

# **Legend Study Guide**

## **Legend by Marie Lu**

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## Plot Summary

Legend by Marie Lu is set in a distant future on Earth. Los Angeles has suffered a catastrophic flood, and a new government has come into power. A boy named, Day, one of the protagonists, is a homeless enemy of the state. Acting like a modern day Robin Hood, he steals from the rich and gives to those less fortunate (including his own family).

At the beginning of the story, Day and his friend Tess, a thirteen year old orphan, stop by Day's old neighborhood to check on Day's family. Day checks on his family regularly by observing their house from afar. The family doesn't know he's checking. No one in the family, except his brother John, even knows that Day is still alive. John knows because Day gives him money, food, and clothing on a regular basis. During this particular check on his family, Day learns that his youngest brother, Eden, has contracted a particularly nasty strain of the plague. A large X is placed on his old home with a horizontal line slashed through it. The only thing Day has to remember his family by is a pendant that he wears.

Switching points of view, the story shifts to another of the novel's protagonists, June Iparis. June is one of the only people to have scored a perfect score on her Trial test. The Trial test, the reader learns, is an aptitude test that all children take when they turn ten. Depending on their score, they are either sent to the best universities and high schools, or vocational schools. Participants who score very low are sent to a labor camp where they disappear forever. This is what happened to Day.

Since June has a perfect score on her test, she has been sent to Drake University. Rebelling against her 'perfect' status at the college, June is constantly placing herself in danger, taking risks just to prove that she is not better than anyone else. Her brother, Metias is always bailing her out of trouble as a result. This particular day, June has decided to climb a skyscraper in midtown. She is suspended from school, and her brother comes to get her. The reader learns that Metias is a captain in the army and has been June's sole guardian since their parents' car accident a few years earlier.

The focus shifts to Day, again, who is breaking into the hospital to try and steal plague medicine for his brother and his family. Unfortunately, when he gets to where the cure would be stored, he finds that the hospital has run out of the drug. As he is about to leave the area, a guard named Metias spots him and stops him just short of the door. Day runs, turns, and throws a knife that lodges in Metias' shoulder. In his hurry to get away, Day's pendant falls off. Metias picks it up and radios for backup.

Thomas, Metias' driver, comes to June's home to see her. He tells her that Metias has been killed. He also tells her that Commander Jameson is accelerating her training so that she can graduate early and be set on the trail of her brother's killer, who is known only as Day. June suppresses her grief and in a few days begins investigating her brother's killer. She spreads a rumor among the poor sectors letting it be known that there is a cheap plague medicine that will be sold at the Ten Second Place. The Ten



Second Place is named for an astonishing robbery that Day committed there in only ten seconds. The robbery had taken place years before. The Ten Second Place is now an old, abandoned bank.

Day receives word and instantly knows that it is a trap. He argues with Tess who urges him to think about it. She loses the argument and Day leaves. However, he arrives early and is able to redo the wiring in the speakers at the bank so that he can speak with the agent they send without anyone knowing his actual location. June arrives and they speak this way for a while. When Day believes that it is possibly safe, he appears and starts speaking with June. However, when he sees the way she has tied her cloak around her, in military fashion, he realizes that it is a setup and he takes off. Later, Day and Tess find themselves under an old fishing pier where they see a metal plate that they can't identify.

June knows from Day's accent that he is originally from the Lake sector portion of the city. Back at headquarters June and Thomas watch as Commander Jameson tries to get a spy to give them information on the East coast of what used to be called the United States. Thomas seems to enjoy inflicting pain on the prisoner, and June is repulsed.

June decides that she needs to gather her own information, and she disguises herself as a homeless beggar. She heads for the Lake sector, thinking that possibly Day will be there. The reader views something called a Skiz fight, which is a street fight that onlookers are encouraged to place bets on. A girl named Tess is there. The onlookers bait her, trying to get her to jump into the fight with a larger girl named Kaede.

June steps in for the girl and ends up being a part of the fight, though unwillingly. She takes down Kaede, but Kaede is a poor loser and pulls a knife, stabbing June. June goes down and the crowd shouts insults because Kaede broke the rules. Nonetheless, June is going to die if someone doesn't do something. Day throws a dust bomb and the combatants scatter. Tess and Day pull June to safety.

June is hurt badly. For the next few days Day and Tess take care of her, bandaging her wounds and giving her stolen antibiotics. Day and June grow closer. Unwillingly, they start to have feelings for one another. One day they share a moment and a kiss. That's when June notices the pendant that Day is wearing. Somehow he has gotten it back. June knows that this was part of the evidence that was given to her from her brother's effects. She knows that this is Day, the person who killed her brother. She follows him when he goes to visit his family in the Lake sector, and she radios it in to Thomas.

It goes badly. June believes that it will be a bloodless arrest, but she is wrong. A gunfight erupts, and Day's mother is shot point blank by Thomas. John and Day are both arrested. Eden, the youngest, is taken away to fight at the front of the war. June hates how things go down, but she justifies it when she thinks of her brother.

June asks to be assigned to interrogate Day. She asks him directly about the day at the hospital with Metias and tells him that Metias was her brother. She also tells him that



Metias is dead and that it is Day's fault. Shockingly, Day admits to many of the accusations that day, but he vehemently denies killing Metias. He tells her that his knife struck Metias in the shoulder, not a fatal blow. Despite her resolution to remain hardened toward Day, June finds herself believing him. She tells Day that Tess is safe. Then, she tearfully says she didn't know that they would kill his mother. As Day is taken back to his cell, he walks past a body bag lying in a room. He has the fleeting thought that perhaps the plague is an instrument of control being used by the government to suppress its citizens and keep them weak.

A celebration is thrown in June's honor for capturing Day, one of the most notorious criminals of the state. A ball is thrown that night, and June attends with Thomas as her escort. After it is over, Thomas tries to kiss her; but, June pushes him away. She can't forget how he interrogated the prisoner earlier in the week, and she realizes that he is a violent person who enjoys making others suffer. She wants nothing to do with him.

