

Foundation and Empire Study Guide

Foundation and Empire by Isaac Asimov

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Contents

Foundation and Empire Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Prologue, Chapters 1 and 2.....	5
Chapters 3 and 4.....	7
Chapters 5 and 6.....	9
Chapters 7 and 8.....	11
Chapters 9 and 10.....	13
Chapters 11 and 12.....	15
Chapters 13 and 14.....	17
Chapters 15 and 16.....	19
Chapters 17 and 18.....	21
Chapters 19 and 20.....	23
Chapters 21 and 22.....	25
Chapters 23 and 24.....	28
Chapters 25 and 26.....	30
Characters.....	33
Objects/Places.....	36
Themes.....	38
Style.....	40
Quotes.....	42
Topics for Discussion.....	45



Plot Summary

It was Hari Seldon who foresaw the current conditions of the Galaxy, including the fall of the Empire. Seldon, in an effort to lessen the time of barbarism that is bound to follow the fall, created two Foundations - one at each end of the Galaxy. The idea was that the two would eventually mesh, forming a new, stronger Foundation - the Second Foundation. The series, known as the Empire series, is about the generations on those worlds, their lives, battles and victories.

The current book begins with a battle between the Empire and the Foundation. Bel Riose of the Empire is a soldier who is only happy fighting for the Empire. In the current time of peace, he goes to the outer limits of the Galaxy in search of worlds to conquer. He encounters little resistance and claims new planets for the Empire, but is told that Seldon's Plan predicts that the Empire will not succeed. Riose, in a moment of weakness, calls for backup reinforcements though he manages continuous victories. The Emperor of the Empire, Cleon II, fears that Riose is amassing troops for a civil war to overthrow the throne and hauls him home to be executed. Riose is stopped, and the Foundation "wins," making Seldon's prediction true.

The next crisis faced by the Foundation occurs a century later. A scientist named Ebling Mis figures the date of Seldon's next prediction, and a group of dignitaries is amassed to hear the words. Seldon's prediction includes the advice to "compromise" with the Traders who are currently in an uprising against the Foundation. A member of the Traders, Randu, is present and admits that the Traders had planned a revolt but were sidetracked when the Mule began attacking the Empire and the Foundation. As it became evident that the Mule was succeeding in his quest for Galaxy domination, the Traders put their resources into fighting the Mule instead. No sooner do the people realize that Seldon's prediction is true than the Mule attacks Trantor where they are gathered to hear the prediction.

Meanwhile, newlyweds Bayta and Toran have stopped off at Toran's home planet, Haven II, to visit briefly with Toran's uncle, Randu, and his father, Fran. Upon a request from his father and uncle, Toran and Bayta travel to the resort planet, Kalgan, where they are to search for the Mule in an effort to join his forces with those of the Traders against the Foundation. They believe their quest fails though they take in Magnifico, a clown who was once an entertainer for the Mule. They will later learn that Magnifico is actually the Mule and that he hopes they, along with Mis, will discover the location of the Second Empire so that he can defeat it and rule the Galaxy.

The Mule is a mutant, able to control emotions. His forces seldom have to do battle as the Mule transfers a sense of helplessness onto the people, which causes them to typically give up without a fight. It seems likely that the few battles that occur happen, because the Mule has not had the opportunity to control those adversaries' minds.

Bayta finally puts it together, realizing that they narrowly escaped several times when the Mule's forces were near, and that it was simply too much of a coincidence to be



believed. She kills Mis before he can reveal the location of the Second Foundation and says that she's figured out that Magnifico and the Mule are one and the same. It's then that the Mule says that he hasn't interfered with Bayta's mind, because she liked him without his interference and that he relished that novelty. Because of that, he didn't realize her intentions before she killed Mis, eliminating the possibility of the Mule finding the location of the Second Foundation from the scientist. Vowing to travel until he locates it, Magnifico leaves Bayta and Toran unharmed.



Prologue, Chapters 1 and 2

Prologue, Chapters 1 and 2 Summary

It was Hari Seldon who foresaw the current conditions of the Galaxy, including the fall of the Empire. Seldon, in an effort to lessen the time of barbarism that is bound to follow the fall, created two Foundations - one at each end of the Galaxy. The idea was that the two would eventually mesh, forming a new, stronger Foundation - the Second Foundation.

Bel Riose arrives at the home of Ducem Barr to discover that the old man has some technical gadgets and that many people come to him in search of love potions and the like. Riose asks Barr about magicians. Riose says that he's been chasing rumors and myths about magicians and that the only fact he's certain of is that Riose's own father met one. Barr says the man Riose refers to was a trader who had a personal force field. Barr then shows Riose that force field, though it's been burned beyond use or even study.

Barr offers a historical account of the establishment of the Foundations. He says that Seldon foresaw the fall of the Empire, and it's at that point that Riose interrupts. He insists that the Empire is stronger than ever and that Seldon's prediction is wrong. Barr goes on to say that Seldon carefully selected two planets at opposite ends of the Galaxy and has carefully selected the people to inhabit each. One of the Foundations was populated with scientists while the other was inhabited with psychologists. Riose plans to visit both Foundations and promises to return. Barr isn't certain Riose will return at all.

Sennett Forell is the recognized illegitimate son of a former ruler of the Foundation, Hober Mallow. It's one of Forell's ships that captures a ship belonging to Riose's. Forell points out that he made the capture without the other ships of the fleet realizing it had happened and with no loss to the Foundation. Others seem to condemn the action, saying there should have been more forethought before the capture of the ship. They allowed the ship to leave after they had garnered what information they could. While some were in favor of his death, Forell says that the Empire couldn't be stopped by "snipping short" the life of one man, and that they don't know the "young man's" intentions. The men end their conversation by deciding that they need spies in the field and that they must find a way to attack the Empire now. The plan is to join with Traders to accomplish that.

Prologue, Chapters 1 and 2 Analysis

Riose describes himself as a fighting man. He says that he offends the gentility but that he's a good soldier. Therefore, his superiors have sent him to the outer limits of the Galaxy. There, Riose is out of the way of the upper crust of society but is able to find at least some uprisings and rebellions - meaning he's able to engage in some battles.



The encyclopedia excerpt explains that the Foundation faced Riase after forty years of expansion. The leaders they'd had - full of daring - were gone, leaving less effective leaders in their place. Even among the four men talking among themselves, there is a scorn for the government - of which they are apparently an integral part. The meaning of the chapter is somewhat elusive without the understanding of the previous books in this series. In this case, the four men talk of the fact that using a probe is a change from the old ways when psychology would have been used. This seems to indicate that the four are part of the Foundation that was established with only the great thinkers. Even here, there is talk of Seldon's Plan and what it means. One points out that the Empire can't win, because Seldon's Plan assures the succession of the Second Foundation. They decide that they need spies and that independent traders will serve that purpose.

It's noteworthy that the men believe in Seldon's Plan that calls for the fall of the Empire, but are still willing to take some action rather than simply waiting for the Empire to fall into Foundation hands.



Chapters 3 and 4

Chapters 3 and 4 Summary

Bel Riose has summoned Ducem Barr. Riose first asks Barr if he's a loyal subject of the Emperor, and Barr tells him to simply ask whatever it is that he's going to ask. Riose says he's been to a world occupied not by magicians but by "devils." He says that the people of this world dream of ruling the Galaxy and that he believes his own ruler, the Emperor, is in danger. Riose tells Barr that when leaving the area, he lost a ship. While he has no proof that the ship fell into enemy hands, he's convinced that it must have as there was no additional sign of the vessel. Riose wants Barr to tell him of the potential for military strengths this planet might have and of their probable weaknesses. Barr tells him that he can't help - that Seldon's Plan has predicted that the Empire will fall to this enemy and that there's nothing to be done about it. Barr says that the mathematics behind Seldon's predictions are accurate and that nothing will change the predicted course of history.

Cleon II is also known as Riose's Emperor and simply, "The Great." The next scene opens with Cleon alone in a large room suffering from some sort of illness when Bodrig asks for an audience. After conferring about Cleon's health, Bodrig says that there's a message from Riose. Bodrig calls the message "tedious" and says it's a matter for the Council of Lords to decide. Riose has asked for reinforcements for his campaign and that, along with his success in the field, has prompted Bodrig's concern. Cleon can see the need for worry once Bodrig puts the facts before him. Cleon declines to send the ships but decides that he must send an emissary and that Bodrig will go.

Chapters 3 and 4 Analysis

It's interesting to note that Riose initially seemed to dismiss Barr's predictions that the Empire would fall soon. Riose insisted that the Empire is strong and that there's no enemy that could cause its downfall. However, when faced with an enemy, Riose's thoughts turn back to Barr. While he's still insistent that the Empire will prevail, he's looking to Barr for information on how to make that happen. Riose may seem full of self-confidence, but his actions indicate that he's less certain of himself than he seems.

