

I Am Number Four Study Guide

I Am Number Four by Pittacus Lore

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Plot Summary

I am Number Four by Pittacus Lore is a novel that takes a look at the consequences of alien contact and survival of the human species. Lorien is a planet that is a hundred times older than Earth. It has already faced the myriad of problems with which Earth is only beginning to struggle now - global warming, food shortages, overpopulation, and pollution are all part of Lorien's history. Twenty five thousand years ago, long before they were able to travel through the universe, their planet began to die. The inhabitants of Lorien knew that something drastic had to be done to ensure their survival. They made a commitment to change their way of life, and slowly do away with the harmful chemicals, bombs, pollutants and guns. In time, the damage began to reverse itself, and Lorien survived.

Another planet, Mogadore, faced the same issues, but its inhabitants were less concerned. Instead of making changes to ensure their survival, they continued to use and abuse the planet they called home. They didn't understand that their waste and sewage would kill their rivers and lakes. They failed to comprehend that this would cause the herbivores to perish and that the carnivores would soon follow. Instead, they used their resources up, and then traveled to the next closest life-sustaining planet - Lorien. The battle was fierce and the Lorien citizens fought valiantly, but failed to save their planet from the Mogadorian invasion.

Six children were sent into space with their Cêpans on a year long journey to Earth. Once there, they separated, each protected by a Loric charm. They had to survive until they came into their Legacies and became powerful enough to return to Lorien and reclaim their home. Their Cêpans were tasked with their education and their safety and as long as they remained apart from each other, the Lorien children known as the Garde could only be killed in specific order. As an added safety measure, if the first of the six (called Number One) was killed, a ring would immediately be burned into the ankles of the remaining five. As such, Number Four knew the Mogadorians would come for him next when the third ring formed on his ankle.

Number Four also knew that it meant they would be moving again, as they had every few months since their arrival on Earth ten years earlier. He would have to leave this identity behind, taking on a new name and finding a way to fit into yet another small town. This time, the move was to Paradise, Ohio. Known now as John, he and his Cêpan, Henri, began the process of blending in once again. Now fifteen years of age, John would come into the first of his Legacies at any time, and Henri was overly vigilant. Until John's powers fully developed, they would never be safe. John's first Legacy power announced itself on John's first day in his new school. His hands suddenly lit up, and he was unable to turn them off. He hid, and called Henri to come for him. Now, the training would begin. John's inheritance, contained in a Loric chest, would help him to learn to use the Legacies he receives, and hopefully give him the tools he needs to fight off the Mogadorians who roam the Earth in search of him and his two remaining Garde.



The final battle has John, Number Six and Henri facing Mogadorian Soldiers, Scouts, Beasts and Weasels. With the help of John's first love, Sarah, friends Sam and Mark, and a Chimera named Bernie Kosar, they manage to overpower the Mogadorian attack and escape once again, losing Henri to the battle. A fast paced story, I am Number Four is hard to put down, and leaves room for the sequel to follow.



Chapters 1 - 4

Chapters 1 - 4 Summary

I am Number Four by Pittacus Lore is a novel that takes a look at the consequences of alien contact and survival of the human species. Lorien is a planet that is a hundred times older than Earth. It has already faced the myriad of problems with which Earth is only beginning to struggle now - global warming, food shortages, overpopulation, and pollution are all part of Lorien's history. Twenty five thousand years ago, long before they were able to travel through the universe, their planet began to die. The inhabitants of Lorien knew that something drastic had to be done to ensure their survival. They made a commitment to change their way of life, and slowly do away with the harmful chemicals, bombs, pollutants and guns. In time, the damage began to reverse itself, and Lorien survived.

Number Four is just settling into his home in Florida when it is time to move again. It isn't the first move he and Henri have made, and it would hopefully not be their last. It is essential that Henri keep Number Four safe, especially since Number Four just received the ring around his ankle that warns him that Number Three is now dead. There are nine of them, and they carry a charm that protects them while they are apart from each other. They must be eliminated in order or cannot be killed. Whenever one is removed, a ring appears around the ankle of the remaining Gardes. His third ring appears while he is out with friends on a boat, and it forces their immediate relocation. It was the longest they had stayed anywhere since arriving on Earth - nine months. Now, he burns his identification and begins again, this time calling himself John Smith. He lives with Henri, his Cêpan, and this move will take them to Paradise, Ohio.

John knows he must blend in, which includes doing everything that normal fifteen year old boys must do. That includes going to school. Blending in is difficult at times and John's first day is one of those times. One of the first few people he meets is the school bully. Every school has one, and Mark James has the distinction of being the bully in Paradise. To make matters worse, John's first Legacy asserts itself on his first day of school, his hands suddenly beginning to glow and burn. He clenches his fists, trying to distract himself from the pain, and quickly texts 'CMME' to Henri which should have read 'COME'. He hopes Henri will get it. As soon as the bell rings, he looks for somewhere private to hide and wait for it to pass or for Henri to show up. Thankfully, Henri's voice comes through the door of the darkroom he locks himself into. John is never more grateful to hear Henri.

Chapters 1 - 4 Analysis

The Gardes are almost too young to remember when they arrived on Earth. It had taken a year to get there, and there had been nine of them then. They had to scatter, for how long none of them knew, but their anonymity is the key to their survival. As long as they



remain apart, they can only be killed in sequence. This is one of the benefits that each had been given in the form of the charms each of them wears. Another is that when the first dies, the rest will be given a ringed scar around an ankle, letting them know. When Number Two is killed, a second ring is added, and so forth. Number Four is only nine when the first ring comes. The Mogadarians have found them on Earth. The second scar shows up when Number Four is twelve, and the third has arrived just recently. Now, at the age of fifteen, Number Four knows the danger is very high. He is next. As such, they will continue to move frequently, hiding and blending in, taking little with them beyond an ornate chest that Henri makes sure is with them at times, much like the emergency pack that 'John' carries. They have always been careful. Loriens are stronger and faster than humans and he can't risk detection so he claims to have asthma so that he can avoid competitive sports, and his pack contains five days of rations, extra socks and underwear, a hand held GPS, a rain jacket and a cell phone.

Now, John is grateful for the foresight Henri has, and is no longer as complacent as he has been. Things are changing and he doesn't know what to do. All he can hope is that Henri gets his message and finds him soon. There are voices outside the door of the darkroom where he has locked himself in. He rocks back and forth, cradling his burning hands, clenching them against the glow that emanates from his palms. When he hears Henri's voice outside the door, he is more than just a little bit relieved.



Chapters 5 - 7

Chapters 5 - 7 Summary

John unlocks the door and Henri looks at his hands. The right is brighter than the left and Henri hands his gardening gloves to John, telling him to put them on. John is so dizzy he can hardly stand, but Henri helps him to the truck and retrieves his pack from the classroom where he'd left it in his hurry to leave. John pumps Henri for information as to what his new gift means, but all Henri will tell him is that soon it will be time to open the chest that has haunted John his entire life. He tried to open it many times over the years, but the lock has no place for a key, and he was never successful. When they get home, John notices his phone is missing, and immediately knows who took it. Henri looks exhausted, and John suggests they get some sleep before proceeding. It takes little convincing. When he wakes, he finds Henri in the kitchen searching the Internet for any signs of the others. He closes his computer, and begins John's education just as many Cêpan before him have done.

Henri tells John that as he hones this Legacy, he will become increasingly resistant to fire and heat. In the meantime, he will have to learn to control his emotions. This proves to be difficult as he sees Mark James and his friends again on his second day. This time, John will not blend in, or ignore. Instead, he demands the return of his phone by day's end. After this encounter, John's right hand begins to glow again. He pulls on the gloves he brought for this reason, and goes to his first class. Sam Goode sits beside him, and Sarah and Mark sit several seats ahead. At lunch, John sits by himself and Sam joins him. Mark and his gang begin throwing meatballs and the first one hits Sam on the back. John is hit with the second, and has had enough. He approaches Mark, but things don't go quite as planned. They all wind up in the Principal's office. Mark is hardly so much as chastised, especially when he claims that the false accusations are making it hard to concentrate on the upcoming interview with the local newspaper. Mr. Harris immediately takes his side, and John knows that now he and Sam will have to be careful as they are on Mark's radar now. John's next class is home economics and he is surprised to find Sarah in that class as well. Mrs. Benshoff pairs them together and they spend the hour making and then eating pancakes. By the end of the day, the small town school is rife with rumors of an upcoming fight between himself and Mark. John stands nervously at his locker, knowing he can't back down. A voice behind him turns his head. Sarah gives him back his phone, and admits that Mark has no idea she took it from him. She smiles and hurries off down the hall. As John is leaving the school, he walks past Mark and his friends. Mark taunts him but John just smiles and holds up his cell phone while Mark's jaw drops.

Chapters 5 - 7 Analysis

Only half of John is excited that his first Legacy has begun to assert itself. The rest of him is crushed. He had hoped that after so many moves and so much time, perhaps it



had all been an elaborate story. He tries to remember the other eight children who traveled to Earth with him, but his memories are vague and uncertain. All he knows for sure is that with three rings around his ankle, he is Number Four and now his protection is gone. If they find him, he will be killed and it is Henri's job to protect him and to continue his education until he is ready to join the others and return to Lorien to fight for their right to live there. Henri describes how John's grandfather had the same gift and explains that he was raised by his grandparents. Parents are not generally active in their child's upbringing until they become adult themselves. It is more important that they hone the Legacies they have been given.

Lorien was a planet that was rich with resources. When the Legacy children were sent away, each Cêpan was given enough precious gemstones to last several lifetimes. When they reached Earth, Henri established accounts overseas which he draws from when funds are required. Needing clothing for the cooler Ohio climate, Henri goes to make a sizable transfer of funds while John goes to school for his second day. An encounter with Mark and his friends is enough to start the glowing in his right hand again, and John clenches it until he can get to the bathroom. He concentrates on calming himself, but the glow remains, and he reluctantly puts on the gloves he brought. He realizes that he will not be able to stand up for himself where Mark is concerned if he is to blend in. Between Mark and the feelings he can't seem to control around Sarah, he will have a difficult enough time blending in.