Curiosity leads her to hack into the records division where she learns that (despite what everyone was told) Day also scored a perfect score on the Trial test. For some reason the Republic had determined him dangerous enough to be gotten rid of. Why did he get a death sentence and she was given the world? It makes no sense.

Day learns that he is to be sentenced to death. The city erupts in violent protests when the news is made public. Jameson, commander of the army, takes to torturing Day, though Day doesn't know why. The woman doesn't even ask him any questions. She takes Day and ties him out in the hot sun for several days. June sneaks out to see him and brings him water and food. She sits with him as long as she can, and asks him pointed questions about his Trial time and what life was like for him before he took his test.

Day tells her many things, but the most shocking is his accusation that the children who fail the Trial are not sent to labor camps, but are tested on, or outright killed. He says that he knows that his records are wrong because after his test he was taken to a lab where they tried to experiment on him. He managed to escape. He also tells her of his suspicions about the plague epidemic and it stuns June. Later that day, June hears Jameson tell Thomas to gun down all of the protestors in midtown who are marching peacefully to protest Day's arrest. She goes to Thomas to try to get him to understand how wrong that would be, but he smacks her, then shoves her to the ground.

Day is still baking in the sun and receives a visit from Thomas, who continues to torture him. He asks Day for information concerning the Patriots, a resistance group from the defecting side of the US (called the Colonies). Day doesn't recognize any of the names that Thomas throws out at him, except the name of the girl from the Skiz fight with June. He doesn't tell Thomas anything and the man leaves.

Later, Thomas tries to apologize to June for the way he treated her, but she tells him to go away. She pulls up surveillance footage from the day her brother was killed. She is able to see that the knife that Day threw did, indeed, go into Metias' shoulder. That means that it must've been Thomas who killed Metias, and that for whatever reason,



Commander Jameson knew about it and helped in the cover up. June runs to Day and tells him what she's found out. They reconcile.

Back at her home June pulls out Metias' journals and starts reading them for any sort of information that she can use to accuse Thomas and Jameson of collusion. Metias has used his journal to leave a coded message that only June would have been able to decipher. It tells her to go to a blog where Metias has left a video message for her stating that he believes that their parents were actually killed by the government because their dad realized that the Republic was using the plague as a biological culling instrument, destroying the 'weak' and 'inferior' genes from the population. He warns her that Thomas knows about the plague and condones it. Fearful, June sneaks out of the house and goes to free Day.

Day and June go to find Kaede, whom Day tells June is a member of the Patriots. They find Kaede and tell her about a plan they have formulated. Day will go back to his cell and when both he and his brother John are led to be executed, Kaede will create a diversion that will create enough confusion that they will be able to get away. Day goes back to his cell. Unfortunately, at the last minute they learn that Jameson is moving up the date of Day's execution.

Desperate, June steals an electro-bomb which prevents guns from being discharged and gives it to Kaede. Thomas discovers that she's taken the electro-bomb and comes after her. Before he can do anything the electro-bomb goes off out in the square where people are gathering to watch the execution. People begin to panic and a riot ensues.

June takes advantage and runs to free Day and John. When she gets to their cell she finds that Day can't walk because of the beating he's taken. As the soldiers discover their escape attempt, John stays behind to slow them down, allowing June to get Day out. They are taken by the Patriots to their basecamp where they learn that Las Vegas has become a Colonies headquarters and that Tess is there. The book ends with the Patriots, June and Day as their new leaders, determining that they need to gather enough forces and weapons to go and rescue Eden from the war front.

# Part One, Chapters 1-5

## Summary

Part One, Chapter 1 opens as Daniel "Day" Wing directly addresses the reader, telling them that his mother thinks that he is dead. He shares sadly that it is safer that way. With him is his friend, Tess, who has been on the run with him. They are hiding in an old, abandoned apartment building in the Los Angeles area. A jumbotron flashes Day's picture, indicating that he is a wanted fugitive.

Tess and Day watch as soldiers make their way from doorway to doorway in the houses below. One of those houses belongs to Day's family. The reader learns that Day used to come and check on them from afar at least once a month. Now that a deadly plague is sweeping through the city, he comes every night as the soldiers check for the infected. An infected woman runs out from another house. Her face is cracked and bleeding. She is a hideous mess of blood and bile. One soldier turns and fires his weapon at her. It engulfs her in flames. Nothing is left of her.

Day holds his breath as the soldiers get closer to his home. Through the windows he can see his family, which consists of his mother, father, and two brothers. His nineteen year old brother John is the only one who knows Day is alive. At the moment, Day's father isn't at home. Whenever Day can get close enough, he brings various items to them. This time he's brought goggles, food, and shoes. The reader now understands that this is a future world, set on Earth. For some reason, society as it exists in the modern era is gone.

Day's younger brother, Eden, is ten years old and extremely intelligent. Day laments the fact that in a couple of years, when he is ten, he'll be tested just as Day was tested. The Trial, Day shares, is a way that a child turning ten is tested for aptitude. Making a perfect score of 1500 guarantees that a child will be given the best of everything. The individual is then fast tracked for a career in politics or the military (or both). Middle of the road scores will go to a regular high school and a university. A low score, such as both of Day's parents scored, means that the worst of the resources are allocated for them. They are banned from high school and are immediately put to work doing menial labor. Kids who have failing scores are taken from their parents, who must sign over all parental rights to the state. No one ever sees the kid again. Day tells the reader that the official party line is that the kids end up in a labor camp. The real truth, Day says, is that inferior genes and low intelligence are a drain on resources. The government most likely disposes of them.

Day shares that he had thought that he had done well when he'd taken his Trial test. Apparently, he hadn't because after the test he and a dozen others were rounded up, put on trains, and hauled off. The only thing he has from home is a pendant that his mother gave him. He thinks to himself about the money that he and Tess have stashed



away and knows that it is not enough to buy plague medicine for them, though it would buy enough food to keep them going for months.