Cleon is an ailing Emperor who has reigned some twenty-five years without an internal uprising. Cleon curses at the doctors who don't know what his ailment is and at the people who seem to be standing around waiting for him to die - including his three sons. It's into this scene that Riose's request for additional ships appears through Bodrig. It's not difficult to see that Cleon might be concerned that Riose is preparing to lead an uprising against what he believes to be an ailing and weakened Emperor. Cleon admits Bodrig's loyalty, saying that Bodrig's own life will be in danger from the various factions without Cleon's protection. Cleon will send Bodrig to oversee Riose's military campaign

in an effort to make sure that Riase's intentions remain focused on the outer planets rather than returning home with a force under his command.



Chapters 5 and 6

Chapters 5 and 6 Summary

Bel Riose has established a headquarters on Wanda, described as a rocky, sunless planet. Riose has Ducem Barr with him and is telling Barr of his military successes. Barr points out that he's of no help and that Riose might as well send him home to Siwenna. Riose goes through some discussion of the military tactics he employs, pointing out his "Previous Enclosure" plan. Barr says that plan has failed another military leader but Riose insists it will work for him. Barr asks about Riose's request for additional ships but Riose says ships are "at a premium" and that there will be no reinforcements. He says, however, that he'll be militarily successful on his own.

Riose has "captured" Lathan Devers, a Foundation trader, and attempts to question Devers. Devers tells Riose to keep his men off Devers' spaceship and imparts the news that one of the soldiers was killed when the technological gadget he was holding flashed. Riose says that it was a "nuclear puncher, wrong end forward," but that he doesn't carry nuclear explosives. Riose tells Devers that he's from the Empire, and Devers says he thought the Empire was non-existent. Riose says the Empire is striking at the Foundation as Seldon's plan predicts that the Foundation will eventually strike at the Empire. Devers says that he's merely a trader and that he doesn't care who controls the Galaxy as long as he's free to trade. Riose then gets a message, and Barr and Devers are escorted to a holding room.

Devers and Barr talk briefly, then Devers hands Barr a bracelet that works as a field distorter so that others can't hear their conversations. Devers says that he believes Barr to be the son of Onum Barr, once visited by the Foundation mayor, but that he wants proof of that fact. Barr hands Devers the man-sized nuclear shield - the same one he'd shown to Riose on their first meeting. Devers says that's all the proof he needs, and the two men shake hands.

Riose and Bodrig are in a garden talking about the campaign. Riose says that he's relieved at Bodrig's presence, that it means the campaign is important. Bodrig says the one thing that bothers him is Riose's request for reinforcements when every world he's encountered has fallen without a serious fight. Riose says he doesn't know his enemy and that lack of knowledge requires caution. Bodrig asks about the advisability of having the Devers and Barr - both known enemies of the Empire - in his camp. Riose says he's holding them on the off chance that he needs information from them at some point.

Chapters 5 and 6 Analysis

Riose seems to continually turn to Barr for reassurance, despite the fact that he keeps saying that Barr's predictions are incorrect. Riose also admits that he requested reinforcements because he's concerned, but says that he hasn't told the Emperor the



entire story. He says that he's withheld Barr's knowledge of Seldon's Plan. Barr knows that the reason is that Riose could be accused of treason simply by talking about the threat against the Emperor.

When Barr and Devers are escorted to their holding room, they are both watched by an armed guard. Devers asks Barr's situation, and he says that he's to guard Devers. It's noteworthy that Barr feels the need to be in control of something, even if it's merely another presence. Barr has been a military leader himself and has immersed himself in studies for many years. It's likely difficult for him to deal with being so totally out of control of his situation.

Bodrig is much too loyal to Cleon II to say anything negative about his assignment, but it also seems that he's becoming involved and excited about being part of Riose's military campaign. He says that he wants to question Devers, the Trader, and makes a point of saying that he'll do so without Riose. Riose says that's fine and that he knows Bodrig is his superior. He then points out his own recent military successes.



Chapters 7 and 8

Chapters 7 and 8 Summary

By the time Devers and Barr are in custody for a month, Devers has made a friend of Sergeant Mori Luk by giving him a personal-sized freezer that Luk sent to his wife. Devers says that such things are common on board a Trader's ship and that he has various technological gadgets of that sort. By giving Luk that gift, he's earned a quiet source of information. Though Luk is described as the perfect soldier and completely loyal and obedient, he's begun providing small details to Devers because of the gift. Luk goes to Devers to say that Bodrig is going to be questioning him.

Bodrig tells Devers that he knows that Riose has some reason for treating Devers - who is really a captive - so well. Bodrig offers one hundred thousand credits if Devers will tell him what Riose has planned. Devers says that Riose knows that Devers can direct him to information - how to change a particular metal into another, the "transmutation of elements." Devers says that if Riose has that information, he can control the entire economic system of the Empire.

By the time Devers and Barr have been held for six months, Riose demands that they talk to him. Riose tells them that Bodrig is now officially second in command. He says that he doubts that Devers was the one Trader of many who didn't run away or fight back. He questions how Devers came to be captured, and Devers says that he wants only to be left alone to trade. Riose then says that he'll use a psychic probe on Devers and requires him to remove his field distorter, which would have protected him from the probe. Barr hits Riose with a crystal bust of Cleon, and he and Barr run away. They encounter Luk and tell him to move aside, but he charges and is killed. The pair make Devers' ship and head out to space. Devers says he might have feed Bodrig "a line" that was a little too good since it appears that Bodrig has now thrown in with Riose.

Once in space, Devers tells Barr that he's a member of the Association of Independent Traders. Barr says that he has family who'll likely be executed by Riose and his followers. Barr says that he has something that might be of use to them - a "capsule message" sent to Riose from Bodrig. Devers devises a plan to go to Trantor and create doubt in the Emperor's mind regarding the true mission of Bodrig and Riose. Barr says the problem with that plan is that it's sheer luck - which doesn't fit with Hari Seldon's predictions of psychohistory. Despite his objections, the two head to Trantor.

Chapters 7 and 8 Analysis

Devers seems to be actually trying to drive a wedge between Riose and Bodrig with his story of mineral control. It seems that he expects Bodrig to accuse Riose of trying to benefit economically and to turn him in to the Emperor. However, Bodrig buys his way into the second-in-command position. It's likely that Bodrig knows that his favor in the



government depends entirely on the Emperor's good graces and that he would be better off to have money of his own so that he could be free of that situation. It won't work out for him and his apparent loyalty to Riose will cause Bodrig's execution.

Barr's belief in Seldon's Plan is complete. He believes that there's nothing an individual can do or not do to change the future. In some ways, the idea of this plan becomes problematic in itself, especially for whole-hearted believers like Barr. If one person can't change anything, why should that person do anything? With that mentality, those who are predicted to be the winners might simply believe they have to do nothing and will still emerge victorious. Likewise, those predicted to lose might feel that they can do nothing to change their fate, therefore might willingly submit. The biggest problem with Seldon's Plan is that there's a rippling effect. Seldon created the plan at the point in time in which he lived. The first predictions were accurate but the margin for error increase with the passage of time.



Chapters 9 and 10

Chapters 9 and 10 Summary

Trantor is a huge conglomerate of metal buildings with some forty billion inhabitants. There are no life forms except "man, his pets and his parasites." The sole purpose of the planet is to serve as government and administrators of the galaxy. When Barr and Devers attempt to land, they're subjected to probes, photographs and questionnaires. When Devers is unable to produce the appropriate documentation, he's told he'll be retained. He bribes the guards with some of the money Brodrig had bribed him with, and is granted entry. They are then faced with the daunting challenge of trying to bribe their way into an audience with Cleon II. As Barr is trying to bribe yet another official, Devers watches almost with disinterest, having seen it a number of times already. Then the "official," who turns out to be a soldier, tells them that they've been watched, that the guard who accepted the bribe to allow Devers in the country had admitted his role in that event, and that Barr and Devers are now under arrest. The guard shoots at Devers but the force field protects him. Devers kills the soldier, and he and Barr make a run for their ship where they execute a number of spatial jumps in order to escape. As they're leaving the planet, Barr grabs a newspaper and discovers that Rose and Brodrig have been arrested.

Devers and Barr are questioned at length by Forells, who wants to know if their visit to Trantor had anything to do with Riose's execution. Devers says that the charges against Riose were "the purest frame-up" and that Bodrig was guilty of being a traitor only of general principles. Barr says it's a case of psychohistory proving true. He says that the Empire is simply not capable of fighting an effective war. A weak Emperor is torn apart when the generals fight among themselves for the throne. A strong Emperor must stay remain solid, without expansion, in order to stay strong. Barr says that Seldon realized that a man like Riose would attempt an expansion, and that the ruler would suspect him of ulterior motives simply because that expansion proved successful. Barr says the outcome was inevitable, no matter how strong the Empire had become. Forell says that might not be the only enemy faced by the Foundation - that there might be an internal enemy as well, though he doesn't suggest who that would be.

Chapters 9 and 10 Analysis

The objective of Barr and Devers' trip to Trantor was to create a doubt in the Emperor's mind regarding Riose and Bodrig and Barr knows how to go through the many steps to gain an audience with the Emperor. It's a sign of the potential corruption of this particular government that Barr is certain that he can eventually bribe their way into an audience. Rather than simply being able to say that they have an important message and trusting that someone will take that message, money becomes the means by which the two men might have the desired audience with the Emperor. It doesn't work out for



them and they are almost captured, but they soon discover that their assistance on that particular point wasn't needed - that Riose and Bodrig had already been arrested.