Chapters 8 - 11

Chapters 8 - 11 Summary

Henri picks John up from school and asks about his hands. John lies, telling him they never came on. At home, the Loric chest is sitting on the table, and Henri reveals that it takes the power of them both to open his inheritance, given to him at birth. Henri pulls out a Loric crystal and locks the chest again, handing the crystal to John. His hands come on even brighter than before and John sees a swirling cloud mass as the rock heats up, along with the Loric charm he wears. It is tied to his Legacy and his touch activates it. Henri tells him to relax, and allow his mind to take him wherever it will as he runs the crystal slowly up John's arms, training his body to ignore the heat. John finds himself on Lorien, and hears Henri's voice telling him about another Garde. The Mogadorians know where one of the others is, but can't touch her until John is dead. Meanwhile, John is a spectator at the last battle on Lorien. He sees the Mogadore land and hears Henri tell him that carelessness is the reason they were defeated. Though as many Mogadorians are being killed as Loric, the Loriens do not have the numbers necessary to defeat them. A scratching at the door interrupts them, and on the other side is the same beagle that John had seen at school the previous day. Henri reaches down to pet him, and wagging his tail, he pushes past him and into the house. His collar identifies him as Bernie Kosar. Henri tells John that the Mogadorians are on Earth as well but they are different. They tend to be gregarious and though they have certain powers, they stand out in small towns but thrive in cities where they can be anonymous. Henri believes they are seeking to take Earth as their new home.

The next day John finds both his locker and Sam's have been filled with manure. Mr. Harris provides little support so he goes to Astronomy class where Mrs. Burton lectures on about Saturn. Sam is reading "They Walk Among Us" and making notes. By the fourth class, Bernie Kosar has managed to track him down, and joins him during the Physical Education class outside. While they complete the assigned run, Sam talks frankly about alien invasions. In home economics, Sarah tells him about her history with Mark and encourages him to join in the Halloween parade and festival later. John continues his education with Henri at home. His visions also continue and include snapshots of his grandparents, and of an animal that shape shifts and appears to be a pet called Hadley. In these visions, he is able to fly, and sees a man in a silver suit. Henri tells him about his grandparents, and John watches the battlefield again, but this time sees a second ship leave after theirs. Henri doesn't know anything about it.

Chapters 8 - 11 Analysis

John gets into the truck after school and Henri asks him almost immediately who the girl is. He claims to have recognized the signs as he was quite the ladies' man himself on Lorien. John calls him on that comment right away. Loric people are monogamous and John knows that Henri had been married twenty years already by the time they left



Lorien. Even now, ten years later, John knows Henri still thinks about his wife every day. Henri is pleased that John remembers these details, showing that he has been paying attention to the information Henri gives him. At home, the real lessons begin for John as Henri shows him how to unlock the Loric chest for the first time. It is to be used by the Keeper when the Gardes are coming into their Legacy, he explains. Henri tells John to relax and let his mind take him away. Soon John is on Lorien, watching the last battle unfold before him. John tells Henri about his visions saying that he had never truly understood until this point. The planet Mogadore had begun to die a century before, Henri explains, but the inhabitants hadn't responded like the Loric race did. They had systematically killed their home planet. The next closest viable planet had been Lorien and it is obvious that it holds the resources the Mogadorians had been after. Now, a large number of them are on Earth.

The next day in school, John's issues with Mark continue as he discovers his locker and Sam's half filled with manure. Mr. Harris is no help and John struggles to calm himself, knowing he can't risk lighting up his palms again. In Astronomy class, Sarah smiles at John as she takes her seat. Mr. Harris interrupts the class soon after to collect Mark for his interview with the paper, and John wishes he could take the seat beside Sarah. During their run in physical education, Sam discusses his interest in all things alien and his feeling that aliens are among us even now, learning from us, and seeking a way to expose our weaknesses before they invade. He rattles off at least a dozen more conspiracy theories, most of which are amusing at best. John is surprised by how close Sam is to the truth. John's visions continue at home while Henri works with him, and he begins to see things even Henri has no knowledge of, including the second ship that followed them when they left.



Chapters 12 and 13

Chapters 12 and 13 Summary

Henri and John attend the Saturday Halloween parade with Bernie Kosar in a Superman cape. John introduces Henri to Sam and they exchange alien conspiracy theories until Sam mentions the Mogadorians by name. He claims they are seeking world domination and are already on Earth, having wiped out one planet before. John and Henri are stunned and ask where he gets his information. Sam cites the publication "They Walk Among Us." Sarah waves at John, and Henri knows this is the girl John likes. She comes over and talks to them for a while, inviting them to join the haunted hayride later. Mark and his gang arrive and Mark immediately begins to taunt John. Sarah puts herself between them, but when they show no signs of letting up, she walks away. Mark retreats to his friends, and John goes after Sarah.

He finds her on a swing and they talk for a few minutes until Sarah realizes she should probably sell the remaining raffle tickets she has. She reminds him that he should stay for the hayride, suggesting they go on it together. An hour later, John watches as the cheerleaders complete the makeup for the costumes of the football team. John realizes that they will be part of what waits for them in the woods and Henri wonders if John should even go. The first and second hayrides go out. Sarah calls John to confirm he will wait for her and she promises to be in time for the third. Henri senses Mark intends to make trouble, and insists on staying until they return. Five minutes later Sarah arrives with Emily and when John sees Sam, he calls out to him creating a foursome. Tommy, who John recognizes from the football team, asks them if they want to get on board and grins maliciously when they accept. The tractor pulls out and they head into the dark forest. After three or four minutes riding, the tractor stops and the driver calls for everyone to get off. There are eleven of them in total and they can already hear the group ahead of them shrieking. A heavy net falls over top of John and Sam, and almost immediately they are shoved, kicked, and run into trees in the darkness. He can hear the girls being dragged away. John finally loses his temper, yelling out a challenge. He takes a breath and his hands glow as he sprints in the direction of the voices.

Chapters 12 and 13 Analysis

Henri and John decide to attend the annual Halloween parade in Paradise. John believes solitude is beginning to get to them both, so this is a welcome distraction. It isn't that they aren't used to the solitude, but living in a small town in Ohio is not like other places they've been. They watch the parade and Henri sees Mark for the first time. He knows the whole story now and jokingly refers to Mark as John's 'friend'. It is also easy for Henri to spot the girl for whom John has fallen and he has no trouble seeing the appeal. Sam joins them and he and Henri exchange alien conspiracy theories until Sam mentions the Mogadorians and their plan to dominate the universe. Sam's mother comes over and introduces herself, mistaking Henri for a Frenchman at



first, and registering her disappointment when she discovers he isn't the dignified man with whom she had hoped to converse. Before they leave, John invites Sam to join the hayride later. Henri sarcastically calls her a 'very nice woman' when they leave. John asks Henri what he thinks about the information Sam had and Henri tells him that he'd like to get a look at "Aliens Among Us" which Sam cited as his source. John wonders if the information was supplied by a Lorien and Henri admits that he'd never thought to check the conspiracy theory rags. The cheerleaders are selling raffle tickets to help rebuild a not-for-profit animal shelter in Colorado, having arranged for the team to spend a week helping to rebuild as well. Mark sees Sarah talking to John and walks over. He immediately tries to taunt John, and Sarah is not amused. When neither John nor Mark will back down, she walks away disgusted, telling them to go ahead and fight if they want to. Henri walks up as Mark retreats, suggesting Mark looks like he is all talk. John goes after Sarah to apologize.

He finds her sitting alone on a swing and offers her a push. She asks him where Bernie Kosar is and John tells her that he left him with Henri. Sarah comments on his use of Henri's first name instead of the more usual 'Dad' and he makes a mental note to be more aware of what he is saying. He asks her what she's going to do about Mark, but she's already broken up with him and sees little more that can be done. She leaves to sell her remaining raffle tickets, but not before asking John if they can go on the hayride together. John tries to keep the fact that he is overjoyed hidden and tells her he will see her when she is done. He goes back to Henri and asks him if he's thought about the second ship he saw in his vision, but Henri still has no idea what it means. Since John told him it ran on fuel, there is no chance that it followed them to Earth without refueling. John wishes it had been possible. An hour or so later, John sees the cheerleaders putting on the makeup for the football players who appear to be a part of the hayride's fear factor. Henri notices, and asks John if he still thinks he should go, but there is no way that he will miss this chance to be with Sarah, so Henri announces that he will stay around and wait for them, just in case there is trouble. Mark looks like a zombie and they watch as Sarah walks over to him and speaks her mind. Mark walks away looking dejected. John and Henri kill time until Sarah calls to tell John she will be with him shortly. When she shows up, she gives him a big hug, and brings her friend Emily along. Sam joins them and they set out, getting seats on the third ride which has a total of eleven people on it including them when they are dropped off in the forest a few minutes later. In the dark, John can't see who throws a net over them, but he can imagine who is responsible. He is pushed and shoved, and when he hears Sarah and Emily being dragged away, he loses his temper. His hands light up and he feels suddenly stronger and bigger. He uses the light to sprint towards the distressed voices of the girls.



Chapters 14 - 16

Chapters 14 - 16 Summary

Kevin steps out wearing night vision goggles. He charges and John sidesteps him easily, doling out some reciprocal punishment before continuing towards the girls' voices. Sam is up ahead, being restrained by a zombie. John blinds them with his hands, subdues them, and asks what Mark has planned. They claim it is all just a joke. John takes their goggles and throws them as hard as he can, knowing they'll probably wind up somewhere out of town. John is tackled from behind again. He easily subdues the attacker, promising to break him in half if he doesn't reveal Mark's plan. He spills and they quickly catch up with Mark and several of his friends. John gives the others an option to leave before he throws them in the water along with Mark who has lost his option to choose. None leave, and one by one John heaves them into the frigid water before explaining to them that if he catches even a hint of this being talked about later, he will come back and make this seem like a picnic. When they leave, Sarah wants to take the matter to the police, but Sam and John are less inclined and dissuade her. Sam hurries home, and Sarah kisses John for the first time.

Two weeks later it snows for the first time. Henri and John have begun his Loric training in earnest, working every day at strengthening his first Legacy. Henri pushes harder than usual, distressed by their lack of progress. Sarah comes over to work with John on their home economics midterm. They create a meal that the three of them consume and sit down to watch a movie afterward. Henri goes outside alone and is gone so long that John finally goes after him. Henri reveals his fears that things have changed and the area no longer feels safe to him. He senses the Mogadorians are becoming frantic. John asks him if he's ever considered settling down somewhere without him. Later, after taking Sarah home, Henri and John open the chest a second time, and Henri pulls out a bag containing seven orbs and when he activates them they rise, forming an accurate replication of the Lorien solar system. The Lorien orb changes as they watch, becoming a miniature of the planet itself.

