

Incarceron Study Guide

Incarceron by Catherine Fisher

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Plot Summary

Incarceron, by Catherine Fisher, is the story of a living prison and the struggle of those that live both inside and outside the prison. Finn, the main character in the story, struggles to find freedom from the prison that he feels that he lives within. Claudia lives outside the prison but also is struggling to find a way to free herself from the life that she is living and comes into contact with Finn and believes that he is a long lost prince from her world. The story is set in a fictional world, in a future where advanced technology has given those in charge the ability to pick the type of era in which the people live, and focuses on the struggles that the characters face while trying to make their own path and live a life of freedom.

Finn does not have any memory of anything that happened before he was approximately 16 and is even unsure of his age. He lives in a world that is made of metal with one glowing eye that watches your every move, and at times the prison can even punish you. The men that he travels with are a band of thieves that live by a rugged cruel code of ethics, and although Finn is willing to fight, and often kill, his kindness that is seen sets him apart from those he travels with. When Finn finds himself in possession of a crystal key his life begins to change. He uses the key to talk to a woman that claims to be outside the prison, although no one in the prison knows how to get out and some even doubt that there is a way to get out.

Claudia is the daughter of the Warden of Incarceron. She fears her father in many ways but is willing to defy him in order to save herself from an arranged marriage with a prince. Claudia is trying to find Incarceron when she finds the strange crystal key and begins talking with the boy Finn. After some time spent communicating with Finn, Claudia and Finn begin seeing each other more regularly. When Claudia sees Finn and learns that he has no memory of anything from his childhood she immediately believes he was the king's older son from a previous marriage and was sent to Incarceron because the queen wanted her own heir to be the future queen. Claudia encourages Finn to find a way out of Incarceron and believes he is her hope of escape.

Finally, Claudia and Finn learn that the keys are the way to enter and leave Incarceron. Finn escapes Incarceron. Once in Claudia's world Finn is thrust into public view as the long lost prince, although Finn is not entirely sure that he is the prince. Finn realizes quickly that he feels just as trapped in Claudia's world as he had his own.



Crystal Eagle, Dark Swan; Chapter 1-3

Crystal Eagle, Dark Swan; Chapter 1-3 Summary

Chapter 1 begins with Finn chained to a stone as he watches a machine come at him. Finn is the bait for a trap and it works as those running the machinery stop to help him. When they stop the band of thieves that Finn works with attack the machine. Many of the people from the machinery convoy die but Finn claims one woman, Maestra, as his prize and refuses to let her be killed because she had recognized a tattoo on his arm. The mark is an eagle with a crystal and Maestra claims that her group has the object at their home.

As Chapter 2 begins, Claudia is sitting in a tree taking in the view of her home she will soon have to leave due to her upcoming wedding in an arranged marriage to Caspar, the Queen's son. Claudia attempts to rebel in some small way as visitors are about to start arriving but she is forced to admit that she is just as scared of the Warden of Incarceron, John Arlex, as everyone else despite the fact that he is her father. When her father arrives he has a visitor with him that works for the Queen. Claudia tries to convince her father to let her out of this marriage but her father reminds her that she has been taught well and can handle someone as simple as Caspar. While Claudia is not enthused at the prospect of marrying someone like Caspar, her worry is more of the Queen rather than Caspar.

In Chapter 3, Finn and the others are returning to their camp. As they walk into the camp Finn hears the Prison laugh. It is a living thing and is described as cruel. When back in the camp Keiro asks Finn why he wanted to take Maestra alive since it is against the rules of the camp that they live in. Finn tells Keiro that the woman said something that he needs to find out about. Many of those that serve the head of the thieves camp are half men, being part machine. The head of the camp is Jormanric and is known to be cruel and dangerous. When Jormanric tells Finn it is about time he killed someone since he has been with their group for three years Finn acts as though he does not care if the woman lives or dies but tells Jormanric that the woman was called Maestra and believes that she can be ransomed. Finn seems to be losing his battle when an old man, Gildas, steps in to help and convinces Jormanric to let the woman live.

Crystal Eagle, Dark Swan; Chapter 1-3 Analysis

Each of the chapters starts off with a quote or section of story that is important to the story. These introductions to the chapter give the reader a small piece of understanding about the background of the world in which the characters live. While these do explain beliefs, and concepts of the Prison as well as understanding about past events that are important to the story line they do not all necessarily link directly with the events that are happening in that chapter. The excerpt in the beginning of Chapter 1 is from Songs



of Sapphique and refers to a man only being able to define what is his prison once he has known freedom. The thought of being able to define what is your prison will be something to be more closely looked at once the story has finished.

Finn's character quickly develops in Chapter 1 so that the reader has a basic understanding of him and of some of how this living Prison works. Finn is not a character that seems completely good. He is willing to see many of the people die when he is involved in the raid on their transport in chapter one. The only reason that he attempts to save Maestra is due to her knowledge of what his tattoo means. Despite his coldness that is seen there will be more of Finn that is shown as the story continues. Keiro is also an important character. His loyalty to Finn does not seem to be complete, but Finn appears to know this. Keiro's hatred of the half men in the story is noteworthy and will be further discussed later in the story.

In Chapter 1, the Prison is referred to by Finn as something that is cruel. He doesn't necessarily seem afraid when he hears the whirling and takes note of the eye that is always watching him but there the feelings that he has for the Prison are strong. In the beginning of Chapter 3, there is a piece of a project report from Martor Sapients that describes Incarceron. It says that the Prison will be exceptionally kind and compassionate.

Claudia is a strong character in the story but her character almost seems to change when her father comes in the room. As the story goes on her relationship with her father will continue to change and she also will seem to become less childlike as the story continues. Claudia discusses her world some. Her world is vastly different from Finns and she talks about the "Era" that she lives in and mentions some of the technology she has is against the law because of the era that those that rule the world have decided to live in. This will be explained in greater detail later in the story.



Crystal Eagle, Dark Swan; Chapter 4-7

Crystal Eagle, Dark Swan; Chapter 4-7 Summary

Chapter 4 continues with Claudia thinking about the fact that she is nothing more than a tool for her father. Claudia is not sure if he loves her, or her him, but knows that she fears him. Claudia is talking with Jared, her tutor, about her first betrothal to King's son, Giles. She was five when Giles died. She has a picture of the boy and remembers the one time that they met and how much she liked him. When Claudia learned that Giles had died she was sad over his death but furious that she was to marry Caspar in his place. Claudia believes that Giles' step mother, the Queen, killed the boy. Claudia has a piece of a letter that vaguely hints that she may have plotted Giles' murder. Jared reminds Claudia that the letter reveals nothing and it would be dangerous to accuse the Queen with no proof. While going over the letter that Claudia has Jared and Claudia realize that the letter was from the Queen to the Warden.

In Chapter 5, Finn is talking with Maestra and explains that he doesn't remember anything. The term for someone that the machine created from within its prison walls is cell born. Finn's age is estimated at approximately 15 at the time that he first awakened in the cell three years earlier. Finn tells Maestra that he feared the eye of the Prison when he first saw it but that it slowly became a comfort and he became frightened it would go away and then he began talking to it. Finn explains how he came to be with the thieves and how you need an oathbrother to survive. Gildas, the Sapien, is the one that kept Finn from being killed initially. Finn has flashes of memories. Gildas believes that they are flashes sent by Sapphique to help those in Incarceron find their way out. Finn promises Maestra that if she can get him this crystal that she has told him about that he will get her home safely. She tells Finn that they found a place that was hidden and inside was a skeleton of a man holding the crystal. Finn promises her that her exchange will be safe and says that there is not much else he can do. She tells Finn that he is as much a prisoner as she is. Outside Keiro tells Finn that he is a fool for believing that he may have been brought into Incarceron from outside. As Finn is walking away from Keiro he sees the dog-slave of Jormanric's straining for a bowl of water that was put just out of reach. Finn kicks the bowl nearer to the creature and walks on. The slave watches Finn as he walks away.

Chapter 6 begins with Claudia having a meal with the Warden. When the meal is over Claudia immediately calls Jared and she begins her plan. Claudia wants to find the Prison but no one, except the Warden, knows where the door is located. Claudia manages to get into her father's office. She knows she has a limited amount of time before she is discovered here. Claudia sits down at her father's desk and a screen appears. She attempts to give the screen commands to initiate something of Incarceron. Nothing happens but a small drawer in the desk opens. A key is in the drawer on a bed of velvet. The key has a web of crystal with a crowned eagle on it. Claudia picks up the key and alarms immediately begin and lasers shoot up from the floor. Jared immediately sends her a message telling her to get out of the room.