Barr's belief in Hari Seldon's predictions remains strong. Though some might argue that the Empire was on the way to winning the war until Riose was arrested and executed, Barr says that very happening was predicted as part of Seldon's Plan, though it's not specifically outlined. Barr says that the very loyal Riose, because of the fact that he was willing to turn down bribes and managed military success, became a suspect in the Emperor's eyes. Remember that the Emperor was ill and was aware that many were watching him, expecting his imminent death. He'd begun to worry about the possibility that someone would hurry the process of the Emperor's death. It seems feasible that a military man who requests additional forces and ships might on a military campaign that has met with no resistance might be planning to overthrow his own government.



Chapters 11 and 12

Chapters 11 and 12 Summary

This begins the section call "The Mule." Newlyweds Bayta and Toran are arriving at Toran's home planet, Haven II. Haven is a red dwarf and is rather desolate on the surface. Toran says that she's not beautiful on a grand scale but that many people stop to take a second look at her. Bayta and Toran are typically young and in love, occasionally teasing each other. Bayta worries that Toran's father might not like her but Toran assures her that he likes all women. They enter a cave city, and Bayta is amazed at how beautiful it is, thick with vegetation and awash with artificial sunlight. The cave is the largest city on the planet, housing some twenty thousand people. They meet Toran's father, Fran, and Fran's half-brother, Randu. Toran gets some scolding from his father for marrying Bayta. Fran says marriage is an ancient Foundation ritual and benefits only the woman.

Bayta talks with the men about the state of affairs and of Seldon's Plan. She says that Seldon knew that the Galactic Empire was about to collapse and that his entire life's work was aimed at speeding the rebuilding and rejuvenation process. Toward that end, he established two Foundations, at opposite ends of the Galaxy but situated so that the two would mesh in one thousand years, creating a stronger empire than before. Bayta says that it's evident that it's almost time for another crisis. It's then that the reader learns the eventual fate of Lathan Devers, the Trader who'd traveled with Ducem Barr. Devers died in a slave mine eighty years before Bayta and Toran landed on Haven II. Randu says it's because Devers "lacked wisdom," but doesn't elaborate. Toran and Fran argue about what course the Traders should take if an altercation occurs. Fran says that any intruders would be "blasted," but Toran says the people of Haven aren't ready for a real battle. Toran says that the Traders need an ally - among the Foundation if possible. Randu says there's a rumor of someone who could hold his own in a battle - the Mule. While Randu isn't certain that the Mule could win against the Foundation, he says that a battle between the Mule and the Foundation might take the Foundation's attention long enough for the Traders to organize. Fran and Randu suggest that Bayta and Toran travel to Kalgan where the Mule is rumored to be planning a battle with a warlord.

Captain Han Pritcher works with the War Department and is currently waiting his turn for an audience with Foundation Mayor Indbur the Third. Indbur is Mayor by right of birth, though his grandfather was the first to change that position from an elected one. Indbur is not the leader his father and grandfather were but is meticulous. He requires ceremony. A person in his office is not allowed to smoke or to sit. Pritcher expects to be courtmartialled as he's failed to follow the order to collect taxes from those not paying. Pritcher argues that he does what he believes is best for the State, but Indbur says that he, as mayor, is the State and that Pritcher is to do what he's told. Pritcher says that he believes the Kalgan is a strategically important planet and the fact that a soldier of fortune - the Mule - has overtaken the planet should be investigated. Indbur and Pritcher



discuss the pros and cons for some additional time, and then say simply that Pritcher is to obey his orders. Pritcher sets a course for Kalgan anyway.

Chapters 11 and 12 Analysis

Seldon's work is well-known throughout the Foundation, and his birthday is a national holiday. Bayta and Toran happen to land on Haven II on Seldon's birthday, and Toran's father says there are no public transportation methods available because of the crowds.

Indbur is a pompous person who is actually not nearly the leader his father and grandfather were. He makes up for it by being meticulous and demanding complete respect from others. He seems to depend on that order as a way to make up for at least some of his lack of effective leadership. His attention to this detail is something of a detriment, because he simply can't function when those details are not in order.

Pritcher thinks he's above being a tax collector, even if that's what he's ordered to do. While he's a good soldier, he believes that he should be assigned some more important duties. He thinks that to the point that he's willing to challenge a superior. As Pritcher and Indbur discuss the need to investigate the Mule on Kalgan, Indbur cites Seldon's Plan and says that because of those predictions, there's simply no need to worry about impending war. Pritcher seems to also believe in Seldon's Plan but says that the plan "helps those who help themselves." Pritcher seems to fear the fatalism that might be the doom of a planet that believes it must do nothing.



Chapters 13 and 14

Chapters 13 and 14 Summary

Kalgan is a luxury planet. Bayta and Toran are there on a "honeymoon," though they are hoping to locate the Mule. On Kalgan, the warlord who had been holding court there has been defeated by an "unknown with a ridiculous name." Bayta and Toran are spending their time on the planet enjoying the sunshine - a commodity missing on Haven II. Bayta is convinced the Mule exists. They are arguing the intricacies of Seldon's Plan when Bayta's attention is caught by a spindly clown entertaining the tourists. He's chased by a guard but stops when he sees Bayta. He quickly engages her in brief conversation, and Toran offers to pay him for his entertainment but he declines. He does say that he's in trouble, and it's Bayta who says she doesn't know how they could help him. The guard catches up and says that the clown has escaped from the Mule and must be returned. The clown clings to Toran, and he stands up to the guard, claiming Foundation status and refusing to allow the clown's arrest.

Visitors on Kalgan park their spaceships in a "hangar" that is very similar to a motel. While the visitors live in their spaceships as they would in space, they may also pay for food and maid services. Toran and Bayta's ship is in this hangar when Pritcher approaches. Magnifico - who will later be revealed as the Mule - was eating voraciously when Pritcher arrives, and his first statement was that the intruder was the Mule. Pritcher asks why Toran is protecting the clown, and Toran says only that he "can't" tell him why. It's Pritcher who tells them that he's researched the Mule and believes the Mule is not human, but is a Mutant. When questioned, the clown says that he has seen the Mule. He says the Mule's hair is crimson, is so strong that he can hold up the clown with one finger, and that he wears spectacles - and that anyone who sees his eyes will die. Toran, Bayta, Magnifico and Pritcher all leave together in Toran's ship. As they leave the planet, they hear a news broadcast that indicates that the warlord on Kalgan knows a "member of his court" is missing.

Chapters 13 and 14 Analysis

The "unknown with the ridiculous name" is the Mule. As it turns out, the warlord—who is never named—becomes one of the Mule's loyal subjects. The Mule first appears to Bayta and Toran as Magnifico the clown. He will later say that he sensed that Bayta was of the Foundation and that was why he stopped to talk to her. Toran stands up to the guard to protect the clown but later says it's the hardest thing he's ever done. He'll later learn that the Mule was prompting that emotion and that the protection wasn't offered of Toran's own free will.

The guard stands next to Toran and lets Toran refuse arrest. He will later say that "orders or no orders," it was the hardest thing he'd ever done. Toran and Bayta will later learn that the guard had orders to allow Toran and Bayta to leave with the clown.

Magnifico's statements about the Mule continue to be convincing. He truly makes those around him believe that he'd been terrorized by the Mule and that he'd worked as the Mule's entertainer. There are times that the clown's statements are used as a matter of fact for those who are searching for the Mule. He spins some tall tales about the Mule and his powers, all believed by those in his company.



Chapters 15 and 16

Chapters 15 and 16 Summary

Ebling Mis is a renowned scientist in a world that respects science. He's described as "The Scientist - with capital letters and no smile." Mis is working on Seldon's formula and, because of his standing, is allowed some liberties not granted others. Mis tells the mayor that he's come to understand something new about Seldon's Plan.

There's a Time Capsule that seems to be a small building or a room within a building from which the image of Hari Seldon has appeared each time the Foundation has faced a crisis. In two of those cases, Seldon appeared without an audience and the current storyline doesn't explain how anyone knows that Seldon actually appeared. Mis tells Indbur that he now knows the time of Seldon's next appearance - in four months. Indbur says that if Seldon is making an appearance that soon, it means that there have been plots against the Foundation for years. Mis agrees this is true, but says it doesn't alter his findings. While they are arguing the point, a secretary enters and informs Indbur that Pritcher has returned, that he and those accompanying him are in custody, that there is unrest in Kalgan and that there are Kalganian ships entering Foundation territory now - armed and fighting.

There are twenty-seven Trading planets united only by their distrust of the Foundation. Traders meet on Radole - a small planet that could very well be the weakest of the twenty-seven. There were three kinds of people on Radole. There were those who had little correct information but were certain that the Traders were secure, those who knew a little more and were slightly less certain of the Traders' fate, and those who know a lot and were very concerned. There are plenty of rumors. It's generally known that the Mule has captured a planet known as Horlegger, though he lost some ships in the process. Fran says that he doesn't know where the Mule is getting his ships, but the fact that he might be manufacturing his own is worrisome in itself.

