: To Loisaida By Our Worry Night – Ice is worried about the coming war with the Russians, the civil war in the City of Marias, her Sengles, Mamadou, Driver, Pedro, and El Mayor. Ice is upset with El Mayor, having learned he is currently in bed with another girl. Finally, Ice has had enough so she sneaks out of Felipe's house into the night where she makes her way to the river where one of Mamadou's boys brings her across.

Chapter 58: The Roofen Conversation – Across the river, Ice is told by Taco that their forces have taken the Ministerio, and that the Sengles are all safe. Ice then meets with Mamadou. Mamadou worries about Ice wanting to go to Quantico. Ice and Mamadou end up kissing. Mamadou says he knows Ice has no real love for El Mayor. Mamadou goes on to explain that most of the city's professional soldiers have joined with the rebellion. Mamadou tells Ice to stay in his room for the night, while he heads back to battle.

Chapter 59: Of Quantico Its Wars – Before going to Mamadou's chambers, Ice is sent by Mamadou to Patricia to have some cuts cleaned up. Patricia reveals she is from Quantico. She explains the Russians have been unable to get into Quantico due to the land mines around the place. She reveals that Quantico is composed of three places: District, Arlington, and Washington. The Russians have failed four times to take



Quantico. They want to capture Washington intact rather than destroy it, because it was the heart of the old America, and is the heart of Quantico now. If the city does fall to the Russians, Article 57 will be enacted, Patricia explains. Article 57 calls for the detonation of three nuclear bombs that will eradicate everyone.

Chapter 60: Last Meeting of This Night – Crow reports to Ice that the Sengles are still safe. In conversation with Ice, he recounts something Mamadou said in which Mamadou explains that the only justice they have is that which they can make for themselves. She and Crow go on to talk about the good times of the past until Taco calls for Ice.

Analysis

As ruler of the City of Marias, Ice does her best to ensure that her refugees are kept safe, while doing her best to run the city and to prepare it for war. She must also deal with the deceit and duplicity of Anselm, who is ready to have Ice killed and who never intended for the expedition to come back at all, let alone have any success. As the reader notes from chaotic passages in the novel, the expedition went straight into the hands of the Russians, but was saved only by the quick thinking of Mamadou. It is clear that the Marianos under Anselm never had any intention of actually seeking out truth, but only avoiding war and preserving their own power. In fact, it is revealed that the apostles were ready to give up the entire City of Marias to the Russians in exchange for the cure for a select number of people, including the apostles themselves. It is dystopian exploitation at its worst.

This sense of injustice –at the people of Marias being considered no better than livestock –rightfully disgusts Ice, who now seeks justice not only for her refugees, but for the entire population of Marias as well. Mamadou and Simon Zelote launch a rebellion against the corrupt leaders of the city, plunging the entire city into all-out civil war. The war is the first the city has experienced in years. Much blood is spilled as the war drags on through the night. It is only a taste of what could come against the Russians, provided Ice's forces are successful in defeating the corrupt Marianos and preventing the citizens from being traded like cattle. The war itself then is a matter of justice for the people and against the dystopian government.

As the fight unfolds, Ice meets Patricia, a citizen of Quantico. Patricia reveals some incredibly important information about the Quantico Marines and the Quantico people. First, she reveals their readiness for war is unparalleled, having not only defeated the Marianos but also the Russians four times. This gives Ice hope that it may indeed be possible to stand up to the Russians. It is a risk she is willing to take, but first, she must save the City of Marias. Ice takes time to assess her situation –what she must do –and the way things have turned out in the world owes all to the apocalyptic WAKS virus. Because of this, Ice recommits herself once more to not only finding the cure, but to distributing it to every person in the Nighted States.



The reader will note that in this section of the novel, Pasha comes and goes. He clearly alternates between fighting on the front lines and check in on Ice to make sure she is alright. He remains as dedicated and as loyal as ever to Ice, doing everything he can to ensure that the quest for the cure is successful. Indeed, he risks his life on no shortage of occasions, almost seemingly cheating death time and time again. It is almost as if his desire for redemption is either keeping him alive, or perhaps God is keeping Pasha alive for a reason. The reader should remember this as the novel heads into its final section. Pasha's story will soon be revealed, and it will have tremendous consequences for the fate of the Nighted States.

Discussion Question 1

What are the motives for Simon Zelote, Mamadou, and Felipe working to take over the City of Marias on behalf of Ice?

Discussion Question 2

What is the true plan that Anselm and most other apostles have for the City of Marias and the Russians? What are their reasons for the plan?

Discussion Question 3

What information about Quantico does Ice glean from Patricia? How does this information help to motivate Ice? How does it affect her thinking for her plans to join forces?

Vocabulary

hostilities, malaise, dismaying, peculiar, hinder, inklings, ferment, precarious, balk, exhilaration, trepidation, paradoxically, paltry



Section 5: Of Godding in Marias, Vember 28 – Cember 25, Chapter 61 – The War at Quantico, Cember 26 – January 6, Chapter 75

Summary

Of Godding in Marias, Vember 28 – Cember 25

Chapter 61: This Morning Its Bonesse and Evil –Taco, Crow, and Donx steal a car from Pedro and use it to bring Maria through the city toward the Ministerio where she learns about the Massa kids being moved to a safe location. Ice also learns that the city has been taken, and her forces have won. She also learns that Driver's condition has worsened, and that he has been taken to the hospital due to internal bleeding. Ice rushes to the hospital, only to discover that her brother has died.

Chapter 62: Of Navidad Its Final Griefs – Back at the Ministerio, Ice meets with El Mayor. He reports that Patricia has revealed that Quantico wants Ice to visit to negotiate. El Mayor also explains that Pasha is meeting with Patricia about Quantico. El Mayor warns Ice to take care of herself. Ice tells him she is in love with him. El Mayor tells Ice he is in love with her. Ice then goes to sit with Driver's body, brokenhearted. Ice and Pasha then meet up for the drive to Quantico. Simon Zelote goes as well. Pasha explains that he has given up information to Patricia about the Roos. In return, they will allow him to return to the Roos. Ice is stunned by this, not wanting Pasha to return to his own kind. Ice tells him she needs him. Ice realizes that Pasha must have feelings for her. Pasha also explains he has a daughter.

