

The Death Cure Study Guide

The Death Cure by James Dashner

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Plot Summary

The Death Cure is the third novel in the maze runner trilogy by James Dashner. In this book, Thomas, a teenage boy, is one of the subjects in an experiment conducted by a government agency known as WICKED. When a manmade disease, known as the Flare, is introduced to the human population, WICKED starts running experiments to find a cure. The Flare causes humans to go insane and to become cannibals.

Thomas and several of his friends have been an ongoing part of these experiments. The novel describes the final experiment that determines which of the subjects are immune to the Flare and which of the subjects are already ill with the disease. It turns out that Thomas is one of the immune, one of the Munies. When WICKED offers to remove a swipe implant from the subjects' brains to return all of their memories to them, Thomas and a few of his friends opt out of the procedure and plan an escape from WICKED.

WICKED continues to hunt Thomas and his friends down because Thomas holds the key to their final experiment. After traveling to Denver, Thomas and his group meet members of the Right Arm, a group organized to bring down WICKED. Armed with a plan to bring WICKED down, Thomas returns to WICKED with the Right Arm planning to save him. In the end, Thomas and the others are able to shut WICKED down forever.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

Thomas is in isolation in a white room. They feed him the same three meals each day, and also provide him with water. They haven't allowed him to clean himself in the three weeks he's been there, so his own stench is aggravating him. Thomas thinks about the disease (the Flare) inside of him—a virus that makes him inhuman.

Thomas has plenty of food, water and exercise, so none of this is a problem for him. It's his own stench that is bothering him so much. He wonders if the way he smells has something to do with the fact that he is dying. Thomas thinks about when Teresa said it was too late for Thomas—he'd already lost his sanity prior to coming to this place.

Thomas also wonders where his friends are now. He thinks that WICKED did all of this to him and to his friends. Thomas vows to seek revenge on WICKED. On the twenty-sixth day of isolation, the locked door to his room opens.

Chapter 1 Analysis

The inference is that Thomas and his friends are from a place called WICKED. Something or someone in WICKED is causing people to get the disease, the Flare. This is the disease that Thomas has now, which is why they have isolated him. His captors don't want Thomas to pass the disease on to any other humans.

There is some foreshadowing that Thomas will end up breaking free from his prison. When he does, he will go in search of his friends. Additionally, this is when Thomas will also seek revenge on WICKED.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

The Rat Man enters Thomas's room. The Rat Man talks to Thomas about how he knew what the plan was. The plan is to study the brains of humans like Thomas that have the Flare so they can try to create a cure for the disease. The Rat Man says Thomas is receiving good news today.

The Rat Man says that even though the Flare lives in every part of Thomas's body, he is immune to the disease. For this reason, the rate says everyone hates him and other "Munies" like Thomas who are immune to the disease.

Chapter 2 Analysis

Ironically, Thomas is angry at WICKED for giving him the Flare, even though Thomas knew what the consequences were from the start. Thomas is supposed to be sacrificing himself for the overall good of the human race, but now that he and his friends are being tortured, Thomas has forgotten this point.

The fact that Thomas is one of the Munies puts him in a different kind of danger. While he will not die of the Flare, according to the Rat Man, other humans who are susceptible to the disease are a threat to Thomas and anyone he knows who is also immune to the disease. This foreshadows Thomas being set free from the prison, but having to protect his life against other humans.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Thomas realizes that he and the other Gladers had been chosen as part of the experiment because they are immune to the Flare. Thomas questions Rat Man as to why they lied about everything. Rat Man says it is one of the variables they introduced for the purpose of the experiment.

Rat Man says he'll take Thomas to take a shower and change his clothes. He walks into another building, where Rat Man leads Thomas to a locker room, and a locker with fresh clothes. Rat Man says when he returns, he'll reunite Thomas with his friends. Thomas tries to speak to Teresa through his thoughts, but cannot connect with her.

Chapter 3 Analysis

The fact that Thomas cannot connect with Teresa implies that she is dead. If Teresa is not dead, then something to do with the experiments has cut the connection between him and Teresa. Even after everything Rat Man, on behalf of WICKED, and the other "scientists" have done to Thomas and his friends, Thomas, ironically, believes that what Rat Man is telling him about being one of the Munies is true.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Thomas scrubs five times to get clean. As he looks at himself in the mirror, he glimpses his tattoo, which reminds him of everything that has happened. Rat Man returns to pick up Thomas. Rat Man says that he and each of his friends had different experiences in phase three of the trial. Thomas assumes his phase three was his stay in the white room.

Rat Man escorts Thomas to an auditorium, where he finds his friends—Minho, Frypan, Newt, Aris, Sonya and Harriet. They are all safe and healthy looking, and happy. All of his friends are there except for Jorge and Brenda.

Teresa comes into the auditorium. Thomas tries to speak to her with his mind, but it doesn't work. He approaches Teresa. Teresa says she tried to talk to him every day but that she thinks they cut them off from each other.

Rat Man says they have a few things to cover before they remove the swipe. Rat Man says they will get all of their memories back now.

Chapter 4 Analysis

The tattoo Thomas has must be some kind of mark that WICKED gave to him. It can be one of the forms of torture Thomas has endured during the experiment. With the tattoo, the mark identifies Thomas as part of the experiment, which might be an identification that leads him into danger as the novel unfolds.

It seems as if Thomas and Teresa are in love with each other. Thomas hints that Teresa was part of torturing him during the trials. Because of this, the relationship he and Teresa share will never be the same again.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

Thomas is taken aback by the knowledge that he's going to have all of his memories back, including those from his boyhood. Minho lashes out at Rat Man, threatening to break Rat Man's nose. Rat Man says there are consequences for harming him. He also says he's sorry for those they've lost but that it's all worth it to save the human race.

They leave the auditorium and Rat Man leads them to a locked room, through to another locked room and into a chamber with beds and masks. Rat Man says this is how they'll remove the swipe devices from their brains.

Thomas starts to think about the people they know who have been killed and ponders again if he really wants to remember everything. Rat Man confirms they won't be able to talk telepathically any longer once the swipe is removed. He also admits that they had turned it off temporarily, but that after the procedure, it will be permanent.

Rat Man goes through the list of participants. He's going to read out who is immune to the Flare. He's also going to announce who isn't immune to the Flare.

Chapter 5 Analysis

Teresa seems to have been brainwashed during her phase three experiments. She keeps saying that WICKED is good, when all of the others still think that everything WICKED stands for is evil. Each person struggles with the idea of whether or not they want their memories back. It seems as if their life prior to becoming part of the experiment might have been problematic and troubled. Additionally, they don't necessarily want to remember what they have forgotten.

When Rat Man announces who is and isn't immune to the Flare, this will pit one side against the other. Those who are not immune to the Flare will likely rebel against those who are immune to the disease. This will cause friendships and relationships to deteriorate and vanish altogether.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

Rat reads out the list of people who are not immune. Newt is the only one whom Thomas knows. This leads Thomas to think about Newt having "The Glue" tattoo. Thomas thinks about how The Flare makes you slowly go crazy and want to eat small children. Newt takes the news well. Thomas says they'll support Newt.

Rat Man says that two of them are still viable candidates for the experiment but that they'll announce this information later. Rat Man reminds them that the purpose of the experiment is to build a cure. He says most of them who are not immune are in the early stages, so when they do find a cure that they will be taken care of.

Rat Man explains the removal procedure. He also says he'll have a question and answer period after they get their memories back.