Randu, talking to a man named Mangin, says that it was his idea to send Toran to Kalgan. He says that Toran knows nothing of their organization, though he doesn't go into details about that organization either. Randu says that the Mule is some sort of mutant, but that he still questions what kind of mutant it might be. They later learn that there have been other attacks led by the Mule and that he likely has a new weapon.

Chapters 15 and 16 Analysis

On this particular day, Mis is wearing a rather disreputable cloak and is smoking a cigar when he arrives at Indbur's garden. He barges in, shaking off the guard and claiming that Indbur is responsible for paying for the ruined cloak. When Indbur objects that Mis doesn't have an appointment, the scientist says that he handed his note of request to some flunky in a purple uniform the previous day. He says that he would have merely



given it to Indbur, but that he knows Indbur requires formality. It's this casual disregard for Indbur's rules that make Mis stand out from others who are - at least in Indbur's presence - respectful. However, it's notable that neither Mis nor Pritcher actually obey Indbur's imperious commands. Indbur has trouble functioning when his order is upset. When Mis casually pushes aside stacks of papers and sits on Indbur's desk, the mayor is rattled. He finally tells Mis to get down so that he can put things back as they were so that he can think.

There's no reason given for the lack of trust between the trading planets and the Federation. It's likely that they have a history, but that's not part of the current storyline.

It's interesting to note that everyone is hearing rumors about the Mule and his prowess on the battlefield. While there are stories that the Mule defeated a particular planet, he's actually posing as a clown and is still with Bayta and Toran.



Chapters 17 and 18

Chapters 17 and 18 Summary

Bayta and Magnifico are in the home of Ebling Mis. Mis wants to learn what Magnifico knows about the Mule. As they wait, Magnifico seems frightened, and Bayta continually reassures him. Mis provides Magnifico with a Visor-Sonor - a type of instrument no longer used but one on which Magnifico is proficient. Mis tells Bayta to applaud Magnifico's playing but he needn't have bothered - Magnifico plays beautifully. When he's finished, he tells Bayta that the music was of his own composition.

Mis then asks the clown if he can use the psychic probe to discover what he knows about the Mule. Magnifico is reluctant but agrees, as long as Bayta holds his hand. Mis tells Indbur that he learned little and that "the little freak" is too afraid of the probe to go farther without damaging his mind. Meanwhile, the Traders have declared war on the Mule. Indbur continues to insist that the Foundation must prevail, and then orders Mis from his office. Seldon is to appear in the Time Vault in nine weeks, and Indbur does say that Mis may attend.

Seldon will appear at noon, and Indbur has allowed a select group of people to attend the event. Randu doesn't have advance permission but convinces Indbur to allow him access at the last minute. Indbur and Randu have words with Randu reminding Indbur that the Traders have won all the battles against the Mule while Indbur's military have lost each time. Indbur accuses Randu of treason and orders him to leave the planet.

Seldon appears on time and begins by saying that there's no need for formality. He then says that the current crisis, involving the revolt of the traders, introduces an element of uncertainty. The rest of Seldon's message is lost as the people realize that his prediction in this case is incorrect - it's not a revolt of the Traders that's threatening the Foundation but war waged by the Mule. Randu admits that the Traders had planned a civil war, but had given up the idea when the Mule appeared on the scene. It's then that the planet begins to take fire from the Mule's teams. Indbur immediately crumples on the floor, shouting to surrender. Magnifico puts on a convincing performance, shouting that the Mule is "coming to get me." Toran hits him, knocking him out, and runs from the vault with Mis and Bayta. The fall of the planet means that only the Traders remain, and the Mule will now turn his full attention on them.

Chapters 17 and 18 Analysis

Bayta has taken Magnifico under her wing. He's described as "grotesque" but Bayta seems to be genuinely affectionate toward the spindly little creature. When he seems sad or afraid, Bayta reassures him. That caring nature will come to her aid later, actually saving her life. Remember that Magnifico is the Mule and that he could have pushed Bayta's mind into anything, but he's simply amazed that she likes him regardless of his



looks and without his pushing. There's no real indication of how much of the Visor-Sonor music seen by Bayta was Magnifico's mind control at work and how much was his actual playing.

Magnifico's performance when the planet is being attacked is to be commended. No one watching them could have suspected that the Mule was actually sitting in the room while the military forces he commanded were preparing to attack the planet. The Mule has a weapon at his disposal - a technological gadget that stops all watches and cars. That weapon is credited with the Mule's success in military, and it's not yet been discovered that the Mule controls emotions. Indbur's performance is also noteworthy. The mayor falls to the floor, shouting to surrender. It might seem to the observer that the mayor is simply upset that Seldon's prophecy in this case is incorrect. Indbur has continually said that there's no need to worry because of Seldon's prediction that the Foundation will not fall. Now, he could be simply worried that he's done nothing and that the Foundation will be defeated. It will later be revealed that the Mule is exercising mind control, ensuring that Indbur is emotionally devastated and ready to give up.



Chapters 19 and 20

Chapters 19 and 20 Summary

Four months pass, and Haven is technically under siege. The communications fall apart and a sense of "helplessness and doom" have invaded. Bayta and Toran are back on Haven, and Bayta is working in a factory. She's dealing with people who are simply giving in to the helpless feeling. When she returns home, she finds Toran there. He says that he has sent for Magnifico and that he believes the three of them are about to be sent on a mission.

Newly appointed committee chairman Randu, talking to Mis, says that he feels that sense of dread more acutely during the day. Mis attributes it to "mob psychosis," and says Randu likely feels better at night as there are fewer people looking at him for answers. Mis says that it's because the people have depended on Seldon for so long that the people don't know how to act without that "prop." Mis says that he doesn't see a way out but knows there must be one, and that the Mule can be defeated. Mis says that the Mule is simply an unknown and that causes fear, but that he isn't superhuman and is bound to have weaknesses that can be attacked. It's Mis who first suggests that the Mule might have some technological weapon that suppresses mental energy. Randu says the people of the Foundation gave up without a fight and that many of the trading planets have given in. Randu suggests that Mis should travel to Trantor, to the university library, in order to learn more of the psychology. Randu hopes that that knowledge will help Mis evaluate information Magnifico has. The main purpose, Randu says, is to locate the Second Foundation.

The scene switches to the palace that was once occupied by Indbur. Pritcher is sneaking onto the grounds, holding a nuclear bomb under his tongue. Pritcher had found his way into the underground and met with others who wanted to fight against the reign of the Mule. Pritcher gains access to the palace, fully expecting to die in the explosion. Then he encounters a man in the palace, sitting calmly and obviously expecting Pritcher. He informs Pritcher that the bomb won't detonate and it doesn't. The man tells Pritcher that he isn't the Mule, but that he wants to recruit Pritcher for the Mule's army. Pritcher first objects then realizes that he knows the man - he's the warlord of Kalgan who was defeated by the Mule and became his loyal subject.

Chapters 19 and 20 Analysis

As Bayta and Toran are talking, Bayta admits to feeling the sense of doom and helplessness her self, and of being upset by the feeling. It's conceivable that Randu says he feels less of the sense of dread at night as Magnifico is also asleep then, perhaps exerting less mind control on others. There's no indication what Magnifico has been doing while on the planet. Toran has been on military maneuvers, and Bayta has been working.



Randu seems somewhat overwhelmed with the pressure of being the chairman during the time of war. The group itself has still not been defined, but there's little doubt it's a military endeavor that was initially planned to move against the Foundation but are not set against the Mule.

Mis has had some time to consider theories about the current situation. Randu admits that Mis is the best scientist available to them and is likely the only person who might be able to figure out the Mule's weaknesses and the location of the Second Empire. Mis doesn't hesitate, but seems willing to go to work on this project.



Chapters 21 and 22

Chapters 21 and 22 Summary

As the four travel toward the university library, they are bombarded with news bulletins from the Mule. The bulletins are little more than self-congratulatory messages lauding the Mule's successes. One particular newscast ends with the news that the Mule's forces are now occupying Haven - the planet Mis, Bayta, Toran and Magnifico just left. Magnifico seems terrified at the near miss. Mis wonders why Haven gave up without a fight, but other planets are fighting to the death. Mis insists that Magnifico has some piece of information that will help their cause but says it's likely a detail so small that neither he nor Magnifico has recognized it.

As the four are working together to plot a tedious course through enemy territory, they are approached by a Filian ship. The Filian captain demands their passports and traveling papers. They tell him that they were headed to Trantor for pleasure and that they had no traveling papers. He tells Toran that they are having trouble with their ship's power plant and orders him to board their vessel. They take Magnifico along, ostensibly to verify that he is not a privateer that's been in the vicinity. Toran looks over their power plant and discovers absolutely nothing wrong, then demands to return to his own ship. They allow Toran and Magnifico to leave without further incident.