Chapter 63: Pasha Roo His Wars – Pasha reveals that at the age of eighteen, he was sent to serve in an occupied city in Africa called Lagos, where posies has been wiped out. Pasha explains that there he met a local girl named Ekuah, who took the Rooish name Kusha, who he began using for sex only to end up impregnating her. Pasha reveals that Kusha gave birth to a baby girl named Femi, who he then devoted his life to. Pasha goes on to explain that sometime later, a major rebellion occurred, in which he and his unit were sent out to crush without mercy. Pasha reveals they did everything from killing entire villages to blinding entire villages apart from battling the rebel forces.

Pasha explains that his sole goal became surviving for Ksuha and Femi. In eight years of war, Pasha reveals, only one of his old friends, Seryozha, remains alive. Eventually, Pasha recounts, the rebellion spread to the city of Lagos itself. The rebels raped and killed Femi while Kusha escaped. Delirious with fever and anger, Pasha recalls killing Kusha, her sister, and her sister's son and then taking a picture. Pasha explains he quickly realized what he had done, and had sought to kill himself for it. Pasha goes on



to say, as he and Ice continue the drive toward Quantico, that he doubts Article 57 is possible anymore because nuclear weapons deteriorate after so many years. Ice begs Pasha not to return to the Roos. He says he will think about it.

Chapter 64: By Quantico – Patricia guides Ice, Simon, and Pasha through the landmines that surround the very edge of Quantico, then into a secret tunnel protected by armed guards who uses bicycles to get back and forth. As they return to the surface, they encounter numerous half-ruined buildings through which they can see hundreds of weapons. They are brought to a meeting at the White House Situation Room.

Chapter 65: The Situation Room – The Situation Room is full of some twenty kids, including the Commandant, ill with posies; Hatter Diaz, general of Arlington; and the female Vernam Mitchell, general of intelligence among others. Simon makes introductory remarks. Some of the Quantico leader speak good English, while others speak broken English like Ice. A discussion is had about the cure. Verna worries about trying to steal the cure, and what effect it might have on their troops. For example, she worries that their own people might defect in order to get the cure. The Commandant reminds everyone that they must win the war or they'll lose everybody anyways. The Commandant and his generals are willing to go to war, but want Ice to remain with them so the City of Marias will not surrender or join with the Russians if things get tough. Neither Ice, nor Pasha, want this to happen, but Ice ultimately consents. Simon and Pasha will stay with Ice as well. She begins to think of her brother, and cries in front of everyone. Simon explains that her brother died only the day before. The Commander tells Ice she is among friends, and that they will make Ice's stay very pleasant.

Chapter 66: Of Rooish Prisoners – That night, Ice wonders about Pasha and the other Rooish prisoners being kept in the city. She has been told that Pasha is among them, and that a prisoner exchange has gone down that very night. Still, she seeks out where other Rooish prisoners are being kept, and is horrified at how water is being withheld from them. Angry, she brings the prisoners water herself while the Russians conduct a bombing raid on Arlington. The Commandant learns of Ice's actions in the morning and consents to Ice's efforts, if she can try to get information out of the prisoners.

The War at Quantico, Cember 26 – January 6

Chapter 67: My War Begin – The Russian bombings continue. After repeated arguments, Ice is allowed to participate very limitedly in the war. The Marines teach her how to get through the mine fields and trenches of Arlington. Six days into the bombing, the Russian troops on the ground learn how to get through the mines and make their first major assault. Ice participates in the battle. The Russian attack is stopped, and Ice is ordered back to the White House.

Chapter 68: Of Roos Their Company – Patricia explains that Ice is forbidden from going to the battlefield again because if she dies, everything will go crazy. Ice focuses her attention on conversing with the Roos not handed over in the exchange. She notes that they are similar and different from Pasha. One is Mikhail Arkadievich Razin, Bashir speaks few words and has gray hair. Razin flirts with Ice, trying to learn about her side's



position. Ice does her best to deflect his questions, knowing what he is trying to do. Ice learns that Razin has family that has died, and she explains to him that her brother has also died.

Chapter 69: Of Battle Various – Marianos forces arrive to attack the Russians from the rear, while the Marines launch an attack on the Russians' front. It is a massive battle. Ice is saddened by all of the dead and wounded on her side that are brought back from the front. Ice helps to bring them to the hospitals. Ice learns there will be another prisoner swap, and is angry because the Russian prisoners are being exchanged for Marine prisoners rather than the cure. Ice is further angered to learn that Razin will be the only prisoner not exchanged. He will be sent back dead instead. Razin is aware of this. He reveals he was once Pasha's commanding officer, and begins to talk about how lucky Pasha is to have Ice.

Ice realizes Razin is being deceitful, trying to get her to talk or lose her nerves. Razin says Pasha is from Volgograd, one of three cities bombed the Europeans in retaliation for the Russian invasion of Europe. Razin reveals that Pasha escaped by chance, being outside the city when it was bombed. He goes on to say that Pasha has a strange ability to survive battles, wars, and suicide attempts that no one else could survive. Razin says Pasha is a member of the Spetsnaz, Russian special forces designed to lie to people like Ice. Razin contends that everything Pasha has done has been pretend, and has been for the Russians. Razin says that if Ice ensures he lives, when the war is won by the Russians, he will give her the cure. Ice is stunned. Razin asks her to touch his face, which she does. He begins to cry. Ice wants to know what his past has been, but Razin will not say. Ice goes on to warn him the Marines have European nuclear weapons, but Razin does not believe her. Still, he says he will pass along the information to his side. Ice says she will ask for his life in exchange for ten cures.