Rat Man gives them time to decide if they want the swipe removed or not. Rat Man leaves the room. Thomas and his friends convene to determine if they should remove the swipe or not. Teresa says they need their memories to be smart about the way they go about things. She reminds them that they are also removing the part in their brain that allows WICKED to control them.

Since Aris and Teresa want to remove the swipe, Thomas says he's not going to have the swipe removed. Thomas tells the others they are going to play nice and then fight their way out of this place.

Chapter 6 Analysis

Newt's tattoo is the glue that holds the experiment together. This is why Newt received this tattoo. It seems as if the people in the experiment were pitted against each other, in a form of survival of the fittest. For example, Aris and Teresa lured Thomas into a cave during the experiment. This changes the way Thomas feels about Teresa and about Aris.

What Aris and Teresa did to him during the experiment also affects his decisions now. He doesn't trust them anymore.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

Rat Man returns. Newt and Thomas decide not have the swipe removed. Thomas is surprised when Frypan decides to have the swipe removed. Minho also decides not to have his swipe removed. Those who decide not to have their swipe removed are escorted into a different room—one that looks similar to the original room.

In this room, Thomas sees Brenda. She whispers into Thomas's ear that they shouldn't trust anyone except Chancellor Paige. When Teresa enters the room, she seems to detest Brenda. Armed guards arrive to escort Thomas, Minho and Newt back to their rooms to dwell on their decisions until testing begins again the following morning.

Chapter 7 Analysis

It's ironic that the name WICKED is used for the experiment, when those in charge of the experiment try to convince the participants that WICKED is good. Brenda seems to be privy to information that Thomas and the others do not know. Teresa detesting Brenda suggests to Thomas that he should trust what Brenda tells him because Thomas doesn't trust Teresa anymore.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

The guards escort Minho, Thomas, and Newt to a room. Minho is the only one who struggles with the armed guards. The guards lock the three into the room with food to eat. They talk about how they should have made a run for it before the guards showed up.

Thomas tells them what Brenda said about only trusting her and someone named Chancellor Paige. They decide that somehow, some way, they will escape the following day.

Chapter 8 Analysis

Ironically, even at gunpoint, Thomas feels unusually calm. The boys find it suspicious that Brenda, who works for WICKED, is someone whom they should trust. Thomas believes that something happened to him when they wiped his memories. He believes that if they give him his memories back, he'll start to trust WICKED again. The boys intend to escape the following day when they are escorted to the room where the experiments continue.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

Thomas dreams about his mother and father. He realizes they both have the Flare. He dreams about the Flare and WICKED arriving to study the Kill Zone, which is the human brain. The government official that stands before Thomas and his mother says that Thomas is immune. Thomas's mother allows him to go with the official.

The next morning, the guards enter. They say they are giving them their memories back anyway. Newt tries to fight the guards. Janson says they don't have a choice in the matter. Minho ends up talking Thomas and Newt into going, trying to make it sound as if they are being cooperative. They lead them to a room. Thomas gives his friends a signal.

Chapter 9 Analysis

Thomas's dreams are memories rather than a dream. Minho is pretending to be on WICKED's side once again. He's signaling to Thomas and Newt that their time has come to attack. His cooperativeness eases the minds of Janson and the guards so that they will let their guard down, which will make it easier for Thomas and his friends to overcome them and escape.

Thomas has two sides. Prior to the experiment, Thomas agreed to work with the government, with WICKED, to find a cure. Now, Thomas feels completely differently. The boys are about to attack the guards to break free.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

Thomas, Newt and Minho fight the guards. It doesn't work. The guards are able to subdue the three teenagers. Thomas tells Janson he was just a kid. Janson says he might have just been a kid but that Thomas was more driven than anyone about finding a cure.

Janson brings Brenda in to remove his swipe while Janson goes to attend to another matter. Brenda arrives but Thomas can't tell by her expression what her true intention is. She questions why she is working for them. She says he has to trust her like he did in the Scorch. Brenda confirms that she and Jorge are immune from the Flare, which is why they are using them to work for WICKED.

Chapter 10 Analysis

It seems as if Brenda is going to do something to help Thomas. She is just making it look as if she is removing the swipe. It seems as if Brenda is a regular human whom they recruited, just like they did Thomas and the others.



Chapters 11 and 12

Chapters 11 and 12 Summary

As Brenda pretends to start the procedure, Thomas attacks one of the female guards. He gets her launcher gun away from her, while Brenda gets the gun from the male guard. Brenda shoots the gun. She takes the keycard from the guard so they can get through the hallways and rooms.

They arrive in a room where the Rat Man is. Brenda fires at two of the guards. Newt and Minho attack the third guard. They take the keycard from Janson. They decide to make up the plan as they go. Brenda says Jorge is a pilot, so if they make it to him they might be able to fly away from the area. They hear the footsteps of backup guards approaching the room.

Chapters 11 and 12 Analysis

Brenda shooting the launcher proves that Brenda is on Thomas's side. Since Brenda has been working for WICKED, she can help them maneuver their way out of the building. She is likely to escape with them so that she doesn't have to work for them any longer.



Chapters 13 and 14

Chapters 13 and 14 Summary

As the new guards enter the room, Brenda and the others fight them. Newt says they have to get out of there because the guards are just going to keep coming. They get one of the female guards to admit that there are at least fifty guards on duty. She says something else is happening but she doesn't know what it is.

They take the female guard as a hostage. Thomas says Brenda should take the lead. They go through a corridor and Thomas pulls the keycard to open the door at the end of the corridor. When they blast through the door, the alarm goes off and the lights go out. Newt suggests that the entire thing is a test so that the scientists can analyze what they do.

The alarm stops. They continue on to find Jorge. Minho says they have to be setting them up because the place is empty, guns are available and they are watching everything they do through the cameras.

Chapters 13 and 14 Analysis

It appears as if there might be an uprising in a different part of the experimentation building. It seems as if the guards are setting up an ambush for Thomas and the others, which is why the alarm and lights go off. The guard who is a hostage also gets away.



Chapters 15 and 16

Chapters 15 and 16 Summary

They discuss the situation, as to whether they are being framed or not. Newt and Minho end up getting into a scuffle. When they manage to pull Newt and Minho apart, Thomas is talking to Newt. Newt admits to not feeling right, as if the Flare is already affecting him. Newt says he has to take care of something.

The others gather supplies they need to break out. Brenda starts talking about a medication that they use to slow the Flare down, but says that the medicine is very expensive. In the meantime, however, people can function and are more relaxed about it. Newt returns and says he needs to talk to Thomas alone.

Newt gives Thomas an envelope. He makes Thomas swear not to read the contents until the time is right. Newt says Thomas will know when the time is right. Thomas promises.

With their supplies, they file out of the room. They search for their friends for an hour, but everyone is gone—even Rat Man and the other guards. They agree there are likely hidden rooms but that they can't spend any more time searching. They hear a moaning sound coming from one of the rooms they pass.

When they enter the room, Thomas and the others see slowly moving bodies in black clothing on the floor. The guards are tied up and have gags in their mouths. Thomas and the others head down the various hallways, but they don't run into anyone who could have overpowered the guards.

They finally find Jorge, their pilot. He seems injured and the plane seems to be missing. Brenda demands to know what happened but Jorge says he needs a minute to get himself together. Jorge says Teresa and the rest of the subjects left.

Chapters 15 and 16 Analysis

Ironically, Newt and Minho turn on each other, even though they are fighting for the same side. Thomas assumes that Newt is starting to lose his mind already from having the Flare. Newt leaving suggests that he might commit suicide so he doesn't have to suffer the effects of the Flare.

