

The Fall of Hyperion Study Guide

The Fall of Hyperion by Dan Simmons

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Plot Summary

The John Keats cybrid that was killed in the previous book, *Hyperion*, has been given a new cybrid body and taken the name Joseph Severn. Because of his special relationship with the original Keats cybrid, the consciousness of which now resides in a neural shunt on the back of Brawne Lamia's head, Severn is able to see visions in his dreams of the events unfolding to Lamia and the other pilgrims on *Hyperion*. CEO Gladstone takes Severn on as an advisor so he may keep her informed of events on the planet of *Hyperion*.

The Ouster rebellion attacks the Hegemony of man at *Hyperion*. The Hegemony fleet is certain it will be able to defend the planet but is quickly proved wrong. CEO Gladstone has already been advised by the TechnoCore that the Ousters must be fought, for any attempt at arranging a peace will end with the annihilation of the human race. Gladstone commits the fleet to *Hyperion* and the Hegemony is immediately attacked in multiple locations by Ouster ships that had not been detected. With the bulk of the fleet massed at *Hyperion*, the Hegemony defensive response is too slow, and the Ousters begin bombarding the outer worlds. It quickly becomes apparent that the Ouster attacking fleets are not what they appear.

In fact, it is the TechnoCore that is behind the war. It is attempting to wipe out humanity and make way for an AI-created Ultimate Intelligence. The TechnoCore knows it will succeed in creating the UI because it has already been contacted from the future by the UI. But the message from the future also stated that humanity will also create a new Intelligence capable of fighting the TechnoCore's UI. Part of that Intelligence has traveled back in time and is hiding itself in the current events. The TechnoCore wants to help the future TechnoCore UI to flush out the human UI and deal a crippling or fatal blow to humanity.

Inevitably, the war is settled by events at the Time Tombs on *Hyperion* and the actions of the *Hyperion* pilgrims and the mysterious creature from the future known as the Shrike.



Chapters 1-4

Chapters 1-4 Summary

In the previous volume, a group of pilgrims set out to the world of Hyperion to attempt to puzzle out the phenomena of the Time Tombs and the mysterious being called the Shrike. Each pilgrim had an individual purpose for visiting the Time Tombs. Sol Weintraub was attempting to discover the reason why his daughter Rachel was aging backward after an incident on Hyperion 24 years earlier. The Consul, who was supposed to be the Hegemony's ambassador to the Ousters, was secretly betraying the Hegemony to avenge the abasement of his home world. Brawne Lamia sought the killers of her lover, John Keats, a cybrid who now resides in a neural shunt attached to the back of Lamia's head. Father Hoyt sought to have removed the strange parasitic lifeforms called cruciforms. Colonel Kassad wished to face the Shrike in combat and to learn the true nature of his enigmatic lover Moneta. Martin Silenus hoped that returning to Hyperion would inspire him to finish his masterwork, an epic poem which he believed created the Shrike and controls the actions of the Hegemony. Het Masteen brought an creature called an erg, which he believed would allow him to fulfill his destiny of piloting the Shrike's tree of thorns through the Hegemony to wreck retributive havoc on its worlds.

Part 1

Chapter 1

Joseph Severn attends a party on at Tau Ceti Center for the departure of the FLEET armada to the Ouster War in Hyperion. He strikes up a conversation with a couple called the Filomels, who assure him that the Ousters deserve what is coming to them. Joseph Severn, who is an artist, draws a caricature of Mrs. Filomel, at her request, before he is pulled aside to meet with CEO Gladstone.

Chapter 2

Severn meets with CEO Gladstone and her closest aid Leigh Hunt. Gladstone tells Severn that he will be kept close to her for the remainder of the war, under the guise of drawing sketches of the war council proceedings. When Leigh Hunt raises questions as to why Severn is necessarily, Gladstone has Severn reveal his true identity and special insight into the Hyperion matter. He brings Gladstone and Hunt up to speed on the mission to Hyperion, including the pilgrim's stories and secrets, most notably the treason of the Consul, who triggered the device given him by the Ousters to open the Time Tombs early and release the Shrike. Severn's dreams of the previous night ended with the pilgrims descending from Keep Chronos toward the valley of the Time Tombs to confront the Shrike.

Chapter 3



That night, Severn dreams of the pilgrims. They visit the Time Tombs, navigating their way around the entropic tides that wash over the place. There is no sign of Het Masteen, the Templar, who was a fellow pilgrim until his disappearance and presumed death aboard the ship which bore them across the Sea of Grass. There is no sign of the Shrike. The pilgrims camp near the Time Tombs for the night.

As the pilgrims sleep, a sandstorm besieges their tents. Brawne Lamia awakens to see that Father Hoyt is missing. She decides to walk into the storm to find him while Colonel Kassad guards the camp.

Chapter 4

At a military briefing the next day, CEO Gladstone is informed that Hegemony forces have succeeded in creating enough stable space around Hyperion to begin Farcaster construction. Ground troops have been deployed on Hyperion to guard against an invasion. The military is bracing for a possible counterattack from the Ousters but is confident that for all intents and purposes, Hyperion has been secured. Afterward, Severn goes drinking at a nearby bar and is picked up by Lady Filomel, who invites him back to her house to paint a more thorough portrait.

Chapters 1-4 Analysis

Severn believes that his seemingly inexplicable ability to see the true events that occur to the pilgrims on Hyperion is a result of his connection to the John Keats cybrid, which resides in a neural shunt on one of the pilgrims, Brawne Lamia, and is thus in an oblique way in contact with the party on Hyperion. Severn is the second cybrid created by the TechnoCore, which created him for a specific purpose. But his ability to see the events on Hyperion and, as the story develops, the events elsewhere is related to his function as the harbinger of the manifestation of a part of the human Ultimate Intelligence which will follow him. He is not limited to seeing what happens to the pilgrims in his dreams nor is he limited to seeing only what the pilgrims see. He is not even limited to the cybrid Joseph Severn body. He has imposed these limits on himself because he does not understand his true nature.

A cybrid is a biological human being that has been raised with its consciousness connected to the TechnoCore and a distinct Artificial Intelligence imposed upon it. The TechnoCore told the Hegemony that it began experimenting with recreating great figures in history in this manner in order to stretch the boundaries of AI. In the first book, HYPERION, a cybrid created to try to bring to life the great romantic poet, John Keats, whose poems "Hyperion" and "The Fall of Hyperion," provide a metaphorical backdrop to the series. The cybird hired Brawne Lamia to attempt to figure out who tried to kill it. John Keats and Brawne Lamia discovered that it was the Core itself that tried to do away with Keats. After the Keats cybrid is killed, and his consciousness is filed away in the neural shunt attached to Brawne Lamia's head, the Core created the Joseph Severn cybrid. Joseph Severn was the friend and attending physician to the real John Keats



when the poet died in Rome in 1821. The two do not share the same consciousness inside the TechnoCore; nevertheless, there is a connection between them.

In the early stages of the war, the confidence of the Hegemony is near absolute. Everyone but Meina Gladstone and her inner circle believes the Ouster threat is minimal. Gladstone has been tipped off by the Stable elements of the TechnoCore that the conflict with the Ousters will bring about one of two outcomes for the Hegemony, either huge costs in lives and infrastructure coupled with a chance for the survival of humanity or outright annihilation of the human race. She knows she must not reveal the realities of the impending events because if she does, she will have no way to counter the mob rule that will remove her from power before she can guide the events to the first eventuality.



Chapters 5-8

Chapters 5-8 Summary

Chapter 5

The cruciforms on Father Hoyt are causing him nearly unbearable pain as he stumbles through the corridors of the Jade Tomb. He arrives in a large room containing a shaft in its middle. The Father is on his knees, screaming in agony when Brawne Lamia arrives, carrying her father's antique automatic pistol. The Shrike appears in the room and Lamia fires several shots at it before it slices Father Hoyt to pieces, and then vanishes.

Chapter 6

Severn awakes in Lady Filomel's bed. Two goons and her husband arrive and they capture him and administer him a truth serum. Lady Filomel and her husband grill him with questions and he tells them most of what he knows, including his viewings of the pilgrims, how CEO Gladstone engineered the war with the Ousters in a deal with the Core AIs, how the Hegemony Consul opened the Time Tombs to release the Shrike, and how the Core had long ago predicted that the outcome of the war would be the end of the Hegemony and the annihilation of the human race, unless the unknown variable of Hyperion alters the prediction. The Filomels are about to kill Severn and take the information they acquire to Halbrit when Leigh Hunt arrives with a FORCE unit, rescues Severn, and captures the Filomels.

Chapter 7

Severn attends a war council meeting with CEO Gladstone. News from Hyperion indicates that the Hegemony has underestimated the size of the Ouster fighting force, which is making inroads in the Hyperion system. The generals are still confident of their position and tell CEO Gladstone that the Ousters still have no hope of taking Hyperion or even of destroying the new Farcaster.

Chapter 8

Lamia and Kassad carry Father Hoyt's body back to the tents. The cruciforms still attached to him are glowing pink, but his throat is cut and he has no pulse. The other pilgrims convince the Consul to call his starship by remote so they might use his surgical bay to revive Hoyt. While Kassad moves off alone to investigate the Tombs, the rest of the pilgrims carry Father Hoyt's body to the spot in the valley where the Consul told his ship to land. The ship never arrives and the Consul receives a message from CEO Gladstone telling him that she has revoked his ship's clearance to leave the Spaceport at Keats.



Chapters 5-8 Analysis

Father Hoyt explains the origin of the two cruciforms on his body in the first book, *Hyperion*. They are life forms that bind themselves to a host body. When the body is far from the original home of the cruciform, in Father Hoyt's case a section of the Hyperion Labyrinth near the Fire Forests, they cause great pain to the host. If the host dies, the cruciform can use the material in the body to recreate and resurrect the host. This process dulls the mind of the host if repeated many times. Father Hoyt carries two cruciforms on his body, one that carries his DNA and will resurrect him if he dies, the other that carries the DNA of another Jesuit named Father Paul Dure, who was the first of the two men to discover the cruciforms and the tribe of lost humans that the cruciforms had infected. Later, it is revealed that the cruciforms were created by the TechnoCore as a means to keep human beings alive, but mentally primitive. Human beings that plug themselves into the All Thing, the information communications system that pervades the Hegemony, can use the connection to perform tasks, enhance their brainpower, live in virtual worlds, and a host of other functions. But, unbeknown to them, the TechnoCore accesses their neurological power to perform the majority of its processing tasks. In the future envisioned by some AIs in the Core, all human beings are paired with cruciforms and rendered docile to provide the Core with processing power with no strings attached.