Once there, Toran, Bayta, Mis and Magnifico discuss what just happened. Toran is convinced that it was a Foundation ship under the Mule and wants to blast them. Mis argues that if that were the case, they wouldn't allow Toran's ship to simply leave. Magnifico tells them that he saw Pritcher on board. Magnifico suggests that Pritcher was on an errand of his own. When the two ships happened to meet in space, Pritcher feared that he was being followed. Magnifico goes on to say that having decided who they were, Pritcher allowed them to leave and to continue on his own mission. Toran is skeptical but finally agrees to let the ship go without confrontation.

The planet Trantor has become Neotrantor - the "new Trantor." The former home of all things government is now a shadow of its old self. Where there were once only governmental buildings and no animals or agriculture, there are now sheep and farming operations. There are twenty worlds remaining of the Galactic Empire, and Dagobert IX is "Ruler of the Universe." Jord Commason is the wealthiest landowner of the Empire. He is driven by his elderly chauffeur, Ichney, once an important man on Trantor. Ichney says that the Foundation is merely a world and that its soldiers can be killed if they are blasted. The two men discuss rumors about the ongoing war at length with Commason going back to Seldon's predictions and Ichney saying that the time when people should listen to "soothsayers" has passed. Commason finds a "Personal Capsule" - a message encapsulated so that only he can open it - waiting for him at home. The message indicates that the Foundation has fallen and that the Mule is on his way to Trantor.



Bayta, Toran, Mis and Magnifico have an audience with the man they believe to be the Emperor only to find that he's an elderly ruler who has lost his senses and is now nothing much more than a rambling idiot. They convince him to give them written permission to travel to the former university grounds to study in the library, but the permission is almost worthless. As they leave, they are knocked out and wake up in restraints. The captors - one of them the Emperor's son - have not yet revealed what they plan to do with the four when Bayta wakes. Magnifico tells Bayta that one of them has his Visor-Sonor. They hand him the instrument, commanding that he play. The music he sends from the instrument is horrific, though Bayta gets only a glimpse of the true power of the music. When the music ends, the captors are on the floor, and Magnifico helps the others escape. He then tells Bayta that he killed the Prince because of the way the man was looking at her. Magnifico looks miserable. It seems that it's because he's so upset that the Prince had apparently planned to take liberties with Bayta. Toran believes that their capture means the Mule has already arrived on the planet and that they might as well leave. Mis says that he has been overrun by a feeling of confidence, and that he's certain he'll find what he was looking for in the library.

Chapters 21 and 22 Analysis

Magnifico seems afraid when the four are barely removed from Haven before the Mule's forces take over. It could be that he's concentrating his power on controlling emotions from his current location. It seems feasible that the Mule has controlled the people of Haven because of his proximity to them, but that he wasn't able to control the people of the other planets, leaving them to fight the Mule's forces.

As Toran and the others realize that they've been discovered, they are very surprised that in the vastness of space, they happen upon another ship. None of them have heard of the Filians and had no clue that they were in the "inner kingdom" of the Filians. They'll later learn that the reason is that there is no such kingdom and that the ship was indeed one of the Mule's. Magnifico puts on another stellar performance as he tells Bayta and Toran what his "poor, addled brain" remembers from his time on the spaceship. He says he did not understand most of what he heard and does not recall most of what happened, but does remember seeing Pritcher. Toran is skeptical but Bayta is putting her voice with Magnifico's, telling Toran that Magnifico's story makes sense. Toran notes that he feels his anger "ebbing away." It's likely that the Mule simply changed Toran's emotion to suit the moment.

Bayta is disappointed with the current state of affairs on Neotrantor. She says that she knows what an emperor should look like, and that Dagobert IX looked more like a benevolent grandfather. Bayta herself has spent lots of time being deceived by a person who seems to be something he's not. She's been living in close proximity to the Mule for months without making the connection, though she will soon figure that out.

Bayta seems overwhelmed by the fact that Magnifico killed the Prince. She seems to take it at face value that the clown has grown so attached to her that he wanted to protect her. After their release, Toran is ready to pack up and leave Trantor but Mis says

he's suddenly quite certain that he can find the information he seeks. There's no doubt that the Mule is planting that confidence, because he is also anxious to learn the location of the Second Empire.



Chapters 23 and 24

Chapters 23 and 24 Summary

Trantor had been border-to-border metal buildings but now has intermittent fields. Lee Senter meets those from the ship, offering the universal sign of peace - both hands extended palms up. Senter invites them in and notes that Bayta takes a seat among the men and even accepts a cigar, which she obviously enjoys greatly. Senter says that the current economy on Trantor is based on farming and trade. He says that the people raise much of their own food and that they trade the unlimited supply of processed metal to those on Neotrantor for other things they need. Toran says that they have come to study from the tomes at the university library, and Senter at first seems reluctant. He says the grounds are static - unused - and that they would prefer that it remain untouched. Mis says that they'll leave their spaceship as "hostage" while they are there, and Senter agrees.

There is a passage indicating that Toran and his party knew nothing of the "bloody Sack" that had occurred on Trantor. That "Sack" was the sacking of the city that led to many deaths but included an agreement that the university would remain free. As Mis and the others enter the library, Mis finds himself whispering in reverence of the great place. Mis works non-stop while Bayta and Toran set up a housekeeping of sorts. They trade for food, using gadgets from their ship to barter. Magnifico learns to use a book projector and spends hours over romances and adventure stories, seemingly as engrossed in his books as Mis.

Bayta and Toran are alone one day when Pritcher arrives. Toran immediately accuses him of following them, and Pritcher says their chance meetings are improbable, but not impossible. He then says that he's been converted to the Mule's side and explains that the Mule can control emotions. He says that explains why there are so many willing to surrender, and why there are so many willing converts. Pritcher insists that he himself may have been directed toward the Mule, but that he can now see things much more clearly than when he was hampered by his own emotional trends. Pritcher explains the Mule's goals and points out that he's established a new Empire in his brief reign - only seven years. Bayta and Toran may expect to be taken into custody or killed, but Pritcher says that his current orders have nothing to do with them and that he's willing to leave them alone. He assures them that the Mule knows they seed the Second Empire and that he'll deal with them when it's time. He then leaves and deep in the library, Mis mutters triumphantly to himself.

Chapters 23 and 24 Analysis

When the ship is setting down, Lee Senter notes that it's not a Neotrantor ship and takes a moment to wonder if this means there will be a conflict. It seems to indicate that the people of the planet remain willing to fight and that they have seen plenty of fighting



over the years. When Senter seems reluctant to have the visitors in the library, Mis tells them they'll leave the ship as insurance that they'll harm nothing. Mis continues to be under the Mule's control and is driven to find the answers he seeks.

When Pritcher shows up, Bayta and Toran are suddenly certain that there have been a series of coincidences that simply could not have been mere coincidences. This discovery will lead Bayta to make some decisions on her own though she won't discuss those with anyone - even Toran. Pritcher says that he wants to convert them to the Mule's side, but Bayta says that she expects he resisted taking that step as long as he could. When Pritcher confirms that, Bayta says that it's only fair that she and Toran also have the opportunity to resist. They say that Pritcher can send the Mule to convince them himself, and he assures them that the Mule is aware of their current project. Bayta seems dismayed that the Mule even knows that they are seeking the location of the Second Empire, but it's likely that she's already concluded that Magnifico is the Mule.



Chapters 25 and 26

Chapters 25 and 26 Summary

Over the next two weeks, Mis remains in the library, growing weaker daily. On one day, Bayta helps him bathe, dress in clean clothes, and then take a walk outside. Other than that, he remains completely focused. Toran once says that he doesn't think anything will help, and Bayta insists that he not say that. She says that defeatist talk makes her think the Mule is getting to them. Mis reports that he's concluded that there was nothing actually wrong with Seldon's Plan. The problem was that Seldon predicted mass societal trends and movements. The Mule, as an individual, fell outside the realm of possible predictions by psychohistory. Mis has located the minutes of the meeting in which Seldon set up the two Foundations. Mis says he's found a reference to the Second Foundation, but has not yet found a location.

Bayta tries to tell Mis that she's concerned about Magnifico - that she "wonders" about the clown. Bayta asks Mis why Magnifico wasn't conditioned by the Mule to be loyal. Mis explains that the Mule might have wanted Magnifico to be afraid - that fear could be funny to a tyrant like the Mule.

Mis then tells Bayta that he's learned some facts about the establishment of the two Foundations. The first was populated with physical scientists - no psychologists. Mis says that there must have been some purpose to that scheme. He says that the Second Foundation was a "mirror image," but was populated wholly by "mental scientists." Mis then says that he believes Seldon did that so that the scientific planets could battle any new weapons that arose, while the Second Foundation could battle someone like the Mule - with mental powers. That means the Second Foundation - following Seldon's predictions - will win against the Mule. Mis says that they must warn the Second Foundation of the Mule's imminent arrival. Mis then says that he hasn't yet found the location of the Second Foundation and goes back to work.