Chapter 7 goes back to Finn who is arguing with Gildas. Gildas believes that the legends of Sapphique are true, the man that was able to leave Incarceron, but does not believe that anyone can come in to the prison, even Finn. Gildas recounts the stories of the Prison for Finn explaining that it was built for the worst of humanity and that seventy Sapienti volunteered to enter the Prison to minister to the Inmates but that the door was sealed after them forever. The Prison is efficient and recycles everything, even dead humans to grow new ones. When Finn says he has memories, such as a cake with seven candles on it, Gildas says that they are not memories but gifts of the Starseer that will show them the way out of Incarceron. Gildas tells Finn that finding him was more than fortunate because it will be Finn that guides Gildas' escape. Soon it is time to take Maestra to be traded. During the trade the key that Finn wants is flung down onto the top of the pile. Maestra tells Finn that she hopes it destroys him. When Maestra is safely on the bridge walking away the bridge crashes while Jormanric laughs. Finn watches as Maestra falls to her death. Finn is sick after watching her die. Keiro looks at the key and asks what it is and then Finn knows for certain that he is from the outside because he knew immediately that the crystal object he is holding is a key although such things do not exist in Incarceron.

Crystal Eagle, Dark Swan; Chapter 4-7 Analysis

Claudia has been planning to look for Incarceron for some time. The Warden is solely in charge of the Prison and no one else has access to it. In the excerpts in front of Chapter 6, from a court archive, it explains that Incarceron was designed to provide everything needed for its prisoners. Although they were criminals it would create a paradise for them. The archive also states that it has been more than One hundred and fifty years and that the Warden states that the progress is going well. It is unclear if the Warden that is seen in the story is the same Warden but it is implied that he is. It appears that the people in Claudia's world live much longer than what is considered a traditional life span. Sapphique is spoken of often by those inside Incarceron but is never actually seen. There are brief accounts of escape given but since it has been so long since he has been thought to have escaped the stories seem to border on myths or legends. Later in the story there will be instances where details from Sapphique's escape will be important due to information that is given to Claudia.

Maestra has fallen to her death and Finn watches her die. There is no one that cared that she is gone seemingly, with the exception of Finn. He has been forced to live with the thieves and has taken up many of their ways of life in order to survive but as he is watched it becomes clear that his character is not the same as those that he lives with. The relationship between Finn and Keiro is important to look at. It is a complex one. They call themselves oathbrothers. They need each other and in some ways seem to care for each other, but they don't put one another above their own wants and desires. This is due in part to the fact that they are so different. Finn mentions in the story that he knows that Keiro cheats him when they are dividing up their portion of the robberies, but Finn simply doesn't care. Despite their different desires they will continue on together for Finn's journey.



Claudia makes note of the watch that her father owns. She calls it the only "eccentricity" that he owns. It is important to take note of this item. Her attempt to break into the Warden's office will not go unnoticed but she does not seem to get caught. The rough appearance the two keys have is basically the same. The difference being the details. While the one in Claudia's world is refined, smoother, in appearance, the one in Incarceron is much more of a rough design. This seems to describe the differences in the two worlds to a great degree. In Claudia's world there is an order to things, and a ruling government, but she feels as though she is trapped into a marriage she has no say over. The world Finn is in is much more harsh but he also feels that he is in a prison.

There are Sapienti in both worlds. The differences between them mirror the same differences in the keys. The Sapienti in Claudia's world are men that are considered well educated and tutors of the wealthy. In Finn's world the Sapienti, Gildas, have much less stature but are still considered "holy" men in many ways, but have a different purpose than that of the Sapienti outside of Incarceron.



Underground, The Stars are Legends; 8-11

Underground, The Stars are Legends; 8-11 Summary

Chapter 8 goes back to Claudia. She uses the disk that Jared gave her to make a hologram of the key and then releases lady bugs into the room. Claudia leaves the room and makes her way to Jared's tower. Meanwhile Finn is furious that Maestra's death was ordered. Finn and Keiro look at the key and the symbol of the eagle on the key is the same as the tattoo on Finn's arm. Keiro claims that this only proves that Finn is from the inside and that the Prison must have made both Finn and the Key. The story goes back to Claudia and Jared. They are studying in Jared's tower when the Warden arrives. He tells them that the Queen's servant, Lord Evian, and the Warden have finished the details of the dowry arrangements for the wedding. He tells Claudia before he leaves the room that it appears they have an insect problem he must attend to. Claudia and Jared agree that the Warden knows that she broke into his office and he had come to the tower to let them know that he was no fool. Claudia and Jared bring out the key and Jared begins running tests on it. The key has an electromagnetic field that is unique and some complex technology that Jared states is "pre-Era". He tells Claudia it won't just unlock a door.

In Chapter 9, Finn tells Gildas that he had had a vision in which Sapphique spoke to him. Sapphique had told Finn to use the key to unlock "Time". Gildas says that he knows where the doorway is that Finn had dreamed of that Sapphique had told him to open. Gildas is ready to make an escape but Keiro begins arguing with Gildas. The two are yelling at each other over what would be better for Finn when Finn finally stops them and asks if either one of them cares for him and not what he can give them? He announces that he has to escape. Keiro accuses Finn of manipulating him and Gildas but agrees to go with them but demands it be in secret so if they fail no one will know since leaving the thieves is considered abandonment and is punishable by death.

Claudia is talking with the Queen's servant, Lord Evian. He is discussing her upcoming marriage but she stands to excuse herself and he tells her to sit down. He asks her if they can be overheard here and then asks her if she knows of a faction called the Steel Wolves. Claudia recounts that Jared taught her that the Steel Wolf was the first Prisoner to enter Incarceron a hundred and sixty years ago and that he had been found guilty of plotting treason against the realm. Evian admits this much is true but says it is also the name of an organization that is tired of playing court and wants a Queen to rule that would be good for the people. Evian leaves Claudia and she realizes he has suggested killing her future husband. Claudia knows that reporting the man or keeping silent, either one, may be a mistake. Meanwhile Finn, Keiro, and Gildas ready themselves to abandon the thieves. When they reach the wall they find that they are surrounded by Jormanric and his men.



Chapter 10 continues with Jormanric explaining that Gildas is free to go, Keiro must die for abandoning the thieves, and Finn will stay with them along with the key. Keiro calls Jormanric old and challenges him to a fight. Everyone gathers around to watch the fight, including the dog-slave on the chain. Finn tries to help Keiro but one of Jormanric's men stops Finn from assisting. Keiro is losing the battle when suddenly Jormanric falls to the ground after his feet get tangled in the chain that is held by the dog-slave as the slave's hands pull hard on the chain. The dog-slave is kicked as Keiro takes the upperhand and is ready to kill Jormanric when Finn stops him. Finn tells Keiro to give up his right to rule the thieves and come with him. Keiro tells Finn that he is asking a lot when suddenly the prison begins to wail alarms. Finn grabs Keiro to run when Jormanric tells Finn to ask Keiro why it is that Maestra died. Once away from the thieves Keiro and Finn find Gildas with the dog-slave. Finn is advised to leave the slave but he refuses and they run to safety with the prison locking down around them. They climb to the place Gildas had told them about and slide the key into the lock and it turns.

Chapter 11 returns to Claudia and Jared. They are working their way through a garden maze. When they reach the center and feel certain they are not overheard Claudia tells Jared of the conversation that she had with Lord Evian. Jared admits that he has heard of them but they are very secretive and tells her that an explosion happened in a room where the Queen was supposed to have been, with nothing left behind but a small metal wolf. Claudia pulls out the key and it begins getting warm and then it speaks. Claudia and Jared listen to people talk and the sound of a metal door opening. The lights on the key slowly fade. Claudia and Jared deduct that the key may also be used for communicating but she is confused because the voices sounded scared and there could be nothing to be scared of in Incarceron since it is a paradise.