Chapter 70: Of Our Last Desperations – Ice goes to meet with the Commandant and his generals. She finds most of them drunk and unhappy. The news is bad. Most of Arlington has been taken, and most of the Marines' artillery has been destroyed. The Marianos fought only for about ten minutes before retreating. A ceasefire has been declared until midnight, during which time the youngest Marines will be taken north by the Marianos. Ice is expected to go with them. Ice inquires about the nuclear weapons Patricia says the Quanticos had –but the Commandant says there are no such weapons. However, a last stand will be made at Fort Myer and Arlington Cemetery while Washington is torched and destroyed. After this, the Marines will take to the woods and fight as long as they can until they starve or are killed in battle. The Commandant, however, does not support this plan.

Chapter 71: Fort Myer, By the NewKing – Ice begins to wonder if Pasha has set her side up by urging them to fight when he knew all along the Russians had tanks and planes that could not be beaten with simple rifles. Ice travels to Fort Myer, where Mamadou and his men are stationed. Ice and Mamadou have sex. Mamadou then reveals he will be part of the last stand, which he thinks won't last more than an hour. They will then retreat across the bridge into Washington for the final evacuation and torching.



Chapter 72: The Flight from Arlington – The ceasefire is on. Ice thinks in her mind how the Roos are being sent back to their own kind. Ice hopes that Razin will be allowed to live, and that he will give her the cure which will give her the time to reach Europe and find more cures. Midnight passes and the ceasefire ends. As Ice and First Runner move away from Arlington, they are attacked by Roos. Ice fights them off with her rifle. First Runner is injured, so Ice ties her wounds with a shoelace and then carries her on. They move through the tunnels and out onto the National Mall in Washington. By then, First Runner has died of her injuries. Ice continues on to the White House, changes into her Maria dress and boots, and then heads out again.

Chapter 73: Of My Last War – As Ice runs, she thinks about Pasha and how he has the ability to survive like a vampire. She comes to the bridge. Across the river, she can see Arlington under attack. She watches as the people of Washington begin crossing the bridge to Arlington to escape into the woods. Explosions spring up in Washington as the city is torched. Ice spits against the Russians and continues on. Ice is then captured by the Russians freed in the exchange, who bring her to Razin.

Chapter 74: Of Three Desires – Razin is sitting on the steps of Arlington House. Pasha is beside him. Razin explains he has sent on ten cures to New York, but that he doesn't trust the man who sent it. Razin explains he owes Ice his life. Meanwhile, all the girls are being raped by the Russian troops. Ice is horrified. Pasha then takes Ice by the arm and leads her into Arlington House. Safely away from the others, he begins to cry.

Chapter 75: My Final Parley – Pasha is angry that Ice hasn't returned to Marias. He puts his jacket around Ice, who is cold. Pasha explains that Razin wants Ice to work for the Roos. Razin wants Ice to travel to Europe to speak of the Europeans giving the Marines nuclear weapons, even though it isn't true. It will make the Europeans look like the bad guys. It is also intended that Ice should speak favorably of the Russians. Pasha says that if Ice works for the Roos, the Sengles –all of them –will be safe. Pasha confesses he is in love with Ice. Ice says he believes him. Pasha goes on to reveal that perhaps as many as five-thousand Quanticos and Marianos have been taken prisoner, Ice says she no longer wants to live. Pasha says he will not let her die.

Ice realizes then that Pasha has no love for his own kind, and never was dishonest with her. Pasha explains that Mamadou has been the one to bring ten cures to the City of Marias. Ice is stunned. She wonders if the Europeans can bring the cure to everyone in the Nighted States. She wants to try to convince them to do this. She wants Pasha's help, but Pasha says he will only help if she listens to him and remains with him. She agrees. At some point, Ice is given the cure and lives. She and Pasha work together, and ultimately bring the cure to all the people of the Nighted States.

Analysis

Ice and Pasha journey to Quantico, where they enlist the help of the Quanticos and their Marines in the fight against the Russians for the cure. An epic final battle occurs in which the Marines and the Marianos go to war against the Russians. However, the war



is doomed from the start. The Marianos, having just gone through a brief war, are exhausted from that war and from the journey to Quantico. They break apart only moments after attacking the Russians. The Marines, for all of their past efforts, have been worn down and are no match against the Russian's heavy weaponry, which includes tanks and planes.

Likewise, the Russians have obviously moved more experienced troops into the battle line, as evidenced by the gray-haired Razin. Children with guns simply cannot stand against battle-hardened Russian veterans. In the end, the war leads to the fall of Quantico. Note that the destruction of Washington demonstrates a faded echo of the American spirit of independence: under no circumstance will the city be allowed to fall into enemy hands, and under no circumstance can even the faded ideas of America be allowed to die. This is why the survivors take to the woods to continue the war.

The dystopian nature of the Russians is again revealed not only through the war, but through prisoners like Razin. Razin, Pasha's old commanding officer, confirms Pasha's crimes and further explains the wars in which the Russian Federation has participated. In the post-apocalyptic world, the Russians moved to rule the globe. Their attacks on Europe were stopped when the Europeans deployed nuclear weapons, leading to a stiff kind of a truce in which Russia clearly played the part of villain.

Russia is now seeking a way to redeem its image globally, and the Russians hope to use Ice to this effect. They have much to atone for or to justify, including not only the invasions of the United States and Europe, but the invasions of Africa and South America as well. It is clear that world opinion is decidedly negative when it comes to the Russians. The Russians might well be facing a war with the rest of the world once word of their atrocities in the former United States is leaked out. The Russians will do whatever they need to do to keep power, including using a fifteen year-old girl and holding her loved ones hostage.

Pasha's own past is revealed through the journey to Quantico and the war. Pasha does indeed have an uncanny knack for surviving even when so many others do not. It is almost indeed as if he is fated to have done such horrible things in war so that he might spend the next part of his life seeking redemption by bringing the cure to the people of the Nighted States. Pasha's moral and legal crimes are indeed great, but his efforts for atonement should not be discounted as such. Indeed, Pasha's path for redemption has ensured Ice's path for the cure. Ice would never have made it as far as she did without Pasha coming along, too.