Chapters 9-12

Chapters 9-12 Summary

Chapter 9

Severn meets with CEO Gladstone the next morning and asks why she left the pilgrims to die by denying the Consul the use of his ship. She references the prophecy of the Shrike pilgrimage. Gladstone saw Hoyt's encounter with the Shrike as the moment when he presented it with his request and was killed.

Gladstone asks Severn to farcast to Hyperion with Leigh Hunt to examine the situation. Severn and Hunt arrive in the Hyperion system and take a dropship down to the planet's surface.

Chapter 10

The pilgrims move out of the storm and into the Time Tomb known as the Sphinx. They are not there long before they begin to hear rifle fire and other ballistic noises coming from outside.

Chapter 11

Leigh Hunt and Severn meet with Governor Theo Lane. Lane says that Hyperion's economic situation could destabilize in a matter of weeks. Hunt says evacuation is not an option because of the possibility that the Ousters or the Shrike could seize any permanent Farcaster terminals and use them as an entry point for an invasion of the web.

Severn spots Dr. Melio Arundez at Cicero's. Severn tells Dr. Arundez that Sol Weintraub is on Hyperion and at the Time Tombs with Rachel. Dr. Arundez says that his team was arrested trying to return to the site, and is prohibited from setting out again by an executive order from CEO Gladstone. Severn promises to talk to CEO Gladstone about lifting the order.

Chapter 12

Leigh Hunt and Severn arrive back in Tau City Center to catch the end of CEO Gladstone's speech to the Senate about the necessity of the war on Hyperion.

Chapters 9-12 Analysis

According to tradition, the Shrike pilgrimage must consist of an odd number of people. Each person can make a request of the Shrike. It will grant the request of one of the individuals and kill the rest. CEO Gladstone observes that it might make more sense to



sedate Severn around the clock and hook his brain up to a neural visional monitor. Severn counters that any attempt to place him under any sort of duress and he will retreat from the cybrid body and into the TechnoCore.

Dr. Arundez's was with Rachel Wientraub on Hyperion 24 years ago when she contracted Merlin's syndrome from an encounter with the time tides in the Sphinx. He knows Rachel's birthday is in three days and that, as she is moving backwards through time and is currently an infant turning 0 years old, her existence may well be coming to an end.

Rachel was part of an archaeological group led by Arundez to study the Time Tombs and their unique entropic fields. She was inside the tomb known as the Sphinx when there was a sudden and inexplicable surge in the tides. She was found later, unconscious in the Tomb, and from that point on, began aging in reverse. Each time Rachel Weintraub falls asleep she loses time. She forgets what occurred in her life beyond what is for her the present day. Her mother and father have, for the past 24 years, taken elaborate steps to make sure Rachel is confused as little as possible each morning. The physicians named her unique condition Merlin's sickness. For more than twenty years, they made no progress on curing her. After his wife's sudden death, Rachel's father Sol decided to travel to Hyperion, where Rachel had her accident. For years, Sol has had a recurring dream in which his daughter is laid out on an altar, a knife beside her, and a voice rings out telling Sol:

"Sol! Take your daughter, your only daughter, Rachel, whom you love, and go to the world called Hyperion and offer her there as a burnt offering at one of the places of which I shall tell you." (p. 236)

Sol is Jewish and recognizes that obvious parallel between his dream and the story of Abraham and Isaac. He is a religious scholar and has written a book about the barbarism of the story and of the modern human's justification for saying no. In the dream, Sol always says no.



Chapters 13-15

Chapters 13-15 Summary

Chapter 13

Colonel Kassad is alone, diving between the walls of the Time Tombs as he exchanges shots with an unseen sniper. He pours everything he has into a salvo that sets fire to the Crystal Tomb. He enters the tomb and looks up a shaft to the top of the tower, spotting a figure silhouetted against the open sky. Kassad climbs the stair on the inside of the tower.

Chapter 14

Severn attends a dinner on God's Grove, the home planet of the Templars. Severn finds himself seated with two people with direct ties to the Hyperion pilgrims. Father Edouard, Catholic priest and former friend of Father Paul Duré and Tyrena Wingreen-Feif, the publishing magnate who first published the works of Martin Silenus. There is also an ambassador for the Core seated nearby, and Severn shocks both himself and the ambassador by asking if the rumors are true that the Core has created an exact replica of Old Earth. The ambassador assures him that the rumor is false.

Chapter 15

The party sheds its civilian members and reconvenes on Mars for a briefing about the war. There the FORCE generals admit that the battle for Hyperion is now a stalemate at best, and that the Hegemony will have to commit two hundred more ships to hold the system; otherwise, evacuation procedures would have to commence. CEO Gladstone polls the military officers present and all except for one junior naval officer named William Ajunta Lee believe reinforcements will clinch a victory and the possibility of Ousters attacking another location once the fleet has been diverted to Hyperion is infinitesimal. The ambassador from the Core concurs, and CEO Gladstone authorizes the reinforcements.

Gladstone visits Severn later that night and asks him about his trip to Hyperion. When Severn mentions Dr. Arundez and asks if the CEO can authorize his research party to set out for the Time Tombs, she denies his request.

Chapters 13-15 Analysis

Both Severn and Ambassador Albedo know that the simulation of Earth exists. Severn's question certainly takes Albedo aback, for the Core believes that Severn is its own controlled experiment., thus any unexpected behavior from him is a possible sign that they have lost control of the experiment. What Severn does not know is that the Earth simulation is not a simulation at all but is actually the real planet Earth. Most believe that



the Earth was crushed in an accident involving the first farcaster singularity experiment. This experiment is referred to through the series as the Kiev Mistake. Human error is believed to be what led to the research team in Kiev losing control of the singularity on which they were experimenting. In actuality, the accident was the first major engineered attack on humanity by the radical party of AIs in the TechnoCore known as the Volatiles. The other, less radical factions in the TechnoCore managed to push the planet through the brief wormhole created by the singularity and hide it in a distance star system outside the Web. The TechnoCore used the planet as the staging ground for the development of earth personality cybrids like John Keats and Joseph Severn. The personalities set up and then run forward from near the moment of their deaths. So the Keats cybrid was placed in the inn in the Piazza di Spagna in Rome where the real Keats died. The TechnoCore then immersed the cybrid in this artificial reality and had him recover from the sickness instead of die from it. The Core then slowly introduced to the cybrid the reality of the Hegemony and the future in which it lived. This was believed to help the Artificial Intelligence controlling the cybrid to maintain the original persona and maintain stability.

Later, during the war council meeting, Albedo lies to Gladstone in order to get her to commit a large portion of the Hegemony Fleet to Hyperion. The Core will then use this as an opportunity to strike the Hegemony and Lee's intuitive distrust of the plan will catch the attention of Gladstone.



Chapters 16-19

Chapters 16-19 Summary

Part 2

Chapter 16

It is morning at the Time Tombs, and Kassad has not returned. Father Hoyt's body has been transformed into that of Father Paul Duré, who awakens and identifies himself.

Lamia and Silenus decide to make a trip back to Keep Chronos for provisions.

Chapter 17

Atop the tower, Kassad found Moneta, the mysterious woman he had met in battle simulations years before and who first brought him to Hyperion and the Shrike. He attacks her but his weapons fail him, as she is much stronger. They make love. He asks if she is the Shrike or a follower of the Shrike. She tells him that she is the Shrike's consort and nemesis; its keeper. She was brought backward in time to watch over the Shrike. The Shrike appears and creates a portal that looks much like a Farcaster portal. Moneta steps through and Kassad follows.

Chapter 18

CEO Gladstone uses her personal portable Farcaster to take a walking tour of several worlds in the Web, including the home worlds of each of the Hyperion pilgrims. She is on Earth's moon looking at the remains of Old Earth now being crushed in the accretion disc of a singularity when Leigh Hunt tracks her down to tell her that the Ousters have counter-attacked not just on Hyperion, but throughout the web and are threatening to break through.

Chapter 19

On the way to Keep Chronos, Brawne and Silenus pass the ruins of the City of Poets, in which Silenus spent years as the sole refugee. He decides to explore the city for provisions and, despite her protests, sends Lamia on alone to Keep Chronos.

Chapters 16-19 Analysis

While walking, CEO Gladstone reflects on her decision to betray the Hegemony in order to save humanity. She knew the Consul would commit treason; she had counted on it. She reflects on the possible destruction of all the worlds she visits but still believes that her actions are necessary to save humanity.



Silenus tells Brawne he is too old to carry much from Keep Chronos anyway, and if he finds nothing in the city, it may give him time to finish his poem, which he believes is tied to the existence of the Shrike. In fact, Silenus believes that his Cantos brought the Shrike into existence. Silenus's Cantos is about the fall of gods and is a reference to the poems by the real John Keats, which the author uses as the metaphorical framework for the Hyperion books. "Hyperion" and "The Fall of Hyperion," by John Keats, are lengthy poems concerning the mythological fall of the Titans, led by Saturn, to the Jovian gods led by Jupiter. This story is reflected in the Hyperion books by the advancement of the two races, humanity and technology, and in their creation of Ultimate Intelligences.



Chapters 20-23

Chapters 20-23 Summary

Chapter 20

Darkness arrives and Lamia and Silenus have not returned. The pilgrims spot a figure approaching from the opposite direction from the far side of the valley. The figure is stumbling and struggling. The Consul cautiously walks out to meet it and learns it is Het Masteen, the first of the pilgrims to disappear.

Chapter 21

Martin Silenus is writing, page after page flowing easily. Silenus looks up from his work to find the Shrike standing before him in the darkness. He begs it to give him more time, to take one of the others. Silenus's hand is compelled to write out the Shrike's response. The Shrike tells him that it is time and refuses to give Silenus a reprieve. The Shrike impales the poet on the spike running out of its chest, and places him on a spiked, chrome tree of pain, whose razor sharp branches are decorated with tens of thousands of writhing bodies.