Underground, The Stars are Legends; 8-11 Analysis

Claudia has been looking for the truth to Prince Giles death but as the story continues there are more questions as she finds answers to smaller things. Jared is an important part of her life. She counts him as a friend and family. The closeness that these two share will cause them trouble as the story continues. Jared's heart condition will also continue to be an issue for almost everything that is undertaken in the story since the stress seems to leave him pale and weakened.

Keiro was able to do what he wanted to do, defeat Jormanric in battle. This battle left Keiro in charge of the group of thieves although it is seen that it is rare for any one leader to live very long due to rivals. It is unclear if Keiro would have went with Finn and Gildas if the Prison had not began to shudder and lock down. Since the Prison is described as a vast area it is unclear exactly what happens when the prison begins to shut down but it is obvious that this makes the need to get the door immediate.

Finn saved Jormanric's life. There is no relationship between these two characters that would imply that Finn would have any attachment to the thieves leader. It seems that Finn simply wants to leave and sees no reason for further blood shed. Jormanric does not come out and explain exactly what happened to Maestra but he does imply that it



was not him that ordered the woman's death, but Keiro. Her death haunts Finn but the issue will not be resolved for some time. The change that is seen happening over Keiro when he defeats Jormannic is worrisome to Finn, perhaps it is because he begins to look monstrous, or perhaps it is because Finn realizes that he is looking Keiro to something that he cannot fight.

The two keys in the story have an obvious link that is beginning to emerge. As the story continues their capabilities will continue to be looked at and more and more information about the keys will be added as the story continues.

Caspar has arrived to greet Claudia. Neither one of these characters feel anything for the other. Caspar does not desire to marry Claudia any more than she wants to marry him. The difference between the two of them appears to be that Caspar feels this is how it has to be and is a duty that he is willing to submit to. Claudia has not decided to give into the idea of marrying Caspar although she has not told him this since she appears to have little way out of the engagement at this point in time.



Underground, The Stars are Legends; Chapter 12-14

Underground, The Stars are Legends; Chapter 12-14 Summary

In Chapter 12, the Prison begins to unlock everything. They find themselves in a forest of metal trees. Finn asks Keiro what Jormanric had meant when talking about Maestra's death but Keiro tells him that Jormanric would have said any lie at that point since he had been defeated. Finn feeds the dog-slave and Keiro says to dump it. Gildas points out that the slave saved his life but Keiro denies this vehemently. The slave hands Keiro his pack that he had dropped while fighting Jormanric and Keiro kicks at the slave and a girl's voice tells him he should be thankful she brought it. The slave explains how she made herself up to look like she was inhuman in order to stay alive and proclaims herself Finn's slave for saving her. The girl says her name is Attia. Finn refuses her as a servant but says she can travel with them. Finn is holding the key when it begins speaking. Finn at first believes it to be Sapphique. Finn and Claudia speak for a few moments when the lights come on. Finn tells her that she must help him escape. Claudia is confused as to why he would need any help since he is in a perfect world.

In Chapter 13, Claudia meets with Evian and asks him about Giles' death. Evian admits that there was something strange about it. Evian explains that they laid Giles' body out for the entire kingdom to see and that an old man that had cared for Giles since he was a small boy came around to see the body. When the old man saw the body he only laughed. Meanwhile Finn and the others are walking through the cold metal forest. Keiro kills a sheep for them to eat and they find that the thing is mostly made of metal. Gildas tells them it used to be that the animals were entirely made of flesh but that Incarceron is running out of organic material.

As Chapter 14, begins Claudia is talking with Caspar about packing. Caspar tells Claudia that he knows that she does not want to marry him and that his mother has explained how the situation will work, that after they have an heir that he and Claudia can take as many lovers as they like. Claudia becomes angry and yells at Caspar asking him if he has never wanted freedom. Caspar accuses Claudia of being in love with Jared and tells her that he doesn't mind but he thinks he might tell her father. Claudia gets her face close to Caspar's and tells him that if he mentions this again then she will kill Caspar herself with a dagger, just as they killed Giles, and storms out of the room. Claudia grabs her riding coat and asks a servant about the old man that used to be the one who watched over Giles. Claudia and Jared head to where the old man is said to live.

Finn and the others have made a small camp in a cave while a storm goes on outside. Finn wished he were alone so he could talk to the girl again. When Finn is fairly sure everyone is asleep he pulls the key out to talk to them. He can hear people talking and



he says Claudia's name out loud but it wakes the others and Finn quickly puts the key away. When Keiro demands to know what was going on Attia quickly tells him that he was talking to her. Keiro seems appeased but then admits he has to wonder who Claudia is.

Claudia and Jared have journeyed to the old man's home and they find the front door open. Claudia says that they need to go in and wait on him since she has to leave the next day to go live with the queen and Caspar. They find the old man laying on the ground with a broken neck. They begin searching the old man's home and find a hidden cove of objects. Among the objects is small picture frame that is made of gold with a picture of the young prince Giles.

Underground, The Stars are Legends; Chapter 12-14 Analysis

The slave turns out to be a very clever slave who had manipulated those in the thieves camp in order to stay alive. The skills that she has honed in order to stay alive while with Jormanric's group will prove to be useful to Finn and the others. Attia tells Finn at one point in time that she will be his slave but he declines her. Later in the story she will tell him that friends are much more important than slaves. Attija continues to watch over Finn and attempt to help him when she can. She is one of the only characters that would follow Finn even if there was no guarantee of getting free of Incarceron.

Claudia despises Caspar. It is possible that if he was kinder to her, or at least made the pretense of wanting to be a good husband, that she would not be so determined to find out who killed Giles. It could be said that his inability to show compassion to Claudia is what will cause many of the reactions that come to follow.

The chapters began with one chapter following either Finn or Claudia but there was not much switching between the two characters in the chapter. As the story continues there will be more and more overlapping between the two characters as Finn continues on his journey and it seems that Finn is getting "closer" to the outside. How the key works will also change as Finn continues on his journey.

The Prison obviously keeps the prisoners from the outside but when Finn and the others escape from Jormanric it is seen that they are in awe when they reach the metal trees. This is an area that they have never been before and they are shocked at what they see. The Prison seems to keep the prisoners locked in one area for their lifespan, so that they are locked in what could be considered their own cells. The thought of the Prison being a living entity is spoken about often but it will be looked at more closely in the coming chapters. The piece of Lord Calliston's Diary at the beginning of Chapter 7 states that he knew after the Prison was made that they had made a monster that would destroy "us". It doesn't specify if the Prison would destroy the prisoners or everyone. There are many rumors as to how the prison could be kept so secret as the story continues. The actual location of the Prison has already been looked at once in the

story but was in no way identified other than a brief mention. The truth of the Prison won't be revealed until the end of the story.



Chained Hand and Foo; Chapter 15-17

Chained Hand and Foo; Chapter 15-17 Summary

Chapter 15 begins with Finn waking to silence. The group gets up and begins to travel and Finn touches the key in his pocket and finds it warm. When he pulls it out to talk to Claudia but Finn is interrupted when a group of men near Finn and his companions. Claudia is frustrated that Finn left so quickly but her father and Caspar quickly arrive at her room and she is forced to hide the key. Claudia arranges to ride her horse when the group begins to leave for the Queen's castle. Claudia determines to be hard but cannot stop some tears from her eyes as she begins to leave. Claudia is riding in a carriage with one of the servants and pulls out a piece to read from the old man that she had found dead. In it the old man talks about coming to love Giles and the riding accident that claimed his life. When Giles' body was laid out for all to pay respects the old man states that he was filled with joy because he knew that Giles was alive. The old man says that Giles could be hidden no where other than Incarceron.

In Chapter 16, Claudia waits until late to go to speak to Jared of the things that she has learned and tried to tell him that she finds something familiar while talking with Finn. Jared urges her to be careful thinking this way. Claudia uses the key to talk to Finn again and she tells him how to activate a panel on the key explaining that they should be able to see each other. When Finn uses the key he sees a princess. When Jared sees the boy he and Claudia realize that Incarceron is not a paradise. Finn quickly relates much of their journey to Claudia. Claudia begins to tell Finn that he looks like Giles when Keiro bursts in on them. Before Finn can tell them much of what is going on they are caught in a net that drops from above. Keiro has managed to stay out of the net and he takes the key and runs before the captors arrive.

Claudia and Jared are amazed at what they have seen. Jared tells Claudia to go to her own room to go to bed. When she walks out one of Caspar's men is waiting for her and grins at her.