The reader knows from the final paragraph –though the details are vague –that the cure was indeed finally brought to the Nighted States. The bringing of the cure to the Nighted States is a physical manifestation of the justice for which Ice has been fighting through the entire novel. The success of Ice helps secure redemption for Pasha –though his fate is left unknown at the end of the novel. Clearly, he went on to help Ice in convincing the Europeans of the truth and the need for the cure. Ice's own future is uncertain, but her saving of the people of the Nighted States is certain. The fate of the Russians, on the



other hand, is also left unknown. In all likelihood, they faced some sort of justice for their own actions committed since the posies disease first appeared.

Discussion Question 1

Even though the Marines and Marianos outnumber the Russians, they still lose the fight at Quantico. Why? What happens as a result?

Discussion Question 2

Do you believe that Pasha has earned redemption through everything he has done to help Ice? Why or why not?

Discussion Question 3

The details about Ice Cream bringing the cure back to the Nighted States –as well as the fates of Pasha and the Russians –are left unclear. In your opinion, why does the author choose to do this? What do you believe happened to Pasha, the Russians and to Ice Cream after the novel ends? Justify your answers.

Vocabulary

courtesies, muddle, leering, paramount, grandiose, infuriating, credulity, despair, ardent



Characters

Ice Cream

Ice Cream Fifteen Star is the main character and narrator of the novel “The Country of Ice Cream Star.” Taking her name from a Friendly’s Ice Cream sign – something which Ice notes she has never tasted but longs to taste - Ice is a pretty and courageous girl of fifteen. She is black, thin, and tall. Ice looks up admiringly to her brother, Driver, who leads their Sengle tribe. She is stunned when she and her tribe members come upon Pasha. Ice becomes obsessed with finding the cure for posies that Pasha says exists just as Driver falls ill. Ice goes on to work with Pasha to bring her tribe and members of neighboring tribes south from Massa Woods as the Russians advance. Ice Cream grows very close to Pasha. She develops romantic feelings for him, though she never acts on them. Ice Cream is swept up into a whirlwind of events including her being made ruler of the City of Marias, negotiating a war with Quantico against the Russians, and being taken to Europe by the Russians. Ultimately, Ice Cream comes home to the Nighted States with the long sought after cure to heal all those afflicted in the country.

Driver

Driver Eighteen Star is the older brother of Ice Cream Star and the current ruler of the Sengles tribe. Driver is eighteen years old, black, courageous, and dedicated wholly to the survival of his tribe. Driver falls ill from posies early on in the novel; so, he works to ensure that Ice will come to command the Sengles and to be an ally with the Lowells. Driver is carried south with Ice’s exodus. Though he fights to survive, he dies of the illness while in the City of Marias.

Pasha

Pasha Toporov is a thirty year-old white Russian who works as a scout for the Russian mission in America. Pasha is a veteran of numerous wars and countless battles. He is haunted by his past where he killed the mother of his daughter for not attempting to protect his daughter. He is also responsible for the murders of dozens of civilians. Pasha spends the novel seeking redemption by helping Ice and her allied tribes to flee south, ultimately coming to the final battle in Quantico. When Ice’s forces are defeated, Pasha continues to act as Ice’s guardian, traveling to Europe with her to bring back the cure. By the end of the novel, Pasha has come to develop feelings for Ice Cream.

Soledad

Maria Soledad is a native of the City of Marias. Black and in her mid-teens, she is brutally abused by the members of the Warriors. When the move south begins under Ice, Soledad escapes the Warriors to travel with them, ultimately bringing Ice and Pasha



to the City of Marias to serve as the new rulers. . In revenge for the treatment she received under the Warriors, Soledad has every Armies warrior except for Mamadou and Crow executed.

Mamadou

NewKing Mamadou is the new ruler of the Nat Mass Armies. Mamadou is black, strong, and courageous, having been brought up to be a warrior. He is in love with Ice. He does his best to avoid war with her tribe, but he does not hesitate to hold her prisoner. When Pasha saves Ice, Mamadou sets out with his warriors to take her back. However, his entire tribe is wiped out by the Marianos, after which Mamadou devotes himself to working for Ice in the hopes that he will win her back and make her his queen. Mamadou survives the civil war in Marias and the battle at Quantico. He is tasked with bringing ten cures back to Marias.

Deema

Deema is a white Russian Federation scout who arranges the brutal murder of the Christings and attempts to murder the Christing children by setting their house on fire and locking them inside. When confronted by Ice with this knowledge, Deema laughs it off and says it was accidental. Deema is killed moments later when Pasha arrives to rescue Ice.

El Mayor

El Mayor Lowell is the black, eighteen year-old leader of the large and peaceful Lowell tribe. He shelters Ice, her Sengles, and the surviving Christings from the Warriors while beginning a sexual relationship with Ice. El Mayor falls in love with Ice. He journeys south with her, doing everything he can to help in her quest to find a cure. His fate is unknown, though it is believed he was captured in the war at Quantico.

Felipe

Felipe is one of the twelve apostles of the City of Maria. He is black and appears to be about eighteen or nineteen. He speaks Spanish and perfect English. He comes to believe that Ice is truly marked by the Hand of God for important things. As such, when the other apostles try to kill Ice, he shelters her and commits his military forces to fighting alongside Mamadou and Ice's forces to take control of the city.

Anselm

Ermano Anselm is the most powerful figure among the apostles, acting as something of an adviser to the reigning monarch. Anselm is black and appears to be in his very late



teens or early twenties. Anselm is devious and crafty. He arranges it so that the Maria who is reigning owes him her loyalty. This means that he rules through the Maria. Ice, however, rebels against Anselm. His deviousness is found out. He wants to trade the entire city for a handful of cures for himself and the wealthy. Anselm is executed by the rebel forces in Maria. They shoot him three times in the face.

Razin

Razin is a Russian prisoner taken by the Marines in Quantico. He appears to be in his fifties. As a career soldier, he is a veteran of numerous wars and battles. He attempts to play mind games with Ice, though it is clear he himself is struggling with trauma at having been involved in combat for so long. First, he tries to unnerve Ice. Then, he cries from bad memories. Ice agrees to save Razin's life for ten cures, which are delivered to the City of Marias after the Battle of Quantico. Razin goes on to have Ice brought to Europe to use as propaganda, but this plan ultimately fails as Ice takes the cure back to her people.