Someone or something has taken over the place, tying up the guards. The implication is that Jorge or some of the others have risen up against the guards as well. It seems as if Teresa was trying to make the guards think and everyone else think that she was on WICKED's side, but then she used this as an advantage to overpower the guards and leave with the rest of the test subjects.



Chapters 17 and 18

Chapters 17 and 18 Summary

Jorge describes what happened. He says the lights went out. When he ran into the room to get his gun, Teresa and the others charged in. A blonde girl hit Jorge in the head with the butt of his gun. They took off in the plane. That's all he knows.

The alarm starts going off again. The door opens. About a hundred guards start filing in and firing their guns. Thomas puts Minho in charge of defending themselves and taking an advantage over the guards. Minho starts giving orders to everyone. Some of them cover while Jorge and Brenda get to the plane, the Berg. Then Jorge and Brenda plan to cover them so that the rest of them can get to the Berg.

On her way, Brenda gets hit with the electric waves the launcher guns shoot. Minho starts dragging Brenda to the Berg. They are able to make it to the plane, but Thomas is struck by electricity, which causes him to fall back down into the hangar.

Chapters 17 and 18 Analysis

Thomas is disappointed because Teresa and the others didn't even look for Thomas and the others. He says at least they tried looking for Teresa and her group. Something is going on about which Thomas and the others are not aware. Since Teresa had been acting as if she was on the side of WICKED, it is suspicious that she would then overtake the guards and escape with the other subjects.



Chapters 19 and 20

Chapters 19 and 20 Summary

As Thomas starts to lose consciousness, he hears the motors of the Berg. He thinks they are leaving him behind just like the others. Thomas sees guards standing above him pointing their guns at him. Two of his friends tackle the guards—Minho and Newt. Jorge shoots at the guards from the Berg.

Newt, Minho and Thomas finally reach the door to the Berg. As soon as Thomas boards the Berg, he passes out. He wakes up to a beat up Brenda standing over him. It's ten hours later. They talk about the cities they can go to since they are immune to the Flare. Brenda says Jorge tracked Teresa and the others to Denver.

Brenda talks about meeting Jorge in Alaska, a gathering place for Munies. He has become like an uncle to her. Brenda talks about how Munies work for WICKED or in the camps set up to take care of the sick.

Thomas tells Brenda he wonders what happened to his mom. Thomas tells Brenda he thinks they should go to Denver. Brenda says beyond his friends there is something else that's important in Denver.

Chapters 19 and 20 Analysis

Everyone is putting on an act. This makes it difficult to determine who is a foe and who is an ally. Having Brenda and Jorge on their side is beneficial. Since they have been working for WICKED, they have some insider information to which Thomas, Newt and Minho aren't privy.



Chapters 21 and 22

Chapters 21 and 22 Summary

Brenda says she has a friend in Denver who can take out the implants inside of Thomas, Newt and Minho's heads. Brenda kisses him and leaves. Minho calls a meeting to discuss everything. They put it to a vote and decide unanimously that they will all go to Denver. Newt will have to stay on the Berg when they land because he is infected with the Flare.

Thomas falls asleep. He dreams about being twelve years old again. Thomas is talking to a man about Teresa and Thomas's telepathy and his commitment to the cause. The man asks Thomas why they are here. Thomas tells the man why they are here since he has memorized the reason.

When Thomas wakes up, he tells them all about each dream. He also says he thinks they are memories that are all coming back to him now. Brenda mentions how she can only guess what WICKED will do, but if they find Hans in Denver, he can help them figure out what WICKED is capable of doing and what they might be doing to find Thomas and the other Munies.

Chapters 21 and 22 Analysis

For the first time in a long time, Thomas has hope for his life. Thomas's dreams are memories, not dreams. Teresa and Thomas seem to have the same type of training. Since they are telepathically connected, if Teresa is not on Thomas's side, it can work against Thomas and his team, which can put them in danger; conversely, if Teresa is on his side, then she might be able to save Thomas and the others.

Thomas and the others are struggling with what is right and what is wrong. They are struggling with good and evil.



Chapters 23 and 24

Chapters 23 and 24 Summary

Jorge has created fake documents for all of them. They are using their real first names but fake last names. They use these identities to get out of the Berg and into the city of Denver. Before they enter, a mechanical device comes out of a panel in the wall. The device pulls out a wire that pricks each of their necks.

The woman confirms they are all immune. She says they have a lot of job opportunities here. She advises them not to advertise they are immune too much because some people don't take well to those that are immune.

They enter into a mall. Thomas doesn't know what a mall is. Brenda explains it is a strip of stores that runs all along the city. Some officers approach them saying that some people escaped from WICKED. He hands Thomas a note that says they need to come meet the sender immediately. The note is signed by Gally.

Gally is an outcast and he and Thomas are bitter rivals. Brenda denies the sender can be Gally. She says he suffered psychological effects from killing Chuck, a friend of Thomas's who was killed in Thomas's place. The note claims Gally is with a group called the Right Arm, which is an underground group trying to take down WICKED.

As they travel deeper into the city, the dirtier the city becomes. The cab pulls into an alley outside of the building where the note told them to come.

Chapters 23 and 24 Analysis

Thomas seems to be having flashbacks and moments of déjà vu, where things he sees now remind him of traumatic events in his past. The mechanical device seems to be a test to see if they are immune or not. Even though Gally is not with WICKED anymore, it is wondrous that Gally knows they have landed in Denver and summons them right away.

Since WICKED can track them because of the implants in their head, it is more likely that someone in WICKED is setting a trap for them. This is why Brenda wants to find Hans before they do anything else.



Chapters 25 and 26

Chapters 25 and 26 Summary

A deformed Gally answers the door. He says he's glad they have come because the end of the world is upon them. Minho, Thomas and Gally make amends for the fight they got into the last time they saw each other. Gally admits his guilt over killing Chuck.

Gally says the Right Arm abducted him for insider information on WICKED. Gally says he found out they were in Denver because they received an anonymous message. Since they showed up in a Berg, the Right Arm people figured out who to deliver the message to. Gally also says there is a problem because immunes are disappearing. People think WICKED is stealing them and putting them back into trials.

Gally admits they found Teresa and the others. He says they sent the same message to them that he sent to Thomas and his group. Teresa said she couldn't agree with WICKED starting the cycle of trials all over again. She also says she hopes to find Thomas again. Gally says he heard a rumor that there is a bounty out to find and kill Hans because they think Thomas and the others are in Denver looking for Hans.

Brenda says they have to leave, they have to find Hans. Gally tells them to come back to the apartment if they want in on the cause. They find Hans the next day. They tell Hans why they are here and that WICKED has put a bounty on his head. Hans leaves the room to prepare for the procedure to remove the implants from their brains. Thomas starts to get nervous.

Thomas suddenly loses control of his body. It's as if he is a puppet.

Chapters 25 and 26 Analysis

Enemies at one time are now grouping together to stand up against WICKED. WICKED managed to convince thousands of people that their work is good. Now, they are starting to realize that the overall effect of WICKED's work is not good for everyone, and not the entire human race.

WICKED seems to be reading Brenda's mind. They know exactly why she and the others have come to Denver. They have come to find Hans. It appears as if the implant controls more than they originally thought. WICKED is obviously controlling Thomas's body now.



Chapters 27 and 28

Chapters 27 and 28 Summary

Brenda tells Thomas they have control of him and that he has to fight it. Minho encourages Thomas to fight it off too. Thomas cannot talk or control his own body. The only thing he can do is anything that prohibits the implant from removal. This includes Thomas picking up a knife to try to harm Hans.