As Chapter 17 begins, Finn and Gildas are seen being taken into a city. The men that have captured them are talking of cutting off Gildas' hands because of the sheep that was stolen. Throughout the city there are pictures of Sapphique, and in one he holds the crystal key. Finn and Gildas are taken to see what are called the Justices. Three old women tell Gildas and Finn that everyone are criminals, even Sapphique, and that they will pay for their crime. Gildas is brought to be punished, hand pulled out to be cut off, when Gildas suddenly screams that Finn can see the stars and speaks to Sapphique. Gildas offers the Justices Finn as payment for the crime committed. The three old women laugh and announce that Finn will be the Tribute given to the Beast. Meanwhile Keiro and Attia are heading to the city to look for Finn and Gildas. When inside the city there is an alarm that senses Keiro. Terrified he runs but claims he does not know why it has targeted him.



In Chapter 18, Claudia and her caravan continue their journey. Her father is riding with her in the carriage and he begins to explain about her mother.

Chained Hand and Foo; Chapter 15-17 Analysis

The story between Claudia and Caspar doesn't change much. It appears from the story that they disliked each other, seemingly, from the moment they met each other. The only thing that Caspar appears to want from Claudia is for her to do what is expected of her in view of the public. The fact that Claudia was caught leaving Jared's room is not anything that bothers Caspar but it is something that he is willing to use against Claudia.

Sapphique is an important person in the story. His legacy, or legend, drives a great many of the motives and the traditions that the people in Incarceron have. Despite the fact that so much of the story hinges on this one individual there is no set place in the story where all of the details of Sapphique are explained to the reader.

Keiro is portrayed as a character that does not become easily frightened or is willing to run from a fight. When entering the city in Chapter 17, Attia sees immediately how terrified Keiro is when the alarms go off when he enters. The reader's attention is drawn to this scene from the view of Attia rather than that of Keiro. Later in the story it will become clear to the reader what this moment was alluding to although it will not be mentioned again.



Chained, Hand and Foot; Chapter 18-21

Chained, Hand and Foot; Chapter 18-21 Summary

As the Warden continues to explain about Claudia's mother in Chapter 18. He tells Claudia that the wedding was not arranged, but he was in love with her. Claudia's mother had died during child birth and afterwards the Warden had all pictures of her locked away because he could not bear to look at them. When Claudia asks why he has picked now to tell her of her mother the Warden explains that if her mother had lived the wedding between Claudia and Caspar would be important to her just as it is to him and that Claudia must let nothing put the wedding at risk. When the carriage is stopped to let the Warden get out to go back to his horse Claudia can see the Glass Court where she and Caspar will live.

Meanwhile inside Incarceron Finn is being prepared to be taken to some creature as Tribute. Finn doesn't know what the creature but Gildas has bribed his way into going with Finn. He tells Finn that he has learned that the people in this town pay a Tribute once a month to a creature they have named the Beast. The Tribute is always a young woman or man in the town and they are thrown into a cave and never return. The legend says that Sapphique came to the town and offered himself as a Tribute and was taken to the cave. In three days time he returned missing the index finger on the right hand and told the people that the Tribute has not been paid and that the Beast is a hunger that can never be filled.

In Chapter 19, Claudia is told by Keiro what is happening to Finn. Attia warns Claudia that she believes that Keiro will take the key and leave Finn to die. Claudia tells Keiro to save Finn and tells Keiro that she will not speak to anyone other than Finn. Keiro agrees and Claudia switches off the key and goes out to find Caspar looking for her. Claudia asks Jared to ride with her the remainder of the way to the Glass Court. Caspar asks why she doesn't want him to ride along. Claudia quickly lies and says she would enjoy that greatly and explains that she and Jared are studying history and how fascinating it is. Caspar tells Claudia that he has heard about her coming out of Jared's room the night before and that she had better be more discreet at court or his mother will be angry and Jared will find his health quickly becomes very bad. Once Caspar has walked away Lord Evian tells Claudia to be more careful. Jared open tells Evian that Claudia should not be brought into the middle of their attempt to assassinate anyone but Evian refutes that they cannot do it without her. Evian says that they are rich, and live well but are not free and says that because of the protocol that they must abide by that all progress and change is forbidden. Evian tells Claudia that they are dying and says that they must break out of the cell they have built around themselves.

Finn makes his way out of the city. People line the streets but no one says anything until they all begin singing in unison. Once out of the city Gildas comments on the fact that Keiro is no where to be found. Finn has been thinking on Keiro and realizes now that he should have cared more for his oath brother. Soon they come to opening of the cave.



In Chapter 20, Gildas and Finn enter the mouth of the cave. They are quickly surrounded by darkness but before long they hear something and Finn realizes that the Beast is all around them, curled up, with a large red eye that is bigger than Finn.

Claudia is being carried up the palace steps in her carriage with Jared when she suddenly admits to him how truly frightened she is. She tells Jared that they will want to change her and she wants to stay who she is. Jared assured her that she will stay her and not to worry. When the Warden reaches out to help Claudia out of the carriage he simply says 'the smile' and Claudia immediately puts on a large fake confident smile.

Inside the cave, Finn realizes that there is no way to fight the creature. Finn watches the creature move. Anything the creature takes in becomes part of it, making it bigger. There are bones, nails and other items in the metal and flesh creature. The Beast calls Finn by name and says that he has always known that he was special. He tells Finn that most men forget that they are living in a prison but not Finn, and that Finn has called out to him in the night and that he was heard. When Gildas demands to know who the Beast is he tells Gildas that he is Incarceron. The Beast demands a payment from Finn and Gildas. The Beast wants Gildas and tells Finn that he may go free. Finn refuses saying he has given one life to Incarceron already. The Beast remembers the woman that had died, and tells Finn that guilt and shame are rare and interest him. Finn throws his last of the skull rings at the Beast for Tribute.

The Queen, also known as Sia, and Claudia are face to face. Sia quickly begins to ask a great many questions of Claudia. She takes Claudia by the arm and leads her out of the room. Once they are alone Sia tells Claudia that she needs her to help rule the kingdom. Claudia is very surprised as Sia continues to explain that Caspar knows nothing of politics and is easily bored. She instructs Claudia to allow Caspar to have his own toys and diversions and assures Claudia that her and Sia will be very happy ruling the kingdom. Claudia tells Sia that Jared will be staying with her. Sia tries to object but Claudia is firm on the subject and Sia simply agrees with a cold smile.

Finn and Gildas are waiting for the Beast to accept their offering and let them go when suddenly the red eye becomes huge and the Beast announces that they are invisible and it cannot see them. Keiro begins using a flame thrower on the Beast while Attia grabs Gildas and Finn. They are able to use the key to melt away a piece of the rock and escape as the Beast continues to scream. At this moment the Warden has an alarm go off on his watch. When he looks at it Claudia asks if it is the prison explaining that she has never heard this sound before from his watch. When he says it is and that he must see to this personally Claudia decides to follow the Warden and finds a gate. She goes to find Jared to tell him she has found the entrance to Incarceron. Back in Incarceron Finn and the others have been chased to a cliff where they are saved by a man in a flying silver ship who orders them to get in quickly and they fly to safety.



Chained, Hand and Foot; Chapter 18-21 Analysis

As the story continues there is much more switching within each chapter from Incarceron to the outside world. This seems to bring both a sense of closeness to the reader between the two worlds and also creates a feeling of growing importance to the story line as the characters continue in their individual quests.

Claudia has seen the Queen at this point in the story. The Queen, Sia, has been described as a sorceress. It is not clear what her background is but she has been described as being a rather horrid individual. It has been heavily implied to the reader that she is responsible for the death of Giles, the young prince, or at least his disappearance, and at one juncture in the story it is suggested that she may have killed other individuals, or at least ordered their deaths. When Sia gets Claudia alone to talk to her about ruling the kingdom the Queen is very straightforward but is also rather kind. She is quick to talk down about her son Caspar, and admit that he will in no way rule the kingdom. For a large part of the story, Claudia has conveyed feelings of her father in regards to believing that he uses her as he uses a tool. When Sia talks about her own son it appears she has much the same mentality. The visible difference being that her son doesn't want anything more than to have a life of comfort.