When Mis calls for Bayta and Toran, he tells them that he now knows the location of the Second Foundation. Bayta has begun carrying a gun everywhere she goes, saying only that it makes her feel better, and she has the gun as she stands by Mis's bedside. The old man is terribly weak and it's evident that his life is almost over. Bayta tells Magnifico to go upstairs but Mis says that he should stay. Just as Mis is about to reveal the location of the Second Foundation, Bayta draws her blaster and kills the old man. Toran is stunned and first accuses her of becoming loyal to the Mule. Bayta objects, saying the Mule has been with them all along. Toran then asks if she thinks Mis was the Mule.

They leave the confines of the library and go outside, Magnifico included. Toran and Bayta talk among themselves for several minutes, and Bayta points out that there have been a huge series of "coincidences." She says that they were in the Time Vault just as the Mule's men attacked. They were on Haven just days before the Mule's forces took over that planet. She says no one is that fortunate, to barely escape that many times.



She says that she realized the despair she felt on Neotrantor when Magnifico was playing the Visi-Sonor was the same sense of despair she'd felt in the Vault and on Haven. Since the feelings were the same, the person creating the feelings must be the same. Since Magnifico created the feeling on Neotrantor, he must be the Mule.

Suddenly, Magnifico, who had been huddled on the steps several feet away, is no longer a huddling, fearful mass of spindly legs. He says that it's a weakness that he wants people to understand him, but that he's now going to explain his actions. He says that his mother died before she ever saw him, that he never knew his father and that he was known as a "queer child." He was raised "haphazard" and never had a true home. Though he could control emotions, he didn't fully understand his capabilities until he was in his twenties. Even then, it was some time before he realized that others couldn't do so. He explained that he sees others emotions as a needle pointing in a particular direction. He can control that needle so that a person feels something different and can make the feeling remain indefinitely. Magnifico has been playing the Visi-Sonor for the masses on the various planets and has been using the instrument to enhance his control. Magnifico, now fully revealed as the Mule, says that he needed Mis to locate the Second Foundation. He says he made but one mistake along the way - that he didn't control Bayta's mind. He says that she liked him for himself and that he was so enamored with that unique situation that he didn't tamper with her mind or emotions. Bayta says that she and Toran have defeated the Mule and that she's ready to die. The Mule says that he's not going to kill them. He says that he's considered building a dynasty with the hope that his offspring would also have his power, but that he'd need a suitable consort. He senses Bayta's apprehension and says that she should realize that he could make her happy - that it would be an artificial happiness but that there would be no difference where she's concerned. However, he says that he won't do that and simply walks away, leaving the two of them at the library.

Chapters 25 and 26 Analysis

Bayta has not confided her fears with Toran, that Magnifico and the Mule are one and the same. She feels that Magnifico will know if she does that. While Bayta hasn't figured out that Magnifico is not in her own mind at this point, she is trying to protect herself in case he does invade. She says that if had she fully made a plan to kill Mis, she feels Magnifico would have known. There's no real indication why Bayta doesn't attempt to kill Magnifico instead of killing Mis, except that she seems to think he would know of any plot like that. She says that she hasn't fully thought it through, for fear that he would know. She seems to believe that he's been controlling her mind, as well. It seems that Bayta believes that she is somehow stronger than the others, that she's resisted the feelings of despair to some degree that others have fallen victim to. She doesn't realize until they're talking outside that the Mule hasn't tampered with her emotions.

When Bayta shoots and kills Mis, Toran is immediately certain that she has become a convert of the Mule. When Bayta says that's not true, she adds that they've carried the Mule with them. Toran first thinks that she means that Mis is the Mule. It's only then that Bayta puts her thoughts in order and prepares to share them with Toran.

The Mule has fallen into an ageless trap - allowing his need for genuine love to outweigh his common sense. He admits that his one mistake is in not tampering with Bayta's mind, but that he relished the feeling of someone caring for him without his interference.



Characters

Bayta

A newlywed and member of the Foundation, Bayta is enmeshed into the battle through her marriage to her husband, Toran. She's pretty though Toran says that it's in an ordinary sort of way. Her dark hair, pale skin and confident bearing earn her second looks and respect wherever they travel. On one planet, Bayta takes her place with the men and even smokes a cigar - an action that the planet's people think is incredible but they do accept that she's confident enough to take her place among the men.

Bayta has taken on the life of her husband as a Trader and is welcomed onto his planet by his father and uncle. She agrees to travel to other planets in search of information that will help their underground military cause and is with Toran on Kalgan when they meet the clown named Magnifico - who is actually the Mule. She's also a kind-hearted person and it's that kindness that ultimately saves her from the Mule. Bayta is the one person who is not repulsed by the physical appearance of the Mule. He tells her that he was so amazed by that "natural" affection that he didn't tamper with her mind. As he allowed her to be free of his control, Bayta is able to end Ebling Mis' life before he can reveal the location of the Second Empire. Bayta says that she realized the identity of the Mule but was trying not to allow him to know that she had that piece of information. She says that she managed to let no one know that she planned to kill Mis before he could complete his message regarding the Second Empire. She says that she would have planned to kill the Mule instead, but didn't think she would manage that without his knowing.

Magnifico the Clown, otherwise known as the Mule

Magnifico is taken in by Bayta on a beach on the resort planet Kalgan. Magnifico is running down the beach when he stops to talk to Bayta. Toran thinks it's Bayta's good looks that attracted the clown's attention, but Magnifico will later say that he knew she was from the Foundation. Bayta believes Magnifico will be the link she's searching for to find the Mule and takes him in. Magnifico later reveals himself as the Mule, but meanwhile lives with Bayta, Toran and the psychologist, Ebling Mis. Bayta is taken with the man, though his appearance is grotesque. He has a beaked nose and is very skinny, making him an oddity that repulses most people. Bayta is the exception.

The Mule is actually a mutant and is able to control the emotions of people, both in his immediate vicinity and over long distances with the use of technology. As Bayta likes him "naturally," the Mule is unwilling to touch her emotions. He is, however, able to force an entire planet to bow to him simply by introducing a sense of dread and the desire to do so. The Mule continues to travel with Bayta, Toran and Mis as he believes Mis will eventually discover the location of the Second Empire. The Mule wants to find it immediately in order to attack it before the people have time to prepare a defense



against his power. Just as Mis is about to reveal the location, Bayta kills him. Though Toran first thinks that she must have become a follower of the Mule, Bayta explains that she believes Magnifico the clown is the Mule, and he quickly admits that truth of that statement. The Mule will continue on his quest, though he opts not to kill Bayta or Toran. He says that he counts them as friends and as such, simply walks away from them.

Hari Seldon

Hari Seldon has been dead for centuries by the time this novel takes place. He created a mathematical equation called "Seldon's Plan" that has become known to the people of the day. The plan is known as the "psychohistory" of the galaxy. In essence, Seldon used mathematical equations to predict the history of the galaxy. The premise was that, all things being roughly the same as in Seldon's lifetime, specific things would occur and other things would not occur. Seldon predicted five crises for the Foundation. He makes an "appearance" at each and tells of the current situation, as he's predicted it will happen. In the current situation, Seldon's prediction is wrong. He says that the Foundation is currently in a battle with the Traders. Seldon didn't predict the Mule at all. Ebling Mis explains that error as happening because Seldon couldn't have predicted a single mutant person who would have such a profound effect on the Galaxy.

Ebling Mis

Mis is a renowned psychiatrist who is working to understand Hari Seldon's theory of psychohistory. Mis is rather eccentric and is the only person who flaunts the rules of decorum insisted on by Mayor Indbur the Third. Mis smokes cigars and lights up in the mayor's office, despite the fact that it's against Indbur's rules. He also appears without an appointment and even barges in on the Mayor's gardening time. Indbur allows it because Mis is a genius on the subject of psychohistory. Hari Seldon has made appearances in the Time Capsule four times and Mis tells Indbur that he knows when Seldon's next appearance will be. It happens on time, though Seldon's prediction this time is incorrect. Mis travels with Bayta and Toran in an effort to discover the location of the Second Empire, a world they believe can help defeat the Mule. Mis has become ill, driving himself beyond endurance in his studies. They will later learn that the Mule has been controlling his mind, urging him to find the answer. Just as Mis is about to reveal the location, Bayta kills him so that the Mule will not have that information.

Toran

Toran is Bayta's husband. Toran is a Trader, just as his father and uncle are. He lives on a planet called Haven. When the pair arrive on the planet, Toran's father is askance that Toran married the woman. Toran seems to be honest and brave. When Toran and Bayta meet the man they'll eventually learn is the Mule, Toran stands up to a guard in order to save the clown from arrest. As it turns out, the Mule was controlling Toran's emotions and causing him to take those actions.



Han Pritcher

Pritcher is a military captain who's chief duties were to work with the war department on Trantor. Pritcher is introduced when he's summoned by Mayor Indbur and is reprimanded for refusing to follow orders. Pritcher objects that he's not an "errand boy" to be sent to enforce payment of taxes but is ordered to do just that anyway. Pritcher will later become a colonel in the Mule's army and will talk briefly to Bayta and Toran while they are waiting for Ebling Mis to discover the location of the Second Empire.