Sam avoids John at school until finally John goes over to his house. He pulls off his headphones and reaches into a drawer, pulling out a gun and pointing it at John. He had seen John's hands in the woods and wants to know what John is. John plays dumb, and manages to convince him that he should put the gun down. John borrows the episode of "They Walk Among Us" that contains the story on the Mogadorians, noticing that there are no publisher's names or contact information. Hours later, Sam's mother is still not home. Sam reveals his suspicions that his father was abducted, and describes the day he disappeared. John agrees with him.



Chapters 14 - 16 Analysis

John can hear laughter, and the sound of a female voice saying, "Let go of me." He can't tell if it is Sarah or Emily, but sprints in their direction, subduing football players as he goes and collecting Sam along the way. Sarah smiles when John arrives, telling Mark she had warned him. John gives them one chance to leave before systematically baptizing them one at a time, leaving Mark for last. He makes Mark apologize to Sarah before tossing him into the water with a warning to all that this stops now. Sarah is ready to turn them in, even though Mark's father is the Sheriff. She insists that he should enforce the law even if it is his own son who is breaking it. While John agrees in principle, he and Sam would both rather that the whole story just go away and manage to convince her. Sam is obviously shaken and heads home while John and Sarah share their first kiss. She tells him she knew he was special on the very first day, and he reciprocates before they return to the park to find Emily.

Henri pushes John harder and harder to learn how to control the first Legacy. He is impatient for John to be ready and is disappointed when he is unable to do some of the things that he should be able to do now. All throughout the dinner John and Sarah prepared, Henri is quiet and distracted. He goes outside and John follows soon after. Henri points to the spot in the sky where Lorien is and asks how much of it John remembers. He admits there are only flashes of memory, and asks Henri if he's ever thought of just staying on Earth and making a life here, but Henri reminds him that he already has a life and a wife and is unwilling to forget either. They drive Sarah home after the movie, and then Henri brings the chest out again. He shows John seven orbs of varying sizes and, blowing on them gently, he tosses them into the air. They immediately form into the Lorien solar system and John watches as Lorien itself takes shape in all its splendor. The Lorien orb slowly takes on the exact form of what Lorien is like now, revealing an orb that only has life at its very core. He tells John that this is where his Legacies come from, and expresses his concern that perhaps in its current state, John will never receive his remaining Legacies. If that is the case, they will never be able to defeat the Mogadorians.

Sam avoids John until John finally goes to his house. Sam pulls out a pistol as soon as he sees John, demanding to know what he is. John tells him he is an alien, and then laughs at him, trying to convey how silly it sounds, even though it is correct. Sam finally backs down, and puts the unloaded weapon away. He shares his theory that his father was abducted and explains the circumstances surrounding his disappearance. John finally understands Sam's obsession with all things alien. He shows John the latest copy of "They Walk Among Us" and John notices there are no publication markings or contacts.



Chapters 17 and 18

Chapters 17 and 18 Summary

The next day John wakes to find Henri in the kitchen still researching the issue of "They Walk Among Us." He has located a personal website, and sent an email regarding the article about the Mogadorians. Henri believes extra exercise will help the development of his Legacy so John runs to school with Bernie Kosar, sending him home once he gets there. Sam is already in Astronomy class and they share a laugh about the previous day. Sarah arrives, and asks John if he and Henri will join her and her family for Thanksgiving the following day. John accepts for them both. Henri is waiting for John as usual after school and tells him the pamphlets came from Athens, Ohio. He calls them, but is told not to call there again and hung up on.

Henri makes the decision to drive to Athens before dinner with Sarah and her family. He promises to return in plenty of time, leaving the number and address with John. John can't explain the bad feeling he has. He sends Henri a text message but there is no answer and his worry increases. He decides that if he hasn't heard from Henri by five, he will go alone and figure out a plan as he goes along. He manages to make it through a dinner with more questions about his family and past than he has ever answered before. After dinner, Sarah asks him to pose with her family in the back yard, but John is so concerned now that another Legacy asserts itself and the lens of Sarah's camera shatters in her hand. He uses the momentary confusion to pull Sarah aside and tell her he has to go. Henri needs him. When he gets home, Bernie Kosar appears anxious too. His anxiety takes out another mirror, removing all doubt that it was a coincidence at Sarah's. He calls Sam and tells him he needs his help. Sam leaves immediately and John knows that he must somehow get to Athens.

Chapters 17 and 18 Analysis

Sarah invites John and Henri to a Thanksgiving dinner at their home and John happily accepts for them. She wants her brothers who are home for the holidays to meet them. It takes Henri three emails and five phone calls but he finally tracks down the number of the people who put out the publication of "They Walk Among Us." The source is two hours away in Athens, Ohio. He tries calling them first to inquire about the follow up to the Mogadorian story but the reception he gets is shaken and disturbed. The person on the other end hangs up on him, telling him not to call again.

The next morning Henri gives John the address and phone number of the place in Athens where he is headed, just in case. John is nervous for reasons that he can't pinpoint and tries to talk him out of going, but Henri promises to be back in plenty of time for their dinner. He leaves and as the day wears on, John becomes increasingly anxious. When Henri doesn't answer his text, and still isn't home by five, John heads to Sarah's house alone, prepared to make excuses for Henri. He manages to sit through a



football game with Sarah's father and brothers, and finds himself wishing that he and Henri shared a ritual of some kind other than running. Dinner is incredible, but interspersed with more personal questions than John has ever had to field. When dinner is done, Sarah asks them to pose for photos outside. John is so anxious that his next Legacy asserts itself. Telekinesis causes Sarah's camera lens to break in her hands and John uses the confusion to take Sarah to one side and tell her he has to leave. Henri needs him, he explains, and he is home minutes later. He paces the house, unsure what to do, and manages to break another mirror which tells him that the telekinesis was no accident. Henri would be so proud, John thinks to himself. Then he remembers the chest and the fact that he will only be able to open it alone if Henri is dead. He grabs it and prays it remains locked, breathing a small sigh of relief. He calls Sam and tells him that something is wrong and he needs his help. Sam says he'll be right there.



Chapters 19 and 20

Chapters 19 and 20 Summary

Sam arrives twenty-five minutes later, streaked with sweat. John tells Sam that he thinks Henri has been captured. Sam grins at first, but the look on John's face changes his demeanor quickly. John explains that Henri tracked the writer of one of the articles in "They Walk Among Us" and drove there earlier that day. John is convinced that something bad has happened, but Sam doesn't understand. John tells him that Henri loves the alien and conspiracy theories just like Sam does, and John believes the people he went to see are holding him hostage. It is the only thing that explains his lack of contact all day. John tells Sam he needs to get to Athens. Sam immediately offers his father's truck, still parked in the garage where it has sat since his father's disappearance eight years earlier. Neither has a license but Sam points out that if Henri is really in trouble, it doesn't matter. Five minutes later, John is ready to go. He jogs alongside Sam back to his house, feigning being out of breath and then waits while Sam grabs a pack. The truck is under a tarp, and sparkles like new. Sam gets the keys from the peg. Sam is nervous behind the wheel at first, but soon they are driving down the highway towards Athens.

They take the exit into Athens onto Richland Avenue, excited to have made it in one piece. When they are within a mile of their destination, John yells stop. Sam brakes in such a hurry that the car behind them honks, and he asks Sam to find a place to park. They had just passed Henri's truck. They give Bernie Kosar a few treats before leaving him in the truck and walk back to Henri's truck. The doors are all locked and there is no indication of trouble. John voices his opinion that Henri likely hasn't talked. Sam asks what Henri could possibly have to say if he did talk? For a moment, John had forgotten that Sam knew nothing of their true identities. He manages to brush it off, and they walk towards the address. They are considering knocking on the door when it opens and a large man exits, locking the door behind him. John gives Sam his cell phone and asks Sam to follow the man while he goes inside to find Henri. He promises to call Sam as soon as he knows more. Sam leaves and John walks to the back door. Holding the handle, he concentrates on the locking mechanism and it opens. He starts up the staircase and a voice calls out. A man comes into view, holding a baseball bat in one hand and asks John how he got in. John warns him to put the bat down and tells him he is looking for a friend of his and the man panics, yelling that he is one of them. John tries to calm him down, but is finally left with no choice but to forcibly convince him to reveal Henri's location. Then John ties him up and goes down to free Henri. He finds him in the corner of the basement, bound and gagged, but otherwise okay. In the process of freeing him, John reveals the new Legacy and Henri is pleased and relieved to see it. They meet Sam on the way out.



Chapters 19 and 20 Analysis

John paces the house as he waits for Sam, trying to find ways to keep his mind amused. He practices with his newly revealed Legacy, lifting small objects. With larger things like tables and chairs he has no success. Sam wastes no time getting there, and asks John what's wrong. When John first tells him that he believes Henri has been captured, Sam grins, but John's face quiets him. John tells Sam that he thinks Henri is being held against his will by the people who wrote an article for "They Walk Among Us." Sam guesses that it is the Mogadorian article and when John explains his need to get to Athens, Sam offers his father's truck. Sam knows how much trouble they can get in, and for John the danger is even worse. Though neither one has ever driven before, Sam manages to settle into it in short order and they arrive in Athens in an hour and a half.

When they get to Athens, they find the right area quickly. Sam asks if John wants to drive by the house first, but he spies Henri's truck and they park. Leaving Bernie Kosar in the truck, they check out Henri's truck and then head for the house. As they are debating their approach, a man comes out and locks the door as he leaves. John asks Sam to follow the man while he looks inside the house for Henri. Sam is reluctant, but agrees. John has no trouble manipulating the lock and can't help but smile. There is no sign of anyone on the first floor so John head upstairs and is met by a man with a bat. The man becomes increasingly unreasonable so John holds him against a wall until he is ready to be more forthcoming about where Henri is. The man finally admits that he is being held in the basement accessed by a door hidden behind a poster. John ties the man up and finds Henri who is very happy to see him. He admits that going there had been a mistake and apologizes for not listening when John warned him. Henri can't believe that John and Sam drove there themselves and the surprises are just beginning. Before John can get Henri completely untied, the large man returns. He has a gun and John is not confident enough of his power to pull the gun out of the way. He calls them the real enemy and says he was warned that they'd come. The man points the gun at Henri and throws them the duct tape, but John stops it half way to them and starts spinning it. When the man is distracted, John throws it at him, hitting him in the nose. Angry, John is stronger than before and easily stops the man from trying to leave, and slams him against a pole. Then he ties him up with his own duct tape while Henri comments that this is the best surprise he's ever had in his life. He is relieved and tells them how he had been overpowered after knocking on the door. John finishes freeing him and they run into Sam just as they are leaving.