Claudia becomes very excited at the end of Chapter 21 because she believes she has found the entrance to Incarceron. This society is much more evolved than what is realized. They have chosen to put themselves in the era in which they live. But their science and advancements are much past this. The gate that Claudia has found is not as important as she believes it to be at this point in time. What was important for the reader to see is that there was an alarm go off in Incarceron and the Warden went immediately to take care of it in person.

Lord Evian has described what he feels is wrong with the society they now live in. The rich get all the benefits, most men are not allowed to read, and science is a privilege of the extremely wealthy. This protocol that the people live in has put their world in a state of repetition and without new growth and development they are dying. It is unclear what he means when he says that they are dying, but it is clear that not everyone outside of the Incarceron walls believes the world that they are living in to be one of freedom and life.



A World that Hangs in Space; Chapter 22-24

A World that Hangs in Space; Chapter 22-24 Summary

As Chapter 22 begins, Attia and Finn are discussing Keiro. The man that owns the ship comes in to talk to them. The man has long black hair and acid marks on his face. They thank him for saving them. The man tells them that Finn did not come from the outside and says he knows this because there is no outside. When they argue with the man and explain about Claudia and Jared he tells them that those people are probably locked up in another wing of Incarceron. The man leaves to let them think on what he has said. He gives them a great amount of food to eat and tells them that they can rest. Once alone Finn pulls out the key and they talk to Jared and Claudia and begin to ask questions. Gildas quickly asks how they know that they are outside of Incarceron and then asks him what happened to Sapphique. Jared then asks who is Sapphique.

In Chapter 23, Gildas is slowly sitting down from shock, having believed Sapphique would be a great man outside of Incarceron, just as he was when inside. Claudia slowly explains about the experiment and how everyone in their world believes that those living in Incarceron are living in a paradise that is controlled to be perfect by a machine. She also tells them about Giles and that she believes he was not killed but was hidden in Incarceron and is Finn. Finn is shocked by this information but still cannot remember anything. Claudia announces that she is going to come in through the gate to find them. Finn asks Claudia if he had a cake with silver balls on it and about a lake with floating lanterns. Claudia becomes excited for a moment but then quickly yells at Jared to turn the key off. Evian has been listening to them talk. Evian explains that this gives their coup a cause people will fight for. Claudia says everything must be done her way. Evian says that they will wait until the wedding in two days but will tell Claudia nothing else so she cannot be questioned. Evian swears, as a servant of the Nne-Fingered One, that her father will not be killed. When Evian is gone Claudia and Jared both wonder who the Nine-Fingered One is.

The scene returns to Finn and the others on the ship that saved them as Chapter 24 begins. They are going through the books that list every living thing in Incarceron and show the person's face. Each moment of a life is recorded in detail. Finn finds his book but there is nothing before the time that he can remember just appearing in Incarceron, nothing at all. Attia looks up Claudia. She tells Finn that the man was wrong, that Claudia is not in Incarceron. As they read on in the books they find one that follows Lord Castillion, the one called the Steel Wolf. In it he explains how the prison was created to be perfect but that men kept fighting and eventually the prison began to kill men and take over giving up on them.



A World that Hangs in Space; Chapter 22-24 Analysis

Evian is very serious about his oath to Jared and Claudia. He has mentioned a Nine-Fingered man. There are no other clues given to the reader as to who the Nine-Fingered One may be but there was a lot of the reader's attention drawn to the fact that Sapphique lost a finger while paying Tribute to the beast. Then later in the story the fact that Lord Calliston was called the Grey Wolf is mentioned. The faction that Evian represents is called the Steel Wolves. Many of the excerpts at the beginning of each chapter are from Lord Calliston's diary. It was Calliston's words at the beginning of Chapter 21 that explain that he is working to make a device that copies the one on the outside and it now protects him. Although this blinds the prison it can still feel and sense those using the key.

Attia is always watching and observing those around her as well as her surroundings. This may be part of the reason that she was able to stay alive for so long in the camp being the slave to the leader of the thieves. Attia picks up one of the books to look up the facts on Claudia to ensure that she is not still in the prison, as their rescuer stated she was. There was more information given there than what Attia revealed to Finn. It won't be until much later in the story that the exact details of the book are revealed to the reader.

The thought that Incarceron is supposed to be a paradise is appalling to Gildas and many others in Incarceron. The truth of why the place has been built appears to have been lost long ago due in part to the general lack of education or betterment of man in the prison. The goal for the majority of those in Incarceron is to ensure that you get what you can when you can. It is this overwhelming mentality of the people that causes some suspicion to be cast on Keiro, in addition to his own questionable behavior. The exacts of Keiro will not be answered in this book.



A World that Hangs in Space; Chapter 25-28

A World that Hangs in Space; Chapter 25-28 Summary

In Chapter 25, Claudia and Jared have managed to open the locked gate they had found but when they look inside the room it is a perfect copy of her father's study back home. Nothing else is in it. Upon closer inspection they realize that it is not an exact copy of the same room, but that it is the exact same room. Jared finds a tiny particle on the floor and takes it back with him to run tests to see what he can find.

Meanwhile the man that had rescued Finn and the others has refused to release them until he is ready. The man asks for the key but the group refuses to give it. When Finn is alone he uses the key to talk to Claudia once again. She realizes that she can actually smell what Incarceron smells like and they can see dust particles traveling out of the keys. They try to touch each other but are unable. Finn goes to a room to have one last meal with his rescuer. The host excuses himself for a moment and Attia grabs Finn's plate to eat out of it before Finn in order to make sure it is safe. He becomes angry and tells her that she is not his slave. She agrees but says a friend is much more important. Attia suddenly begins to scream that the apple she has bitten out of is burning her.

In Chapter 26, they quickly block the door to stop their host from reentering realizing it was him who tried to poison Finn. Gildas gives Attia medication to counter act the poison but she still is suffering and Gildas says there is nothing else he can do. Finn forces Keiro to give him another of the rings to save the girl. She begins to breath easier and the group quickly finds an escape. Once they have escaped Finn wonders why the host didn't try to stop them. Meanwhile Sia is meeting with Claudia. Sia says that she has changed her mind and that Jared must leave the court. Claudia tries to argue but Sia tells her that there is only one queen. She tells Claudia that Claudia will be her successor but for right now she must listen and learn, and Jared will be leaving.

In Chapter 27, the Warden confronts Claudia and demands to have the key back. Claudia accuses her father of not thinking of her when he banished Giles to the prison and left her to be with Caspar. The Warden explains that the prison is a closed system and that the boy that she is talking to cannot be Giles because there is nothing that comes or goes out of the prison. He demands the key and tells her that she will regret it if she does not give him the key. When she tells him that he cannot hurt her because he needs her for his plan he admits to this but says that he can hurt Jared or Finn. When Claudia arrives in her room she finds a note from Jared saying that he needs to meet with her immediately. Finn and the others continue to sail on when suddenly they enter a dark storm. They ask Claudia for help but she tells them that her father has found everything out and wants Finn dead. Finn is talking when suddenly everything goes quiet.



Chapter 28 begins with Claudia going to Jared. They must now be far more careful because of the bugs in Jared's room he has found and Claudia believes she is going followed. Jared shows her the particle he retrieved from her father's study and puts it under a microscope for her to look at. There in the microscope she sees lions. She says that they cannot be real but Jared tells her that they are. Jared explains it is a self-adjusting gravity box and it seems to contain an entire zoo. This is why they could not find Incarceron, they have been looking for a large building, when in fact it is tiny. Jared explains that because they are so tiny there is a spatial anomaly and a very tiny time difference. When she asked if it is reversible Jared is unsure. Claudia says that she will go in to Giles since nothing is left for her here but Jared tells her no. He explains that inside Incarceron is a world of brutality and violence but there is a revolution that is set to take place here and that she cannot run away from the fact.

Inside Incarceron, Finn and the others are crashing. They know they are at a wall, the edge of Incarceron, and they manage to find a place to try and land the ship. The ship cracks and in the wrecking debris Attia yells for them to get the key.

A World that Hangs in Space; Chapter 25-28 Analysis

The Warden has created many more questions after his meeting with Claudia. He admits that the queen has something over him but he tells Claudia that she is included in this. Although she is implicated in something, he won't tell her what it is. In addition to this, he also says that she will never learn this secret from him.