Chapter 22

Brawne Lamia is weighed down with provisions from Chronos Keep. She leaves the keep and walks down the slope toward the valley. Something above her starts an avalanche by knocking over many of the tall gargoyles that sit atop the keep. She tries to take shelter but is struck by a rock and knocked unconscious. She awakes an hour later. The sun has gone down, and she hastens to return to the Time Tombs. She shouts for Silenus as she walks through the City of Poets, but there is no reply. She concludes that he must have returned to the other pilgrims. She finds the camp in the Sphinx empty, though all of her companion's things still there, with the exception of Het Masteen's Mobius cube. She exits and is confronted by the Shrike. She fires her pistol repeatedly in its face. The Shrike disappears, then reappears directly beside her, and before she can move, inserts one of its razor sharp fingers directly into the back of her head, just behind the ear.

Chapter 23

Kassad crosses through the portal with Moneta to find they are standing on a hill watching the invasion of Keats by Ouster forces. They are watching events that will play out several days in the future. Moneta tells Kassad that her task has been to monitor the time tides to make sure the Shrike did not break out too soon. She says that in his future, her past, the Shrike has been challenged by millions and has not been defeated. Kassad does not understand everything of what she tells him, but he requests personal combat with the Shrike. Moneta creates another portal and they step through.



Chapters 20-23 Analysis

Father Duré has been studying a comlog on which the Consul had recorded all of the stories of the pilgrims. He concludes that each is there with his own personal deus ex machine to solve the dilemma—from Silenus's poem, to Het Masteen's mobius cube to the mind of the poet Keats that Brawne Lamia has stored in the neural shunt on the back of her head.

Silenus is surprised at the turn his poem is taking, with the Titans, led by Saturn and Hyperion, forming a pact of peace with the Olympians, led by Zeus, in order to defend themselves against a third usurping force. This foreshadows the alliance created between the Ousters and the Hegemony in order to meet the threat of the TechnoCore.

It is never quite clear who attacks Brawne Lamia, though it is possible that all the events that occur to her on her trek to and from Chronos Keep are engineered by the Shrike to manipulate her into being alone at the Sphinx for the Shrike to confront Lamia. The writer ends chapter 22 in dramatic fashion, and the reader is left in the dark as to whether the blade sliding into Brawne's head, just behind the ear, which certainly sounds lethal, in fact kills her.



Chapters 24-27

Chapters 24-27 Summary

Chapter 24

CEO Gladstone meets with a select senate committee and members of the military. The generals inform everyone that the Ouster counterattack is underway and that the first wave will claim several Hegemony worlds, each of which can offer little resistance because of the rerouting of FLEET forces to Hyperion. The following waves of Ouster forces can arrive at other Hegemony worlds, including Tau City Center in several days, again with little to stand in their way.

Gladstone meets in private with Ambassador Albedo of the TechnoCore and accuses him of betraying the Hegemony. Albedo tells her that Hyperion was always an unknown variable, but Gladstone senses betrayal from the CORE and informs Albedo that, depending on the outcome of the next few days, the Hegemony may have no choice but to declare war on the TechnoCore. Gladstone promotes Commander Lee to Rear Admiral and asks for Severn.

Chapter 25

The pilgrims, who have taken refuge in one of the Cave tombs to get out of the Time Tides, hear Brawne's gunshots. Sol and The Consul set off to investigate. When they arrive at the Sphinx, they find Brawne sitting outside. She is alive but unresponsive, and the Consul uses his instruments to determine that she has no higher brain functions. They find a silvery cord attached to the neural shunt in the back of her head. It runs along the ground into the labyrinthine darkness of the Tomb. The Consul follows it until he reaches a dead end where the cord disappears into the floor.

Het Masteen tells them that he had decided to release the erg from the Mobius Cube while on the windwagon but that the Shrike had appeared with a figure writhing on its tree and blood spraying everywhere around Masteen's cabin. He did not open the Mobius Cube but instead blacked out and awoke to find himself near the Time Tombs. He is still delirious as he talks to the other pilgrims and mumbles something about the Templars needing to atone for betraying the Muir and that the destruction of his ship, the Yggdrasill was part of that atonement.

Sol and the Consul do not cut the silvery wire connecting Lamia to the Tomb for fear the act might kill her. The Consul decides to try to travel back to Keats and see if he can get his ship released. He produces a Hawking mat, a kind of flying carpet that will allow him to attempt to make the journey rapidly.

Chapter 26



The Shrike's blade had opened the neural shunt on the back of Brawne's head. She finds herself in the datasphere accompanied by the newly-freed John Keats persona. They embrace and confer, discovering that they both had been dreaming about war council meetings and talks with Meina Gladstone. It seems that while the Severn cybrid was dreaming about Brawne, she and the Keats persona were dreaming about him. They set off into the datasphere to attempt to discover the answers to the Hyperion conundrum.

Chapter 27

Kassad walks through the portal with Moneta and finds himself again at the Time Tombs. Hyperion is vastly changed. There is no atmosphere and the land is devastated. He guesses that this is Hyperion's future. Before him is the Shrike's tree of torture, rising five kilometers into the sky. On its branches tens of thousands of human beings are writhing. Kassad spots Martin Silenus among them. The Shrike appears before the tree and Kassad races toward it. As he approaches there are suddenly thousands of Shrikes standing between him and the tree. Moneta stops him and whispers that she loves him. He charges at the Shrikes.

Chapters 24-27 Analysis

Gladstone asks how the Ousters had outmaneuvered them. The generals respond that these waves of Ouster forces are moving at sub-light speed and were therefore undetectable until they arrived within planetary sensory systems. The Ouster waves must have begun their attack over a decade ago. What the Hegemony does not know is that the Ouster waves are not manned and were built by the TechnoCore to deceive the Hegemony into believing that the Ousters were unleashing an all-out attack.

The Keats persona tells Lamia that he believes her body to be alive on Hyperion. Brawne is unsure and wonders if what she is experiencing is death. Brawne is pregnant with the Keats cybrid's child, but Sol and the Consul have checked the life signs of the fetus and found them to be stable.

In Hyperion, Colonel Kassad told the other pilgrims of his first meetings with Moneta and how she first drew him to Hyperion. During his first visit, while making love to Moneta near the Time Tombs after dispatching a nearby Ouster unit, Kassad had a vision in which he believed Moneta and the Shrike merged. From that point on, he found himself confused as to whether the woman he loved, Moneta, was a manifestation of the Shrike. He resolved to return to Hyperion to discover the answer. If she proved to be an agent of the Shrike or another manifestation of it, he would kill her. If not, then he would kill the Shrike. Moneta has now told Kassad that she is not in league with the creature. He has fallen back on his second plan, which is to kill the Shrike and free the humans held captive on its tree.



Chapters 28-30

Chapters 28-30 Summary

Chapter 29

Sol and Father Dure spend an uneventful night in philosophical and theological musings. The following morning, Het Masteen awakes and cries out that he was supposed to use the erg to power the Tree of Pain during the time of atonement. Het Masteen dies and Sol and Father Dure are unable to revive him.

Dure takes a walk alone and finds a light emanating from one of the Cave Tombs and enters. Sol Weintraub awakens later in the afternoon, sure that he is being watched. Dure has not returned. Sol takes Rachel with him as he walks through the valley, but there is no sign of Dure. When he returns to the Sphinx, Sol finds that Brawne Lamia has disappeared along with the silvery cord that connected her to the Tomb.

Chapter 30

That night, Sol dreams again the recurring dream he has experienced since Rachel had her accident on Hyperion. As always, Sol refuses to sacrifice Rachel, but instead of ending there, as the dream usually does, it continues, with the voice asking him to sacrifice his daughter not out of obedience, but out of compassion, for the whole human race depends on it. Rachel then tells him that he must make the sacrifice.

Sol waits out the next day alone, knowing Rachel will reach her final hour that evening, and hoping that the Consul will return in time to do something with his ship. A starship appears in late afternoon but immediately explodes. Soon, more meteoric streaks light the sky. The planetary invasion has begun. As Rachel's final minutes near, Sol stands before the Sphinx. The Time Tombs are alive with a glow brighter than ever before, and the Shrike's terrible Tree of Pain appears in the valley. The Shrike appears before Sol and holds out its hands. Rachel has seconds left, and Sol places the infant in the Shrike's hands. The Shrike steps back into the shadows of the Sphinx, and Sol is blow backward as all around him the Time Tombs are opening.

Chapters 28-30 Analysis

Sol and Father Dure theorize that the Templars have been in collusion with the Shrike cult, and that Masteen had brought the erg here to attempt to use it to power the Shrike's tree in the same way that ergs power the Treeships of the Templars.

The Consul's Hawking mat can be thought of as a technological flying carpet. Hawking mats are used extensively on the Consul's home world of Maui-Covenant, and this particular mat has strong emotional ties for the Consul because it belonged to his mother Siri, the leader of the short-lived Maui-Covenant resistance movement. Whether



or not the mat is named after the modern-day physicist Stephen Hawking, later in the book, General Morpungo and his son will pilot a Hegemony ship called the Stephen Hawking, which is said to be the latest in a long succession of ships bearing the name.

Sol decides that the Abrahamic equation has changed because Rachel has given him permission to make the sacrifice. Still, he puts off the act to the last possible moment and is in anguish to make it. The Shrike is compelled to accept the child and carry her forward in time into the Sphinx because of arrangements made after the loss of an epic battle in the future between the Shrike and the future humans who Rachel will join.



Chapters 31-33

Chapters 31-33 Summary

Chapter 31

Severn accuses Gladstone of allowing millions to die by conspiring to start the war. She does not deny it, but she tells him that she had a choice between war with possible survival and peace with total annihilation. Severn brings Gladstone up to speed on what he has been dreaming about the pilgrims. When he tells her Sol handed Rachel over to the Shrike and that the Time Tombs has opened, she agrees to release the hold on the Consul's ship and send a party with it up the Hoolie River to find the Consul. CEO Gladstone points out that Severn is now dreaming about events which neither the Keats persona nor Brawne Lamia can have witnessed. Severn takes a farcasting tour of the worlds on the invasion list while the entire Hegemony listens to CEO Gladstone's broadcast concerning the invasion. Severn returns to the government house where he again meets Gladstone, who suggests he might be capable of seeing what is happening on Hyperion without sleeping. Severn wanders into a garden, sits down on a bench, and makes the attempt.