Symbols and Symbolism

Posies

Posies is the common name for WAKS disease (the initials are never explained). It is a disease which infects and kills everyone by the age of twenty-one, though most people die a few years before then. Posies causes discolored marks to break out on the skin, which ultimately form sores, cause fevers, and cause the body to shut down in death. The cause and origin of posies is unknown; but, it is known that the disease broke out some eighty years before the events of the novel in the northeastern United States. It led to massive migration and evacuation for both those that could afford to leave and those not infected. It is commonly believed that the disease is not dangerous to whites but very dangerous to blacks. There is a cure for posies which is held by the Europeans, Russians, surviving Americans to the west of the Appalachian Mountains, and various other countries throughout the world. It is securing the posies cure that motivates Ice's entire journey in the novel.

Sleepers

Sleepers are Americans, mostly white, who managed to avoid contracting posies by fleeing the area and having access to the cure. The exact origin of Sleepers is uncertain, but it can be guessed that "sleeper" is a euphemism for those no longer around, who have either gone to sleep (died) since the outbreak of the virus or who are now sleeping peacefully in other places, unconcerned about the disease. When Pasha appears in the novel, he is believed at first to somehow be a surviving Sleeper.

Roos

Roo is the common term for white people, particularly white slavers. The exact origin of the term is unclear, but it might have originated from the word "Russian." Roos are mostly taken to be untrustworthy, dangerous, and cruel. Pasha is treated with great contempt and suspicion at first when Ice and her people encounter him, but they ultimately come to trust him implicitly, realizing he like other Roos.

Evacuation Notices

Evacuation notices are discovered by Ice and her tribe members in abandoned houses and buildings that they scavenge. The notes speak about the outbreak of WAKS and encourage those not infected to head to particular places for evacuation by bus to safe zones. The notices are the most that Ice and her people know about the disease that led to the current situation she and her tribe face.



Baby Doll

A baby doll is discovered among the houses that Ice and her party scavenge. Ironically, baby dolls are taken to be signs of bad luck, even death. Driver's death is foreshadowed by the baby doll.

Patagonia Jacket

A Patagonia jacket is kept and worn by Ice throughout her adventures and her travels. The jacket is indicative of the former times and the easy availability of quality, mass-produced items. These items are now considered sacred and coveted by the poor tribes. When Pasha is taken by Ice and her party back to Sengle town, Ice puts her jacket around Pasha to keep him warm. This symbolizes her budding trust in him.

Photographs

Photographs are kept by Pasha and shown to El Mayor and Ice to convince them of the cruelty of the Russians. The photographs show Russians slaughtering innocent people. They incriminate Pasha himself in the commission of those crimes. Pasha keeps the photographs as a physical reminder of his horrid past and a reminder of everything for which he is now seeking redemption.

Kalash

“Kalash” is Ice’s nickname for the Kalashnikov assault rifle that Pasha gives to Ice. Kalash accompanies Ice on her journeys between the various tribes and becomes her constant companion as she travels. She uses the rifle to defend herself and her people, including during the battle for Quantico.

Land Mines

Land mines are explosive devices planted below ground which explode when triggered, normally by weight applied and released against them. Millions of land mines surround the territory of Quantico. They are the means by which Marines are able to maintain such a good defensive position of their homeland. The land mines help Quantico to defeat the Marianos in battle and help defeat the Russians four times before the final attack against Quantico succeeds.

Tanks and Planes

Tanks and planes are used with great effectiveness by the military forces of the Russian Federation in their quest to conquer the northeastern and mid-Atlantic United States of America. The Russians must use the tanks and planes in order to take Quantico. Their

effectiveness, however, is a double-edged sword. They have won the war and taken Quantico, but the Marines do not allow the Russians to take Washington intact.



Settings

Massa

Massa is the primary setting of roughly the first-third of the novel. Massa is formerly the State of Massachusetts, and it is now home to a large number of tribal groups. Western Massa, particularly Massa Wood, is home to Ice and her Sengles, the Lowells and Lowell Mill, and the Nat Mass Armies and their camp. They are being approached by forces of the Russian Federation. Massa is apart from tribal warfare, considered to be a safe place. It is heavily wooded, provides well enough for the people who live there, and is seldom visited by outsiders. This changes with the appearance of Pasha, who befriends Ice and the Sengles, and convinces them to flee Massa Wood. Ice and Pasha ultimately come to convince a large number of Lowells and Christings to flee Massa as well.

Sengle town

Sengle town is the home of the Sengles in Massa. It is described as being relatively dirty, with garbage strewn all about and with houses and huts made of scavenged materials and wood from the forest. There is a rank smell that is associated with the town. Ice and several others avoid the smell by sleeping some distance away in the woods. It is from a Sengle town that Ice and her Sengles flee to find safety in Lowell Mill before heading south.

Marias

The City of Marias is the former City of New York. It is comprised of some four-hundred thousand people, and is theocratically ruled by a group of twelve apostles. The city adheres to a warped version of Catholicism called Catolico, in which any black girl living with a white man is exalted as Mother Mary, while the white man is seen as Jesus. The girl then becomes a ruler of the City of Marias. Soledad brings Ice and Pasha to rule Marias, during which time a massive civil war breaks out against the corrupt apostles who plan to sell the city out to the Russians for a handful of cures. Ice saves the city as its military prepares for a showdown with the Russians at Quantico.

Quantico

Quantico is a Mid-Atlantic American region comprising parts of southern Maryland, Washington, D.C., and northern Virginia. The region consists of one-hundred thousand people, including a large Marine force. Quantico is known for its military power and defense of the last echoes of American ideas. It has defeated all of its enemies, including the Russians four times. Quantico and its ruler, the Commandant, agree to a

military alliance with Marias against the Russians. Ice comes to stay in Quantico during the battle, but she is horrified when Quantico falls to the Russians.