Chapter 21

Chapter 21 Summary

John sees someone behind Sam and time slows down. He sees the man push Sam and watches as Sam falls down the stairs. Before he hits the bottom, John uses his mind to catch him and lower him gently to the floor. Henri curses, knowing they've just been outed. Sam crawls backwards till he reaches the wall, speechless and is even more so when John uses an outstretched arm to physically restrain a man across the room. John carries him to the second floor and tapes him to a chair. When John goes back downstairs, it is just in time for him to hear Henri explain the truth of who they are to Sam. Sam takes it well, and they go upstairs to find out as much as they can from the men they've tied up. They learn that three Mogadorians were there. The man also tells them about the phone call that yielded the article about the Mogadorians. He says he took notes on a post-it and John finds one that applies. It mentions 1-3 dead; 4?; 7 trailed in Spain; 9 on the run in SA; and is followed by questions regarding the numbers. John asks about the question mark behind the number 4, but he says that they man talked so fast that he didn't catch it. He also mentions that bright light seems to bother them. When a noise sounds below, he says it is them and they have been watching the place. John grabs Sam and Henri, one under each arm and jumps with them from the second story porch, sailing through the air until they landed on a roof across the street. John uses his powers to lower them to the ground and they leave the area. Sam is full of questions on the way back, and swears his allegiance to them. After he has gone home, Henri gets out the chest. John knows he wants to leave, but this time he refuses. He actually has to hold Henri up against the wall to make his point, but they manage to come to an agreement.

Chapter 21 Analysis

John saves Sam from a possible broken neck after he is pushed down the stairs, but in the process he reveals his Legacy to Sam. At first, Sam is shocked and backs himself up to the wall as he tries to absorb what his mind is seeing. John takes care of the man who pushed Sam while Sam demands answers from Henri. Henri takes a deep breath and tells Sam the truth. Sam takes it well, and asks questions, but there is no sign of doubt on his face. They go up to interrogate the two men John has tied up, and discover that the man who gave them the Mogadorian story told him much more than that. In fact, the notes reveal which Garde are already dead, and also pinpoint two more. He tells them about the Mogadorians who are pale, tall and wear trench coats. He says their teeth are pointed and they wear sunglasses even indoors. They appear to be sensitive to light. The Mogadorians had told them that the Lorien's were the bad guys and they would come looking just like humans. A noise downstairs alerts them and John uses his Legacy to get them safely away. Sam swears his allegiance to them, promising to keep their secret as he heads home and Henri immediately begins to pack. John

decides he doesn't want to leave, and he uses coercion to come to an agreement with Henri.



Chapters 22 and 23

Chapters 22 and 23 Summary

When winter comes and snow blankets the ground, Henri and John train. John learns how to withstand being engulfed in flames while Sam looks on with great interest. The purpose is for John to learn how to multitask while consumed in flames. After a minute however, his lungs begin to burn. He continues, fully engulfed until he can't take any more and instinctively takes a breath, drawing the flames into his lungs. Despite that, Henri says he's done well for his first try and training for the day ends. Two nights later, John wakes to find Henri creating documents for him, this time making him old enough to drive. The name on them is James Hughes and with them he is sixteen years old. Sarah returns from helping to build a shelter in Colorado. It is a week before Christmas. Henri cautions John not to become too attached to Sarah for both their sakes, and John reluctantly agrees in principle, but not in fact.

John continues to have visions of Lorien, now even when he is not in training. This time he sees more than a dozen Chimera being loaded into the second ship. He tells Henri about it when he wakes, and he asks if John remembers Hadley, the Chimera that was his friend. John admits he has seen him in the visions as well. He is hopeful that they survived when Henri tells him they may have made it to one of the surviving space stations, but as Lorien is dead, it follows that their supplies would have run out and they would not have survived these long years in between. He tells Henri about the rest of his vision, and then Henri goes back to bed, leaving John to think about the animals, Henri's family and the rest of the Loriens who perished. He grabs his phone and calls Sarah, talking to her for a while, and missing her even though they had seen each other earlier.

Chapters 22 and 23 Analysis

They stay in Paradise, John training with Henri more and more. Sam is allowed to be present and to a degree, participate. John learns how to use fire even while juggling other gifts. Henri seems pleased with his progress, even when he accidentally inhales the flames that surround him, ending their session for the day. Henri continues to prepare, even making alternate documents for him but John would rather stay fifteen for the rest of his life if it meant he could stay in Paradise with Sarah, so he doesn't appreciate the new identities Henri is creating now. Later, after Sarah has gone home again, John asks Henri if it is possible to love and be loved by a human, but Henri cautions him that his responsibility lies in repopulating Lorien, although over time many gifted children have resulted from such matches. They include Ghandi, Julius Caesar, Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein just to name a few. Even earlier, Aphrodite, Apollo, Zeus and even Hermes were all real and had at least one Loric parent, but Henri tells him that such a choice now would be reckless, if not impractical.



John's visions continue. He sees the day they left Lorien and watches as his four year old self says goodbye to his grandparents. He sees their determination, and feels their sorrow, even though they know this is the only way. He also watches as over a dozen animals are loaded into a second ship - one kept in the museum. When he wakes, he talks to Henri about it, wondering where the second ship might have gone. Henri speculates that it likely went to one of the two surviving space stations, and for a moment John has hopes that they survived, but Henri reminds him that without water, nothing could live. Henri goes back to bed, and John thinks about the family he and Henri left behind. Saddened and lonely, he calls Sarah and talks to her for twenty minutes, and although he feels better for having heard her voice, he is no closer to sleep afterward.



Chapters 24 and 25

Chapters 24 and 25 Summary

Sarah and John spend Christmas together. They see each other every day, and enjoy long, romantic walks with Bernie Kosar watching out for them. Henri continues to monitor events and tells John about a story involving a girl in Argentina who saved an old man during an earthquake by performing an impossible feat. Afterward, no one could find her. It is the first day back to school, and John is looking forward to seeing Sam who had gone to Illinois for the whole Christmas break. They talk briefly before Sarah arrives with invitations for them both to a party at Mark's house. Sam's first reaction is negative, but when John mentions that Emily would likely be there, Sam has a change of heart. Henri picks John up as usual and mentions a follow up article about the girl in Argentina. The article says she disappeared and speculates that she may have been kidnapped. Henri believes she is a Garde. John tells him about the invitation to Mark's party and tells Henri he plans to go.

Sarah drives them to Mark's party in her mother's car, exercising her new learner's permit. Henri will pick them up when John calls. Two dogs run out to meet them and Sarah introduces Dozer and Abby. Sam voices his opinion that going to this party is probably a horrible idea. The whole football team is in the kitchen. They mingle and dance for an hour or so and as it nears midnight, John is unable to locate Sarah. One of the football players races upstairs and says there is a fire downstairs. They all begin filling pots and pans with water and head downstairs but the fire is too far advanced to put out now. John tells Mark to get people out of the house. Mark calls 911 while most of the party files outside. John still can't find Sarah and searches outside, asking everyone if they have seen her. A scream and the sound of dogs barking from inside the house reveals the truth. Sarah and the dogs are still inside.

Chapters 24 and 25 Analysis

John and Sarah spend every moment together that they can over the Christmas holidays, their feelings for each other deepening every day. They take long walks with Bernie Kosar in the snow, and miss each other when they are apart. Henri finds an article on line about a girl in Argentina who he is sure is a Garde like John. He speculates that she is Number 9, and knows that the Mogadorians are unable to touch her for some time yet. John and Sarah go back to school and see Sam for the first time since his return from Christmas holiday in Illinois. John missed him and is happy he is back. They talk until Sarah comes in and hands them invitations to a party at Mark's house. John only thinks for a moment before deciding they should attend, and it takes little time to convince Sam once he knows that Emily will be there as well. Henri picks John up after school and tells him that the Argentinian girl is presumed kidnapped by the authorities, convincing them that she is one of the Garde.



They go to Mark's party, and mingle a little, dancing for awhile as well. John loses track of Sarah. As midnight nears, a football player comes upstairs and tells those around him that there is a fire downstairs. Many fill pots and pans with water, but the fire is fully involved by then and John tells Mark to get everyone out. John is still searching for Sarah outside, but no one seems to have seen her. A scream and dogs barking from inside the house reveals her location. The crowd gasps.



Chapters 26 and 27

Chapters 26 and 27 Summary

From the sounds of her voice and the dogs, John believes they are at the back of the house. He runs to the back of the house, hoping he can enter without being seen. Inside, half the stairs are gone, and John is forced to jump to the second floor. He checks rooms as he goes, almost falling through the floor in one area, and finally finds Sarah and the dogs huddled in the farthest corner of a room. He helps her stand and tells her to hold on tight. He grabs the dogs and jumps out of the window, holding onto all three of them. Dozer and Abby are okay, and Sarah is sobbing quietly. John tells the dogs to go out front, and they do. He carries Sarah into the woods. His clothes are singed, and he begins to worry about how he will explain this to Henri. Sarah stops crying and he puts her down, telling her he needs to get some clothes. They circle around to check cars, hoping one of the players has a spare set, and manage to find some that fit John. Then he tells Sarah the truth about himself. She thanks him for saving her life, and tells him she doesn't care where he is from - she loves him. They agree on a story and circle back to the crowd standing out front. Police are there and immediately they begin asking questions but John and Sarah stick to the story they worked out. They both insist that she had already gotten out with the dogs by the time he got to the back of the house, and they stood back there watching the fire. John calls Henri and tells him there was a fire, asking him if he'll come pick them up. Henri asks him if he had anything to do with it, but John promises him they were just spectators.

John and Henri both have trouble sleeping that night. Henri discovers that the men who wrote "They Walk Among Us" were killed. Their neighbors had heard screaming and called in, but by the time police arrived, it was too late. Thankfully, they didn't know where John and Henri lived. John finally sleeps and wakes at noon on Sunday. The local paper won't come out until the following day and all John can do is hope for the best. Sarah comes over that night and they lie on his bed talking. She asks him about his life and where he comes from and he tells her about the Mogadorians and the history of Lorien. He is unable to shed his dread for the following day however. The next morning he is up earlier than usual, and waits outside the school for the paper to arrive. When it comes, he scours the article, but his name is nowhere to be found and he manages to convince himself that he is safe. By the time eighth period rolls around, he has gained confidence but then a hall monitor interrupts home economics class to tell John that Mr. Harris wants to see him. John shrugs, trying not to look worried, and tries to convince himself that it is just a formality of some kind. When he gets to the office, Mr. Harris hands him a sealed fax that came for John thirty minutes earlier and when he opens it, he finds a single sentence. "Are You Number 4?" Mr. Harris asks him if it's true. Behind him, John sees the blur of Henri's pickup as it pulls into the parking lot, and he knows that he has only moments.