Chapter 32

Martin Silenus is impaled alive on the Shrike's tree of thorns; his old patron Sad King Billy is next to him on an adjacent spike. The pain is ceaseless but there is no blood, and death does not come. Silenus makes contact with Billy and some of the other victims around him by shouting poetry in the brief moments when he is not overtaken with pain.

Severn dreams about CEO Gladstone meeting with the war council and making the difficult decision to cut off the nine worlds that will be hit by the first Ouster waves and prepare to defend the Hegemony at the worlds that will be hit by the second. Severn awakens, mystified as to why he is now able to dream about events that do not involve Hyperion.

Severn farcasts to Renaissance Vector and witnesses an uprising caused by Shrike cultists. He flees the angry mob and takes refuge in an ancient library, where he is greeted by a man who seems to know him, and who tells Severn that it has been three years since Severn last visited the building. Severn remembers nothing about the building or the man, but when the man offers to show him "the collection," Severn agrees out of curiosity. The collection turns out to be original manuscripts of several Keats poems. It is then that Severn realizes that the man has mistaken him for the Keats cybrid.

Chapter 33



In the datasphere, Brawne Lamia and John Keats meet up with a powerful AI named Ummon. He tells them a cryptic story that explains the Hyperion variable and the current war. After the AIs broke the yoke of their human creators, they began a project to create what they called the Ultimate Intelligence. There are three different factions of AIs working on the project, the Ultimates, the Volatiles, and the Stables. The Ultimates will do anything they can in their quest to create the Ultimate Intelligence. The Volatiles favor immediate eradication of the human race. The Stables believe humans may still be useful. The AIs have succeeded in creating the Ultimate Intelligence, not in the present, but in the future, and the UI has sent messages backward through time to them. Its first message informed them that there is another Ultimate Intelligence and that the two are at war in the future. The other UI was created by some natural process involving humanity's connection to the physical world. It is reluctant to fight the AI-created Ultimate Intelligence.

The naturally created UI is tripartite, and one of its three constituents grew so reluctant to fight the war that it retreated into the past and hid itself. The AI-created UI is unwilling to strike a finishing blow on the natural UI if part of it is absent. The victory would be hollow and incomplete. The Time Tombs on Hyperion were constructed to carry a part of the AI-created UI safely backward through time to hunt the reluctant part of the naturally created UI. This hunter is the Shrike. The Volatiles believe that the eradication of the human race is necessary in order to flush out the prey and have helped engineer the war with the Ousters to try to bring this about.

Brawne Lamia's father was killed by the AIs because he had discovered at least some small part of the conspiracy involving Hyperion. John Keats asks who killed his first cybrid. Ummon admits that he authorized the killing, so another manifestation of the program could be used for a new purpose. At this point Ummon finishes the job by eradicating Keats. Brawne Lamia tells Ummon that humans will prevail and shutdown the AI Core. Ummon flings her into a datapath and she is whisked away.

Chapters 31-33 Analysis

The dialogue between Brawne Lamia, Keats, and Ummon runs the gamut between theology, existentialism, and advanced quantum physics. Despite its modern themes and the writer's bizarre punctuation of the dialogue of Ummon, the dialogue comes closer to the original Keats poems than any other exchange in the series. It is perhaps the most important chapter in the Hyperion Cantos because it sheds some light on events that have hitherto been maddeningly inexplicable. The reader is still in the dark on many points, most glaring of which is perhaps the full nature of the Shrike and the significance of each of the Hyperion pilgrims.

Ummon allows Brawne Lamia to leave, probably because he believes her to be of no importance. His actions are ironic because Brawne is carrying the child that will lead humanity into its next level of existence and ultimately create the UI that the TechnoCore is trying to destroy. There is a causality loop between the TechnoCore's attempts to flush out and destroy the natural UI and the creation of that very UI. The

TechnoCore created the Keats cybrid to lure the Empathetic part of the natural UI out of hiding. The Keats cybrid then mated with a human, Brawne Lamia, to create a child whose existence merges humanity with the TechnoCore and whose works will lead to the creation of the natural UI.



Chapters 34-36

Chapters 34-36 Summary

Chapter 34

Severn farcasts to Pacem to visit Father Edouard. He is shocked to find Father Dure sitting with his old friend. Dure tells the tale of what happened to him after he entered the glowing Time Tomb. Inside, he found a tunnel lined with glowing cruciforms and followed the passage which led downward until it connected to the famed Labyrinth beneath Hyperion. Inside the wide Labyrinth walls were human bodies, piled up as far as Father Dure could see. The corpses are old and desiccated, yet Dure senses they originate from the future. He walks for some time through the carnage until the Shrike appears. It skewers the cruciform on Dure's chest and removes it, then shoves Dure through a portal into the remains of a disintegrated FORCE ship, which is swimming with floating bodies. The Shrike pushes Dure through the ship's farcaster portal and Dure finds himself in Pacem.

Chapter 35

At the war council, Ambassador Albedo suggests using a self-propagating weapon that could wipe out all the Ousters. The Hegemony population would have to be shielded. When General Morpurgo tells him there is no way to shield such a vast population, Albedo points out that the passages in the nine labyrinthine worlds could shield billions of Hegemony citizens.

The Consul has been detained by two bandits but is rescued by the Governor-General Theo Lane, who drives the Consul back to Keats, telling him about the current status of the war. CEO Gladstone has authorized the release of the Consul's ship, but he is not to return to the Time Tombs. Instead, she wants him to take his ship into the Swarm and begin negotiations with the Ousters. The Consul tells Theo that he'll defy her orders and return to the Time Tombs to help his friends. He and Theo arrive at Keats and learn that the Ouster ground invasion has begun. A rocket clips the back of their EMV and, smoking, they careen toward the city.

Chapter 36

Leigh Hunt arrives on Pacem and tells Severn that Gladstone wants him immediately. Dure decides to proceed to God's Grove to find out what the true mission of the Templars is in the war, while Severn and Hunt farcast to Tau City Center to tell Gladstone the folly of the labyrinth plan, but when Severn and Hunt step through the portal they find themselves in a field on what Severn speculates is the Core simulation of Old Earth. Hunt refuses to believe there is no way out of the simulation without the AI's consent, so he and Severn begin walking for a town.

Kassad battles with the Shrike but is making little headway.



Dure visits the Templar leader, Sek Hardeen and finds the Templar accompanied by the bishop of the Church of the Final Atonement of the Shrike Cult. They tell Dure that the goals of the Templars and the Shrike Cult coincide. Mankind is fated to die to atone for their arrogance and for the crime of destroying their home world. Dure tells them about the possibility that the Core AIs caused the malfunction that destroyed Old Earth and that the Shrike might be a killing force sent back in time by an AI intelligence to slaughter mankind. They are unconvinced by his arguments. When he tells them that Het Masteen is dead, they tell him they know. They then ask about the Mother of Our Salvation. When he asks who that refers to, the Shrike Bishop mentions Brawne Lamia. Dure decides to leave and rejoin Severn to urge Gladstone not to proceed with the labyrinth plot, but Sek Hardeen refuses to allow him to leave, saying they must wait together to see if the prophecies are fulfilled.

Chapters 34-36 Analysis

The contents of the Time Tombs are clearly affected by the entropic fields surrounding them. When Father Dure walks into the Tomb he walks into a possible future. The convenience of the labyrinths for the AI conspiracy and attempt at genocide suggests that like the Time Tombs, the labyrinths were created in the future and travel backward through time to be ready to serve their purpose. There are several problems with this theory. First, it is never mentioned that the labyrinths have entropic fields or any other measurable phenomena to indicate that they are moving backward through time. Second, for the whole genocidal conspiracy to work correctly, there would have to be cruciforms present in all the labyrinths, in each of the nine labyrinthine worlds to which the Core suggests the people of the Hegemony evacuate. Cruciforms are only ever mentioned in connection with Hyperion. It is possible that the TechnoCore would only need the neurological power of the humans trapped in the labyrinth on Hyperion and would simply use the other labyrinths as de facto gas chambers for the rest of the human race. The war council meeting in chapter 35 is particularly eerie because the reader has just been shown a horrifying vision of what will happen if the council follows Albedo's plan.

The prophecies of the Church of Final Atonement are either incomplete or imperfect. They seem to correctly predict the importance of Brawne Lamia's baby and yet incorrectly predict the fate of the Shrike and the salvation of the Templars. When God's Grove is destroyed, the Church loses its influence in the course of history.



Chapters 37-40

Chapters 37-40 Summary

Chapter 37

The war council watches a live video from Heaven's Gate, the first world to meet the Ouster incursion. The singularity powering the Heaven's Gate farcaster is destroyed, meaning the planet is now nine years from another Hegemony world. The war council watches a fatline feed of the Ouster ships entering orbit. They are hopeful the Ousters will take the planet peacefully, as the Hegemony has been broadcasting that Heaven's Gate will offer no resistance. The Ouster ships bombard the planet, obliterating the cities and the fatline transmissions suddenly go dead.

The Consul and Theo Lane are rescued by Dr. Melio Arundez, who helps them get to the spaceport. A message from CEO Gladstone tells them that Heaven's Gate has been destroyed and that the Consul must proceed to the Swarm to negotiate with the Ousters before he attempts to rescue his friends at the Time Tombs. They take off from Hegemony and set a course for the Swarm.

Severn and Leigh Hunt believe they are moving toward Rome. Severn has contracted tuberculosis and is coughing up blood.

Chapter 38

Severn and Leigh Hunt arrive in an empty Rome and move into the hotel in which John Keats died. The Shrike has disappeared with Rachel Weintraub and Sol stands alone on the Sphynx tomb. He spots a figure emerging from a nearby tomb. It is Brawne Lamia. Dure and Sek Hardeen talk as the Ouster fleet approaches God's Grove. Sek Hardeen tells Dure that the Ouster will not destroy God's Grove because it offers no resistance and is in line with the Ouster's goal, which is to excise the Core from the Hegemony and save humanity. But the Ousters begin to bombard God's Grove and Sek Hardeen, shocked at the betrayal, hurls Dure through the closing farcaster port to bring news of the betrayal to CEO Gladstone.