Europe

Europe is a place considered by many tribes in the Nighted States to be a myth, though those in larger cities and with better education know that Europe is real. It is a place where many Americans flee following the outbreak of posies. Europe develops and continues to produce a cure for posies. Europe was invaded at some point by Russia, at which time Europe was forced to defend itself with nuclear weapons. Europe won the war against Russia and now seems to be Russia's chief geopolitical foe. Ice is brought to Europe by the Russians with the intention of her being a propaganda tool to defend them. To the contrary, Ice returns from Europe with the cure for the people of the Nighted States.



Themes and Motifs

Post-Apocalypse

The post-apocalyptic world forms an important theme in the novel “The Country of Ice Cream Star” by Sandra Newman. A post-apocalyptic world is seen as a world that has been plagued by a disaster or catastrophe, manmade or natural, which leads to widespread death and destruction. The events often lead to a dystopian existence (see the theme “Dystopianism”). The survivors or their descendants are now living in the aftermath. The Country of Ice Cream Star is one such post-apocalyptic world.

At some point eighty years before the events of the novel, the United States was stricken by the WAKS virus, commonly known as “posies.” Knowledge about the disease and its origin are unknown to Ice and her people decades later. The disease outbreak led to mass evacuations. Those already contaminated or unable to leave were left behind. Most of those who fled went either to Europe or west across the Appalachian Mountains. The disease itself leads to horrible sores and fevers that ultimately kill a person no later than the age of twenty-one. In fact, most who suffer from the disease die in their late teens. For that reason, reproduction is considered critical and occurs at a very early age. Those who make it to the age of twenty-one are rare and considered ancient.

In the story the United States of America is no longer the same country. It is now known as “Nighted States” due to the language and the idea that darkness, or night, has fallen on the land. The language spoken by survivors is a stunted, fragmented form of English. The names of places and locations have either changed entirely or now retain only a semblance of their former names. For example, “Massa” represents Massachusetts, and “City of Marias” refers to New York City. Most survivors live in little tribes and tiny villages throughout the country. A handful of larger cities and territories, such as Marias and Quantico, still exist. These places have electricity and cars. Those places are the fierce protectors of the technology that survives from former years.

Without the presence of the attributes of the former United States, the situation of the world is one of war and disaster. The Russians have emerged as the world’s lone super power. As such, Russia has invaded every continent on Earth, though they have only been successful in some places. Without the United States, Europe has emerged as Russia’s primary opponent, going so far as having to use nuclear weapons to get Russia to back down. Russia has thus emerged as an international governing force. Various dystopian governments and situations have arisen within the former United States, such as in the case of Marias. It is in this disease-ridden, war-torn, apocalyptic world that Ice seeks to find the cure for posies for her people.



Dystopianism

Dystopianism is an important theme in the novel “The Country of Ice Cream Star” by Sandra Newman. Dystopianism involves a government, organization, association, or company that exercises tremendous or total power and influence in the lives of everyday people, often denying their human and legal rights in the name of the greater good. Those in power will do whatever it takes to retain power and will do whatever is necessary to secure their own ends. On the surface, those with power have the stated goal of helping the people. In reality, all they do is harm people. There are two primary appearances of a dystopian government in the novel.

On an international level, the Russian Federation represents a dystopian government dedicated to conquering the world. Without the United States to stop them, the Russians have launched countless invasions and started countless wars around the world. Though Russia has only been successful in some places, the Russians are willing to do whatever it takes to win wars and retain control of the areas they have conquered. This includes using soldiers like Pasha and Razin to slaughter innocent civilians in the name of safety and keeping order for the greater good.

Russian’s invasion of the Nighted States is an example of their dystopian power at its greatest. Rather than bringing a cure to the afflicted, the Russians have invaded. They are forcing locals to fight for them against other locals. They kill those who refuse. The Russians are doing all of this in the name of safety and the idea of bringing order to a chaotic world. In reality, it is clear that the Russians have imperialistic ambitions. They are prolonging the existence of the disease for their own advantage.

On the domestic level, the twelve apostles of the City of Marias form a dystopian government of their own, a theocracy. The nature of the theocracy is a twisted version of Catholicism. The apostles' goal is to keep order among the hundreds of thousands of people they rule. In reality, a handful of corrupt apostles and leaders –including Anselm –merely want to keep order so that they may sell out the city to the Russians in exchange for several dozen cures for themselves and specific people. Only Ice’s arrival in the city and her elevation to Maria save the city from being turned over to the Russians.

War

War is an important theme in the novel “The Country of Ice Cream Star” by Sandra Newman. War involves open combat between two or more sides. In the story war is a direct consequence of the posies catastrophe. War occurs both internationally and domestically, and its effects are terrible.

Ice’s tribe of Sengles lives in a near-constant state of war with the Nat Mass Armies. The frequent wars between the two tribes have resulted in a tense peace at present, which Driver worries will not last. Driver hopes that the Sengles and the Lowells will merge so that strength in numbers can be found against the very warrior-like Armies.



This is among the reasons that Ice decides to sleep with El Mayor. Meanwhile, Russian forces are pressing down on the area, of which Pasha is an advance scout. The wars are meant to bring the Nighted States under Russian control, though Russia claims its war in the Nighted States is merely for the sake of order and stability.

Elsewhere in the past, the great states of Quantico and the City of Marias were at war when the Marianos attacked the Quantico Marines in an effort to absorb them into Marian territory. The Quanticos defeated the Marianos, leading to a period of tense peace although both cities still harbor hatred and anger toward one another. The war sapped the will of the Marianos to commit to wars, even when the wars were necessary. The Quantico Marines were strengthened in their resolve to fight. In fact, the Marines went on to defeat four Russian attempts to take their territory. The Russian invasion of the Nighted States is only their latest in a series of invasions, wars, and battles around the globe, including incursions into South America and Africa. Without the United States to act as a balancing force to the Russians, the Russians do almost anything they want. They are opposed primarily by the Europeans, with whom they are in a tense peace after being defeated by the Europeans. It is through Russia's wars that Pasha's path to redemption is born.