When Thomas throws the knife, it strikes Hans, causing a gash in Hans's arm. They end up dragging Thomas into the procedure room Hans has set up in his apartment. While Thomas is unconscious, he dreams. Teresa is in his dream. In the dream they feel guilty for doing something they were ordered to do.

When Thomas wakes up, Minho is sleeping in a chair nearby. Minho verifies that they are both fixed, but that Thomas wiggled out big time. Thomas says he remembers it all but that he couldn't control anything he said or did. Brenda, Jorge and Hans walk into the room. Brenda confirms that Thomas shouldn't be able to communicate with Teresa or Aris telepathically anymore either.

Hans and his wife plan to leave for their own safety. Thomas and the others commit to finding their friends and then returning to Gally to help the Right Arm.

Chapters 27 and 28 Analysis

WICKED has more control than any of them first realized. Thomas relates to what is happening to him because he had to force one of his old friends when they were going through the changing.

It seems that Thomas and Teresa killed people who had the Flare so that they wouldn't end up going crazier and crazier.

Chapters 29 and 30

Chapters 29 and 30 Summary

The group goes to a coffee shop to eat and drink. Brenda asks Minho and Jorge to wait outside for a minute, as if she needs to tell Thomas something alone. When she starts to tell him the truth about stuff in WICKED, he tells her that they just need to focus now on what it is in front of them.

Brenda watches as a man outside the coffee shop starts to scuffle with the tester standing at the door of the coffee shop. The tester announces that they have an infected. People start to scream and run. The man wearing the red shirt says the man was drugged out on the medication, the Bliss. When the guard finds out Thomas is immune, he orders Thomas to sit down. The man in the red shirt forces Thomas to undergo the test to see if Thomas is in fact one of the Munies. When the red shirt starts questioning Thomas, Thomas claims to work for WICKED.

When red shirt's backup shows up, the other red shirt wants to know if he caught two men drugged up on Bliss. The red shirt explains Thomas is a Munie and that he just stayed put when everyone else was running. Thomas watches as the red shirt man forces the infected man to straighten his legs. Another red shirt, a woman, injects the man with a substance that freezes the man. Then, he says that when the show is over that Thomas is going with him.

Chapters 29 and 30 Analysis

The man at the door of the coffee shop has the Flare. The patrons run and scream because they are scared to catch it. Since Thomas and the others are immune, they cannot get the disease anyway, so he's not sure why he's reacting with the rest of the crowd.



Chapters 31 and 32

Chapters 31 and 32 Summary

Once the man is completely paralyzed, several red shirts pick up the man to carry him away. Minho tries to free Thomas from the red shirt and the red shirt threatens to shoot Thomas. Red shirt holds Thomas by gunpoint as he escorts him to a car. As they walk, Thomas sees trash everywhere. He also sees posters about Chancellor Paige. When they reach the car, the red shirt tries to make Thomas put handcuffs on himself.

Gunfire erupts around them and the red shirt falls to the ground. A call pulls up and Thomas hears Janson telling Thomas to get out of the car. It's just a video feed of Janson on the cop machine, so Janson is not really there. Janson admits that the red shirt is a bounty hunter and that Janson has just saved his life. Janson appeals to Thomas to turn himself in and continue the testing.

Thomas tells Janson that he'll think about it in order to stall him. The cop machine leaves. Minho, Brenda, and Jorge run up to Thomas. Thomas tells them that one of the cop machines shot the red shirt to death and that Janson tried to convince him to go back to WICKED.

Minho says all the people have vanished. He says the sky doesn't look right. Thomas gets an uneasy feeling.

Chapters 31 and 32 Analysis

Ironically, Thomas escaped WICKED but is now being held at gunpoint by a city worker. Now that Thomas is in Denver, he will be able to learn more about the Chancellor Paige whom Brenda told him he could trust when they were still at WICKED.

Janson needing Thomas so much for the trial can put Thomas and his friends at a vantage point. He might be able to leverage their need for him to gain supplies or other advantages while he and his friends are on the run.

Minho's observations and Thomas's uneasy feeling suggest something bad is about to happen in Denver. They believe it is a sign of bad things to come.



Chapters 33 and 34

Chapters 33 and 34 Summary

Since the town is empty and it is dark, they decide to go back to their hotel for the night before trying to get out of Denver. Jorge thinks he hears someone following them, but they don't find anyone, so they go up to their room to sleep.

They leave the hotel the next morning. They still don't see as many people as before. The ones who are out are keeping their surgical masks held onto their faces and move with a quick and frantic walk. Thomas and the others continue back to the airport, but they see movement in an empty lot they pass. It's a shirtless man digging in the mud. The man also has scratches and marks all over his body. Brenda says the man is sick and they need to keep moving.

When the man looks up again, he has blood all over his face and hands. They run for a few blocks and then find a cab. Minho suggests that the guy was eating a person. Thomas and the others make it back to the airport and to the Berg. They call for Newt, who stayed behind, but he isn't answering.

Minho finds a piece of paper. It's a note from Newt saying the red shirts got inside the Berg and are going to take him to live with the other Cranks, the people that have the Flare.

Chapters 33 and 34 Analysis

The residents of Denver seem to be afraid of something. They seem to know that something bad is going to happen. Since Thomas and the others are not from Denver they don't know what the impending doom can be.

The man covered in blood suggests that he had been eating a human. This is one of the symptoms of people who have the Flare. Minho seems to have a premonition that a pandemic is about to break out in the city of Denver and that everyone is going to start killing each other.



Chapters 35 and 36

Chapters 35 and 36 Summary

They decide to find Newt first and then figure out what to do. Brenda says they've likely taken him to the Crank Palace. Jorge lands the Berg twenty minutes later. Guards with launchers surround the Berg, and Thomas suggests they try to talk with the guards. Up close, the guards are filthy, sweaty and covered in scratches.

Thomas asks the guards if Newt had come here in the last day or so. The guard says he'll help them for money. As they walk into the palace, the guard describes the setup of the palace. As they enter into the inner sanctums of the palace, the guards enter to try to find Newt. When they emerge some time later, they say they think they've located Newt. The problem is that Newt told them to get lost.

Chapters 35 and 36 Analysis

The condition of the guards suggests that they have been have an extremely hard time battling humans who are infected with the Flare. Thomas starts to question himself as to whether or not he's not helping the world by not helping WICKED to complete the tests.

Newt is trying to save his friends from witnessing his demise. This is why he orders the guards to tell Thomas and the others to leave him alone.



Chapters 37 and 38

Chapters 37 and 38 Summary

The others refuse to leave without talking to Newt, so the guards escort them inside. They witness skirmishes among the infected along the way. When they reach the central zone, it is a madhouse. Cranks are everywhere and all of their mannerisms are exaggerated. Fights have broken out everywhere.

They find Newt inside of the abandoned bowling alley. Newt insists that they leave him because he is not well.

Chapters 37 and 38 Analysis

Newt feels as if he is dying. This is why he keeps insisting that his friends go away. Newt also doesn't want them to see him deteriorate when they are used to seeing him as a strong and viable member of their team. For the first time, Thomas and the others are seeing firsthand what chaos the Flare causes. It pains Thomas even more when he thinks about how the disease is a manmade one.



Chapters 39 and 40

Chapters 39 and 40 Summary

Newt and the others continue to argue back and forth about whether Newt is going to stay or go. Some of the other Cranks get involved in the argument. Newt picks up a launcher and starts aiming it at various people to get them to leave. Thomas finally agrees to leave Newt there.