The Queen is a formidable adversary for Claudia. When Sia decides to draw a line which Claudia must not step over it seems that there is no leverage that Claudia has in order to hold her footing. Jared is someone that is precious and dear to Claudia. She cares more for him than for her own life but it seems at times that Claudia doesn't think things through from others perspective. She continually puts Jared at risk with the way that she acts without thinking of the consequences or who it will appear. It is unclear if she would have been able to keep any one from her own court with her while with the Queen. Sia is very straight forward but it is clear that she has many things she is hiding as she plays what Claudia refers to as this "game."

Attia comments on the fact that Finn must be from the outside because he is so different. It seems that Claudia herself is very different from those that are around her as well, with the exception of Jared. This will be important to note and will be discussed in the upcoming chapters.

Jared and Claudia now know that Incarceron is not a place that can be opened. It has been thought by many people that the place could be floating outside of the earth's atmosphere or that it is an underground labyrinth. The truth of where this prison is shows just how far the technology has come. The Warden and many others continue to say that there is no way to get out of Incarceron referring to it as a "closed system". This will be looked at more closely as the story continues.



The Lost Prince; Chapter 29-31

The Lost Prince; Chapter 29-31 Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 29, Claudia is talking with the Warden when he tells her that everything will be alright no matter what happens. It is here that Claudia realizes that he is a member of the Steel Wolves. The Warden warns her to be silent but tells her that he has come to love her. Claudia goes to retrieve the key for the Warden. She tells Finn she is sorry but there is no gate to get out when Attia tells Claudia that the Warden is not her father. In the books on the ship Attia had seen Claudias and found that Claudia was born in Incarceron but had been pulled out when she was a baby. Claudia tells them to keep the key on because when she is in Incarceron she will need it to find them.

In Chapter 30, Claudia is nowhere to be found during the hours before the wedding. Jared tells the Warden when asked that Claudia has decided against the wedding and has gone home on horseback. The Queen declares there will be no wedding and she leaves. The Warden has Jared locked in his tower and men sent to look for Claudia. Meanwhile Claudia has gotten into her father's office and has figured out how to make the chair work and is in Incarceron. The red eye comes on and tells her not to use the key because it interferes with his systems. It tells her that if she will tell him of the outside that it will take her to Finn.

In Chapter 31, Incarceron is looking for Finn. It cannot see him because of the Key they have turned on. Keiro is suddenly panicked when the walls become magnetized and Keiro shows Finn that he is stuck fast to the wall by his hand. During this Claudia has realized that the Prison is lying to her and she turns on her key. She quickly finds Finn and the others.

In Chapter 32, the Warden explains how he came to have Claudia and that he had to have her marry Caspar or the Queen would have publicly outed Claudia. They go into an office and are able to see what is going on in Incarceron.

Chapter thirty-three returns to Claudia and Finn. The Warden appears on the screen of the keys and Finn recognizes him as their rescuer from the ship. The Warden explains that the key only brings one person out, it had worked when Claudia was a baby because she was so tiny and then it was a risk. The Warden tells Claudia to bring Giles back now that he needs the boy. When she asks if he truly is Giles her father says he is now.

In chapter thirty-four the prison has started talking and says it will let none of its children go. The image from the Warden is gone. Incarceron does not obey the Warden and there is nothing that can be done. Keiro tries to use the key to leave but is unable because of his metal components. Finn promises to return and he and Claudia use the keys to leave.



As chapter thirty-five starts with Claudia and Finn in the office with the Warden. The Warden opens a communication channel and portrays Finn and Claudia to everyone within the kingdom who had come for the wedding. The Warden explains that the Prince Giles had been hidden by the Queen in order to keep him safe and that the kingdom can now rejoice that the Prince is home with Claudia for their wedding and to rule. The queen is furious and the Warden quickly takes both keys and disappears into Incarceron. Jared is given the watch with the small square on it before the Warden disappears. Finn is appalled saying he promised to go back for Attia and Keiro but Claudia says that they will work on that problem, but for now they have to play the game. Finn knows that he has gone from one prison to another. When he asks Jared where is Attia and Keiro Jared looks at the watch with the square on the end of it and says that they are close.



Characters

Finn/Giles

This character is one of the main protagonists in the story. Throughout most of the story there is doubt as to where he has come from and what his true past entails. There will be many speculations made but no definite answers given to the reader in the story.

Finn is first seen inside Incarceron. Finn's first clear memories are of him awakening inside the prison at the age of approximately 16. Although many believe that Finn is no different than others born from Incarceron Finn has bits and pieces of memories, often coming at inopportune times. These memories lead Finn to believe that he was born on the outside. It is this firm belief that lead Finn and his friends on a journey to find the outside. Finn is often called starseerer in the story. There are those that believe that Finn was born on the outside. Others believe that Finn is not from the outside but that his dreams of the outside are what will lead them to freedom.

Finn is first seen laying a trap for a group of people and it is quickly seen that Finn is part of a group of thieves that are ruthless as a whole. Because Finn is part of this group his actions, although not always "kind" or "good," are seemingly pure when seen in comparison to this group. It is the life inside Incarceron that shows how unique Finn is. There is one of Finn's companions in the story that comments on the fact that he is so different he had to have been born on the outside.

Finn travels a large way in the story and although he eventually finds his way out of Incarceron he quickly finds that nothing has changed for him. He felt trapped inside Incarceron. Outside Incarceron it is believed by the people that Finn is the long lost prince Giles. The question raised to Finn, if he is in fact the prince. Finn is forced to admit that he cannot remember but his character does spend a great deal of the book searching for this answer. The Warden of Incarceron then states that whether Finn is Giles or not he has to be Giles now. Finn is the name that this character is known as throughout most of the story.

Claudia

Claudia is the young girl that Finn begins talking with through the key in the story. When Claudia is first seen she is introduced as the daughter of the Warden, a character that is widely viewed with fear and respect. Claudia herself fears the Warden but despite this fear she often works toward her own goals that are the opposites of the Warden's. Claudia is Finn's main drive for escaping Incarceron since speaking with her is proof that there is an outside world from the mechanical prison that Finn and the others are held in.

Claudia is in a position of power as the daughter of the Warden but as the story progresses it becomes less clear to the reader if Claudia's role to her father is one of a



loved daughter or that of a well placed pawn. This is seen through the Warden having promised Claudia's hand to the current queen's son, Caspar. Claudia and Caspar do not care for each other and it is an arrangement that results in an increase of power for the families involved. Claudia also questions whether or not her father truly cares for her. Claudia often defies him but does care for him. At times in the story the fact that she longs for her father's affection will clearly drive her in her own personal quest to be strong enough to stand up to him.

It isn't until much later in the story that it is discovered that Claudia is not the biological child of the Warden but in fact came from Incarceron. Claudia is able to learn nothing about her true family but she does discover that the Warden does care for her. Claudia accuses the Warden of using her as a tool in his plans for power. The Warden neither denies nor confirms what Claudia accuses him of, but does tell her that whatever his plans may have been if they changed, they changed because he came to love her. Claudia will not have time to come to terms with this new information or the confrontation with her father before they are separated.

Claudia's character is strong but she also has a very gentle side. The way that she reacts to those that she cares about shows that she is still very young, and at times appears to be almost child-like. This will add to her desire to be her father's loved daughter. When Claudia begins talking with Finn it quickly becomes apparent that she believes him to be Giles, the long lost prince, and pushes this thought a great deal. It is unclear if she wants this to be true more than it is because it frees her from her own unhappy betrothal that her father set up or if she really believes in Finn to this extent.

Warden of Incarceron, John Arles

The Warden of Incarceron is one of the main characters in the story. In the majority of the story is referred to as the Warden rather than by his name. It is unclear in the story if he truly is a protagonist or an antagonist. His motives are unclear in specific design but all are aimed at power. This character's moves are well planned out and require time and patients. Towards the end of the story the Warden explains how he obtained Claire and the reasons that he went and retrieved her from Incarceron. It is clear when he is talking that he needed the daughter in order to keep his title and his power, but he explains how he came to care for Claire and love her.

This character is notable for being in charge of Incarceron and he keeps the secrets of the prison closely guarded. This character's plans to rule the kingdom will fall short when his daughter assists Finn in escaping. It is at this point in time that the Warden will use the prison, Incarceron, and escape into the prison that the majority of the other characters are fighting to get free from.