Ice learns through Pasha that the Russians have the cure to posies. This becomes one of the sources of Ice's desire to unite the cities of Quantico and Marias against the Russians and defeat them in order to give the cure to all afflicted by posies. The Russians are already at war with Quantico and Marias, so Ice's efforts are for far more than just the cure. They are for freedom and justice against the Russian military machine. Unfortunately, the Marines have been so worn down and the Marianos so unfamiliar to war that the battle against the Russians is brief, bloody, and leads to the fall and destruction of Quantico.

Justice

Justice is an important theme in the novel "The Country of Ice Cream Star" by Sandra Newman. Justice includes pursuing that which is morally, ethically, and legally right and administering punishments for injustice, or that which is immoral, unethical, or illegal. Ice rigorously pursues justice.

The post-apocalyptic world in which Ice lives, and in which the Russians operate their dystopian government, is a breeding ground for injustice. The constant war among the surviving tribes, especially the Nat Mass Armies, leads to injustice for the defeated or those not as powerful. They are forced to become subservient to the victors. The rituals and traditions arising from living in a post-apocalyptic world, including the sexual reproductive practices of the Armies, speak to the utter injustices previous generations were forced to face in that they could either not afford to flee or were not allowed to flee. The descendants of the survivors are forced to deal with the injustice of the fallout of the disease. Girls are seen as second-class citizens whose primary purpose includes sexual gratification and reproduction, for example.



Injustice is also suffered at the hands of the Russians. The Russians have invaded very continent on Earth, though they have only been successful in some of these places. The injustice of Russian aggression has been met and stopped by Europe, but Russian aggression continues elsewhere. They go about enslaving and killing people at will, denying them their human rights and denying them the justice of human decency and respect. Such is the case of the wars in which Pasha fought where civilians were slaughtered. In the Nighted States, Russia is up to its old tricks, killing and enslaving youths to use as soldiers.

Injustice exists in the City of the Marias as well. It is clear that the Marianos under Anselm never had any intention of actually seeking out truth about the cure that Ice and Pasha reference. They were only avoiding war and preserving their own power. It is later revealed that the apostles were ready to give up the entire City of Marias to the Russians in exchange for the cure for a select number of people, including the apostles themselves. This sense of injustice –at the people of Marias being considered no better than livestock –rightfully disgusts Ice, who now seeks justice not only for her refugees, but for the entire population of Marias as well.

Ice and Mamadou launch a rebellion to save the city and bring about justice. Ice's forces are successful in defeating the corrupt Marianos and preventing the citizens from being traded like cattle. The war itself then is a matter of justice for the people and against the dystopian government. Likewise, the alliance between Quantico and Marias is a matter of justice for all people the Russians are withholding a cure from. Ice's departure for Europe results in her being able to bring the cure back home to her people.

Redemption

Redemption is an important theme in the novel "The Country of Ice Cream Star" by Sandra Newman. Redemption is the process by which one seeks to atone or make up for past words, deeds, or actions, usually for reasons of morality and ethics. In the novel, it is Pasha who undertakes a journey of redemption like no other.

Pasha is a veteran of the Russian Federation's wars around the world, including in Africa and South America. War is hard enough without soldiers like Pasha being ordered to commit moral and legal crimes in the name of their country. Pasha is among those ordered to blind, torture, and murder entire towns full of people to keep order and control for the Russians. Pasha takes a series of photos of this wanton death and destruction in order to document the wars –and later held onto them as a reminder of his past and for what he needs to atone.

In the city of Lagos in Africa, Pasha ultimately comes to love a local woman with whom he has a baby girl. It is through them that Pasha sees a world outside of war. He begins fighting not because he is ordered to do so but in order to survive to get back to his family. The wars take a toll on him, however, as he grows weary and sick. During a rebellion in Lagos, his girlfriend flees, leaving their daughter to be raped and murdered.



Delirious and enraged, Pasha seeks out his girlfriend and kills her, her sister, and her sister's son. It is Pasha's lowest point. He is later transferred to the Nighted States where he is tasked with luring in children so that the Russians can either conscript them as soldiers or kill them.

Pasha, however, has had enough by then. He is morally troubled by the death of his daughter and the other countless innocents at his hands. His ability to have escaped alive so many times means he is fated for a better future. He becomes loyal to Ice, doing everything he can to help her finally achieve the cure to heal all those in the States afflicted with posies. He rescues her from the armies and accompanies her to Marias. He is willing to die as a sacrifice to ensure she rules. He fights through the Marias civil war and accompanies her through the final battle at Quantico. Even after, Pasha remains beside Ice, traveling with her to Europe to protect her and ensure the cure can be returned to the Nighted States.



Styles

Point of View

"The Country of Ice Cream Star" is narrated from the first-person, limited-omniscient point of view of the main character, Ice Cream Star. This is done for a few reasons. First, the novel is the story of how Ice Cream brings the cure for posies to the Nighted States. It is logical that Ice Cream should be telling her own story given its uniqueness. Ice Cream herself directly tells the reader that this is her own story about how she brought home the cure. Second, it is important that Ice Cream tells her own story because it gives the reader an intimate glimpse of Ice's thoughts and feelings, which she does not vocalize to others in the story. Third, the language of the novel demonstrates the broken-English dialect that Ice speaks as a result of the breakdown of American education and life in the aftermath of the posies virus outbreak. Finally, the reflective aspect of the novel demonstrates that Ice is telling the story years after the events of the story took place, following her successful return from Europe with the cure—as she herself explains in Chapter 75.

Language and Meaning

Sandra Newman tells the story, "The Country of Ice Cream Star," in stunted, broken, and fragmented English. The book's summary refers to as an "inventive patois," a form of local dialect or speaking. This demonstrates the breakdown of education and the severe localization of language without greater communication and contact between widespread groups following the outbreak of posies.

Consider, for example, the following quote: "But as we stalk the deeper west, the only houses be old evacs. Then oaks and beasts and sun be all our friendship" (Ch.32, p. 4). These words make it believable that a girl of fifteen, largely uneducated and brought up in a very localized dialect, could indeed be telling the story. Only some, such as the educated of the City of Marias and many of the Marines of Quantico, speak perfect English.