Chapters 26 and 27 Analysis

John can hear Sarah scream, terrified and severe. He barely hesitates before handing Sam his phone and running to the back of the house. He knows that to rescue her he must reveal himself, but there is no other way. He finds her and the dogs, and manages to get all three of them out by jumping through a second story window with them in his arms. His clothes are singed and he struggles with how he will tell Henri. Sarah stops crying and he takes her in his arms, making a decision. He tells her the truth about himself and she accepts it with an ease that surprises him. She thanks him for saving her life, and tells him she doesn't care where he came from. She loves him. It's that simple. He tells her he loves her too, and always will. They search the cars from the football team and find a spare set of clothes that fit him well enough, and they concoct a cover story. The police seem ready to believe that John found Sarah and the dogs outside when he got to the back of the house. The lone reporter on the scene is less convinced. He assures them that the truth will come out.

The Mogadorians are getting bolder. They kill the men who wrote "They Walk Among Us" and Henri tells John that if they see or hear anything else that is unusual, they will be leaving immediately and he wants no argument. John agrees. Henri asks him again about the fire, and John looks him straight in the eye and lies to him, even though it pains him to do so. It is two days before the Paradise Gazette is released and John waits for the first issue fearfully, but when it comes, there is no mention of him. He allows himself to believe that he is safe. The feeling lasts until eighth period when a hall monitor comes to tell John that Mr. Harris wants him. John smiles at Sarah, trying not to show how afraid he is. Once he gets to the office, one look at Mr. Harris confirms John's worst fears. Mr. Harris hands him a sealed envelope containing a confidential fax that came for him thirty minutes earlier. John opens it to find four words. "Are you number 4?" Mr. Harris wants to know if it's true. John sees a blur behind him out the window, and recognizes Henri's truck. He knows he only has moments now.



Chapter 28

Chapter 28 Summary

Mr. Harris asks John if he's okay, or if he needs a nurse. Exhausted, and aware that they will have to start all over again, John realizes that he simply can't leave without saying goodbye. He makes a split second decision and without thinking about it, jumps through the window and as soon as his feet touch ground, he runs. He hears a scream of shock behind him, but doesn't stop. He reaches the woods and runs for home. Bernie Kosar is nowhere around, but at the table Mark James is sitting, trying to figure out what is going on. He asks John who the hell he is. On Henri's laptop is the same message as John just got. Mark asks him about the video, and when John reveals he has no idea what Mark is talking about, he plays it for him. It is grainy, but clearly shows him leaping out the window with Sarah and the dogs. Again, Mark asks who John is. Henri pulls into the driveway and John just stands there until he comes in. Henri is angry. He can't believe John lied to him. John knows he has to get to the school. The video shows Sarah too, and John knows she is in danger. He promises Henri that as soon as he has Sarah out of harm's way, he'll be back and they can leave. Henri pleads with him to be reasonable, but John restrains him just long enough to give himself a head start, and runs to the school. He finds her crouched in the darkroom, and she already knows that they have come for John. The lights go out and the floor polisher is running by itself, banging into the wall. John unplugs it without thinking, giving their location away. A door slams, glass breaks and Sarah screams. The Mogadorians have found him and are closing in. They hide in the history classroom for a while, but realizing they are sitting ducks, John takes Sarah to the door. Before he can open it, he is grabbed from behind and told to be quiet. A girl, as strong as John identifies herself as Number 6 and tells him she tried to get to him before the Mogadorians arrived.

Chapter 28 Analysis

John pales, and he is consumed with fear. Mr. Harris offers the services of the school nurse, but John is distracted by the sight of Henri's truck as it pulls into the parking lot. John sways, feeling a sense of vertigo. What he wanted most was to turn the clock back ten minutes to when he and Sarah were cooking pudding. He has about fifteen seconds before Henri reaches the office. In that moment, he knows he can't leave without saying goodbye to Sarah. He gathers himself and leaps through the closed window, racing for the forest and the safety of home. When he gets there, to his surprise, Mark James is sitting at the kitchen table. He repeats the same question several times. "Who are you?" The same note is on Henri's laptop and Mark shows him a video that someone took as he rescued Sarah and Mark's dogs from the fire. At that moment, Henri returns and is furious that John would lie to him. John can't undo what has already been done, and tells Henri that he has to return to the school and ensure Sarah is safe. When Henri argues, John uses his Legacy to hold him back so that he can get a head start, promising to return as soon as she is safe. He gets to the school quickly and finds her



crouched in the locked darkroom. She already knows that the Mogadorians have come for him. They find the floor polisher running by itself and John instinctively unplugs it. Now they know where he and Sarah are. They manage to hide for a short time, but John knows that they have to leave or they will be sitting ducks. He is about to pull Sarah out of the room they are hiding in when a hand grabs him from behind and a girl's voice tells him that they are outside waiting and they have to be quiet. She reveals that she is Number Six and she has been looking for him for some time.



Chapters 29 and 30

Chapters 29 and 30 Summary

Six explains that she has been looking for John since Three was killed. One of her Legacies is invisibility, she says, explaining how she got past the Mogadorians. She asks if he still has a Cêpan and he tells her he does, but she reveals that her Cêpan has been dead for three years and she has been on her own since. She tells John that they are in a war. At first she believes they can escape, but soon realizes that now is the time to take a stand. She confronts the first Mogadorian scout and when she kills it, the body turns to ash on the floor. Two more scouts arrive and then the sound of a gun blast can be heard along with the click of a dog's toenails. As soon as John sees Henri, he apologizes. Mark is behind Henri, carrying the Lorien chest. Sarah leads them to the home economics room and they lock the door behind themselves. Henri removes the dagger from Number 6's shoulder and uses a Lorien healing stone to close the wound. Henri asks about Katarina, and is sad to learn she was killed. Six tells them that time is short and that the scouts want only to hold them in place until the soldiers arrive. With Six and John together, the Mogadorians can kill them in any order they want.

The Mogadorian scouts destroy all of the vehicles in the parking lot, using them to secure the exits. Six makes herself invisible and spends ten minutes scouting the area. She comes back and confirms seven scouts outside and five inside. Their demeanor makes Six think the others aren't far behind. Henri hides the chest in one of the ovens and John puts a fridge up against it. They hate to leave it behind, but feel they have little choice. Henri tells Sarah and Mark that this isn't their fight, and suggests that they hide in the school. They head for the gymnasium but John is ambushed by a scout on the way. Henri shoots it and it turns to ash before it hits the floor. They try to escape through a tunnel but it is a trap. A battle rages and for a time, Henri loses his faith, but John reminds him that there is always hope.

Chapters 29 and 30 Analysis

Six is not only a bit older than John, but seems to have a better acceptance of the situation they are in. She is resigned to the fact that they are at war, while John is still in protection mode, trying to keep those that he cares about from harm. While Six understands that a consequence of war is casualties, John still believes that he can get everyone to safety. John's instincts tell him to run and hide, but Six knows that the time for hiding is over. It is time to make a stand. When Henri and Mark arrive with Bernie Kosar, he agrees with her assessment. Though it has happened sooner than he had hoped, he couldn't help but agree that the last stand would happen at the school and it would happen now. He and John open the Loric chest, taking out a healing stone to apply to Six's shoulder wound. John is amazed, having never seen it before, and Henri explains how it works.



Any hope of driving away from this confrontation evaporates when they realize that the Mogadorian scouts have destroyed all of the vehicles in the parking lot, including Henri's truck. They have few options. They attempt to leave the building by way of an access tunnel that leads out of the gymnasium, but it turns out to be a trap. Henri reminds Sarah and Mark that this is not their fight. He suggests that they go back inside and find a place to hide themselves. The Scouts will not be interested in them. It is John and Six they want. With the Loric chest hidden in an oven, they take on the Scouts, and suffer injuries unlike anything John has ever felt before. When the Soldiers and the animals arrive, the situation worsens since they are stronger, larger and armed to kill. Henri almost gives up hope, but John reminds him that when all seems lost, there are always new developments that have yet to present themselves.



Chapters 31 and 32

Chapters 31 and 32 Summary

A roar reminds them to get out of the school. Henri and John take Six's hand and invisible with her, they walk quietly to the gym. Two weasel like creatures leap at them and Henri deals with one while Six takes out the other. A larger beast puts his fist through the wall and Henri unloads every shell he has at it, but hardly fazes it. Six protects John but he sends her back to Henri who is directly in the path of the beast. She tells John to go to the woods and realizing there is nothing he can do, John runs. He manages to escape the dome the Mogadorians created and the cut on his back suffered at Mark's opens again. A soldier steps out of the shadows, grinning. The Soldier manages to grab him, and throws him so hard that John lands forty feet away on his back. The Mogadorian has the advantage and John's powers seem ineffectual. Remembering his training, John manages to kill the Soldier, but before he can be too self congratulatory, another one reveals himself. Sam arrives just in time to shoot the Soldier dead. He had seen them come through the center of town, and came to help immediately. A clap of thunder tells John that Six is still alive. Clouds form a face and touch the ground with a sonic boom that splits trees and knocks John to the ground. For a few minutes, everything stops, but the war is not over. A beast appears, and chases John towards the forest, and John believes he has kept them from the others by luring it away, but a third dagger embeds itself in him. Lodged deep between his shoulder blades, John is unable to pull it out. The pain spreads as though he has been poisoned. A soldier steps on his back and pulls the dagger out. A second soldier raises a sword, grinning triumphantly. John lays there, resigned to his fate. Another shape reveals itself behind the Soldier who appears oblivious. As the sword comes down, the beast bites the Soldier clean in half. John sees a familiar shape come into view as Bernie Kosar lopes toward him. He tries to tell Bernie to stay away, but he seems to hear Bernie telling him that he will stand with him. In his mind, John hears Bernie Kosar telling him to crawl away if he has to. Bernie Kosar places himself between them and then suddenly, Bernie begins to grow.

John finally realizes who and what Bernie Kosar really is - a Chimera. He finishes growing and now has the appearance of a small dragon but without wings. They battle and the beast manages to sink his teeth into the throat of Bernie Kosar who is unable to free himself. Mark arrives and begins to pull John backward even as Bernie Kosar's life begins to fade. John is unable to leave him, and taking the dagger he picked up earlier, he charges, lodging the dagger deep into the beasts' eye. Soon, the beast falls silent. Bernie Kosar's eyes are closed, and John is no longer sure he is even breathing. A figure looms towards him and John tenses in anticipation again.