Fran

Fran is Toran's father. Fran is a Trader and lost one arm in a tragic crash. He has never been married and is amazed that his son chose to do so. Fran is quite the ladies' man.

Randu

Randu is Fran's brother and the uncle of Toran. Randu is also a member of the underground resistance and will later become leader of that group.

Ammel Brodrig

Brodrig is the envoy of his Imperial Majesty and Privy Secretary of the Council. Brodrig is sent to watch over Riose's efforts at war and is also executed at the same time as Riose.

Bel Riose

Riose is the Military Governor of Siwenna and General of the Imperial Forces. Riose is a decorated war hero and seems to be at the heart of the book's plot from the beginning. He seeks to win planets for his Emperor, or at least he says that's the purpose of his attack on outer planets. However, there comes a time when Riose becomes overly successful, earning the attention of the Emperor. As Barr will later explain it, Riose's sheer successes make the Emperor nervous, prompting Riose's arrest on trumped-up charges and his execution.

Sergeant Mori Luk

Described as the perfect soldier as he is blindly obedient and wildly dedicated to his leader, Luk allows himself to be taken in by Devers when the trader gives him a personal freezer to send home to his wife. Luk then sneaks books in to Devers and Barr and is the one who tells them that Brodrig is going to visit them the following day. It's also Luk who encounters Devers and Barr as they are escaping to Devers' ship.



Objects/Places

Seldon's Plan

Hari Seldon created a plan, called Seldon's plan of psychohistory. The idea is that the future can be predicted using a mathematical formula and known facts. While the actions of a single individual cannot be predicted, the actions and events of mass society can. The problem with Seldon's plan is that it doesn't take into account an individual capable of significant impact on society nor major changes - new weapons, for example. Seldon accurately predicted four of five crises to be faced by the Foundation but missed the final crisis, predicting that it would be an uprising of the Traders rather than a war waged by the Mule.

Wanda

Wanda is an obscure planet that becomes a temporary Imperial headquarters for Del Riose.

Trantor

Trantor is the city where Cleon II rules from. The planet is described as the living pulse of the Empire. The only function of the planet is as a base for government and administrators. There are no natural life forms here. Man and his pets are all that exist. The only water is what's held in underground cisterns. Some forty billion people live on Trantor prior to the Mule's occupation.

Trantor Imperial News

The News is the official newspaper of the Trantor government.

Neotrantor

Neotrantor is the new city established after the sacking of Trantor.

Periphery

The Periphery are the outer limits of the Foundation. Those planets outside the "outer most edge" of Foundation influence and control, but that are settled.



Siwenna

Siwenna is the planet where Ducem Barr lives.

Haven II

Haven II is the planet where Traders live and home to Toran, his father Fran and uncle Randu. Bayta and Toran, newlyweds, are to make their home on the planet. The people live in caves complete with vegetation and artificial sunlight.

Kalgan

Kalgan is a resort planet where Bayta and Toran travel, ostensibly for their honeymoon but actually to search for the Mule.

The Time Vault

The Time Vault is three centuries old but doesn't show normal wear and tear. It's complete with seating and a large enclosed glass case. It's in that case that Hari Seldon makes his periodic appearance.

Visor-Sonor

The Visor Sonor is a type of instrument that uses a sort of mind control. Bayta describes the light show that comes to life when Magnifico plays the instrument. Coupled with the mind powers of the Mule, the instrument becomes a deadly force.



Themes

Quest for Power

The quest for power is an overriding theme in this book. The most obvious is the Mule's quest for domination of the entire galaxy. The Mule is a mutant and is grotesque in appearance. He tells Bayta his life story. His mother died in childbirth and he never knew his father. He says that he grew up "haphazard," indicating that he had no real home. When he was young, he realized that he had the power to control emotions but thought everyone had that same ability. When he realized otherwise, he began to use his power to suit his own purposes. That misuse grew until he'd sought out the warlord on Klagon, controlling his mind and making him among the Mule's faithful followers. He wasn't happy with any victory and said he planned to take control of the galaxy.

It's noteworthy that the Mule never actually accomplishes anything other than mind control. He controls the generals who lead the battles that conquer new planets. He controls the planet officials who are willing to lay down arms in surrender to the Mule. He controls all the people who do the actual work, but does nothing himself. It seems that bothers him somewhat, though there's not likely to be any change. The fact that he's not doing anything probably makes the victories less fulfilling for the Mule himself.

The Mule isn't the only character in this novel who is seeking power. Indbur the Third, Mayor of the Foundation, is an almost ineffectual leader. He's Mayor by right of birth, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather to hold the office though he really doesn't have the qualities of those before him. Indbur tries to make up for his lack of leadership abilities by standing on ceremony and making certain that everything is done in the proper order. Anyone who wants to see him must fill out request forms, which are considered before the person may or may not have an audience with Indbur. His office has only one chair so that visitors must stand. His minor controls on these points offer a slim sense of power that is all Indbur can accomplish. Therefore, he makes the most of those opportunities.

Belief in Seldon

The majority of the people of the time believe in Hari Seldon and in his plan with a fervor that seems almost religious. They celebrate Seldon's birthday and schoolchildren study him. There are several times when someone says, "In Seldon's name," almost as if it were a prayer. Seldon himself was a scientist and mathematician. He lived centuries before the current story line and was reportedly a genius in his field. In truth, no one since Seldon has fully understood his theories or how he arrived at the complex math equations that he used to make his predictions. They simply accept that Seldon knew what he was doing.



The fact that many of his prophecies have already come true makes him much more believable. Some take it to the point of fatalism. They say that Seldon predicted that something will occur and that there is no need to do anything, because his prediction will come true. When the Foundation and Empire clash, there are those who say that it doesn't matter that the Empire is strong because the Foundation will simply win. When it happens that the Empire general leading the charge is executed for treason, those who believe in Seldon say that it was all part of Seldon's prediction. When Ebling Mis makes his own prediction that Seldon will make an "appearance" on a particular date at a particular time, the Time Vault is filled with dignitaries hoping to witness the event.

The Empire is embroiled in a battle with the Mule but Seldon's message is that the Foundation must compromise with the Traders on the current rebellion. When those present realize that Seldon's prediction is that the Foundation and Traders are at war, the people are crushed. Mis puts it down to a mob psychosis. It's likened unto muscles that have not been used and have atrophied. The people have so long been "propped up" by Seldon's Plan that they don't know how to stand on their own.

The Need for Acceptance

The Mule, by way of his mutant abilities, is a powerful person. He is able to control the minds of anyone he meets so that he could always be the most popular, the most liked, even the most loved person in history. He meets Bayta by chance and recognizes only that she's a member of the Foundation. Immediately after their meeting, the Mule - then posing as Magnifico the clown - realizes that he is in a unique situation. Bayta is not repulsed by his features. She takes an immediate liking to the spindly little clown and takes him under her wing. Toran apparently doesn't dislike the clown, but he wants to give him a token payment and send him on his way. Bayta is willing to listen - something the Mule has never encountered unless he bends another's mind to that purpose.

That acceptance immediately binds the Mule to Bayta. He never touches her mind nor interferes with her emotions except when she is part of a group. He holds concerts on Toran's home planet, Haven, and Bayta picks up the feelings of dread and doom from that. He also plays for the Prince on Neotrantor and she picks up the doom in that situation as well, but the Mule never targets Bayta directly and never interferes with her emotions in any way other than with the Visi-Sonor.

Once Bayta discovers that Magnifico and the Mule are one and the same, her feelings for him change. Yet, by then, the Mule is so engrossed in Mis's research and believes he's about to learn the location of the Second Foundation that he no longer pays that much attention to Bayta. It's only then that he discovers that he's made a mistake by not tapping into Bayta's mind. He says that was his one mistake in the entire endeavor, but says that having someone like him without being coerced was wonderful and that he simply couldn't bring himself to interfere with that.



Style

Point of View

The book is written in third person from the point of view of several of the characters. This point of view is adequate for this story though it's also vital to have additional information and that is provided through various means. For example, there are "references" that are taken from an encyclopedia of the day. Those references provide vital information that explains situations, events and people. There are also occasional looks into the thoughts and minds of others. The fact that the book never offers any insight into the thoughts of Magnifico the Clown becomes significant to the reader, providing a clue that he's a more important character than he might seem on the surface. There are no looks into his thoughts because those looks would give away the ending - that Magnifico is actually the Mule. The rare looks into an individual character's thoughts provide insight to the plot and unfolding story.

The book is divided between exposition and dialogue effective for the telling of the story. In some cases, that dialogue provides an accurate look at the people and their thoughts.

Setting

The story is set in the Galaxy, as it would be in the future. Space travel is normal and prolific, meaning many planets have been settled throughout the Galaxy. The planets are as uniquely different as the various cities that actually exist on Earth. Those differences seem believable, though the space travel and magnificence of the cities may seem unbelievable.