As the group leaves, the Cranks taunt them. Some guards come running around the corner, yelling at the Munies to run as well. The guards don't even have their guns. Then they see a crowd of Cranks chasing them. The group makes it back to the Berg. Jorge lifts the Berg off the ground.

Chapters 39 and 40 Analysis

Leaving Newt behind in the Crank Palace is one of the hardest things Thomas has ever had to do. He knows that Newt's brain is diseased and that there isn't anything they can do to help save him. Realization hits the group as they leave Newt behind that they will never see Newt again.



Chapters 41, 42 and 43

Chapters 41, 42 and 43 Summary

Thomas opens the envelope Newt gave to him. The note says that if Thomas has ever been his friend that he should kill Newt. On the third day after leaving Newt, they take the Berg back to Denver because they decide they have to meet up with Gally. When they land, guards move them into a van.

The guards take them to a building, but Thomas and the others have hoods over their heads so they can't see anything. When they arrive at the destination, Thomas finds himself in a room full of people. It's people who are hiding out from the chaos because the virus is too strong and the government has pretty much abandoned the city.

This is when Thomas sees Aris. Aris says that he and some of the others were picked up by the guards too. Others were picked up by bounty hunters and returned to WICKED, they assume. Teresa is in the room too. Nobody seems to be happy to see Teresa.

Chapters 41, 42 and 43 Analysis

The Flare seems to be causing the world to deteriorate faster than anyone has expected. This is causing people to go into a panic and allowing chaos to rule. The guards seem to take Thomas and the others to a room where people are hiding out. It appears as if the government has abandoned the people to fend for themselves.



Chapters 44 and 45

Chapters 44 and 45 Summary

Teresa convinces Thomas to step away from the others so they can talk. Minho warns him not to listen to anything Teresa has to say. Teresa says they looked for them and thinks Thomas left them behind. Thomas has the opposite impression. She insists she is the same Teresa she has always been. She confirms WICKED is rounding up more munies for another round of trials. She says she can't do it again and that she left to find Thomas.

Thomas tells Minho about his conversation with Teresa. Minho isn't as convinced as Thomas is that Teresa is telling the truth. The kidnappers enter the room to pass out food and water. Minho gets into a scuffle with one of the guards and Jorge backs Minho up. Brenda winds up with the guard's launcher and points it at them to get them to stop.

When one of them mentions WICKED, the guard says they don't work for WICKED. He says they work for the Right Arm.

Chapters 44 and 45 Analysis

Thomas doesn't feel as if Teresa is acting. He wants to believe her, but he also recalls some of the things Teresa did to him back in the Maze. It's ironic that since Teresa got her memories back that she's no longer on the side of WICKED. It calls into question what it is that Teresa remembers.

Thomas and the others are plotting once again to break away from their captors. Minho and the others are rising up against the kidnappers, but it seems as if the kidnappers might be holding them for their own good because of the conditions out in the city.



Chapters 46 and 47

Chapters 46 and 47 Summary

Minho ends up shooting one of the guards in his pinky toe in an attempt to get answers from the guard about what's going on. The guards finally agree to take them to someone who might be able to tell them more information.

The guard speaks to the crowd. She promises the Right Arm is trying to protect them, not harm them. She tries to convince Thomas and the others not to leave, but says if they do, that only a few can go. Thomas and Brenda decide to go alone.

Thomas and Brenda leave with the guard, Lawrence, to talk to the guard's boss. They decide to drive the van instead of going on foot. As they drive away, someone jumps on the roof of the van.

Chapters 46 and 47 Analysis

The end of the world in the novel is symbolic of the apocalypse. There is a biblical sense to the deterioration of the world in which the characters of the novel live. It is akin to what is expected to happen when the end of the world comes in the biblical sense.



Chapters 48 and 49

Chapters 48 and 49 Summary

The guard tries to get the woman on the roof off. When he finally does, they drive away. They drive for a few minutes and then run over something metallic. They continue on but they are driving into complete darkness so Lawrence turns the headlights back on. About thirty cranks stand up ahead and start to attack the van.

A sledgehammer cracks the front windshield of the van. The sledgehammer strikes the windshield a few more times. A crank's arm comes through the windshield, but Thomas attacks the arm until the crank screams and withdraws the arm.

The van's wheels aren't working so Thomas, Brenda and Lawrence have to defend themselves while Lawrence continues to try to get the van loose. Eventually, the van shoots forward.

Chapters 48 and 49 Analysis

Thomas sees that the woman on the roof is a mixture of a sane person and an insane person. It's as if the disease causes the people to go insane, but they are still aware of their surroundings and what is happening to them.



Chapters 50 and 51

Chapters 50 and 51 Summary

When they are far enough away from the crowd of cranks, they stop the van and try to catch their breaths. They find themselves in a huge spotlight and about a dozen people are pointing weapons at them. One of the people calls out to see if it's Lawrence. Lawrence explains what happened and why they are here.

The Right Arm people lead them inside. Gally is inside waiting for them, along with some other members of the Right Arm. Gally says that Vince is the one in charge. Vince demands to know what they want. Thomas says he wants to know why the Right Arm is capturing people to sell to WICKED.

Vince tells Thomas they are mimicking WICKED to get inside of WICKED's headquarters. Vince wants to know what Thomas and Brenda can offer the Right Arm. Thomas says he's the missing piece to the trials to find the cure for the Flare. Thomas says they can offer the Right Arm inside knowledge.

Chapters 50 and 51 Analysis

The Right Arm is supposed to be fighting against WICKED. Ironically, it seems as if the Right Arm is working with WICKED. The Right Arm, however, is using the actions of WICKED against the organization so that the Right Arm can try to bring WICKED down for once and for all. Working together, Thomas and the Right Arm might have enough information and power to infiltrate and stop WICKED. It sounds as if the Right Arm intends on getting rid of all of the weapons so it's hand-to-hand combat.

Chapters 52 and 53

Chapters 52 and 53 Summary

They say that the lead engineer for the arms manufacturer, Charlotte, is the person they need to get on their side because she's found a way to render WICKED's weapons useless. They talk to each other about their plan to infiltrate WICKED. Brenda and Thomas say they have a Berg they can use in addition to the ones that the Right Arm already have.

They meet with Charlotte so she can explain the disabling device Thomas has to plant and activate. Within the hour, it will render all of WICKED's weapons useless. Brenda talks with Thomas before he leaves.

Chapters 52 and 53 Analysis

The Right Arm can be the answer that humans need to stop the Flare and the chaos that is spreading throughout the world. WICKED is symbolic of a tyrant or communist leader. They have managed to get everyone on their side, given them false hope and then used the people they had been able to recruit. As humans are starting to figure this out, they are starting to rebel and rise up against WICKED.

The Right Arm plans to use Thomas as leverage to enter WICKED. Thomas will say he's returned to complete the trials and then he will plant the device necessary to render their weapons useless. Then, the rest of the Right Arm can come in to fight and take over WICKED.

It seems as if Brenda and Thomas are bonding. This foreshadows a romantic relationship forming between the two if they live through the attack on WICKED.



Chapters 54 and 55

Chapters 54 and 55 Summary

The van drives them to the hangar. They run into several cars driving in circles. Lawrence doesn't slow the van down, but instead guns the van faster to make its way through a gap in the group of cars. One of the cars crashes into the van and it spins in circles. After the van hits the cement barricade, the three cars drive away.