Chapters 31 and 32 Analysis

Six knows that if they do not leave the school, there will be nothing left to defend. Henri wants them to head for the woods but before they can escape, they are faced with the weasels. While they are not so difficult to dispatch, the beast behind them is stronger and bigger. Henri is in its path, out of bullets and options. John is unable to move, rooted to the spot as he watches the beast bear down on his Cêpan. It has a roar so loud that it drowns John out as he calls out. He sprints towards the forest, reopening wounds and realizing he is on his own for the time being. John fears for Sarah and Mark, having told them to hide in the school that the beast is now destroying. He tries to figure out how to lure the Mogadorians away from the school, but before he can formulate a plan, he is confronted by Soldiers. With some effort, he finally kills the first one, but the Soldier is not alone. John manages to recover one of the daggers the Soldiers use. The Scouts seem able to use their minds, playing on the fears of their victims while the Soldiers rely on weaponry. Sam appears from nowhere, and saves John's life, shooting the Soldier who is ready to take John's life. Manipulation of the elements tells John that Six is still fighting, and a blast from Henri's shotgun tells him that he is also still alive, but the odds are against them. There seems to be no end to beasts, Soldiers and Scouts. Just as John resigns himself to the fact that his life will likely end, Bernie Kosar comes to his rescue and placing himself between John and the beast attacking, Bernie Kosar begins to grow.

It is only then that John finally realizes that Bernie Kosar is actually a Chimera. He still doesn't recognize him as Hadley, the Chimera who had come with him on the ship to Earth. In his mind, John hears Bernie Kosar telling him to run - to crawl if necessary. John is unable to leave Bernie Kosar to die. He shrugs off Mark who tries to pull him to safety, and rushes the beast with the dagger he still carries, embedding it in the eye of the beast. It dies, and John falls flat with the effort. When the next shape begins to take form behind it, John has nothing left. He resigns himself to his fate once again.



Chapters 33 and 34

Chapters 33 and 34 Summary

The shadowy figure resolves itself into Henri. He asks if John has been stabbed, and applies the healing stone to John's back. He also gives him a small stone telling him to keep it under his tongue. The pebble of Loric salt slows and numbs the dagger's effects temporarily. Six has been badly hurt, and Sam carries her to his father's truck. Bernie shrinks, returning to the Beagle John has always known and Henri confirms that Bernie Kosar is the Chimera John has always known as Hadley and had come here on the ship with them. John refuses to leave Bernie Kosar and bends down to discover that he is still breathing. He picks him up gently, noting that his front leg is twisted and broken. Henri puts another pebble in his mouth and they hear another roar. Six or eight soldiers are standing at the wood's entrance. John uses his light briefly just as Henri warns him not to. With a beast behind them, and a crowd of Soldiers in front, it appears as though all is lost. Henri smiles and tells John he did well, and Bernie Kosar sends the message to have courage. John places Bernie Kosar gently on the ground and as he does, Henri absorbs a shot meant for him. John begins to speak to the mind of the Beast. He tells it everything about their planet, their fight, and their plight. He reminds it that the Mogadorians are the enemy, guilty of gross mistreatment. The Beast roars. While John holds a dying Henri in his arms, the Beast has his revenge. A remaining Scout comes towards John, but before he can do anything, a knife appears in his chest and is pulled out again. The Scout falls, revealing Sarah behind him. She holds John.

John can see the first day he met Henri. In those days, his name was Brandon and John shakes his hand like an adult. John wakes to find himself in a hotel room with Sarah at his side and Bernie Kosar at his feet. She, Sam and Mark brought him, Six and Bernie Kosar there, tended their wounds and then returned to their house to retrieve his things. An envelope with an assortment of documents had been left for him by Henri along with a letter. They all cry as Six helps to cremate Henri's body in the woods after John promises somehow to bring his ashes back to Lorien with him. They gather his ashes in a coffee can and load John, Six and Sam's belongings into the back. It is only then that John realizes that Sam has somehow convinced Six to allow him to join them. Sarah promises to wait for him, and he promises to see her again. Bernie Kosar sits on John's lap as Six pulls out and the four of them head to the next town.

Chapters 33 and 34 Analysis

John couldn't have been more relieved than he was when Henri's face appeared. He does what he can for John, using the healing stone, and giving him something else from the Loric chest to counteract the effects of the dagger wounds temporarily. Loric salt, he tells John. Henri tries to hurry John, but there is no way John will leave Bernie Kosar behind, especially after Henri confirms that he is actually Hadley - John's friend and playmate on the ship to Earth. Mark is nowhere to be seen, but there are more Soldiers



in front of them, and another beast behind them. Even Henri believes it is over. He tells John how proud he is of him and how valiantly he fought. He says he never doubted John, never for a moment, and hugs him. They reach the edge of the field. The beast can smell them, but still doesn't attack. John can see images of the beast's life, the dark cave it was kept in where it was always cold and the manner in which they were expected to fight and train. A warning shot is fired, meant to spur the beast to action, and a dagger hits the beast in the arm. It roars. John tries to tell the beast he is sorry, and explains that they share a common bond. They have both been wronged by the Mogadorians who are the only real monsters. He pushes images of Lorien to the beast, trying to show it what it was before the Mogadorians came, and what they made of it after their arrival. He begs the beast with his mind to help them if it can. The Mogadorians realize what is happening, and begin firing. Something deadly hits both Henri and the beast at the same time. The beast attacks the Soldiers while John goes to Henri. Both Henri and Bernie Kosar are motionless in the grass. John pulls Henri into his arms, telling him how sorry he is but Henri tells him it isn't his fault and reminds him he did great. He says everything John needs to know is in the Loric chest and the letter. John refuses to believe it is over. Henri tells him that he is Lorien's Legacy. He and the others are the only hope the planet has left. Be strong, he tells John. Take Six and find the others. They can win. He tells John that coming to Paradise wasn't an accident, and that he should read the letter. The last thing he tells John is that he wouldn't have missed any of it. Not for a minute. His pendant grows blue and heavy for just a moment as Henri's life leaves him, and John cries, rocking him back and forth. A Soldier escapes the wrath of the beast, but before he can take John's life, Sarah stabs him from behind. She bends down and holds John who still holds Henri in his arms.

Images go through John's mind. He remembers meeting Henri for the first time, introduced to him as Brandon then. He remembers shaking his hand, and remembers being told that they were bound to one another. John wakes, and the memories return bringing a kind of pain he hardly thought possible. A hand touches his face softly and he opens his eyes to see Sarah. She, Mark and Sam had brought John, Six and Bernie Kosar to a hotel thirty miles from Paradise, having first collected his belongings and the Loric chest. John tries to thank them for all they've done, but each seems to agree that they saved each other many times over in the past twenty-four hours. There are no debts. Six helps create fire hot enough to cremate Henri in the woods while they stand around him, not a dry eye among them. Then Henri's ashes are collected, John promising to get him back to Lorien one way or another. Sarah knows he has to leave, and knows that she can't go with him. The thought is heartbreaking, but she knows he has no choice. They hold each other, and reaffirm their love for each other. John promises to come back for her, and she promises to wait. Then Six, Sam, John and Bernie Kosar leave, driving away from Mark and Sarah, who stand in the parking lot and watch them go.



Characters

Number Four (aka Daniel Jones; John Smith)

Number Four has been on Earth now for ten years with the other eight Legacies. He is aided by Henri, a fifty year old man who is also from his home world. Wherever he goes, he carries his emergency kit containing five days worth of dried fruit and nuts; extra thermal socks and underwear; a handheld GPS; a rain jacket and a knife that is disguised as a pen. Henri constantly reminds him that if his hands start to shake or his fingers disappear; if he loses musculature control or shakes violently; or if he begins to hear voices, he is to call Henri immediately.

Number Four was only five when they arrived and the first scar didn't show up until he was nine. He got the second when he was twelve and the third when he was fifteen. Now, he knew he was next. He is Number Four. His Cêpan, Henri, is charged with keeping him safe, and teaching him how to control and use his Legacies as they appear. Number Four is sorry when he has to leave the identity of Daniel Jones. He had only just begun making friends for the first time, and they had been in Florida longer than they had remained anywhere else. For the first time, he had almost begun to believe that they were safe. Then, his ankle showed the ring that announced Number Three was dead, and everything changed. The next move was to Paradise, Ohio and his new name was John Smith.

His first Legacy appeared to John on the first day of school. Without warning, his palms began to glow. From there, along with regular exercise, his training began in earnest. Paradise would be the place where John and his Cêpan would have to make a stand, fighting the Mogadorians for their very survival.

Henri

Forty when they arrived, Henri is now fifty years old and he is the Cêpan to Number Four, charged with keeping his Garde safe. He has no sense of humor where the dangers they face are concerned. His accent is still strong and Loric, often being mistaken for French. Henri is Four's Keeper or guardian. He left his wife and the love of his life behind on Lorien to fulfill his position as Number Four's Cêpan and never regretted it. Keeping him safe by constant moves and new identities, Henri watches over Number Four, waiting patiently for his Legacies to reveal themselves.

As Number Four grows older, keeping him safe becomes harder. He is more reluctant to move with each passing year. Still, Henri is diligent. He knows that the Garde are the only hope that Lorien has. If these special children do not survive, there will be no stopping the Mogadorians from taking over Earth as well. As such, whenever there is any chance of discovery, another move is made.



For Henri, this job is a labor of love. He is deeply committed to both Number Four and their future. When the first Legacy reveals itself, he is deeply relieved. He had secretly feared that with the almost total destruction of Lorien, the gifts that come from the planet itself might not find their way to the Garde. The first Legacy gives Henri some hope and he works with renewed diligence to prepare Number Four for the battle which he knows is coming. The showdown will occur in Paradise, and their very lives depend on his ability to train his Garde.

Sarah Hart

Sarah is in the same school as number Four is when he attends school in Paradise, Ohio. Her mother is the real estate agent who helped Henri secure the home they live in while they are here, and she introduces herself immediately when she sees him, snapping photos of him as she approaches. She has been described as shockingly beautiful, with high cheekbones and blond hair that is straight and hangs past her shoulders. He has soft blue eyes and ivory skin.