The soldiers finally reach his family's house. They are in there for longer than is necessary. To Day's horror, when they exit the house they place a huge X on the side of the door. Day shudders and Tess throws her arms around him. Then, they both are astonished as the guard puts another line through the X. This is something new.

### Chapter 2: June

The focus shifts in this chapter to a fifteen year old girl named June Iparis. She scored a perfect score (1500) on her Trial which lands her in the prestigious Drake University where she is being groomed for the military. Considered an example of the perfect genetic sample, she's allowed to get away with a lot. However, her recent stunt of scaling a skyscraper downtown has earned her a few days suspension from school. Her brother Matias must come and get her from school. The reader learns that Matias has been looking after June since their parents died a few years before in a car accident. She tells them that she was practicing scaling the skyscraper because that's what Day, the most wanted criminal by the Republic, does and one day she wants to be the one that brings him down.

Matias, along with his comrade in arms, Thomas, drop off June at their home. She wants to tag along on their next mission, which is overseeing a mutated virus at the LA Hospital, but he refuses. He reminds her of the last time he allowed her to come along and she was injured. They leave her at home and head for the hospital.

### Chapter 3: Day

This chapter focuses on Day. He is thinking about the first time he ever committed a crime. He was seven years old, and the soldiers had come to speak with his father. During the interrogation they'd broken both of his father's arms. This made Day so angry that even though he was only seven he'd managed to burn down the police station. He'd never been caught for that one. He grins as he remembers. He had covered a large snowball with oil and had set it on fire. The evidence melted, so there was no way to trace anyone back to the crime.

Back in the present, the reader sees Day and Tess breaking into the LA Hospital to try and steal some plague medicine for his brother, Eden. He has smeared dirt and pig's blood all over himself and pretends that he's been wounded in a knife fight. Tess drops him off, then leaves to assume her position at the exit.

While he's in a waiting area, Day manages to steal a soldier's key card. He uses it to gain access to the air ducts, which he uses to climb to the third floor. Once he is there he takes a doctor hostage using knives he's concealed in his boots. He tells the doctor to take him to the plague cure, but the doctor begs for his life. He swears that there isn't any of the cure left. Then, Day sees the peculiar new symbol that had been spray-painted on his family's door and he realizes that his brother has the mutated strain of the plague, that this is what the new symbol means. The doctor tells him that there is





only a suppressant that might help, which Day takes. He lets the doctor go who calls for help. Day realizes that he can't escape using the air ducts. He opts for the stairwell. Metias and Thomas almost catch him on the stairwell, but Day jumps out of a lower floor window. He injures himself on the jump, and it slows him down.

Just as it seems that Day is going to get away, Metias yells for him to stop. Day can hear the weapon powering up and knows that it will only be a matter of moments before he is shot. He whirls around and releases his knife which lodges in Metias' shoulder, causing him to drop his weapon. Day jumps into the sewer. In the process, he loses his family's pendant. Metias is injured, but he is still able to grab the pendant as he watches Day disappear.

#### Chapter 4: June

Back at her home, June gets ready to go for a jog. She has a dog named Ollie that goes with her on the run. She feels badly for putting Metias through so much with her antics lately. When their parents died, Metias became fully dedicated to her well-being and upbringing, even foregoing many of the rites of passage that he should have enjoyed. Back in the present, she opens the front door and sees Thomas standing there, his face devastated. He has rifle grease smeared across his forehead. He tells her that Metias is dead and that a kid named Day did it. June doesn't want to believe it; so, Thomas takes her and Ollie down to the hospital to see for themselves.

When they arrive, Commander Jameson is there. He takes June aside and tells her how sorry he is and how tragic it is to lose someone as talented as Metias. He asks her if she would be willing to speed up her training so that she can graduate early and be included on the investigating team to find Day. She angrily agrees. Instead of going home, she asks to see the crime scene immediately. Jameson allows her to do so, and she is able to tell that Day is ambidextrous. He had disappeared into the sewer where he would be nearly impossible to track. She draws a blank when she sees the pendant left behind by Day.

For two days straight June doesn't eat or sleep while she studies the evidence. Something isn't adding up for her. Day was many things, but never a murderer. She'd read his docket from cover to cover, including his psychological profile, and killing Metias as he was killed just didn't match Day's method of operating. In studying his files, she begins to see that though he causes trouble for the state, and was undoubtedly a thief, that Day seemed to go out of his way to avoid violence. She can only conclude that Day's focus had been on getting something from the hospital. She deduces that it had to have been an attempt to get plague medicine. If she can figure out who it is that he wants the medicine for, then she can lay a trap.

#### Chapter 5: Day

Day wakes and is told that he has been unconscious for several days following his sewer escape. Tess tells him that they are staying in a sympathizer's home. She tells Day that the man's son had died a few months earlier to the plague. The man was



happy to help them. They had gotten the plague suppressant to Day's family. She tells him that it is his brother, Eden, who has the plague, not his mother as he had thought originally.

As he lies back down, Day is grateful that he took in Tess late last year. He remembers her as a lost and angry twelve year old. She's more than made up for the aggravation, he thinks. Their host comes running into the room telling them that they need to leave quickly as there is someone going door to door appearing to offer the cure. He's sure it is a trap to smoke out Day. Day, against Tess's protestations, decides he wants to speak to this mysterious person, just to see what sort of game they are playing.

## Analysis

The first few chapters establish a few things quickly. First, the world, while still Earth, is not the Earth of the present day. Though it is set in California, it is quite evident that everything else has changed. Children when they reach the age of ten are tested for intelligence. Depending on where they score, they are labeled and their futures determined. Score low enough and there is no future.

This introduction of a high stakes test seems to be the author's way of pointing a finger at the high stakes testing that is used in today's educational system. The SAT, ACT, and state standardized testing all have eerily similar components to them, especially the labeling that takes place as a result of the scores. Day snidely remarks that those living in the slum sectors always scored lowest on the tests. This is also similar to what research tends to indicate about standardized tests and poverty in the modern era.