When Thomas looks out the window, he sees Newt staring back at him. Newt looks horrible. Thomas points his gun at Lawrence to get Lawrence to stop the van and allow Thomas out of the van. Lawrence tries to reason with Thomas, telling him that Newt is nothing more than an animal now. Thomas emerges from the van anyway. When Thomas talks to Newt, Thomas sees the madness in Newt's eyes turn to clarity. Newt recognizes Thomas and they talk. Newt is angry at Thomas because Thomas won't kill him, which is the only thing he's ever asked Thomas to do for him.

Newt admits that he limps because he tried to kill himself when they were back in the Maze. Newt says it's all Thomas's fault. Newt begs Thomas to kill him. Thomas says he can't do it. Thomas pulls the trigger.

Chapters 54 and 55 Analysis

The cars driving in circles appear to be an obstacle and trap to keep them from reaching the hangar. There is some foreshadowing that Newt will try to fight the battle going on in his brain in order to help his friends. Since the Flare is a disease in the brain, Newt might be able to fight the disease in a manner of mind over matter.

Newt is taunting Thomas. He's goading Thomas in an attempt to get Thomas to put him out of his misery.

Chapters 56 and 57

Chapters 56 and 57 Summary

Thomas tries to process the fact that he shot his best friend in the head. The rest of the trip is a blur. The Berg lands long enough to drop Thomas off in WICKED. All Thomas can think about is that he killed Newt.

As Thomas makes his way through the wild, he tries to focus on his goal. Janson greets Thomas and he enters the headquarters of WICKED.

Chapters 56 and 57 Analysis

At this point, Thomas is just going through the motions. Ironically, Thomas plans to ask WICKED to let him inside instead of trying to escape. Additionally, Thomas is at WICKED by choice this time instead of being forced by the government.



Chapters 58 and 59

Chapters 58 and 59 Summary

Janson leads Thomas through the building to a bathroom, so Thomas can freshen up. Thomas uses this opportunity to prepare the device. As they continue, Thomas asks Janson if he'll ever get to meet Chancellor Paige.

They enter through an unmarked door into a room with two of Janson's associates. Thomas finds out that he's the final candidate because of Thomas's tendency for free thinking and rebelling. Janson reveals that they need Thomas's brain.

Chapters 58 and 59 Analysis

WICKED is going to have to kill Thomas in order to get to his brain. While they have to keep Thomas alive for a certain amount of time, eventually the final experiment will kill Thomas. Thomas represents the sacrifice necessary to save the rest of the human race from the disease.



Chapters 60 and 61

Chapters 60 and 61 Summary

Thomas follows the doctors for the final procedure. He types goodbye messages to Minho and Brenda while he waits for his final meal to arrive. He hopes the Right Arm saves him before it's too late. Thomas tries to stall Janson when he comes for him, but it doesn't work.

Janson enters a surgical room with the two doctors, nurses and monitors. A woman rushes in saying a Berg arrived but it was a trick. They say they have to rush to complete the procedure because they don't know what those people on the Berg are trying to do. The doctors administer medication through an IV that causes Thomas to go numb.

Dr. Christianson starts running some tests. An explosion erupts in the room. When everyone gets their footing again, Dr. Christianson says they have to hurry to get the procedure done.

Chapters 60 and 61 Analysis

Thomas represents a death row inmate because they offer him a way to leave messages for his friends and a last meal before undergoing the procedure that will eventually kill him. This is a turning point for Thomas. He's going to die if the Right Arm doesn't reach Thomas in time.

Thomas starts to struggle whether he should live or die. If he dies, then he gives up his own life. In turn, however, his life can help to save the lives of so many others. He wonders if it is true that WICKED is close to finding a cure and that he has a chance to help them create the cure.



Chapters 62, 63, 64 and 65

Chapters 62, 63, 64 and 65 Summary

Thomas is not fully unconscious so he hears someone calling his name. Thomas wakes up to find a map of WICKED and a letter from Chancellor Paige. The letter says the chancellor stopped the procedure because they have enough data to create a cure, even though the other associates disagree with the chancellor.

When Thomas gets to the Maze, using the map, he realizes WICKED has the Immunes hidden in the maze. Thomas uses the map to find his way past some buildings until he hears voices. He sees two people from the Right Arm sitting near one of the buildings that has a big hole in it from the explosion.

Someone grabs Thomas from behind. The man clasps his hand over Thomas's mouth. Janson appears saying he's disappointed in Thomas. Janson assures Thomas that he'll do whatever it takes to finish his project. Thomas is able to fight Janson and his accomplice.

Chapters 62, 63, 64 and 65 Analysis

Chancellor Paige is giving Thomas and his friends a new chance at life. This is why Brenda told Thomas that he can trust the chancellor. WICKED is falling apart from the inside out. Even the individuals who make up WICKED are working against each other.



Chapters 66 and 67

Chapters 66 and 67 Summary

A woman from the Right Arm picks Thomas up. She says Vince plans to get everyone out of WICKED before the detonation. They make their way into a room where he finds Gally and Vince. Thomas gets Gally's attention. Gally asks what happened to Thomas, but he just says they ran a few tests.

Thomas tells Gally and Vince that he knows where they are keeping the Immunes and they can't blow the place up until they get them out. Vince tells Thomas to go get them. Minho, Brenda, Teresa, Aris and the others show up too.

As they make their way to the Maze, someone jumps on Thomas in the dark. The rest come to Thomas's rescue and all of them survive. They continue to run until they find themselves in the room they escaped to after getting out of the Maze previously. As Teresa stands beside him, Thomas realizes that he and Teresa are once again on the same side and on equal ground.

Chapters 66 and 67 Analysis

Ironically, they have to return to the Maze from which they escaped in order to save the other Immunes. The journey Thomas and the others are taking to free the Immunes is causing them to retrace the steps from their own escape back when they were in the Maze. It is as if Thomas and the other Immunes have come full circle.

Chapters 68 and 69

Chapters 68 and 69 Summary

Minho leads them into the Maze. It's Brenda and Jorge's first time in the maze because they were working for WICKED. When they arrive at the Glade, they find hundreds of people, even children and babies. They reunite with Frypan while they are there.

They split the crowd into groups and put one of them in charge of each group of 50 to guide them out of the Maze. They explain to the Immunes what is happening, but the ground starts to tremble before they can finish. Thomas realizes it is the explosion from the device he planted. The Maze walls start to crumble around them. Some people are injured and others try to continue to make their way out of the Maze.

Chapters 68 and 69 Analysis

It is the Right Arm's own detonation device that is endangering Thomas and the Immunes. WICKED is imploding from the inside. Ironically, Thomas and those who escaped WICKED once face being trapped inside WICKED again.



Chapters 70 and 71

Chapters 70 and 71 Summary

Brenda tells Thomas that he has to kill the pods that are opening and can kill them. Thomas goes from pod to pod to kill the animals that are inside of each. Brenda is navigating the people out of the doors in the meantime.

When Thomas reaches the fourth pod, however, the animal is coming out. He manages to kill this one but doesn't reach the final pod before the animal emerges. The last animal spits spikes from its body and slices through a group of people. Thomas yells to others that he'll distract it and the others should get the rest of the people to safety.

Teresa throws herself onto the animal. She urges Thomas to get away. When the animal starts to suck in Teresa's face to suffocate her, Thomas attacks the animal to try to save Teresa's life. This buys Teresa some time to get away from the animal. They all run out of the Maze. About two hundred people escape the Maze.