Sarah meets John in school and falls in love with him. Her feelings for him become so strong that when he finally reveals the truth of his lineage to her, she still loves him. She feels no fear, and instead of backing away from him, she becomes one of his strongest allies. Sarah only cares about the young man with whom she fell in love. She introduces him to her family, inviting John and Henri to Thanksgiving dinner with them, and though Henri doesn't make it, her family seems to enjoy getting to know John better.

When the battle with the Mogadorians begins, Sarah remains by John's side, fighting with him, and for him, even killing one of the Soldiers herself to save John's life. When Henri dies in battle, she, Mark and Sam help to collect John's things and get him and Number Six to safety. From there, she can only stand and watch as he first heals, buries his Cêpan, and then leaves her promising that his love for her will bring him back to her as she promises that her love will live until his return.

Bernie Kosar

Bernie is a chimera that came with John and Henri from Lorien. Originally called Hadley by John, Bernie shows up at John's school on his first day wearing a collar with the name Bernie Kosar engraved on it. The next day, he arrives at John's house and after being greeted by Henri, he walks in and makes himself to home. Bernie appears in this version of himself as a beagle. Though unaware, he has been with John in one form or another since he came to earth, watching over John and keeping an ever vigilant eye out for any sign of a Mogadorian.

Bernie can change into anything imaginable, and when the Mogadorians attack, he becomes larger. His fur falls away and is replaced by oblong scales. He almost has the appearance of a dragon but without wings. His body is well muscled, and he has jagged teeth and claws. He has horns that curl like a ram. He saves John's life, and nearly loses his own in the process.



Sam Goode

Sam sits beside John in Astronomy class. He has sandy blond hair and hazel eyes. He wears glasses that magnify his eyes and carries a notepad filled with diagrams he has made of the planets and constellations. Sam is convinced that his father was taken by aliens. He disappeared one day after leaving the house to buy milk and bread, leaving his truck parked on the road in front of the grocery store. Since then, Sam has learned all he can about alien invasions and conspiracies, subscribing to any and all information he can find. It is in one of his pamphlets that he learns about the Mogadorian invasion of another planet, and their subsequent intentions to take over Earth as their own.

When Sam is first exposed to John's Legacy powers, he is frightened, but Henri explains who they are and why they are on Earth. From then on, Sam is one of John's strongest supporters. He sees the Mogadorians arrive in town and immediately comes to John and Henri's aid at the school, saving John's life at least once in the process. His dedication, and intimate knowledge of their situation buys him passage with them when John, Number Six and Sam leave Paradise to find Number Five and prepare for their final confrontation.

Number Six

Number Six is a girl who is every bit as strong as John. Another Garde, she arrives just in time to help him fight the Mogadorians when they surround John and Sarah in the school. She is slightly older than John, with hazel eyes and long dark hair that she wears pulled into a ponytail. Her cheekbones are high, she has olive toned skin and a wide mouth underneath a strong nose.

Number Six has come into her Legacy as well. She is able to control the elements, bending them to her will, and she has the power of invisibility like John's grandfather had. Her Cêpan has been dead for three years now, and she has been on her own since. Number 6 tells John that she has been looking for him since she realized Number Three had been killed. She recognizes that they are at war and that time is short.

Number Six stands in battle with John, Henri, Sam, Mark, Sarah and Bernie Kosar as they temporarily defeat the Mogadorians. Though the battle is won, the war is far from over. She knows that they must somehow find Number Five and prepare to make a stand against the many Mogadorians who still inhabit Earth.

Mark James

A big deal in the town of Paradise, Ohio, Mark's father is the Sheriff and Mark is the star on the school's football team. He also used to date Sarah in the days when she was a cheerleader. Mark has black hair that he wears full of gel and carefully manicured to stick out in all directions. He is also the school bully, with bushy eyebrows perched over



a dark set of eyes. His sideburns are carefully trimmed but his face is filled with stubble. He is a senior and his letterman jacket sports his name embroidered above the year.

Mark is only a bully until he discovers who John truly is. Put in his place during the Halloween hayride, Mark learns that John is not just any student, and in the end fights alongside John and the others to temporarily defeat the Mogadorians.

Mr. Harris

Principal of the high school in Paradise, Ohio, Mr. Harris is an overweight and nearly completely bald man whose belly is large enough to reach over his belt. His eyes seem to be too close together, tiny and beady and when he smiles, his eyes seem to disappear. Mr. Harris is more interested in publicity than he is in fair play. It doesn't matter what his star football player does, as long as the newspaper retains its interest.

Lorien

There are two types of citizens on the planet Lorien. There are Legacies or powers which are so varied that they can range from the ability to fly to the ability to read minds; or can use natural forces such as wind, fire or lightning or even disappear. Those who have Legacies are referred to as the Garde and those citizens who do not develop Legacies are called Cêpans or guardians who are assigned to each Garde at a very early age. It is the job of the Cêpans to help the Garde to understand the history of their planet, and to aid them in developing their powers. The planet is run by one group and the other group defends it.

Mogadorians

A gregarious and outgoing race, these are the beings sent to kill the Legacies. They first arrive on Loric after their own planet dies from neglect and misuse. They overwhelm the Loric race and plunder their resources. Their next target is Earth, although Henri is convinced that resources are not what they are seeking. Henri believes the Mogadorians plan to take Earth as their new home planet.

Scouts

Mogadorian scouts have black eyes and pale skin. They are able to capture a person's mind with their eyes, and fill them with such intense sorrow that even death would seem preferable. A shroud of darkness surrounds them,



Soldiers

Soldiers are taller than scouts. They are seven or eight feet tall and their muscles are clearly visible under their long cloaks. Raised veins can be seen on both arms and they wear black boots. They have long hair that falls to their shoulders and have the same pale and waxy look to their skin that the Scouts have. They are filled with self assurance, and carry the swords that can easily kill the Garde.

Beasts

Taller and larger than anything else, the Beasts are part of the Soldier's arsenal. They loom forty feet tall and are able to stand upright on two feet. They have gray and waxy looking skin that seems stretched over bulging muscle masses. The beasts have no neck, and their heads are sloped to that their lower jaw sticks out farther than the upper. A set of fangs points upward while another points to the ground and they drip with blood and drool. Their arms are long and hang only a foot or so above the ground even when the beast stands fully upright and their fingers are short and stubby. They have yellow eyes, and round disks on the sides of their head that pulsate along with their heartbeat. They have raptor like claws and roar loud enough to split eardrums.



Objects/Places

Lorien

Lorien is an Earth-like planet where Henri and the Legacies were born. A Loric accent can sometimes be mistaken for a French background. Lorien is one of eighteen planets in the universe that can sustain life. Earth and Mogadore are two of the others. Lorien is an older planet - a hundred times older than Earth or more. The inhabitants have evolved past the point which Earth is now at, facing pollution, food shortages, global warming and overpopulation. They had recognized the issues and made a commitment to reverse the damage. Slowly, the planet repaired itself and evolution brought with it the Garde and their powers, developed to protect and help the planet.

Lorien is warmed by a sun that is almost double the size of Earth's sun. Animals of all kinds and shapes drink at pristine rivers. Lorien is ten times smaller than Earth.

Legacies

Legacies are nine special beings chosen to leave their home world until, when reunited, they will return to their home world to rebuild. Three have already been killed by the Mogadarians.

Mogadare

This planet is one of eighteen inhabitable planets in the universe. It suffered the same cycle as did Lorien and Earth, where its inhabitants overwhelmed its nature and soon the planet began to die. Rather than repair it, or make an effort to, the Mogadorian race continued to use the resources up. When the planet is dying, they begin to seek out alternative homesteads. Now, they seek to make Earth their home.

17 Old Mill Rd.

The address of the new home Henri and Number Four move into in Paradise, Ohio is 17 Old Mill Rd.

Hungry Bear

The name of the diner just off the center of town in Paradise, Ohio is Hungry Bear.



Shepherd Falls

Shepherd Falls is the area where Mark takes the girls when they try to scare them during the hayride on Halloween. John uses the cold water as a baptismal for the football team.

Athens, Ohio

Athens, Ohio is the town where Henri goes to investigate the story about Mogadorians that was printed in the magazine Sam had.

Appalachian Mountains

Athens is located in the Appalachian Mountains region in Ohio.

Paradise Gazette

Paradise, Ohio's local paper is the Paradise Gazette.

Healing Stone

A Healing Stone brought from Lorien in the Loric chest can heal any injury that is caused with intent to harm or kill. The healing stone must be used right away, and causes twice the pain as the original injury when it is used to heal.

Swords

Long and shimmering, the swords are something that John has never seen before. Weapons being carried by the Soldiers, these swords appear to be the only thing that can kill the Garde.



Themes

Survival Of A Species

The Lorien race is a race much older than Earth's human race is. They had long ago reached the ecological tipping point that the Earth now approaches, and had seen the changes that needed to be made to save their planet. Rather than ignore the dire condition of their home world, they had taken immediate steps to stop the destruction of their world. It will be many years before Lorien heals, but it does. They learn a different way of life, and are rewarded for their efforts.

The Mogadorian race faces much the same crisis some time later. They too use up their planet and its resources without much thought to the future, but when the signs come to warn them that their planet is in jeopardy, they neglect to take action like the Lorien people had. They continue to use up their home planet's resources, and in doing so, manage to kill the world they call home. Before long, it is necessary to leave their home world to pursue the resources necessary. The closest world to them is Lorien. They waste little time in planning and carrying out an attack on Lorien that would leave their world as dead and wasted as their own Mogadorian world.

The Lorien people manage to send out one ship of special children who will hopefully find a way to get themselves to safety until their special gifts can reveal themselves. Then, and only then, perhaps they can reclaim their home world. They travel to Earth - a young world only now beginning to face the same kind of ecological crisis as the Lorien and Mogadorian worlds had.

Conspiracy Theories - Fact or Fiction?

Sam is a young man whose father simply disappeared one day. He had gone out to the market to pick up a couple of things and had never been seen again. While many would presume that he simply decided to walk away from his life, and from his wife and son, Sam is convinced that had not been the case. Sam is sure that had his father simply decided to leave them, he would have done so in his pick up. He would never have left his truck parked outside the grocery store. In fact, Sam is sure that his father has met an entirely different fate.

Sam spends much of his childhood investigating and keeping track of conspiracy theories involving alien life forms. He tracks all stories pertaining to abduction, and sightings. Sam is convinced that his father had been taken. He is sure that his father would never have left them voluntarily, and keeps a journal of the many inconsistencies he has found since he began to pay attention. Some of his sources are not as reputable as others, but all carry a relatively common theme. Aliens are among us. Aliens are already here, and have abducted people from Earth many times before. In fact, Sam discovers that an entire town had been taken in one state. Meeting John is probably the



best thing that has ever happened to Sam. When Sam discovers John is not from Earth, he is hardly surprised at all. In fact, it affirms everything, and gives him the validation he so desperately wanted to find.