Jared

This is the tutor of Claudia. He is also referred to as Master Sapient. He is much older than Claudia and has a heart condition for which he takes medication. Jared is accused



at one point in the story of having an affair with Claudia by Casper, Claudia's betrothed. Jared is the one that Incarceron is entrusted to after the Warden escapes there.

Gildas

Gildas is a Sapient from inside Incarceron. He travels with Finn and refers to Finn as Starseer. Gildas follows Finn and pushes Finn forward. Gildas appears to care for Finn but his own desperate desire to be freed from Incarceron is seen throughout his actions.

Keiro

Keiro is Finn's oathbrother. They teamed up some time ago and Keiro often seen taking advantage of Finn's kindness and willingness to believe whatever Keiro tells him. Keiro openly hates all those in Incarceron that are not fully human. Keiro is described as being very beautiful although it is eventually revealed that Keiro has a small part of himself, a fingernail, that is made of metal. This small imperfection in Keiro drives his deep hatred of all others in Incarceron that are not fully human.

Attia

Attia is described almost as an animal when her character is first seen in the story. She is covered with rags and is used as a dog, allowed to test her master's food at the thieves camp that she, Finn, and Keiro live in, as a means to ensure that the food has not first been poisoned by rivals. Finn sees her striving to reach a bowl of water that is just out of reach and he stops to put it within her reach. It is not until Finn's life is in danger that Attia shows she is more than a mindless, diseased human. Attia is very loyal to Finn. She continues to test Finn's food. When Finn points out that she is not his slave, she acknowledges this and explains that she is his friend and that is much more important. It is her testing Finn's food that prevents him from being poisoned.

Caspar

Caspar is the son of the queen. It is to Caspar that Claudia is betrothed. The Warden explains that the betrothal happens because the queen discovered that Claudia was from Incarceron and threatened to expose her true origins. Caspar makes it clear to Claudia that he will continue to lead his own life and encourages her to do that same and makes it clear he has no intention of loving her or of being faithful.

Queen Sai

This is the step mother of Finn. It is unsure what role she had in Finn's disappearance but it seems clear that she orchestrated some part of it. The queen wants her own son, Caspar, to rule the kingdom rather than Finn.



Sapphique

Sapphique is never truly seen in the story but there are passages scattered throughout the story. They seem to be from legends and stories but this is never explained to the reader. Sapphique supposedly escaped from Incarceron but no one can verify this. There are small pieces of information that lead a person to believe it is possible that Sapphique existed and did escape. The passages about Sapphique explain that he lost a finger while leaving Incarceron. Eventually the reader learns that there is a secret cult outside of Incarceron that makes mention of nine fingered one.



Objects/Places

Incarceron

Incarceron is the living prison seen in the story. The prison's entrance is looked for most of the story but it is discovered that an entrance does not exist. The prison uses technology that has shrunk it down to a microscopic level. Because of the energy it takes to transfer a person out of Incarceron, there is no way to remove all of the prisoners. The Warden admits that the prison is intelligent but cannot be controlled. He states that the prison laughs at him. Incarceron is eventually revealed as a small square linked to the end of a watch that the Warden of Incarceron carries.

Watch

There is a watch that the Warden of Incarceron carries. It is on the end of the watch that a small square is attached which eventually is shown as Incarceron. The is given to Jared at the end of the story.

Key

The crystal keys in the story allow Finn and the Wardens daughter to communicate. It is not until the end of the story that it is realized that the keys are what allows travel between Incarceron and the outside. The key also masks those that carry it so that Incarceron cannot see you.

Steel Wolves

A secret organization that is mentioned throughout the story. The Warden has something to do with the Steel Wolves. The Steel Wolves have a plot to kill the Queen but are foiled when the Warden's daughter refuses her marriage to Caspar.

Half Men

Incarceron reuses everything inside of it. There is nothing wasted although there is not enough to keep things fresh and new in the prison. Many of the people born inside Incarceron have fewer and fewer flesh parts and are more and more metal.



Rings

The rings in the story are split up between Keiro and Finn. When Attia swallows something that is poisoned one of the rings is put on her finger. It is never completely confirmed if the rings truly are magic or not but Keiro firmly believes that they are.

Finger

Incarceron, often referred to as the Beast, took a finger from Sapphire. The finger that was taken is called "Tribute" by the Beast and talks about the finger in regards to how much pain it cost.

Library

There is a library that Finn, Gildas, Attia, and Keiro go to. The library contains books that are being written about each individual person that is born in Incarceron. It is deduced by Finn that the eyes that are continually watching everyone in Incarceron must continually be writing down their lives.

Eagle tattoo

The eagle tattoo on Finn's arm is another piece of Finn that convinces Claudia that he must be the long lost prince.

Cake

Finn has memories that he cannot explain where they came from. They are not full memories but he explains to Gildas in the beginning of the story that one of the things that he remembers is a cake with silver balls and seven candles on it.



Themes

Freedom

The theme of freedom is the main drive in the story. Each of the characters is searching for a way to be free of what imprisons them. Incarceron in the story is a prison. Gildas, Attia, Keiro, and Finn are all looking to escape this prison. The ever seeing eye follows the people as if it were a prison guard that never sleeps. Later in the story the characters find that their lives are actually being written down in books as they occur. There are rules that must be lived by in the prison. Since there is seemingly no way to leave Incarceron the people confined within this confine either live by the rules of Incarceron or are killed. There are many characters seen in the story that appear to believe there either is no way out or doubt that they are in a prison. Despite these doubts seen there are characters, such as those that follow Finn, that are driven by an ingrained desire to be free.

While the prison in the story is the main focus, it is quickly seen that outside the prison in Claudia's world people are often not free either. While Claudia is talking to Finn at one point in time she explains to him that things are not "perfect" outside of Incarceron. Claudia herself is trapped into a loveless marriage with a character that is easily despised. As each of the characters is viewed it is eventually shown that even the Warden, a character portrayed as one of being in control and feared, is trapped in many ways.

When Finn is eventually freed, he suddenly realizes that he has gone from one prison to another. He had fought so hard to be free from Incarceron believing he was trapped. Outside of the prison there is no obvious red eye following him, and in the palace he is viewed as royalty and his life there will be infinitely easier. These things are not something that Finn is concerned with. When he makes his intentions to retrieve Attia and Keiro known it becomes obvious that his own wishes and plans are not a concern. Finn has just as many walls set about him outside of Incarceron as he did while one the inside.

The Importance of Hope

In the story, there are the two sets of main characters working towards a common goal. Finn and those that follow him are working to get out of Incarceron. Claudia, aided by her teacher, are working to try and find Incarceron to free Finn. Each of these characters' actions are driven by the hope that they have.

Keiro, Attia and Gildas all chose to follow Finn. Finn is what Gildas refers to as a "starseer". Whether they truly believe that he can free them or not there is a small amount of hope there. Each of these characters had a life with the thieves that they had to forfeit in order to follow Finn. Inside Incarceron a life with a group of people seems to



be necessary. Giving up what they have could easily have meant death for these characters. Finn himself is not sure what he believes. He knows that he has memories that are from something other than the life he has known in Incarceron but he is not completely convinced of anything else. He seems certain for a time that he came from outside the prison but as it comes to light that the prison reuses everything Finn seems increasingly unsure that he is not made from recycled pieces of Finn. When Finn finds the key and is able to talk to Claudia. It is Claudia that gives Finn hope.

Claudia also needs hope. She latches on to Finn as a hope that she will not have to marry Caspar. Claudia also seems relatively alone. With the exception of her tutor Claudia has no one she can talk with. The Warden, her father, frightens her, and Caspar doesn't care for her and she doesn't care for him. The majority of the other characters in the book fear the Warden enough that they do not want to consort with his daughter. Claudia is so desperate to escape her marriage to Caspar that she is willing to risk her own life in order to help Finn.

The Warden also is a character that looks for hope. When it becomes clear that the Queen is going to be an enemy and the Warden no longer has any hope of ruling the land he escapes to Incarceron. The Warden explains that he needs to find a new place to conquer. It is hope that drives him to go into a prison where others are desperate to leave.

Love

Love is seen in this story but not in a traditional sense. Love is seen between Keiro and Finn. These two are oathbrothers. It is explained to the reader that Finn most likely would not have survived if it had not been for their bond to each other. These two do not come out and state that they love each other but it is seen that despite Keiro's self serving agenda they care deeply for each other. Finn is in great torment when he realizes that he is not going to be able to go back into Incarceron in order to take Keiro out.