The ground continues to tremble as explosions continue to go off. They finally make it to the maintenance room the chancellor marked on the map. Janson shows up again with a bunch of security guards. Thomas and the others still outnumber them, however.

Chapters 70 and 71 Analysis

Teresa is sacrificing her own life in order to save the rest of the Immunes. Teresa becomes a martyr for the lives of the others. Ironically, it is the leader of WICKED who helps Thomas and saves all of their lives.



Chapters 72, 73 and Epilogue

Chapters 72, 73 and Epilogue Summary

The room continues to tremble from the series of explosions. Janson fights with Thomas as the others fight with the rest of Janson's guards. An explosion causes the ceiling to cave in on them. It pins Teresa's body, except for her head and one arm. Thomas apologizes to Teresa. Teresa tries to apologize but she dies before she gets it all out.

The rest escape as the building collapses behind them. Brenda starts up the flat plane flying machines that lift them out of WICKED. They crash land on a beach and watch as WICKED burns to the ground.

Minho takes charge in building the village where they're going to live. Thomas and the others are the start of a new civilization. The chancellor sends out a final memo to WICKED explaining the success and failure of their experiment. In the end, she says that it is the mark of a new life—a new civilization.

Chapters 72, 73 and Epilogue Analysis

WICKED is responsible for killing three of Thomas's closest friends. The building caving in is symbolic of the fall of WICKED. This is the start of an entirely new life for Thomas and the rest of his group that survived. This marks the last battle with Janson and the others of WICKED. For the first time in Thomas's life, he is free and safe.



Characters

Thomas

Thomas is the main character in the novel. He is a teenage boy. Thomas is one of the subjects in WICKED's experiment to find a cure for the Flare. It turns out that Thomas is immune to the Flare, so he cannot catch the airborne disease. Additionally, Thomas is the final viable subject for WICKED's final experiment, which is to test Thomas's brain.

Throughout the novel, Thomas has dreams. In reality, it seems these dreams are memories rather than dreams. Thomas dreams about how his parents caught the Flare and became sick. He dreams about how the government came to take Thomas away because they knew he was immune to the disease and wanted him to be a part of their experiments.

Thomas turns out to be the leader and the primary decision maker among the group of friends with which he escapes from WICKED. While Thomas does end up losing Teresa, someone with whom he shared a strong bond, Thomas and his other friends are able to blow up the WICKED compound and stop the experiments from taking place.

Rat Man—Janson

Rat Man is the nickname Thomas and the others have for one of the doctors and scientists at WICKED. Dr. Janson is Rat Man's real name. The doctor is the one who comes to get Thomas out of isolation at the beginning of the novel.

Janson seems to be in charge of the doctors and scientists at WICKED. He is the one who explains to the test subjects who is immune and who is not immune to the disease. Janson is also the one who gives the subjects the choice as to whether they want the swiipe implant removed from their brains.

Janson is also responsible for tracking down Thomas and the others in Denver. Rat Man tells Thomas that Thomas is the key to completing the final experiment they need to find a cure. Janson appeals to Thomas to return to WICKED so that they can complete the experiment. Upon Thomas's return to WICKED, Janson greets Thomas, explains what the final experiment entails and leads Thomas to the team that will be performing the experiment.

Teresa

Teresa is one of the subjects of the WICKED experiment. She and Thomas have the ability to speak to each other telepathically. The two can also speak telepathically with



another subject and friend, Aris. While undergoing the experiments, however, the scientists temporarily turn off their ability to speak telepathically.

After some things that occurred during the Maze portion of the experiment, Thomas no longer trusts Teresa. Teresa seems to be siding with WICKED, which makes Thomas nervous. Teresa ends up escaping WICKED with a group of other subjects right before Thomas and his group escapes. They reunite later in Denver.

Teresa and Thomas make amends. They start working together to bring down WICKED upon their return to the compound. Teresa ends up getting crushed by a boulder when a series of explosions within WICKED causes the ceiling to collapse.

Minho

Minho is another one of the subjects in the WICKED experiment. He is also one of Thomas's friends. Minho is one of the Munies as well. Throughout the novel, Minho, Thomas and the others fight against WICKED and are finally able to bring the agency down. At the end of the novel, Minho becomes the leader in charge of building a new civilization within which the survivors can live.

Newt

Newt is another experiment subject and one of Thomas's friends. Newt is not immune to the Flare. He already has the disease when the group escapes from WICKED. Newt ends up being taken away by the government when they are in Denver. He is placed in a communal building where the government houses those infected with the Flare. Newt begs Thomas to kill him and to put him out of his misery. Thomas complies with Newt's request.

Brenda

Brenda is one of the workers at WICKED. She is also immune to the Flare. She tells Thomas at the beginning of the novel that he can only trust her and Chancellor Paige. Brenda works with Thomas and the others throughout the novel to bring WICKED down. In addition to their common goal, Brenda and Thomas seem to share a mutual interest in each other. They kiss once in the novel.

Hans

Hans is one of Brenda's friends. Hans lives in Denver. Brenda urges the group to find Hans because he can help remove their implants so that WICKED cannot locate them. Hans removes each of the implants from Thomas and his friends. Then, Hans and his wife go into hiding.



Chancellor Eva Paige

Chancellor Eva Paige is the head of WICKED. When Thomas returns to WICKED, Chancellor Paige sends Thomas a note and a marked map so that he can escape WICKED once and for all. She also sends out a final memo saying that she no longer believes in the experiments to find a cure, but that some of her colleagues are against her.

Dr. Christianson

Dr. Christianson is the surgeon scheduled to perform the final experiment on Thomas. He is the one who is running the tests on Thomas when the Right Arm infiltrates WICKED. Dr. Christianson dies when WICKED crumbles.

Jorge

Jorge is another of the workers in WICKED. He is also a pilot. Jorge is the one who flies the Berg for Thomas and the others to escape to Denver. Jorge also flies the Berg back to drop Thomas off at WICKED for the final experiment.



Objects/Places

WICKED

WICKED is the government agency responsible for the experiments to find a cure for the Flare. WICKED occupies a compound. This is where a series of experiments is conducted to find a cure for the disease. In the end, WICKED is shut down and the compound is destroyed.

Berg

The Berg is a type of plane or helicopter. Jorge flies away from WICKED and to Denver on the Berg with Thomas, Newt, Minho and Brenda. The Berg is also how Thomas returns to WICKED for the final experiment.

Denver

Denver is a city in Colorado. In the novel, it is where Thomas and the others go when they escape from WICKED. Denver also turns out to be one of the locations where they have crank palaces to house humans infected by the Flare.

Launchers

Launchers are the weapons that guards use in WICKED. They are a type of stun gun that emits tentacles of electricity. While the launchers do not kill people, they do cause a great deal of pain.

Masks

Inside of WICKED, the masks are put onto the subjects' faces. The masks administer medication that sedates the patients for the procedures they undergo. When in Denver, humans wear masks as a way to prevent themselves from catching the Flare, which is an airborne disease.

Swipe

The Swipe is a type of implant that the subjects have in their brains. It wipes away the memories the subjects have of their pasts. It is the Swipe implant the doctors are removing right before Thomas and his friends escape from WICKED. Upon removal of the implant, the subjects' memories will return.



The Maze

The Maze is a series of corridors used as a phase of the experiment. The subjects are dropped into the Maze and have to find their way out. During their time in the Maze, they encounter obstacles. Some of these obstacles even require them to fight and kill other subjects in order to save their own lives.