The two protagonists are introduced in these first five chapters, and the reader gets to see two very different types of existence. June has been groomed and catered to since her outstanding score on the Trial test. According to Day, he failed the test and his life has been horrific ever since. Day has had violent tendencies from an early age when he burned down the police station when he was only seven by using an ingenious melting bomb.

Both Day and June tend to be ironic characters. For example, Day, the most wanted criminal by the state, is actually helping people by stealing things to give to the poor so that their lives can be a little better. Whereas, June, who has privilege and means, gives her unquestioning loyalty to the Republic. By Chapter 3, it is evident that the Republic is corrupt.

The theme of Family surfaces in these early chapters as well. Both Day and June are fiercely loyal to their families. This serves as a motivation for both of their actions as these chapters unfold. Day is motivated by trying to steal a plague cure for his family, while June wants to protect her brother and make him proud of her.

The character of Thomas is contrasted to his partner, Matias. Thomas is shown to be unthinking and unwavering in his adherence to Republic doctrine, viewing anyone not in his social class to be subhuman. It makes it easier for Thomas to carry out the



interrogations and torture sessions, even to kill, without asking questions. When Thomas comes to the door with the rifle grease smeared across his forehead, it is the author's way of foreshadowing something not being 'right' with Thomas. It also stands for the systematic oppression that the government uses, and Thomas's willingness to go along with the lies and the treachery. Matias, on the other hand, does ask questions, and he hesitates when he gives chase to Day. He has several instances where he could have shot Day, but he doesn't. Instead, he wants to catch him alive.

Initially, it seems that one can derive from a study of the characters that Day is a decent person, as are many of his associates. However, in order to survive, they are having to break the law. The author would seem to be suggesting that when a government becomes too big to be just, that it causes good people to go against the law just to preserve their own social, moral, and ethical lives, then something is wrong with the government.

Several symbols are present in these chapters. In Chapter 1, the reader sees that Day has kept a pendant that he wears on the chain around his neck. It is the only thing he has from when he lived with his family. It represents his tie to them. Later on in the novel, it will serve as something larger than a remembrance of his family.

The other theme that is present in these early chapters is that of Haves versus Have Nots. Day's family lives in squalor and have nothing of value; whereas, June's family has status and money. The gap between the two groups is such that the poor have nothing to lose by rising up. Lu stated in an interview that she was influenced by *Les Miserable*, and this influence can be seen in this class division.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Discuss the theme of Haves versus Have Nots.

## **Discussion Question 2**

Compare and contrast the characters of Day and June.

## **Discussion Question 3**

What is the author saying about corrupt governments?

## **Vocabulary**

compliment, tension, mutated, murmur, whizzing, elaborate, incubators, glimpse, gashes, wince, lacerations, yelp, goddy, ventilation, fling, recruit, gust



# Part One, Chapters 6-11

## Summary

### Chapter 6: June

Metias' funeral is quite an event. Everyone attends, and it is almost like a society affair, which upsets June. At the reception afterward she finds Chian, who knew her brother very well. He had been Metias' trainer when he first went into the military. He had also been the one to give June her Trial when it had been time. June is shocked when Chian says something inappropriate for a funeral. Thomas, who overhears it, tells June that Day is responsible for the very large scar on Chian's face and that ever since that day Chian has been angry with Day.

### Chapter 7: Day

Day, intent on finding out about this mysterious person who all of the sudden has the cure, heads to a local bar to see what is happening in the rumor mill. Kaede, a girl who works at the bar, says that she's seen the man with the cure. However, he's made it clear that he will only give the cure to the person who knows the location of the 'ten second place'. Day instantly recognizes the name as it is what the underground calls a place where he, Day, had once stolen something in under ten seconds. Now, more than ever he is convinced that this is a trap. Instead of walking away, he decides he will play with the person who is going to a lot of trouble to trap him. He sees that there might be a chance, too, to get the cure. In order to get him to show up, they'll have to have the medicine on them anyway. He intends to get that medicine.

### Chapter 8: June

June is sure that Day is too smart to walk into such a blatant trap. He hasn't evaded capture this long without being clever and cautious she tells herself. Still, no person is perfect, especially when they are under stress. She thinks that at the very least she will be able to gain some insight into his mindset, and perhaps leave something behind that will enable her to gain the upper hand. She receives word that someone is at the 'ten second place' and goes to see what she can find out. When she gets there, however, she finds that Day has not disappointed her. He has rigged the speaker system so that he can talk to her, but she can't figure out his location. This way he can have a conversation with her, without giving himself away.

Day asks her who she works for, but June dodges the question. She tries to get him to believe that she's working for a Good Samaritan, but Day doesn't buy it. She shows him the vial of medicine and Day is about to reveal himself when he sees her cape is tied with a military knot. June can tell that the ruse has been blown and that Day is going to leave without the medicine. June isn't upset, though. She's gained valuable information



about Day. Because of his accent and way of talking, she now knows that he's originally from the Lake sector, and most likely the vial of medicine is for someone in that district.

#### Chapter 9: Day

Day and Tess spend the night sleeping under a pier down by the lake. While she sleeps, Day looks over at her and remembers when he'd first met her and taken her in. She had been sifting through trash in a dumpster along with a few other kids. The others had scattered but she had stood her ground. He offered her real food and told her he'd help her bandage up her scraped knees. He had thought that she would be gone the next day, but like a little puppy she'd started following him around. The truth was, he admits, he liked having someone around. Day falls asleep.

Back in the present, Day finds himself being wakened by Tess who motions for him to be quiet. She points to the pier above them where two police officers are standing. There is a gurgling noise that Day can't identify. Day's eyes grow wide when he hears the officers discussing a new strain of the plague that is being released in the Zein area. After the officers leave, Day and Tess decide that it is not safe to stay there and they move to go. When they stand they find that they've been sleeping on a large metal disk with the number 318 on it.

#### Chapter 10: June

June decides the next day to go to the Lake sector, which is where she knows Day is originally from. Before she goes, though, she is dragged into an interrogation that Thomas and Commander Jameson are conducting on a spy that they have captured from a rebel base called the Colony. June tries to keep her face neutral as Thomas beats the spy senseless. It is clear that the man will not reveal anything. What particularly upsets June is the joy that Thomas seems to derive from the violence. It is particularly painful to watch because the man they are interrogating looks similar to her brother, Metias.