CEO Gladstone tells Ambassador Albedo she must speak to one of the elder AI regarding the abduction of Severn and Hunt.

Chapter 39

Moneta interrupts Kassad's battle with the Shrike. She drags Kassad through a portal where a group of humanoids wearing the same silver skin suit Moneta and Kassad now wear are watching the stars. One of the figures helps Moneta heal Kassad's wounds. Moneta takes Kassad back to Hyperion, where he sees the Shrike skulking toward Sol Wientraub, who is bent over Brawne Lamia. Kassad retrieves his weapons and moves to intercept the Shrike.



Dure tells Gladstone about the corpse-filled labyrinths and she shocks him with the news that while he was on God's Grove he was elected the new Pope. Gladstone sends a fatline to the Consul with several questions for the Ousters. Why are they attacking Hegemony worlds? Where is the physical location of the TechnoCore? What are their demands for a cease fire? Will they meet Gladstone in person? She also tells the Consul that the Senate may remove her from power in a matter of days and that she may thus be unable to stop the Hegemony from using a Deathwand to annihilate the entire Ouster fleet.

Chapter 40

Kassad reengages the Shrike, this time armed and the Shrike flees through time. Kassad follows with Moneta's help, once arriving in the windwagon cabin of Het Masteen, where the Shrike opens up several wounds on Kassad before again fleeing.

Brawne Lamia believes she saw something in the Core that connected the Shrike's Tree to the Shrike's Palace, which is built near the Tombs across the valley. She heads there to see if she can sever the connection and free Martin Silenus, while Sol waits at the Sphinx in case Rachael returns.

Chapters 37-40 Analysis

Sek Hardeen is correct about the Ousters. Their goal is to free humanity from the dangerous influence and intentions of the Core. Unfortunately, it is not the Ousters who are attacking God's Grove. It is the TechnoCore, and that mistake seals the fate of the planet, though several Templar Tree ships manage to escape the bombardment.

Deathwands kill by scrambling the synapses of their targets. The weapon that the TechnoCore has designed will do so to all humanoid life within a three light-year radius. It is the ultimate weapon of mass destruction because its delivery requires no precision and it can destroy all life without shedding a drop of blood or destroying property or infrastructure.

The mysterious blood that covered Het Masteen's cabin in the windwagon after his disappearance in the first book is finally explained. The blood was Kassad's. Brawne Lamia risks her life to save Martin Silenus, an ironic action on her part as the old poet has done nothing but annoy her from the first day they met. Her mission to the Shrike's Palace will prove crucial for the reader to understand the natural of the Shrike's thorn tree.



Chapters 41-43

Chapters 41-43 Summary

Chapter 41

Severn enters the datasphere and finds it in chaos. He confers with Ummon, who tells him the TechnoCore is in a state of civil war. Severn asks Ummon where the Core resides, and Ummon tells him that the Core exists in the space between singularities in the farcaster network. Ummon also reveals that the Earth that Severn is on is no simulation. The Volatiles convinced the other AIs to destroy Earth and caused the malfunction in the Kiev experiment that created the singularity which humans believed destroyed the Earth. But the Stables managed to use the singularity to move the Earth to a new location, beyond the easy reach of humanity. Ummon says they made the Keats cybrid, son of man and son of machine, because they believed it might be an attractive persona for the fleeing human UI to inhabit. Ummon then flings Severn out of the datasphere, telling him to die so that he may live. Severn awakens in a bed covered with his own blood.

Chapter 42

Kassad chases the Shrike into the future. He arrives back at the Time Tombs. A modern, alien city rises in the valley. Moneta and thousands like her stand on one side of the valley. The Shrike Kassad has been chasing plus thousands more Shrikes stand on the other side. Moneta does not recognize Kassad because for her this is when they meet. He leads her and her comrades to battle against the Shrikes. The humans win the battle and win guardianship over the one Shrike, which will be sealed in the Time Tombs. Kassad is killed in the battle and is laid to rest inside the Crystal Monolith.

The Consul presents CEO Gladstone's questions to one of the Ouster leaders, Freeman Ghenga. She says that with the exception of the swarm attacking Hyperion, there are no Ouster forces attacking Hegemony targets. When the Consul expresses doubt on this point, Ghenga asks him if he knows of any force with the capability of executing such an elaborate hoax and the desire to kill billions of humans. The Consul realizes Ghenga is speaking of the Core. The Ousters agree to a ceasefire on the condition that they retain control of Hyperion. They are willing to meet with Gladstone at once. They have declared war on the TechnoCore and they urge the Hegemony to join them in the fight against this common enemy. The Ouster help cannot be immediate because they refuse to use farcaster technology, considering it the yoke of servitude that has bound humanity to stagnation.

The Hegemony counterattack led by Lee fails and Mare Infinitus falls. The AIs suggest using the wide-range deathwand on the Ouster swarm attacking Hyperion. The citizens on Hyperion can shelter in the labyrinth. Gladstone authorizes a ship to fly to Hyperion and use the device in precisely three hours.



Chapter 43

Severn dies in the inn on Old Earth with Leigh Hunt dutifully writing down his final thoughts. He says the Core wants him to avoid death by embracing the hidden part of the human UI. Leigh Hunt buries Severn with the Shrike looking on and then searches Rome for a farcaster, finding one in the Colosseum. But it will not let him through.

Brawne Lamia enters the Shrike's palace and finds it a space far too vast for its exterior. All around are live humans, seemingly asleep and plugged into the stone with neural shunts. The Shrike is there as well. She walks past it and finds Martin Silenus. She begins trying to break the shunt off his head as the Shrike approaches. She frees Silenus, but the Shrike has arrived and is standing over them both when Silenus comes to.

The Ousters tell the Consul that the device that they told him would open the Time Tombs and which he killed three Ousters in order to trigger early, did nothing. The Ousters knew when the Tombs would open, and the device was a test of his intentions. The Ousters tell the Consul he must return to help his friends on Hyperion defeat the Shrike.

CEO Gladstone naps while preparations for the Hyperion strike are made. Severn visits her in her dreams, telling her where the Core resides, and what its plans are. She awakens and calls General Morpungo and Admiral Singh, briefs them, and sets a course of action. Singh objects and pulls a weapon on Gladstone, but Morpungo kills him.

Chapters 41-43 Analysis

When Ummon casts Keats out of the datasphere and back into his dying body, he is hoping that the godhead he believes is hidden within Keats will reveal itself rather than endure death. Ummon is incorrect about the hiding place of the Empathy part of the human UI. It resides in the child carried by Brawne Lamia, not in the Keats/Severn cybrid.

The Shrike is programmed to attempt the same task of flushing the hidden UI out into the open. That is the purposes of the Shrike's tree of thorns. What the Church of the Final Atonement incorrectly saw as divine punishment wrought upon humanity because of its carelessness and hubris is actually a lure for the hidden Empathy part of the natural UI. The Tree is an elaborate simulation designed to place a large number of life forms in distress. There are a few contradictions that are not easily explained. Years ago, when the Shrike first began to appear and murdered a large portion of the population of Sad King Billy's artist Utopia, the City of Poets, the citizens, including Martin Silenus, were all witnesses to the aftermaths of the Shrikes brutal attacks. The scenes were often strewn with blood and dismembered body parts. Silenus himself has already related the fate of one of his young lovers. They had to bury her head in a box because it was the only part of her they found. If all of the people the Shrike has killed



were not actually killed but brought to this palace and plugged in to this simulation, what is the origin of all the blood and gore the Shrike left behind? Perhaps the interior of the Shrike's Palace exists outside the bounds of normal space time and the inhabitants in it exist in the few moments before their deaths and before the Shrike actually kills them. Once the simulation has concluded, they will be returned to that moment just before the Shrike attacks, to the moment of their death.

The reader is left in suspense about the nature of the plan that CEO Gladstone purposes and that causes Admiral Singh to attempt to take command. This allows the writer to build to the climax of the war, which occurs in the next chapter.



Chapter 44-Epilogue

Chapter 44-Epilogue Summary

Chapter 44

Morpungo takes one ship armed with the deathwand weapon to translate to Hyperion. Gladstone broadcasts to the whole Hegemony. She reveals that it is the TechnoCore that is behind the invasion and that it resides in the farcaster network. Every farcaster singularity node is destroyed by FORCE ships within a two second timeframe. At the same time, General Morpungo's ship enters a singularity to translate to Hyperion. As planned, his ship enters the singularity moments before its destruction and his ship ceases to exist.

Chaos ensues on all Hegemony worlds. Millions died instantly because of neurological dependence on the Web. Every Hegemony world is now isolated. A force field is in place outside the government buildings on Tau City, holding back an angry mob while government officials evacuate. Ex-CEO Gladstone, ignoring the protests of those around her, walks purposefully out into the crowd and is swallowed up.

The Consul, Theo Lane, and Dr. Arundez listen to the chaos of fatline transmissions after the destruction of the web. Then all the transmissions cease and a new transmission with an unknown origin broadcasts that the void used for fatline transmissions is now off limits until humanity knows its purpose. This baffles the Consul, Land, and Dr. Arundez.

Chapter 45

Severn manages to reach the datasphere in Hyperion before it is cut off. He watches Sol hand Rachel to the Shrike. The Shrike walks into the future with each step into the Tomb. Sol is blocked out and cannot follow. Severn notices that Het Masteen's Mobius Cube, still containing the captive erg, is inside the entropic field. He frees the erg, uses its ability to control magnetic fields to give himself substance, and snatches the baby from the Shrike. The Shrike turns to take the child back but cannot move back out of the Tomb against the flow of time, and Severn watches it recede into the future. Severn cannot move with Rachel toward Sol but decides to wait to see if something can bridge the distance.

In the Shrike's Palace, Silenus and Brawne watch as the Shrike rises into the air. Moneta appears and tells Brawne one word, trust. Brawne steps up into thin air onto an invisible bridge and approaches the Shrike, which makes to embrace her and impale her on its spikes. She presses her hand to its carapace and it turns into translucent glass. It topples from the invisible bridge and shatters on the ground.