Map

Chancellor Paige sends Thomas a marked map. The map is to help Thomas escape from WICKED the second time. She marks the map so Thomas knows where the Munies are and how to escape.

Letter from Newt

Newt gives Thomas a sealed letter when they first leave WICKED. Newt says Thomas will know when to open it. When Thomas opens the letter, Newt begs him to kill him and put him out of his misery.

Letter from Chancellor

The letter from the Chancellor is included with the map she sends to Thomas. The letter explains why she's helping him. It also explains to Thomas how to make his final escape.



Themes

Teamwork

When a manmade virus is introduced to the world, it can quickly and easily spread across the world because it is an airborne disease. With air travel being what it is, one virus can be around in the world in a matter of days. One of the primary themes of the book is teamwork.

For the best interest of the United States and the world, WICKED and the human population all have to learn to work together. First, they have to learn to delegate the duties according to their own expertise. This is why WICKED chooses to help find a cure for the Flare. The agents of WICKED try to convince the human race, especially the Immunes, that it is their duty to participate in the experiments to help WICKED discover a cure for the disease. The ultimate goals of everyone are keeping the virus from spreading and killing humans, and finding a cure for the disease.

Competition

Ironically, even though the primary theme of the book is teamwork, the second primary theme is competition. WICKED tries to convince the human race that their experiments are for the overall good of the population. In reality, however, it seems WICKED is willing to sacrifice human lives in large quantities if it means that they can finally create a cure for the Flare.

Competition even exists among the scientists and doctors. The head of WICKED, Chancellor Eva Paige, comes to realize that they have failed to find a cure for the Flare. This is why she provides information to Thomas that ultimately saves Thomas's life and brings down WICKED forever.

On the other side, the doctors, such as Janson and Christianson, want to continue the work of WICKED. They believe they are close to finding a cure. These scientists are also willing to sacrifice Thomas's life in order to study his brain, which they believe is the final step to creating a cure. Even though these individuals all work for WICKED, they are actually on different sides of the struggle. The same holds true for Immunes, such as Jorge and Brenda, who work for WICKED, but end up helping Thomas and the others throughout the novel.

Relationships

One of the primary themes running through the novel is relationships. The primary type of relationships the novel tackles are friendships. The novel lightly touches upon romantic relationships as well.



Thomas is close friends with Teresa, Frypan, Newt and Minho. As the experiments continue, however, some of these friendships are scrutinized because it seems as if people, such as Teresa, are no longer on the side of the subjects, but instead are rooting for WICKED.

It also seems that Thomas and Teresa had been more than just friends before the experiments. It seems as if they share a special relationship because they are able to speak to each other telepathically. When Thomas feels Teresa is betraying him, however, he stops trusting her and then pulls apart from her.

This is when some romantic feelings seem to kindle between Brenda and Thomas. Because they are working together to save their lives and the lives of others, they form a special bond. They share a kiss during the novel. Now that WICKED is gone, it is possible that Brenda and Thomas can foster their romantic relationship.

Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the third person point of view. The novel is written from the point of view of the author. The author is telling the story of the last phase of the experiments that Thomas and his friends undergo, as well as the various events that follow Thomas and his group escaping from WICKED.

The point of view of this novel is an intimate point of view that allows a reader to connect closely with each of the people involved in the story. The reader cares what happens to each person and the U.S. as a whole when it comes to spreading the Flare and finding a cure for it. The point of view also allows the author to inject his own opinions into the narration and to expand on the events taking place around the people and events without interrupting the flow of the narration. For these reasons, the point of view works well with this novel and the author's writing style.

Setting

In the beginning, the novel is set inside of the WICKED complex. The setting of this novel is important because this is the area where the scientists are searching for a cure for the Flare. Once the characters escape WICKED, the setting moves to the city of Denver, Colorado. The people in the story are living in a world where an airborne virus is turning humans into crazy cannibals.

For this reason, the setting of the novel has a strong impact on the people because they live in fear of catching the Flare or being attacked and killed by those who are infected.

The setting of this novel works well with the plot. At first, the reader is not aware that some of the characters are immune to the Flare. However, as events unfold, the Flare is a constant part of the plot and the lives of the characters.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is informal and relatively easy to understand. Additionally, the author makes up some words of his own to fit into the plot and scenario. Although the language of the novel is not formal, the language is educated, strong and descriptive enough that it creates a flow that leaves the reader impressed with the words as much as the plot when the book is done.

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

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

Structure

The novel is divided into 73 chapters and an epilogue. Each chapter is between one to 10 pages long. The chapters tell the story both in exposition and dialogue. The author also injects his own voice at several points of the book, giving his opinion of the events surrounding the setting of the book, as well as the actions taking place within the plot.

The novel contains one main plot and two subplots. The main plot is teamwork. The two subplots include competition and relationships.



Quotes

"Thirst for revenge."
Chapter 1, p. 10

"On the outside, in the streets, they call people like you Munies, and they really, really hate you."
Chapter 2, p. 16

"Once we'd discovered there were people like you—with the virus rooted inside, yet showing no symptoms—we sought out the best and the brightest among you. This is how WICKED was born."
Chapter 3, p. 17

"I tried, Tom. Every day I tried to talk to you. They cut us off, but I think it's all been worth it."
Chapter 4, p. 24

"I'm going to go through the list—please do your best to take it calmly."
Chapter 5, p. 30

"Most of you are immune and have helped us gather invaluable information."
Chapter 6, p. 31

"What a surprise. You lied again."
Chapter 7, p. 41

"I think we've got some SHF [simian hemorrhagic fever] in our monkeys. The spleen looks like a piece of salami when you slice it."
Chapter 8, p. 173

"We've decided to give you your memories back. Like it or not."
Chapter 9, p. 48

"You'll all be heroes when this is over."
Chapter 10, p. 51



"Thomas...It was my job."

Chapter 11, p. 56

"You have zero chance of getting out of this complex."

Chapter 12, p. 60

"Start shooting as soon as the doors crack."

Chapter 13, p. 65

"Someone's setting us up."

Chapter 14, p. 69

"Maybe we've only seen a few guards because them's dead."

Chapter 15, p. 71

"Who? Who are you talking about? Who left?"

Chapter 16, p. 81

"They left us."

Chapter 17, p. 84

"Forget reloading! Let's go!"

Chapter 18, p. 90

Topics for Discussion

Who is Thomas? Why is he so important to the WICKED experiments? What does he remember about his life before coming to WICKED? Why is it so important that Thomas return to WICKED after escaping to Denver? How does it change Thomas's life? How does it change the lives of others?

Discuss the relationship between the humans and WICKED. Is there competition between the two? How does Thomas feel about WICKED? How does WICKED feel about Thomas? Why does WICKED choose Thomas as the Final Candidate?

Who is Newt? How does he change when he finds out he has the Flare? What does he think about his disease? What happens? What does he tell Thomas in the letter? Why do you think he yells at Thomas and is angry at Thomas at the end of the novel?

Who is Brenda? How does she get involved with WICKED? What does she think about WICKED's work? What does she tell Thomas? Why does she choose to help Thomas escape? What do you think happens to Brenda?

Discuss the virus called the Flare. What impact does it have on the characters? How does it motivate the people dealing with the virus in the book? How does it derail their lives? How does each person learn to deal with the virus?

Describe the relationship between Thomas and Teresa. How does Thomas feel about Teresa? How does Teresa feel about Thomas? How do their feelings change over the course of the novel?

Describe the relationship between Thomas and Brenda. How does Thomas feel about Brenda? How does Brenda feel about Thomas? How do their feelings change over the course of the novel?