Structure

Sandra Newman divides her novel "The Country of Ice Cream Star" into four primary parts, with each part subdivided into titled and numbered chapters. There are seventy-five chapters, numbered from 1 through 75. Each part of the book is given both a title directly related to the situation and its events and a set of corresponding dates. For example, the fourth part, "The War at Quantico, Cember 26 – January 6," details the battle against the Russians at Quantico and its aftermath from December 26 through January 6. Each chapter's title within a part refers to a specific sequence of events. The chapter "The War at Quantico, Cember 26 – January 6: Chapter 67: My War Begin" deals with the very beginning of the massive battle that will be fought at Quantico.



Quotes

Still my heart is rain for him, my brother dead of posies little.

-- Ice Cream (Chapter 1 paragraph 1)

Importance: Ice Cream Star begins her story by introducing herself and briefly describing her family. Her description of her brother, Mo-Jacque Five Star, reveals that he died of an early onset of posies, “posies little,” a disease that kills Sengles by the age of twenty-one.

Soon my nerves go jittery self. Somebody going to die –yo sho, somebody always going to die.

-- Ice Cream (Chapter 1 paragraph 16)

Importance: Early in the novel, Ice Cream, her brother, and several others raid old abandoned homes to scavenge supplies. Among the things they discover is a baby doll, a symbolic omen of death for the Sengles. Even the very realistic Ice Cream is disturbed by this. She does her best to remind herself that people die all the time. Still, she cannot convince herself. The doll proves to be a symbolic omen of bad events.

This be how I take my pistol, first of any guns I own. This be how my Pasha Roo come into Sengle town.

-- Ice Cream (Chapter 3 paragraph 28)

Importance: While out scavenging, Ice Cream, Driver, and their group come upon a burning house and a frightened white boy. Ice Cream stops the boy and Driver from killing each other, during which time she claims the boy’s gun as her own. She brings the boy back to town. Ice has no idea yet, but Pasha’s entry into her life and her story will prove incredibly important in months to come.

We ask that... give aid... do not... safety...

-- Radio voice (Chapter 12 paragraph 41)

Importance: El Mayor Lowell has been able to get a radio to pick up fractured pieces of a broadcast from an unknown location. These are the first electronically-available words that any of them have ever heard. It is stunning to Ice, but horrifying to Pasha, who says that they all must go as far away as possible.

We must all leave. Must go from Massa woods, as far as... as far as we can.

-- Pasha (Chapter 12 paragraph 51)

Importance: After hearing their first radio broadcast, Pasha becomes incredibly worried. He tells Ice they must flee as far away as possible. He hesitates before almost naming a place to which they must flee. There is more to Pasha than meets the eye, but his cryptic warning of escape is clear. Anger is coming, a danger that they must all avoid.



But as we stalk the deeper west, the only houses be old evacs. Then oaks and beasts and sun be all our friendship.

-- Ice Cream (Chapter 32 paragraph 4)

Importance: Ice Cream's expedition to the South begins. She has over two hundred souls and their animals traveling with her. They encounter scattered people as they travel, eventually encountering no one at all. This makes for pleasant journeying, but it is a false peace. Not encountering anyone is the calm before the tragedies ahead.

Be the following night our journey turning desperate strange.

-- Ice Cream (Chapter 34 paragraph 1)

Importance: A few weeks into the journey, Ice Cream encounters the Catolico cult of the former City of New York, now the City of Marias. There, a warped version of Catholicism is practiced in which girls found living with white men are made rulers of the city. Ice Cream is terrified by her situation because she does not wish to hurt Pasha.

Kill Pasha, or I die.

-- Ice Cream (Chapter 37 paragraph 143)

Importance: In the City of Marias, Ice Cream is interviewed for what the city expects will be her new role as ruler. It is explained to her that the Sacrifice of Redemption is required before she becomes the ruler. Ice will be required to kill Pasha. Ice Cream recognizes that both she and Pasha are in danger. One of them must die.

Two cities fight. If Marianos fight by Quanticos, can win against the roos.

-- Pasha (Chapter 39 paragraph 141)

Importance: While awaiting the test of proof, Ice Cream and Pasha converse about the situation in which they find themselves. Pasha reveals that the City of Marias once started a war with the Marines of Quantico, a war which the Marianos lost. Pasha believes that if the two cities teamed up together, the Russian Federation could be defeated. Ice Cream is stunned by this idea and by this information. She wonders how such a thing could end up happening.

Be the following night the search depart for Massa woods.

-- Ice Cream (Chapter 48 paragraph 1)

Importance: Here, Ice Cream reveals how her plan has been set in motion. Now ruler of the City of Marias, Ice Cream urges the city to join forces with Quantico in a war against Russia for the cure for posies. The apostles want proof of this, so an expedition is organized to capture Russians and their agents who will corroborate Pasha's story of a cure. Ice Cream is both thrilled and nervous to see the expedition set out for Massa Woods.

You only got what justice you can make.

-- Crow, quoting Mamadou (Chapter 60 paragraph 48)



Importance: Just as the battle for the City of Marias is won and just as Ice is about to learn that Quantico wants to negotiate, she has an important conversation with Crow. The world is terrible and strange, with people at war with themselves while suffering from posies and facing the threat of Russian invasion. Crow notes that there is little justice in the world. Quoting Mamadou, Crow says that justice must be made. This is perfectly in line with Ice seeking to defeat the Russians and steal their cure. She seeks to bring justice to a people who have long been denied it.

So this be how I bring the cure at last to all the Nighted States, save every poory children, young to die.

-- Ice Cream (Chapter 75 paragraph 208)

Importance: This quote is in the final paragraph of the novel. Following the defeat of the Quanticos and Marianos at Quantico, Ice believes all is lost. Yet, she encounters Pasha once more, who agrees to help her get the Europeans to bring the cure to the people of the Nighted States. He does this out of hatred for his own Russians and out of love for Ice Cream. Ice Cream's words reveal that, at some time in the future, Ice will be successful in her mission to bring the cure to the Nighted States.