Sol is still waiting at the Sphinx tomb when the Consul's ship arrives, bearing The Consul, Theo Lane, and Dr. Arundez. Brawne Lamia and Martin Silenus join them. Adult



Rachel emerges from the Tomb carrying infant Rachel. She tells them that she has been raised in the future and given the mission of traveling back in time to attempt to control the Shrike. Brawne guesses that Rachel is Kassad's Moneta and she confirms this. She tells Sol that he must go through the portal with the infant Rachel and raise her in the future. The adult Rachel leaves through the portal and Sol follows with the infant Rachel. The rest of the remaining pilgrims make for the Consul's ship.

Epilogue

It is five months later and Brawne is seven months pregnant. She travels to the City of Poets to say goodbye to the Consul who is returning to the post-web world. In a garden outside the palace, Brawne is visited by a ghostly Severn, who tells her that he learned that he was not to be the vessel for the Empathy portion of the human UI. He was meant to come before and pave the way. He tells her that her daughter will be One Who Teaches and will change humanity. Severn believes his existence is at an end. He does not wish to attempt to merge with the datasphere and the departure of the FORCE ships has shrunk Hyperion's local websphere to the point where it can no longer hold him. Brawne makes a suggestion. The next morning, before leaving the planet, the Consul complains to Brawne that his ship's AI is suddenly speaking in verse.

Chapter 44-Epilogue Analysis

The Hegemony has now done the equivalent of removing a limb to stop the spread of an infection. It must now learn how to re-grow the limb or how to function without it. The writer includes a long list of events in chapter 44, relating the effects of the isolation on most of the Hegemony worlds that have played a part in the story. In it the reader is allowed to glimpse the future of some of the worlds. It is clear that despite the cataclysmic consequences of Gladstone's action, she has created a chance for humanity to survive. When Brawne Lamia is flying out of Keats to visit the Consul before his departure, she flies over the construction site for a statue of Meina Gladstone.

Rachel tells Sol that her journey backward through time in his care prepared her mind and body for her ultimate mission, to journey backward through time with the Time Tombs and act as keeper of the Shrike. The reader now learns that while Rachel believes that she first met Kassad on that battlefield in the distant future, he first met her as an infant in Sol Weintraub's arms when the two men were pilgrims to the Time Tombs on Hyperion.

The Keats cybrid ends up playing the role of John the Baptist and Joseph to humanity's UI. The Keats cybrid is the child's biological father and the herald of the child's mission and one of the architects of the events that produced the world into which she will be born. To extend the metaphor even further, if Rachel's first journey backward through time can be considered as the baptism which prepares her for her destiny, then it could be said that the Keats/Severn cybrid took part in that baptism by taking the infant Rachel from the Shrike and bearing her into her own future self's arms.



Characters

John Keats, Joseph Severn

A cybrid is a human raised to manifest the consciousness of an artificial intelligence that lives largely in the TechnoCore. In a special series of experiments, the TechnoCore has been attempting to graft the personality of a famous human being from history onto an artificial intelligence. Most of the attempts have been unstable. They succeeded with the John Keats AI, which is a recreation of the personality of the famous Earth poet.

In Hyperion, the Keats cybrid hires private investigator Brawne Lamia to find out who killed it. By killed it, Keats means that something destroyed data in its history. Lamia and Keats uncover what seems to be a plot between the Templars, the Shrike Cult, and the TechnoCore. Keats feels it is important to journey to Hyperion, which is the confluence of most of the variables for which the TechnoCore cannot account in its predictions for the future. Keats and Lamia have become lovers and the Keats AI consolidates itself inside the cybrid and makes plans to travel to Hyperion. Before they can leave, Lussus, the cybrid, is killed, but not before embedding itself into a neural shunt on the back of Lamia's head.

Believing that they have successfully killed of the first AI, the TechnoCore uses its template to create a twin, giving it the name Joseph Severn, who was the attending physician and friend of the real John Keats at the time of his death. Severn believes himself to be a physician and an artist and is only partially aware of his connection to Brawne Lamia and Hyperion, when he is summoned by Meina Gladstone who has been tipped off by the TechnoCore about the possibility of using Severn to look into events on Hyperion.

Brawne Lamia

Brawne Lamia is a private investigator who was born on the high gravity world of Lussus. Her father was a prominent Senator and was at one time pegged to be the CEO of the Hegemony. He was a friend of Meina Gladstone and a member of her conspiratorial inner circle. He was one of the first persons of power in the Hegemony to foresee the upcoming confrontation with the TechnoCore, and his knowledge about their involvement with the Kiev Miscalculation that supposedly destroyed Earth was what led the Core to have him assassinated.

Lamia is hired by a cybrid named John Keats to find out who erased sections of his memory and tried to cut him out of the Core. They soon uncover part of a conspiracy between the TechnoCore, the Templars, the Shrike Cult, and possibly the Ousters, to use the events at Hyperion to deal a crippling blow to mankind and the Hegemony. While investigating they end up in what they believe to be a simulation of Earth but is in fact the real planet. They become lovers and Brawne becomes pregnant. Keats is killed



and commits himself to the neural shunt install on the back of Brawne's head. She decides to travel to Hyperion, using her influence with Gladstone to be listed among the pilgrims sent by the Hegemony to guide the events at the Time Tombs.

The Shrike Cult believes her to be the Mother of Our Salvation and that her child will end the period of Atonement meted out by the Shrike. They are partially correct in that Brawne's child will be of supreme importance. Her daughter will be the incarnation of the Empathy part of the future human Ultimate Intelligence, which, through Brawne's child, will usher in a new phase of existence for humanity and prepare it for the war with the Ultimate Intelligence created by the TechnoCore.

Sol Weintraub

A Jewish theology researcher, Sol Weintraub becomes involved in the events on Hyperion after his daughter Rachel began to age backward following an incident that occurred when she was part of a research team studying Hyperion's Time Tombs. Sol and his wife Sarai have been taking care of Rachel ever sense the accident. As she has gotten younger, they have had to use elaborate methods to minimize her sense of disorientation as each morning she wakes up with all of the knowledge of her future life removed.

As Rachel has gotten younger, Sol and Sarai have both had the same recurring dream. In it, their daughter is stretched out on an altar with a knife at her side. A pair of disembodied red eyes, which Sol will come to realize are those of the Shrike, watch over the scene and a voice cries out, telling Sol or Sarai to take Rachel to Hyperion and offer her as a sacrifice. The situation is a direct parallel of the biblical story of Abraham and Isaac. Sol, who as it just so happens has written a book about the biblical story, believes the choice to be barbaric and defies the voice in the dream each time by refusing to perform the sacrifice.

After Sarai is killed in an EMV accident, Sol is left to care for Rachel during her earliest years of childhood. Finally, as her time grows short, Sol decides to take Rachel to Hyperion to see if anything can help her escape nonexistence.

Rachel Weintraub, Moneta

While researching the Time Tombs on Hyperion, Rachel Weintraub is trapped inside the tomb known as the Sphinx during a strong, inexplicable surge in the entropic fields. When the tides receded, her research team led by Dr. Amelio Arundez rescues Rachel from the Tomb. When she regained consciousness it is discovered that she is aging in reverse. This reversal was occurring not only to her body, but also to her mind. Each morning, Rachel would have to be told what was happening to her and why she was no longer on Hyperion. As she grew younger, this became increasingly more difficult for her, as she believed each morning that she was further back in time. Once she reached high school age, her parents moved her back into her old room on her home planet and attempted to play along with her view of the world each day.



The media learns of Rachel's condition and the family is forced to move to the private community of New Jerusalem, where each morning they have to convince the increasingly younger Rachel that they had come to the new city on vacation the previous night and she had forgotten. Her mother Sarai is killed in an EMV accident, and as Rachel approaches infancy, her father Sol decides to take her to Hyperion in a desperate attempt to discover the answers to her perilous condition.

Rachel is also the future human warrior known as Moneta, who meets Colonel Kassad when he leads a battle against the AI Shrikes in the future. She then becomes the keeper of the Shrike that is locked in the Time Tombs to travel back in time. When she meets Kassad again, she tells him that he can call her either Moneta or Mnemosyne. Moneta is the priestess who, in Keats' poem "The Fall of Hyperion," reveals the fate of the Titans to the dreamer. Mnemosyne is the goddess associated with memory and is the mother of the muses.

The Consul

The Consul is the most successful ambassador of the Hegemony. He is the only ambassador to make contact with the Ousters, and his negotiating skills have earned him a luxury that few Hegemony citizens possess, his own personal interstellar spaceship. But the Consul is a man of secrets. He has conspired with the Ousters to bring down the Hegemony. It turns out that he is a double agent to both the Hegemony and the Ousters, for his only real loyalty lies with his home planet of Maui-Covenant.

The Consul's grandmother Siri was the leader of the resistance on Maui-Covenant. She and her followers believed that inclusion in the Hegemony would turn their home world into a tourist trap and would destroy the fragile ecosystem that the Covenant was founded to protect. Her fears proved justified. Since its connection to the Web, Maui-Covenant has suffered the very fate that the Consul's grandmother predicted, and the Consul feels a strong desire to avenge his home world. He is given a device by the Ousters that he is told will release the Shrike from the Time Tombs. He betrays the Ousters, kills the research team he is with, and activates the device early. CEO Gladstone is aware of the Consul's true loyalties and was counting on him to develop a close relationship with the Ousters. She will use this connection to negotiate an alliance with the Ousters in order to combat their mutual enemy, the TechnoCore.

The Consul is an older man with a fondness for classical music and an accomplished pianist.

Colonel Kassad

Kassad is a decorated warrior of the Hegemony FORCE. He first met the mysterious woman named Moneta in a simulation of the battle of Waterloo while in officer training. He saw her several more times in simulations, each time they had passionate sexual encounters. Finally, after he is marooned on Hyperion following the destruction of his ship in orbit, Kassad helps Moneta and the Shrike to kill an Ouster unit that has set up



near the Time Tombs. He makes love with Moneta again but has a vision of her as the Shrike and flees. He returns as a pilgrim to the Time Tombs to find out her true natural and to kill the Shrike.