June goes undercover dressed like a homeless person and goes into the downtown area to see if she can hear anything that will lead her to Day. Instead she gets an eyeful of the poverty and extreme filth people are relegated to in that sector. To keep up her cover she elects to sleep in an alley and when she wakes up she finds herself stumbling into a Skiz fight.

#### Chapter 11: Day

Day tells the reader that a Skiz fight is a type of street fight that people can legally bet on. Two girls are fighting in the one that is taking place. The rules are pretty simple. Anybody can fight if they want to, but whoever the winner is must continue to fight until they lose. The winner gets part of the funds that are collected. They also get to choose whom they will fight next. Day decides he will bet on the fight so that he can earn enough money to legally buy a plague cure. The current champion is Kaede, the girl from the bar. She spots Tess and chooses her to be the next opponent. Tess's eyes grow big and Day starts to step forward when a girl's voice from behind him tells Kaede



that the choice is hardly good sport. Angry, Kaede tells the girl to step into the ring. June steps into the ring to face her.

## Analysis

Clothes play an important role in these chapters as the characters use them to discover more about each other. For example, Day discovers that June is a part of the military and is able to avoid walking into a trap because of it. Earlier, June thinks that the poor spy would most likely have escaped detection if he'd spent more attention to the buttons on his jacket (which were not the right kind of brass buttons).

Though he is dead, Metias is still a heavy influence in these chapters. June recalls him lecturing her about looking down her nose at the poor people, and now, as she enters the impoverished and filthy areas of LA, his words come back to her. Though he is dead, it is clear to see that the author is using Metias as a representation of a good moral individual forced to make immoral decisions because of his job. He also represents human decency, which has been killed.

June sees the extreme poverty first hand, which by her reaction seems to be the first time she has experienced it. The conditions in the Republic, especially for those who are poor, shock her, as do the Skiz fights. Skiz fights are legally condoned fights between the poor. June understands as she watches that many of the participants engage in the fights simply as a way to survive and make money.

The theme of Violence is demonstrated in this chapter as June watches the Skiz fight and realizes that good people may be engaging in these fights simply because they have no other choice. When good people have to turn to violence as a way to survive, nothing good can come from it, June decides. This shows that she is becoming an independent thinker, as this line of thought is directly in opposition to what she has been trained to believe by the military.

## Discussion Question 1

Discuss the theme of Violence.

## Discussion Question 2

How is Metias still an influence on June?

## Discussion Question 3

How does the author use clothing in these chapters?

## Vocabulary

whimper, trembling, swagger, painkillers, suppressants, searing, burst, dangling, plaster, shatters, impact, furious, prop, adrenaline, vandalism, manhole, injuries, filthy, rumble



# Part One, Chapters 12-17

## Summary

### Chapter 12: June

June's military training has prepared her for hand to hand combat, and she readily gains the upper hand from Kaede. Just as she's about to put the other girl down, June feels a shooting pain in her side. Kaede has pulled a knife out of her boot and stabbed June. Knowing that the other girl might come back at her again, she manages to knock Kaede down and pin her, which makes June the winner. However, she is wounded badly and she knows that she can't take on another fighter. She turns and runs. The gamblers pursue her and catch up with her. June is losing a lot of blood. Just when it seems that they are going to force her to fight anyway, a dust bomb goes off and everyone scatters. Day reaches out and grabs her hand and June, too weak to struggle, goes with him.

### Chapter 13: Day

The girl that Day and Tess have rescued won't give them her name, so they call her the Girl. They take her to an old library that isn't in use any longer. Day smirks when he remembers how they took down the picture of the Elector Primo that is required to be displayed in every building in the Republic. They place June on one of the tables. Then, Tess goes to get water. Day finds June very attractive, and he can tell that she's having the same reaction to him. She tells him a story about her life, but he can tell that something is a little off about it. She tells Day that she grew up in the Tanagashi sector and that she learned how to fight by watching the police beat up on people in her sector. She tells him that she only came into the Lake sector to see if she could find something to eat.

When Tess arrives, they give the Girl painkillers and some water. Once she is asleep, Day tells Tess that he's going to go and check up on his family. Eden is growing worse as the symptoms of the mutated plague virus take hold in his body. The plague suppressant that he managed to get to his family isn't working and the cure is all that will save him at this point. Saddened, Day turns to go back to the library but notices something. It is another one of those metal plates just like the one that he and Tess saw under the pier. This one has the number 2544 embossed on it. He's pretty sure this disk wasn't there when he was growing up in the neighborhood.

### Chapter 14: June

June wakes up and remembers that she saw Day leave and go somewhere in the middle of the night. When he walks, he limps. There's an old injury to an arm. She realizes that it must have been Day who created and threw the dust bomb that allowed them to get away from the Skiz fight the day before and she finds herself with more questions than answers.





She tries to get up, and Tess comes over to help her. Tess tells her that there are showers, and June thanks her. When she is alone, she calls Thomas to update him on her progress. She tells him that she will continue on with the assignment. Later that day Day and Tess take June into town to look for items to scavenge. June's bandage starts seeping again and Day goes to change it for her. In close proximity to one another the tension is too much and they almost kiss. Day asks her to stay with them, that with her fighting skills she could make some good money in the Skiz rings. June declines and says that she has to get back to her own people.

#### Chapter 15: Day

This incredibly short chapter features Day wondering about his feelings for the Girl. He's never felt this way toward anyone before and he confesses that he'd wanted to kiss her after he'd changed her bandage. He shakes it off and focuses on finding a way to raise enough money to purchase the cure for this brother.

#### Chapter 16: June

That night as June and Day drink nectar wine in an abandoned alley, she asks why Day needs so much money. Day doesn't want to talk about it and before long both of them are making out. Both of them admit that the attraction has taken both of them by complete surprise. At this point June doesn't realize that Day is the boy she's been looking for all of these years. He doesn't look like his wanted picture at all. She realizes who he is when he subconsciously reaches for a pendant around his neck that is no longer there. This is the boy that killed her brother. Her blood turns cold.