Sam actually has a better grasp of the situation than most other human beings. He has no doubt that the aliens want Earth for themselves, and that when the time is right, they will take it from us. He is not wrong. The Mogadorians are seeking a new home, and Earth is on their agenda.

Love Overcomes All

The strength of love can be a driving force that overcomes all obstacles before it. This is evident in several variations throughout this book beginning with the Lorien people and the love they have for their planet. It is this love that gives them the strength to make the sacrifices necessary to stop the deterioration of their homeland, and restore it to its natural wonder. It is love that allows Henri to leave his home and the woman he mated for life in order to act as Cêpan to John, bringing him to Earth although he knows that it is unlikely he will ever return. This kind of love is what gives Henri and the other Cêpans who left Lorien behind the courage to take a handful of special Lorien children and help them to realize their potential on Earth in the hopes that one day they will return to reclaim Lorien from the Mogadorians who conquered them.

It is also love that creates the first bond John makes with Hadley, the Chimera who will devote its life to John and to his survival. Hadley and John bond on the ship on their way to Earth, and Hadley takes on many forms throughout John's childhood to watch over him, and to aid Henri in keeping him safe until the time is right.

Love also forms the bond between John and Sarah. It is Sarah's love for John that enables her to see past the fact that he is not from her world, and helps her to set aside her fear of the unknown. She battles with him against the Mogadorians, finding strength that can only come from a bond as strong as love. It is also this love that allows her to let him leave without her, trusting that one day his love for her will bring him back again.



Style

Point of View

I Am Number Four by Pittacus Lore is a novel written entirely in the first person perspective of the main character, Number Four, also known as John Smith as well as a host of other aliases. It is important that the point of view is told from this character's perspective in that the story revolves around his importance to the eventual rescue of his home world, Lorien. The isolation and secrecy surrounding his existence on Earth are paramount to understanding the story, and could only be properly explained by the main character himself.

Most of the dialogue contained in this story reveals the reasons for the Loriens' arrival on Earth, and the manner in which other aliens called Mogadorians behave. The presence of these special Lorien children on Earth is Earth's only hope of salvation. The six Lorien children sent to Earth must remain hidden, even from each other, until their Legacies develop and they are able to defeat the Mogadorians once and for all.

In their efforts to do so, Number Four will lose his longtime mentor, friend and father figure, Henri, but promises to take his ashes back to Lorien. Number Four will not fight this coming battle alone. He leaves Paradise, Ohio, along with Number Six, his friend Sam and his longtime companion and Chimera known as Bernie Kosar.

Setting

The novel, *I Am Number Four* by Pittacus Lore, is set almost entirely in Paradise, Ohio. The novel begins in Florida where Number Four, aka Daniel Jones and his Cêpan Henri are living. It is only one of many homes they have had in the ten years they have been on the planet Earth. The knowledge of the death of Number Three comes by way of a ring burned into Daniel's ankle above the ones that appeared when Numbers One and Two were killed. Now, as Number Four, he knows he can no longer be complacent. Also, since the ring around his ankle appeared while he was boating with friends from school, he knows his cover is gone and he has no choice but to leave the area again.

Taking the name John Smith, Number Four, and his Cêpan, Henri, move to Paradise, Ohio. Now fifteen years of age, John finds it increasingly difficult to live in the shadows of life on Earth. He knows that beings from the planet Mogadore will kill him if they find him, but doesn't want to leave his girlfriend Sarah, or his best friend Sam. Sam tells them about an article that details the intentions of the Mogadorian race, and Henri travels the short distance to Athens, Ohio to investigate further. What he finds will scare him almost into moving again, but John refuses to leave.

The showdown with the Mogadorians comes and the battle is confined to the area of his school and the surrounding grounds. When it is over, the Mogadorians are dead and



John is faced with leaving Sarah behind as he moves once again, this time with Number Six and Sam in tow as well as Bernie Kosar.

Language and Meaning

This novel is written in current day English, using common language and terminologies. The sentence structure is smooth and easy to digest, using common phrases and expressions. Despite the fact that there are three races on the planet Earth in this story, there are few idioms that are related to any planet other than Earth.

What makes this story a good read is the connection that is made by the author between the planets and the species that inhabit them. The planet of Lorien is faced with its own demise when pollution, bombs and waste products begin to foul the planet and the air. Recognizing the death spiral faced by their planet, the Loric people begin to make changes. Though it takes many years, and a new attitude, they are able to stop the decline of their world and regain the habitat that is their home. On the other hand, the next closest planet to them, Mogadore, is facing much the same issues. Though the planet is larger, years of neglect and lack of concern bring Mogadore to the brink of total destruction, but the Mogadorian people do not understand or care about the consequences of their actions. Instead, they continue to use their planet's resources until they are used up, and the water is fouled beyond consumption. From there, they travel to the next nearest planet, Lorien, and battle for the resources there. Lorien proves to be too small for the larger population of Mogadore, but Earth is a perfect replacement.

Both races travel to Earth. One is seeking to escape and rebuild one day while the other is concerned only with domination. It is a glimpse into the decisions that we as a human race must soon face in order to secure our future on this planet, along with the constant threat that our world will be a desirable place if ever seen.

Structure

I Am Number Four by Pittacus Lore is four-hundred and forty pages in length and is divided into thirty-four chapters. Each chapter varies in length from four pages as is the case in Chapter One to twenty or more pages as is more common throughout. The chapters are not separated or divided into parts, but this in no way deters from the flow or content. Each chapter is labeled simply by its number.

While there are several subplots in progress - including that of John's acceptance in his new school and his desire to fit in, the planet Lorien and the attack on it by Mogadorians, and the planet Mogadore and its steady decline as a result of neglect and misuse - these subplots in no way detract from the story line or the way the story unfolds. A love interest for John complicates things somewhat, but Sarah's discovery that John is an alien does not diminish their relationship. The novel's pace is quick and engaging as the main character, known as John Smith comes face to face with his



destiny and his mortality. He realizes the depth of his feelings for the man he came to know as his father, Henri, and the devastation that his death leaves behind.

There are no slow or stagnant segments in this entertaining and engaging novel.



Quotes

"If your fingers start to disappear, or if you start to float, or shake violently, if you lose muscular control or begin to hear voices even when nobody is talking. Anything at all, you call." Ch. 4, Pg. 24

Henry to John as he drops him off for his first day of high school in Paradise, Ohio.

"Does this mean I'll be able to shoot lasers from my hands or what?" Ch. 5, Pg. 44
John to Henri after his first Legacy power asserts itself, and lights up his palms with a burning sensation.

"When you have lost hope, you have lost everything. And when you think all is lost, when all is dire and bleak, there is always hope." Ch. 11, Pg. 124
Henri to John when John expresses the hopelessness he feels after having witnessed the destruction of Lorien.

"Did you know that Mogadorians are on a quest for universal domination, and that they have already wiped out one planet and are planning to wipe Earth out next." Ch. 12, Pg. 130

Sam to Henri as they banter conspiracy theories back and forth, unaware that this is exactly the truth.

"I'm from a planet hundreds of millions of miles away." Ch. 16, Pg. 182
John to Sam when Sam confronts him about the way his hands lit up in the forest when he confronted Mark.

"They've been on Earth a long time now." Ch. 18, Pg. 201
Henri's disagreement with John regarding going to Athens, Ohio to further investigate the article about Mogadorians. He believes it would benefit them to know if they look different now than they used to.

"They told us you might be coming. That you would look like humans." Ch. 20, Pg. 237
Large man who was part of the group that held Henri, believing he was the enemy.

"They looked funny and out of place, so at first I laughed at them... but the second I laughed I knew I had made a mistake." Ch. 21, Pg. 247
Spoken by one of the men who wrote the article about the Mogadorians for "They Walk Among Us" revealing his encounter with one of them shortly afterward.

"I think they can love us the way they love each other, especially if they don't know what we are, but I don't think it's possible to love a human the way one would love a Loric." Ch. 22, Pg. 274

Henri to John when John asks him if it's possible to be loved - truly loved by a human.



"Best way to deal with fear is to confront it." Ch. 25, Pg. 306

John to Sam as Sam wrestles with his feelings of insecurity where Emily and his feelings for her are concerned.

"I am the fourth of nine kids sent to Earth after our planet was destroyed." Ch. 26, Pg. 318

John to Sarah as he explains who he really is to her.

"If we see or hear anything else out of the ordinary, we're going to need to leave immediately, no questions asked, no discussion." Ch. 27, Pg. 327

Henri to John after he tells John that the men who contributed to "They Walk Among Us" were killed by Mogadorians after they rescued him from them.

"New developments have yet to present themselves." Ch. 30, Pg. 383

John to Henri, giving him back the same speech that he once gave John.

"I knew it was them as soon as I saw the trailer." Ch. 31, Pg. 397

Sam to John after saving his life near the school.

"I promise you, if it's the last thing I do I'll come back to you." Ch. 34, Pg. 440

John to Sarah as he, Sam, Number Six and Bernie Kosar are leaving Paradise.



Topics for Discussion

Why do the Loric children come to Earth? What causes them to leave their planet and families behind? What is the purpose of their relocation?

What protects the Loric children? How are they able to stay one step ahead of their pursuers? What are these children and their guardians waiting for?

What is a Legacy? What kinds of Legacies are there? How do these Legacies reveal themselves? What are some of the possible risks included?

Who are the Mogadorians? Where do they come from? What is their goal? Why are they determined to do this?

What do Lorien, Mogadore and Earth have in common? How did or are each planet coping with this issue? Which planet does Earth most resemble in this issue? Why?

What is a Cêpan? What is the purpose of a Cêpan? Who is Number Four's Cêpan? What happened to Number Six's Cêpan? What happens to Number Four's Cêpan?

What does Mark do when he first meets John? Why does he behave the way he does? What underlying issue is a problem for Mark? How does John resolve this situation?

What are some of the main differences between the Lorien and the Mogadorian peoples physically? Emotionally?

How do the Mogadorians hide the Beasts and weasels from humans on Earth? What is the treatment they are given and why? Under what conditions are they kept? How does that affect the outcome of the battle at the school and why?

What is the eventual goal of the Garde and their Cêpan? How do they hope to accomplish this goal? What part might they play in Earth's future as a result?