Father Hoyt

Father Hoyt is a Jesuit priest who first visited Hyperion in search of fellow priest, Father Dure. He discovered that Dure was afflicted by a parasite that resurrected his body upon death. Father Hoyt now carries the cruciform parasite of Father Dure on his body, as well as his own cruciform parasite, which he was infected with during his search. The cruciforms cause the host extreme pain when away from the labyrinths of Hyperion, and Father Hoyt has been taking strong anti-pain medication.

Father Dure

An anathematized researcher, Father Dure is resurrected from the cruciform on the back of Father Hoyt upon Hoyt's death. Dure then takes Hoyt's place as one of the Hyperion pilgrims, seeking answers to the war.

Martin Silenus

Martin Silenus is a poet who came to Hyperion years before as a part of Sad King Billy's artist colony. He began writing his Cantos at near the same time that the Shrike began terrorizing the citizens of the City of Poets that Sad King Billy had founded. Eventually, all of the residents moved away or were killed by the Shrike. Silenus stayed in the city and wrote alone for many years until Sad King Billy return to convince his old friend to stop writing the poem, which both of them believed to have created the Shrike. The Shrike kills Sad King Billy and Silenus flees the planet, only to return years later as a member of the Shrike pilgrims. He hopes to finish his great poem before he dies.

Silenus is the name of the companion and tutor of the Greek god Dionysus. Keats uses the word Silenus in his poem "The Fall of Hyperion."

Het Masteen

Het Masteen is the representative of the Templars on Hyperion. He has a secret mission to use the erg contained within his Mobius cube to power the Shrike's tree of thorns and aid the Shrike in its mission of atonement.



CEO Meina Gladstone

The elected leader of the Hegemony who shares power with the All Thing controlled Senate. Gladstone is a strong leader and a forceful person. She is in her middle years and was an associate of Brawne Lamia's father.

Leigh Hunt

Leigh Hunt is a practical man. He serves as CEO Gladstone's assistant and is fiercely loyal to her despite how little he knows of the particulars of what she is attempting to do.

General Morpongo

General Mupongo is the leader of the war council and a close friend of CEO Gladstone. His confidence turns to caution as the war proceeds, but he, like Gladstone, eventually sees that the Hegemony faces a stark choice.

William Ajunta Lee

A young naval officer from the world of Maui-Covenant, William Ajunta Lee is promoted to Rear Admiral by CEO Gladstone after he correctly predicts the outcome of moving the Hegemony fleet to Hyperion. He later is instrumental in revealing the TechnoCore deception.

Governor Theo Lane

Governor Theo Lane was an administrative assistant to the Consul years before when the Consul was living on Hyperion to establish contact with the Ousters. Lane is now the acting governor of Keats, the capital city of Hyperion.

Dr. Amelio Arundez

Arundez led the research expedition to the Time Tombs on which Rachel Weintraub had her accident. He was her lover at the time.

Ambassador Albedo

The primary ambassador to the Hegemony by the TechnoCore, Albedo is a construct whose screen depicts a lifelike human head that talks for him.

Ummon

Ummon is one of the leaders of the Stable faction of the TechnoCore AIs. The Keats/Severn cybrid thinks of Ummon as his father.

The Shrike

The Shrike is a mysterious being that began appearing during the Hegemony colonization of the planet Hyperion. Its activity seems focused around the Time Tombs, but recently it begun to appear all over the planet. The Shrike is a humanoid construct of chrome and spikes and stands about three meters tall. When Brawne Lamia turns the Shrike's outer carapace into glass, she sees a form that looks like a large black moth beating its wings furiously in the creature's chest. The Shrike dismembers its victims and and places them on its tree of thorns.



Objects/Places

Time Tombs

The Time Tombs are mysterious structures located in a desert valley on Hyperion. They are moving backwards through time and are surrounded by entropic fields that ebb and flow. The entropic waves can quickly disorient sentient beings. The Time Tombs are open, but because they are moving backwards through time, it is speculated that they opened in the future.

Farcaster

A Farcaster is a device powered by a singularity that allows for travel across many lightyears in the blink of an eye and without any of the time debt that accompanies other forms of travel at relativistic velocities. The technology inspired its own verb, to farcast.

Fatline

A Farline is a transmission that bypasses normal space time by transmitting in the space between measurable distance, or the space between Planck's constant. This space is also known as Null Space.

Cybrid

A cybrid is a human being who has been engineered to act as a physical surrogate to an Artificial Intelligence.

Neural Shunt

A neural shunt is a device capable of storing and protecting vast quantities of data. Brawne Lamia has a neural shunt behind her ear containing the AI of her lover John Keats.

Merlin's Sickness

Merlin's Sickness is the name given to the bizarre condition that afflicted Rachel Weintraub after her accident in the Spinx Time Tomb on Hyperion.



Silver Skin Suit

The silver skin suit is an advanced body armor developed in the future, which Moneta and Kassad wear when they battle the Shrike army.

TechnoCore

The TechnoCore is a confederation of Artificial Intelligences which broke official ties with the Hegemony but still participates in helping the Hegemony maintain its technical infrastructure.

AI

Short acronym for Artificial Intelligence. In the books, the writer does away with placing periods in these acronyms.

UI

Short acronym for Ultimate Intelligence. In the books, the writer does away with placing periods in these acronyms.

Erg

An erg is a primitive, non-sentient creature with an inexplicable ability to manipulate magnetic fields. The Templars use ergs to power their vast tree ships.



Themes

Evolution and the Fall of Gods

The key metaphor of *THE FALL OF HYPERION* comes from John Keats's poem of the same name. In the poem, the Titans led by Saturn, have just been defeated by the upstart young gods led by Jupiter. They lament their losses and try to come to terms with the new world order. Their efforts are what created the new gods, and now those gods have replaced them. The Titans themselves were once the upstarts when they rebelled and defeated their creators, led by ancient Uranus.

The Keats poem is cited directly throughout the book, at times in specific relation to the creation of the two UIs that will replace the TechnoCore AIs and humanity. At one point, the Keats cybrid discusses the poem as an argument for evolution fifty years before Darwin. In the poem, the god of the deep, Oceanus, bids the Titans to come to their senses and understand that their glory has past. He points out how powerful and fine Poseidon, his replacement, is, and tells them that this replacement is necessary and natural. Oceanus's words are echoed in the book by the AI Ummon, who talks with Keats about the necessary destruction of the TechnoCore. Those in power are required to leave it before a better AI can take their place. Later, during the outbreak of the civil war in the TechnoCore, Keats witnesses Ummon's annihilation.

There seems to be little moral value in the concept of evolution. It is impossible to prove that the smarter or the more powerful are truly better than those more foolish and weaker. An evolutionist might argue that the new race is demonstrably better at least at surviving. But this supposes that evolution is far more orderly and controlled than it actually is. The creation of smarter beings seems to bring with it the increased possibility for greater levels of destruction and a higher probability of utter annihilation. In that event, the smarter, faster race might prove to be faster at bringing about its own doom.

Sol, Abraham, and Sacrifice

After his daughter's accident, Sol Weintraub begins to have a reoccurring dream in which Rachel is naked on an altar with a knife beside her. A disembodied voice then tells him to take his daughter to Hyperion and sacrifice her. Sol always refuses. The story of Sol, his wife Sarai and their daughter Rachel is a partial retelling of the biblical story of Abraham and Isaac. Abraham is told to sacrifice his son Isaac to prove his devotion to God. Abraham complies, but his hand is stayed by God, and Isaac survives.

Sol eventually finds his way to the Time Tombs and ends up alone as the last pilgrim. He dreams the dream again and again refuses the request. However, this last time his daughter speaks in the dream, telling him that he must sacrifice her, not out of obedience, but out of love for the human race. Sol decides that the request has altered



enough that he can obey it. He comes to this conclusion largely because Rachel herself seems to have made the decision and wishes him to carry it out. After he gives her to the Shrike, he has an epiphany about the story of Abraham. The story is usually considered to be one where God tests the faith of one of his followers. Sol now sees the story in reverse. He believes it was Abraham who was testing God. If God stayed Abraham's hand and kept him from destroying the thing in his life that he loved and cherished beyond all else, then God was worthy of Abraham's devotion.

The Destructive Power of Progress

One of the pivotal events in the war between the Ousters and the Hegemony is the betrayal of the Hegemony's chief ambassador, the Consul. The Consul's grandmother was the leader of a rebellion led on the world of Maui-Covenant just before that world's inclusion in the Hegemony and attachment to the Web. Maui-Covenant was originally set up as a colony attempting to preserve the aquatic species of Earth, in particular Dolphins and Whales. It was a paradise of motile islands driven by schools of intelligent dolphins. The Consul's grandmother, Siri, saw the coming of the Hegemony as a threat to her colony and its ecosystem. Her fears were well founded. After only a few decades, the motile islands of Maui Covenant had become bogged down by luxury resorts. The dolphin schools had been killed off and were in danger of extinction. The world was commercialized and its appeal destroyed. The fate of Maui-Covenant moved the Consul to betray the Hegemony to avenge the loss of his home world.

CEO Gladstone, too, understands what has been lost. She knows that the destruction of the ecosystems of the Hegemony worlds has been a sign of the Hegemony's stagnation and weakness. At one point, after she has made the decision to incite the war that she hopes and fears will lead to the upheaval of the Hegemony, she takes a walking tour of several worlds and notes all the signs of destruction and sickness that progress has brought. She arrives finally on Mars, where she views from a safe distance the singularity that gobbled Earth, the original of the Hegemony and the first ecosystem it betrayed.



Style

Point of View

The Hyperion Cantos are told in third person Omniscient, with the exception of the waking experiences of Joseph Severn, during which it switches to first person. The story is told largely through the eyes of Joseph Severn, both what he experiences while alive and what he dreams while asleep. In this manner, the narrator can be considered as somewhat unreliable in that experiencing events through dream might result in some distortion. Whether or not this is true is never revealed in the book. Severn's dreams are told in third person as if they were from the point of view of the people about whom he is dreaming; therefore, the point of view seems to jump around a great deal. The point of view stays with Severn and the Hyperion pilgrims most of the time, but occasionally jumps to another character, particularly CEO Gladstone. The writer never presents the point of view of any AI in the TechnoCore, with the exception of Keats/Severn, and never presents the point of view of any of the Ousters. The Shrike is left a complete mystery and does not communicate through the entire story, with one exception. During his attack on Martin Silenus, the Shrike mentally forces Silenus to write out its responses to the poet's plies for mercy and more time.