The planet Trantor is the governmental center. As such, the chief duties of everyone on the planet are the administration of the Galaxy. It seems feasible that a central government of this sort could exist and that it would be something like Asimov describes. Haven, the planet inhabited by the Traders, is a desolate place on the surface but underground living quarters are habitable. Again, considering current knowledge of the desolate conditions of some planets, it seems reasonable to believe that some people would choose to settle on such planets and that they would do their best to create comfortable living places.

Kalgan is a planet that caters exclusively to those who want to play. The resort planet has a huge "spaceship hotel" where visitors can dock their ships while visiting the resort. Amenities, such as maid service, are available. Beaches are crowded with tourists and those visitors undergo a treatment to ensure that they won't be harmed by the sun's rays during their visit.



Language and Meaning

The book is fairly easy to understand though there are many terms that are meant to be only slightly grasped or that are complex technical terms and are meant to be accepted rather than understood. Because this is one of a series, there are also passages that refer to earlier events that are difficult to fully appreciate unless the reader has also read those novels. Despite that occasional reference, the novel can be read as a stand-alone book. It's important to remember that the book will have an open ending to prepare the reader for the next of the series and that it's not the author's intent to fully wrap up all the details at the book's conclusion.

The book is written with pieces of history inserted along the way. Those historical facts are touted as excerpts of the Encyclopedia Galactica as printed in 1020 F.E. Those "excerpts" provide background and useful information to the reader, filling in some blanks in the story's line.

The reader should keep in mind that Asimov created this series in the 1950s. At least some of the dialogue is indicative of that time frame. Though some of the characters "sound" remarkably the same, most have their own unique phrases and words. The Mule, posing as the clown, has a stilted, poetic quality to his conversations. The Trader, Devers, seems to have significant slang - words such as "boss," when referring to others. Those differences lend a sense of reality to the characters and do not hamper the flow of the story.

Structure

The book is divided into two sections. Part I is "The General" and Part II is "The Mule." The book is further divided into twenty-five chapters of approximately equal length. Additionally, a prologue offers a brief glimpse into the series of books up to this point. The book is one of a series referred to as "The Foundation Series." The Foundation is a galactic government and the series is the detailed history of their various eras, events and endeavors. If the reader has at least the basic information of what to expect, the book can be read as a stand-alone novel though there are references to earlier events that will be necessarily vague. The prologue does a fairly effective job of condensing the plot to prepare the reader for an adequate understanding of this particular book of the series.

The two sections seem somewhat disjointed and it's rather difficult to find a common thread that links the two. The opening chapters seem to be a story within themselves, though they are likely closely tied with the previous books in this series. The Mule is arguably the more interesting of the two sections. In that section, the plot is clearer and the storyline easier to follow.



Quotes

"I went back to his birthplace for this, and questioned people who for their knowledge will not live long. Few enough are still alive. They remember the baby born thirty years before - the death of his mother - his strange youth. The Mule is not a human being."
- Captain Pritchard, Chapter 14, Page 147

"But better to be alone during these crippling bouts than to endure the prinking of the courtiers, their lavish sympathy, their soft, condescending dullness. Better to be alone than to watch those insipid masks behind which spun the tortuous speculations on the chances of death and the fortunes of the succession."
-Cleon II, Chapter 4, Page 33

"Worlds isolated in their new barbarism of two centuries felt the sensation once again of Imperial overlords upon their soil. Allegiance was sworn in the face of the massive artillery cover the capital cities."
Chapter 5, Page 40

"Yes, I've heard that sort of talk; Seldon, Second Empire and so on. They put kids to sleep at night with the stuff. The young squirts curl up in the spare rooms with their pocket projectors and suck up Seldon thrillers. But it's strictly nonadult. Nonintelligent adult, anyway."
- Devers, Chapter 5, Page 48

"See that, sir. It is a relic of the Imperium. The ornamented benches, built for lovers, linger on, fresh and useful, while the factories and the palaces collapse into unremembered ruin."
- Riose, Chapter 6, Page 54

"Assassination isn't the way out, Devers. I once tried it, under provocation, when I was twenty - but it solved nothing. I removed a villain from Siwenna, but not the Imperial yoke; and it was the Imperial yoke and not the villain that mattered."
- Barr, Chapter 7, Page 62

"I'll do the talking. In the first place, they wouldn't understand your accent, and in the second, you don't know the etiquette of Imperial bribery. It's an art, I assure you."
- Barr, Chapter 9, Page 88

"There was a dead hand pushing all of us; the mighty general and the great Emperor;



my world and your world - the dead hand of Hari Seldon. He know that a man like Riöse would have to fail, since it was his success that brought failure; and the greater the success, the surer the failure."

- Barr, Chapter 10, Page 96

"If the story of Seldon is true, he foresaw the complete collapse of the Empire through his laws of psychohistory, and was able to predict the necessary thirty thousand years of barbarism before the establishment of the new Second Empire to restore civilization and culture to humanity. It was the whole aim of his life-work to set up such conditions as would insure a speedier rejuvenation."

- Bayta, Chapter 11, Page 111

"Captain Pritchard's expressionless face did not soften. He remained stiffly erect. Protocol required that a subject honored by an audience with the mayor may not sit down - a point perhaps needlessly reinforced by the fact that only one chair existed in the room, the one underneath the mayor. Protocol further required no statements other than those needed to answer a direct question."

Chapter 12, Page 122

"If, from a distance of seven thousand parsecs, the fall of Kalgan to the armies of the Mule had produced reverberations that had excited the curiosity of an old Trader, the apprehension of a dogged captain, and the annoyance of a meticulous mayor - to those on Kalgan itself it produced nothing and excited no one. It is the invariable lesson to humanity that distance in time, an din space as well, lends focus. It is not recorded, incidentally, that the lesson has ever been permanently learned."

Chapter 13, Page 128

"I went back to his birthplace for this, and questioned people who for their knowledge will not live long. Few enough are still alive. They remember the baby born thirty years before - the death of his mother - his strange youth. The Mule is not a human being."

- Captain Pritchard, Chapter 14, Page 147

"And so it happened, that when others bent their knee, he refused and added loudly that his ancestors in their time bowed no knee to any stinking mayor. And in his ancestors' time the mayor was elected anyhow, and kicked out a will, and that the only people that inherited anything by right of birth were the congenital idiots."

- Ebling Mis, Chapter 15, Page 151

"Listen, don't kid yourself. Wars don't just start by themselves and we have a bunch of shrewd apples running things. They know what they're doing."

Chapter 16, Page 163



"All kinds of mutants, yes, Mangin, All kinds! But only one kind of Mule. What kind of a mutant would start as an unknown, assemble an army, establish, they say, a five-mile asteroid as original base, capture a planet, then a system, then a region - and then attack the Foundation and defeat them at Horleggor. And all in two or three years!"
- Randu, Chapter 17, Page 168

"It's a mass psychosis, an unpredictable mob panic. Ga-LAX-y, Randu, what do you expect? Here you have a whole culture brought up to a blind, blubbering belief that a fold hero of the past has everything all planned out and is taking care of every little piece of their unprintable lives. The thought-pattern evoked has religious characteristics, and you know what that means."
- Ebling Mis, Chapter 19, Page 199

"The strangers of the Foundation knew nothing of the swirling days and nights of the bloody Sack that had left the University untouched. They knew nothing of the time after the collapse of the Imperial power, when the students, with their borrowed weapons, and their pale-faced inexperienced bravery, formed a protective volunteer army to protect the central shrine of the science of the Galaxy. They new nothing of the Seven Days Fight, and the armistice that kept the University free, when even the Imperial palace clanged with the boots of Gilmer and his soldiers, during the short interval of their rule."
Chapter 24, Page 248

"Foundation Number One was a world of physical scientists. It represented a concentration of the dying science of the Galaxy under the conditions necessary to make it live again. No psychologists were included. It was a peculiar distortion, and much have had a purpose. The usual explanation was that Seldon's psychohistory worked best where the individual working units - human beings - had no knowledge of what was coming and could therefore react naturally to situations."
- Ebling Mis, Chapter 25, Page 266

Topics for Discussion

Who is Del Riose? What eventually happens to him? Why do some say that fits into Seldon's Plan?

What's the purpose of the formality required by Indbur the Third? How did Indbur come to be Mayor of the Foundation? Is he an effective leader? What does he do when Ebling Mis pushes the things around on his desk?

Why do Bayta and Toran go to Kalgan? Are they successful in their mission? Was it by their design that they meet Pritchard and the Mule?

Who is Pritchard? How does he come under the Mule's control? Does he say that he resisted? What does Bayta say to him about turning herself over to the Mule?

Describe the relationship between Magnifico the clown and the Mule. What is the Mule? Describe his power. How did he learn to use his power? What is his objective?

Why does the Mule not tamper with Bayta's emotions? Does he have the ability to kill? Why does he not kill Bayta and Toran?

What is Ebling Mis searching for in the university library? What drives him? Why does Bayta kill Mis? Does she succeed in her objective?

Describe two of the places in this story. What is the central government planet? What is it like? Does it seem believable that an entire planet would exist for this purpose?

What is Seldon's Plan? What happens when Seldon appears just prior to the Mule's attack? What happens to the people who had previously believed in the plan? What was the flaw in Seldon's plan?