#### Chapter 17: Day

Day waits until the Girl falls asleep, then sneaks out to see how Eden is doing. He's managed to save up some more money and he gives it to John so that they can continue to save up for the cure. He tells his brother that it is almost enough for a vial. John tells him that Eden is getting worse, but that for now, thanks to the suppressant, he can likely hang on for a little while longer. John offers to go with Day to find more money or things to sell. Day tells him it is too dangerous because if they catch him missing work he could be put in prison.

## Analysis

Though Day and June come from two separate worlds, they share more than they know at this point. Both love their brothers deeply and will do whatever they can for them. For June, this means bringing down his killer. For Day, this means finding the money to purchase the cure. There are some interesting parallels between the way Metias mentored and taught June, his sister, to take care of herself and fight and the way that Day treats Tess. This demonstrates the theme of Family in these chapters.

It should be noted that the author may be alluding to the Chinese requirement during Mao Zedong's rule that his picture be displayed in everyone's homes. Adopting this



same requirement immediately tells the reader that the Republic is not a democracy in any way, shape, or form, as they require the Primo Elector's picture to be hung in every building.

June has begun to evolve as a character, and it is most apparent when she admits that she has feelings for the boy that has rescued her, even though he is a thief and poor. Before, when she lived at Drake, the poor were just an idea, or concept, and were nameless and faceless. It was easy to believe what she was told about them. However, living in the middle of it, meeting the boy and Tess, her brother's words make more sense to her now. She has lost a lot of her judgmental attitude as a result of her disguise and situation.

Now, for the first time, June is able to feel compassion for the people who live in the poorer sectors. She witnessed people fighting one another, not because they had a problem with the other person, but because it was a way to make money to survive. She thinks back to all of the food that she's wasted over the years, food that probably was thrown out without a second thought. She is ashamed at the wide gulf between the people at Drake and the people in the Lake sector. The theme of Haves and Have Nots is apparent in this realization by June in regards to the poor, as well as the theme of Violence, as she recognizes that the government has placed the poor in the situation where they feel it necessary to take part in Skiz fights which they may be morally and ethically opposed to.

It is clear that something is developing between Day and June and that they are being swept away by the intensity of those emotions. The author seems to be suggesting that these feelings are clouding both of their judgements and that if they had been thinking more clearly, neither one of them would have let their guard down around the other until they fully knew who the other was.

## **Discussion Question 1**

How do both June and Day feel about their siblings?

## **Discussion Question 2**

Discuss the significance of the Primo Elector's picture.

## **Discussion Question 3**

How is June beginning to change?

## Vocabulary

collapse, induction, craning, medic, prestigious, essence, flicer, demeanor, gesture, confirmation, clustered, expel, icy



# Part One, Chapters 18-22

## Summary

### Chapter 18: June

June follows Day again when he leaves the library. She sees him go into the district and check on people she assumes are his family. There is a large X on the door. She knows that this boy that she's been living with is, in fact, Day. Shaking with anger, she calls Thomas and tells him what she's discovered. He tells her that he will be sending troops immediately to take them all to the Central Hospital. June sits back and begins to plan how she will capture Day in the distraction caused by the troop arrival. She finds it hard to plan his capture because she does find that she cares for him, even though she tells herself that she shouldn't. After all, he's the one that killed her brother. Something tells her that Metias' death might not have been at Day's hands.

### Chapter 19: Day

This short chapter outlines a dream that Day is having. In his dream he has taken June to meet his family. When they get there, his family are all upset and in tears. Eden has died. Startled awake by the scream of sirens, Day rushes out to see the police converging on his family's home. He looks at June as if to ask her what she has done. She tells him that she followed him, knows who he is now, and that the police are going to take him away.

### Chapter 20: June

Day confronts June. Realizing that Day still doesn't get who she is or what she's done, she makes up a lie and tells him that she followed him out of curiosity and overheard the soldiers talking about what they were about to do. Day rushes to try and save his family. Making sure he is out of earshot, June calls Thomas and gives him updates. She tells him that he shouldn't hurt anyone, just arrest them. When she hangs up she feels slightly guilty because in her time with Day she's come to see him as a kind person.

### Chapter 21: Day

Day tries to sneak into his house to warn his family about the impending raid, but he can't figure out how to get them all out and away without anyone noticing. He shows himself to his family, most of whom thought until that moment he was dead. Day's real name, the reader learns, is Daniel, which is what his mother calls him as she pulls him into a hug. She tells them that they should hide in the crawlspace under the porch and that maybe they will avoid the police that way. They all go to hide, but then Day realizes that if they are detected and they find Day with the rest of the family that it will go worse on them. He leaves the crawlspace and climbs to the top of the roof for a better vantage point. Most plague police travel in pairs, but when he gets up there he sees that there is



a whole platoon on its way. Then, it dawns on him that June is the mole. She has the same eyes as Metias. He realized that he'd fallen for her.

Furious with his lack of judgement, he uses his slingshot to take out one of the soldiers. June yells at him to surrender so that no one will get hurt. Day realizes that June also works for the military, and the betrayal feels worse than before. Day manages to shoot another soldier in the knee. Before he can use his last bullet, Thomas holds a gun to Day's mother's head and pulls the trigger.

## Chapter 22: June

June watches in horror as Day's mother slumps to the ground. Day becomes wild and charges the soldiers blindly. Jameson shoots him in the leg to stop him and then he is bound and hauled into the truck. June is numb with shock. Thomas had killed a civilian in cold blood and Jameson had let him. Thomas seems unaffected by the fact that he has just shot an innocent person, which just reinforces June's opinion of him. When he congratulates June on her work, it is all June can do to keep from throwing up.