While love is not a driving force for Claudia in relationship to her upcoming marriage with Caspar, it is seen that the lack of love is. If she could have felt anything for Caspar she may not have been so desperate to go to the lengths that she went to to free Finn and escape her upcoming union. While Claudia never openly says that she wants to find true love she is noted as talking very wistfully about the young prince Giles that she had once been betrothed too. If Claudia could have found any amount of love for Caspar it would have changed many of her actions.

Love is seen between the Warden and Claudia. This love is a hard one for the reader to grasp for much of the story since the Warden's feelings are kept secret for much of the book. Claudia wants desperately to be loved by him. She wants both his love and his approval but believes that she has neither. The Warden explains to her at the last of the story how much he does care for her. He admits to a small degree that she had been nothing more than a pawn and that he did not intend to have her for any other reason

than to use to gain himself more power. But he states that regardless of what his plans had been, they changed because of the love that he developed for Claudia.



Style

Point of View

The story is written in third-person point of view. At times the story is omniscient and the reader is able to know what the characters are thinking, but this is limited. Often it will appear more like an interpretation of what the character looks like he or she is feeling. The characters that are seen as stoic and quite will typically be the ones that the reader will have a hard time knowing what they are thinking and what motives are driving their current actions.

The point of view switches between the different characters in the story but primarily is seen from that of Claudia or Finn. These two characters give points of view of the majority of the events that take place in the story. While it is seen that some things bother Finn in the story, the only reason that they know that the other characters around him find it to be odd is that they comment on his uniqueness.

The point of view allows the reader to know the trials that are going on both inside and outside of Incarceron. The characters inside Incarceron are beginning to believe that there is no way out. The people outside of Incarceron have been told that those imprisoned there are living in a virtual paradise in order to put an end to the need for violence or crime. Seeing both sides of these worlds from the characters that are living in them is essential for the reader to understand how the pieces fit together since there are some characters, items and themes that occur in both worlds, acting as links proving that each world is real.

Setting

There are two settings seen in the story. Both are fictional worlds. There is a lot of technology in the story and the outside world has put its people back in a time of kings and queens. In this world the poor are forced to work farms, or be servants. The wealthy and powerful are allowed luxuries, such as washing machines, but they are not spoken of. It is widely believed that this keeps the people under control. This is the setting that Claudia lives in and the world that Finn and the others in Incarceron wish to escape to.

Incarceron is the other setting seen in the story. While this world is looked for by Claudia for some time it is eventually discovered that it is not truly a place that can be found. It was created by using state of the art technology and making everyone and everything exceedingly tiny. Incarceron fits onto a small square on the end of a pocketwatch and holds untold number of human lives. It is because of the power needed to transport a person to and from Incarceron that the Warden explains the people cannot be freed from this prison in mass.

The prison itself is controlled by an artificial intelligence. The prison speaks to the prisoners at various times and does not want to let anyone go, and seems to derive



some sort of pleasure from causing human's pain. The prison follows the human's every movement with a glowing red eye, and every moment of their lives is written down in a ledger. The key that is used to transport between Incarceron and the outer world blocks the prison's tracking systems. The Warden explains at one point in time that the computer has not obeyed for years.

Language and Meaning

The language in the story is very straightforward and informal. The characters outside of Incarceron live on formalities and what role they play. Despite their courts and titles the people speak very plainly. Inside Incarceron it is seen that the people also speak very informally but there is less attempt from the characters inside to appear formal at moments.

There are many words in the story that are unclear and some phrases are used that are simply unique to the story although the root words are commonly used words. Such as "starseer" for the descriptive word used to depict Finn. This word has a much more powerful meaning to those in Incarceron since the people in there have not seen a sky. Someone who has truly seen a star would be the equivalent of someone having seen heaven since the people in that world have been locked in there for more than two hundred years. There is a culture and meaning for the words that have evolved from these people.

While the reader is going through the story there will be passages and concepts given by the characters that it not immediately understood. The characters either demonstrate these meanings through their actions, thoughts or through recalling of events. The author will stress moments in the story that are deemed important for various reasons.

Structure

The story is divided into various segments of the book, each given their own title. Each title will give an indication of what that section of the story focuses on in a very broad manner. These sections are then divided into individual chapters. The point of view primarily will switch between the two main characters, Finn and Claudia. In the beginning of the story there are longer periods between these two characters and it is common for a chapter to end and begin where these character's point of view switch. Later on in the story as Finn draws closer to leaving Incarceron the frequency with which the point of view switches increases so that it may switch several times in a single chapter. The structure of the book consists heavily of dialogue from the characters. This serves to explain thoughts, feelings, and actions.

The book also has small excerpts at the beginning of each chapter. It may be a piece from a secret letter from the queen or a quote from what many think to be a legend. The meanings behind these are often elusive and will not be completely understood until the reader has finished that chapter or in some cases the entire book. These small pieces

linked together give a brief over view of the history between Incarceron and the outside world.



Quotes

"The flashlight was a star in the immense rumbling darkness of the hall, and in that moment, through all its stairs and galleries and thousands of labyrinthine chambers he knew Incarceron had sensed his peril, and the crash of the trucks was its harsh amusement, that the Prison watched him and would not interfere" (Chapter 1; p. 8).

"It was vital that nothing should disturb the delicate balance of Incarceron's programming, which would provide everything needed-education, balanced diet, exercise, spiritual welfare, and purposeful work-to create a paradise" (Chapter 6; p. 68).

"And he saw that images of Sapphique were on every corner, mounted above doorways and windows, a Sapphique who held out his right hand to show the missing finger, who held in the left what Finn recognized, with a silent leap of his heart, as a crystal Key" (Chapter 17, p. 215).

"We are chained hand and foot by Protocol, enslaved to a static, empty world where men and women can't read, where the scientific advances of the ages are the preserve of the rich, where the artists and poets are doomed to endless repetitions and sterile reworkings of past masterpieces" (Chapter 19; p. 243).

"Perhaps you don't know, but people here believe Incarceron to be a wonderful place. A paradise" (Chapter 23; p. 294).

"It's a closed system. Nothing enters. Nothing leaves. When Prisoners die their atoms are reused, their skin, their organs. They are made from each other" (Chapter 27, p. 345).

"Miniaturized to about a millionth of a nanometer...Infinitesimal" (Chapter 28; p. 359).

"Today she would be Countess of Steen, would enter the war of scheming and treachery that was the life of the Palace" (Chapter 29, p. 368).

"Someone took a week-old baby girl out of the Prison, and there she is, look, the daughter of the Warden" (Chapter 29, p. 378).

"But even if Finn is really Giles, that was a lifetime away and a world ago and he is not the same now. I have changed him" (Chapter 31, p. 399).

"I suppose, Claudia, my dear, that if one cannot be the master of one world, one should find another world to conquer" (Chapter 35, p. 439).

"He felt he was walking into a great ambush that had been set for him" (Chapter 35, p. 441).



Topics for Discussion

Discuss Pride. Pick three characters in the book that you feel have actions that are led by their pride. Is this always a negative thing? Can you find ways in the story in which a character's pride is a positive attribute? Explain.

What do you feel that Claudia is ultimately looking for in the story? If there had been a way out of the wedding with Caspar without rescuing Finn, would she have tried so hard after she realized Finn might be Giles? Why or why not?

Do you believe that Finn and Giles are one and the same? Give examples from the book to support your reasoning.

Incarceron had been created to be a paradise. In the beginning of chapter seventeen an excerpt from Lord Calliston's Diary is talking about Incarceron and says "It made a hell of what should have been Heaven.". Speculate on why this happened. Incarceron says at one point in the story that there can be no paradise for man because they bring evil with them. Do you believe this to be true? Explain.

Freedom is widely desired in the story. Lord Evian kills himself because he is looking for a freedom in a world that offers none. Given the harsh conditions in both worlds, do you feel that Finn's situation was improved greatly when he went from Incarceron to the outside? Why or why not?

Describe the Warden's character. Did your view of this man change as the story progressed? Do you believe that he loved Claudia? Did he show this love? In what way?

Explain Incarceron's role in the story. He was made to be a ruler of the world and was intended to be kind. How is Incarceron portrayed in the story? What do you personally feel is the major flaw with Incarceron's design based on what you have read?