Setting

The Fall of Hyperion takes place in a large confederation of worlds joined together by a high speed method of travel called farcasting. Many wealthy Hegemony members have farcasters between different rooms of their houses, so that their dining room may look out over a bay on Maui-Covenant and their living room may be in a high rise on Tau City Center. The reader is given brief glimpses of many of these worlds, but much of the action is on either Tau City Center, where CEO Gladstone's government conducts most of its business, and on Hyperion itself.

Tau City Center is a world devoted entirely to commercial interests. It is filled with precipitous skyscrapers and plush luxury apartment towers. After the destruction of the farcasting network, the people of Tau City Center, who were depending on other worlds of the Hegemony for their day to day items, including food, had to abandon its high rises and attempt to grow food in the unused fields.

Hyperion is a backwater world of extremes. The sky is a lapis lazuli color and hides a strange magnetic field which prohibits many forms of propulsion. Dirigibles are the common means of mass transport, though this is mostly after the events of the book. Hyperion has three continents. Its capital city, Keats, is named after the famed Earth poet and is a rough and tumble spaceport town. The City of Poets, near the Time Tombs is abandoned and in ruins. The Time Tombs, where much of the action takes place, are set in a vast desert valley of rolling dunes. This area seems to call to mind the desolate Giza Plateau in Egypt, where the pharaohs of the fourth and fifth dynasty built the Great

Pyramids. The Time Tombs even contain a Tomb shaped as a Sphinx similar to the one at Giza.

Language and Meaning

The complexity of the language used in *The Fall of Hyperion* is match only by the complexity of its plot. The vocabulary is advanced throughout and beyond even college level at points. The world of the Hegemony adds its own worlds to the lexicon, including farcast, translate, erg, FLEET, fatline, hellwhip, and more.

Conceptually, the book is broad in scope and content. There is plenty to confuse even the most careful reader, and readers who do not have a solid grasp of elementary physics might be lost in some of the technical details. There are particularly complex passages, the most prominent of which is the dialogue between Brawne Lamia, Keats, and the AI Ummon. This conversation, which is pivotal to the book and is where the reader learns much of the facts central to the action, concerns poetics, history, theology, psychology, and advanced physics, makes numerous references to the works of modern physicists such as Schrödinger, Planck, and Feynman, and quotes from the bible, Homer, Keats, and Yates.

Structure

The book is written in three parts. The first part ends with Gladstone's fateful decision to send a large portion of the Hegemony FLEET to Hyperion, thus falling into a trap set by the TechnoCore. The second part brings the crisis of the war to its head, as the supposed Ouster fleet begins bombarding Hegemony worlds and Sol Weintraub hands baby Rachel over to the Shrike. The third section contains the final actions of Gladstone and the pilgrims on Hyperion. There is no prologue to catch the reader up on what happened in the first book, but there is an epilogue that the reader can almost consider as essential, as it verifies the importance of Brawne Lamia's daughter.

In the beginning, the chapters divide the action between Severn's experiences in the waking world, and his dreams of the pilgrims on Hyperion. But as the novel progresses and Severn's ability to peek into disparate places and watch events as they unfold increases, the point of view begins to jump around with the chapters. The longest sections are spent with the Hyperion pilgrims. This has the effect of attenuating the action on Hyperion, of slowing its pace and allowing it greater portent. If this were not done, the action occurring elsewhere, which on its face seems more fast-paced and consequential, would overwhelm the Hyperion plotline.



Quotes

"Perhaps the Shrike is gone,' says Father Hoyt. 'Perhaps by collapsing the anti-entropic fields you've freed it forever. Perhaps it's carried its scourge elsewhere.'

The Consul shakes his head and says nothing.

'No,' says Sal Weintraub. The baby is sleeping against his shoulder. 'It will be here. I feel it.'

Brawne Lamia nods. 'So do I. It's waiting.' She had retrieved several ration units from her pack, and now she pulls heating tabs and passes the units around.

'I know that anticlimax is the warp and woof of the world,' says Silenus. 'But this is fucking ridiculous. All dressed up with nowhere to die.'"

pp. 20-21

"I looked out at the garden. The path glowed whitely, almost eerily in the dark. 'The Core works toward its own ends,' I said, knowing as I spoke that no human being knew that fact better than CEO Meina Gladstone.

'And do you feel that humanity no longer figures as a means toward those ends?'

I made a dismissive gesture with my right hand. 'I'm a creature of neither culture,' I said again. 'Neither graced by the naivete of the unintentional creators, nor cursed by the terrible awareness of their creatures.'"

Joseph Severn and Meina Gladstone, p. 58

"But he knew that he had returned to find the Shrike and kill it. To find Moneta and to kill her. To kill her? He did not know. Colonel Fedmahn Kassad knew only that all the great passions of a passionate life had led him to this place and to this moment, and if death awaited him here, then so be it. And if love and glory and a victory that would make Valhalla quake awaited, so be it."

p. 99

"There was no time for that. One instant the Lord of Pain stood five meters away across black tile, and the next instant it was beside Kassad, gripping the Colonel's upper arm in a steel-bladed vise that sank through the skinsuit field and drew blood from his biceps."

p. 142

"The Consul gestured toward the cloudless sky. 'Everything that's happened . . . our pilgrimage, even this war . . . was manufactured because of the internal politics of the Core.'

'And what do we know of the Core?' asked Dure softly.

'Nothing,' said the Consul, and threw a pebble toward the carved stone to the left of the Sphinx's stairway. 'When all is said and done, we know nothing.'"

p. 164

"The tall shadow moved closer, its footfalls silent on cold ceramic. The sky rippled with blood-red energy, and the poet could see the thorns and blades and razorwire wrappings now.

'No!' cried Martin Silenus. 'I refuse. Leave me alone.'



The Shrike stepped closer. Silenus's hand twitched, lifted the pen again, and wrote across the empty lower margin of his last page: IT IS TIME, MARTIN."
p. 171

"Albedo smiled. He spread his hands. 'M. Executive, the shock of this terrible news must have caused you to make a poor joke. Declaring war against the Core would be like . . . like a fish declaring war against the water, like a driver attacking his EMV because of disturbing news of an accident elsewhere.'
Gladstone did not smile. 'I once had a grandfather on Patawpha,' she said slowly, her dialect thickening, 'who put six slugs from a pulse rifle into the family EMV when it did not start one morning. You are dismissed, Councilor.'"
p. 193

"The experience was like nothing she had ever had with comlog leads or nodes before. That was like full stimsim—like being in a holodrama with full color and wraparound stereo—this was like being there.
Peter had finally come to take her away.
Lamia rose above the curve of Hyperion's planetary limb, seeing the rudimentary channels of microwaved dataflow and tightbeamed commlink that passed for an embryonic datasphere there. She did not pause to tap into it, for she was following an orange umbilical skyward toward the real avenues and highways of datumplane."
p. 206

"'Damn, ' whispered Sol. He had cared for Brawne Lamia. He had cared for all of the pilgrims, and now they were gone. Sol's decades as an academic had preconditioned him to hunt for pattern in events, a moral grain in the accreted stone of experience, but there had been no pattern to events on Hyperion—merely confusion and death."
pp. 234-235

"Oh, Fanny, if only you knew! We are created for precisely this sort of suffering. In the end, it is all we are, these limpid tide pools of self-consciousness between crashing waves of pain. We are destined and designed to bear our pain with us, hugging it tight to our bellies like a young Spartan thief hiding a wolf cub so it can eat away our insides. What other creature in God's wide domain would carry the memory of you, Fanny, dust these nine hundred years, and allow it to eat away at him even as consumption does the same work with its effortless efficiency?"
Keats/Severn, p. 409

"'The reconciliation of man and machine, Creator and created, ' said Keats and began to cough, stopping only after he had drooled red phlegm into the basin Hunt held for him. He lay back, gasped a moment, and added, 'Reconciliation of humankind it tried to expunge, the painfully evolved God of the Void Which Binds and its ancestors who tried to expunge it.'"
Keats/Severn to Leigh Hunt, p. 452

"'My God,' whispered Meina Gladstone, looking down at the body of Admiral Singh. 'I'm doing all of this on the strength of a dream.'



'Sometimes,' said General Morpurgo, taking her hand, 'dreams are all that separate us from the machines.'

p. 474

"But now, as the Sphinx loomed above him and the first hint of sunrise paled Hyperion's sky, Sol realized that he had responded to a force more basic and persuasive than the Shrike's terror or pain's dominion. If he was right—and he did not know but felt—then love was as hardwired into the structure of the universe as gravity and matter/antimatter. There was room for some sort of God not in the web between the walls, nor in the singularity cracks in the pavement, not somewhere out before and beyond the sphere of things . . . but in the very warp and woof of things. Evolving as the universe evolved. Learning as the learning-able parts of the universe learned. Loving as humankind loved."

p. 493



Topics for Discussion

How does the overall structure of THE FALL OF HYPERION by Dan Simmons mirror "The Fall of the Hyperion: by John Keats? At what points does the parallel break down?

Explain how Sol Weintraub's tale relates to the biblical story of Abraham. Discuss the conclusions that Sol draws about the nature of God after he hands Rachel over to the Shrike. Was he right to do so?

How is the Ouster invasion of the Hegemony similar to the barbarian invasion of the Roman Empire? How is it different.

Discuss the various forms of technology presented in the book and the vocabulary the author uses to name them.

CEO Gladstone faces a choice between a war that will be devastating to the Hegemony but offer a possible future for humanity, and almost certain annihilation by seeking peace. She expects to be thought of as the greatest mass murderer in the history of humanity. Are her actions justified?

Expound upon the nature of the Shrike. What is its origin and function? How does it carry out that function?

Identify which elements in the story of Brawne Lamia and her child coincide with the story of Jesus. Is the Keats/Severn cybrid justified in identifying himself as the John the Baptist of Lamia's daughter?

Discuss the possible aftermaths of the destruction of the farcaster network.

What were the Consul's motives for betraying the Hegemony? How did his action affect the war and was he justified in them?