## Analysis

The theme of Violence and Power are demonstrated in these later chapters as the reader sees the oppressive Republic handle Day's family inhumanely. June's eyes are opened to what Day has been saying all along about the Republic, as she watches Thomas kill Day's mother in cold blood. Additionally, the theme of the Haves versus the Have Nots plays out in Chapter 21 as Day's family are treated as if they aren't human, especially by Thomas and Jameson. Both are unconcerned about Day's mother's death.

It should be noted that dreams begin to play a part in the development of the story. Here, in Chapter 19 Day has a dream that becomes almost prophetic. Like his namesake, Daniel...as the reader finds out is Day's real name....he has a dream that foretells of upcoming events. As Day wakes he just manages to receive warning that his family are in danger.

Day's real name is Daniel, whose translation means 'God is my Judge' and references the Daniel mentioned in the Hebrew and Christian bibles. The Daniel in the Bible refers to a man who was persecuted because he went against the establishment and upheld his own moral and ethical code. Day mimics this in his actions. Also of note is the fact that Daniel in the Bible interpreted the king's dreams and thus secured a spot for himself on the king's council.

June's desire to seek retribution for her brother's death has blinded her just as Day's feelings for her have blinded him. It is only when June sees Day's mother gunned down by a gleeful Thomas that she realizes that she is on the wrong side. Her feelings of nausea at the end of Part One indicate that she can no longer stomach the dogma that the Republic is spewing out and that the injustices that the Republic is leveling on the



poor must stop. She realizes that her desire for revenge and hatred have allowed her to be manipulated by Jameson and played by Thomas.

## Discussion Question 1

What happens to June in Chapters 18-22 that causes her to second guess her decisions?

## Discussion Question 2

Discuss the theme of Violence and Power.

## Discussion Question 3

What moral and ethical delimma does Day face when he is hiding with his family under the porch?

## Vocabulary

scour, stammered, evidence, tactics, stairwell, civilian, connection, motivated, sponsor, compute, quarantine, assets, stupefied, torched, exploits, fascinate, critique, crouched, loopy, littered



## Part Two, Chapters 1-6

### Summary

#### Chapter 1: Day

Day wakes up in his cell with his leg throbbing painfully. His leg has not been treated, and it is causing him considerable pain. Commander Jameson looks in on him, but she does nothing. Later June comes into the cell, and Day is sickened to look at her. Her street clothes are gone, and she looks like the enemy. Part of him can't help still being attracted to her, and he hates himself for it. She interrogates him, threatening his family if he doesn't tell her the truth. Day tells her the truth about everything she accuses him of, except the fatal stabbing of her brother. June threatens to cut off his fingers, but he is adamant that he did not kill Metias. Day turns the tables on her and accuses her of killing his mother. June backs off and tells him that she had not ordered that, and that she is sorry that it went down as it had. No one was supposed to get hurt, she tells him.

She changes the subject and asks him about the labor camp that he was sent to when he was ten. Day says it is ancient history and none of that matters. He tells her that he won't tell her another thing until June tells him how Tess is doing. June dodges his questions about Tess, and it becomes clear that June has kept Tess out of everything. Tess isn't even in the complex. June calls the guards and tells them to move him to a different holding cell. While he's being moved he sees a cell that has the same metal plates on it. The door opens briefly, and he sees a body bag lying on a table. He's certain the Republic is spreading the plague on purpose.

#### Chapter 2: June

A celebration is thrown in honor of June's capture of Day. Thomas fawns over June and won't stop telling her how stunning she is. All June can think of when she looks at him is how he shot Day's mother. Day's denial of Matias's death worries her. It has the ring of truth to it, and she can't figure out why. She overhears that Eden, Day's younger brother, has been sent to the warfront. Why a small, sick, little boy would be sent to the front of a war, June can't fathom.

Chian finds her and toasts to her success in the field. Then, another great honor is bestowed upon her. She gets to shake the hand of the Elector Primo, himself. He introduces June to his attractive son, who is in his 20s. His name is Anden, and he tells June that next year he might be Elector Primo.

After the party is over, Thomas walks June back to her house. He has clearly been drinking. When they stop at the front door he pointedly asks June if she ever kissed Day. She realizes that her tongue mic must have been activated when they kissed before. She tells Thomas that she had in order to preserve her cover. Thomas moves in to kiss her, but she pushes him away.



That night June can't sleep. She looks at the \$200,000 dollar note that she received for capturing Day. She pulls up his case file and looks at it closely. Something doesn't jive. The official report has his Trial score at extremely low, but the boy that she met and spent time with was not a low scorer at all. She smells a rat and hacks into the database where she is able to access his actual score. She is shocked. Day had scored a perfect score, just as she did. Next to his exam score, however, the word 'attention' was written.

### Chapter 3: Day

Day is taken to a public square for sentencing the next morning. There is a large crowd there, but he only sees June, whose expression has changed from the day before. Thomas announces to the crowd that Day has been arrested, and most of the crowd cheers. However, there is an unusual number of boo that happen, too. Day's sentence is read by Thomas. It says that he will be executed by firing squad in four days' time. Day notices that June seems sad about the verdict.

While he is awaiting sentencing, Jameson orders that Day be placed on a cement slab, chained, to bake in the hot sun for two days straight. Jameson orders June to be the one who brings him food and water each day. As the sun bears down on him, his thoughts drift back to the day of his Trial. Chian had been the one to administer the tests, and looking back on it, it seems that Chian had been trying to get him to reverse some of his answers, especially those that had to do with the politics of the Republic.

### Chapter 4: June

June brings food and water to Day as she's been ordered. The first thing Day asks of her is for her to tell him about Eden, Tess, and his brother, John. She says that Eden is in some lab, John is still in prison, and she's unsure about where Tess is, only that she isn't there. She tells him that her name is June. As she sits next to him as he drinks his water, she asks about a small imperfection in the iris of his eye. He tells her that when he failed his Trial he was taken to a lab where they put a needle in his eye. June is shocked and tells him that she thought that failed Trial candidates went to humane labor camps. He gives her a wry look and continues to drink.

June tells Day in a whisper that she accessed his Trial scores and that he had a perfect score on it. She tells him that the only thing that makes sense is that they wanted to test his DNA to see how he was able to make a perfect score. They also must have figured out that he was a genius with a penchant for revolution; so, they justified their experimentation on him. Day whispers back his suspicions about the Republic spreading plague in order to cull weak DNA from the populous. June stands up to leave and orders the guards to treat Day's wounds.

### Chapter 5: Day

Day wakes and is confused about where he is. At first, he thinks he is having a dream about being back in the Trial labs. Then, he realizes that the guards have brought him to the clinic at the base where they are treating his wounds. Jameson storms into the clinic





angry that there are protesters who have taken to the street against Day's execution. She tells the doctor to stop treating Day and has him taken back to his cell.

They pass by a window, and Day can see that there are hundreds of people protesting. Many of them have a red streak in their hair, mimicking the condition he had been in when he was first arrested. He is touched that they are protesting, but he is also terrified for them. He knows the Republic can't let that kind of civil disobedience last.

#### Chapter 6: June

Riots begin to break out all around town. June and Thomas watch one erupt across down from their vantage point on the top floor of the complex. Soldiers have been armed with rifles and guns instead of the usual civilian suppression materials. She knows what it means and she is horrified. Thomas radios to the soldiers to kill the protesters and to fire at will. June argues with him and tries to grab the controls, but he pushes her to the ground. Hundreds of people die.

## Analysis

In Part Two, the author stresses the themes of Civil Disobedience, Power and Violence, and the disparity between the Haves and the Have Nots. In particular, June's eyes are opening to the truth about the Republic and her unwitting role in their continued oppressive rule. Having lived among the poor, something that most of her peers have not done, she understands why they rebel. They have nothing to lose. She is appalled at her own preconceived notions about the poor--that they deserve to be poor because they are of low intelligence or that they are more animal than human. At one point she recalls leaving a fully cooked steak on her plate at a party because she was upset at someone. As she remembers that incident, she is also ashamed of her former actions.

Day finds himself still in prison, chained to a slab in the blistering sun. His mind starts to drift and the reader gains insight into some of Day's thought processes and past experiences. He feels a great deal of guilt because of his mother's death and his brothers' situations. Then there are the deaths of the protestors. If they hadn't been demonstrating on his behalf, they'd still be alive, he thinks.

Meanwhile, June tries to discover the truth about her brother's murder, and Day's real test scores. Initially, she is not able to access information using the internet. The flow of information is severely monitored and controlled (not unlike countries outside of the US). This is how the Republic continues to keep their citizens under control. The repressive nature of the Republic is reinforced by the forced dictate that says the Elector Primo's picture must hang in every home.

The symbolism of 'eyes' is used throughout the novel, but especially in Chapter 4 when June asks Day about the small imperfection in the iris of his eye. Eyes, as the saying goes, are the window to the soul. A person has difficulty hiding who they truly are when someone looks them directly in the eyes, in this novel. June's eyes were what first tipped Day off that she was related to Metias, and it was Metias's eyes that told Day that



Metias wasn't a Republic drone, but a nice person. When June looks into Day's eyes she is able to see the pain and the anger that have been caused to him by the Republic. It is because of this that June decides to trust Day, and to do what she can to help free him.

The theme of Violence and Power is evident in the scene where the protesters are attacked by the Republican soldiers. The disregard for human life is evident, and what is more telling is that order and control are of more value to the Republic than its citizens, whom it sees as expendable. The efforts of the protesters and the ensuing riots throughout the provinces demonstrate the theme of Civil Disobedience. The author indicates that there are times (currently and historically) when an oppressive government must be dealt with by its people in order for the country and the people living in the country to survive. Revolution begins when an oppressive government does not listen to the cries of its people.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Discuss the theme of Violence and Power as it is demonstrated in this chapter.

## **Discussion Question 2**

What changes June's mind about Day?

## **Discussion Question 3**

Discuss the symbolism of 'eyes' in Chapters 1-6.

## **Vocabulary**

crouched, flailing, fluorescent, slump, gurney, diminished, nuisance, knack, wince, disrupted, inundated, mouthpiece, gaze, echo, protocol, brandishing, chaotic, absently, flanked



## Part Two, Chapters 7-12

### Summary

#### Chapter 7: Day

Day is shown a collection of photos by Thomas who asks Day to identify which of them are spies working for the Colonies. Day has no intention of helping Thomas, but he does notice that one of the pictures that Thomas shows him is of Kaede. Day decides that if he's going to be executed anyway, that he might as well be as obnoxious as possible. He tries to upset Thomas by telling him that he is a coward for shooting his mother instead of fighting him man to man. During their back and forth shouting match, Day realizes that Thomas knows about the kiss that Day and June shared when she was undercover. Day banks on the fact that Thomas is jealous and goads him with the fact that he, Day, kissed June and that she liked it. Thomas loses all control and beats Day mercilessly.

#### Chapter 8: June

June tries to tune out the fact that Thomas is standing outside of her apartment apologizing. He has been standing out there for almost a half hour telling her how sorry he is for pushing her down. What Thomas doesn't realize, she thinks, is that she's more upset that he ordered the killing of the civilians in the street. She thinks to herself that Thomas is a monster, a monster that the Republic created.

June tries to concentrate on Metias's journals which she's been reading. Soon, Thomas leaves and June falls asleep. In a dream, Day walks up to her and they embrace. He tells her, while looking deeply into her eyes that he did NOT kill Metias. When June wakes, she recalls the dream and believes it. This prompts her to look at the crime scene photos again. She can clearly see a wound on his shoulder, just as Day told her. There has obviously been a cover up. Something bothers her about the other photos, especially the image of the knife that had killed Metias. Then, she notices a smudge on it and recognizes it as rifle grease. With startling clarity, she realizes that Thomas had the same rifle grease on his forehead when he came to tell her about Metias' death

#### Chapter 9: Day

Day sees June entering his cell. She tells the guard to turn the cameras off, then once they are off she asks Day one last time if he killed her brother. He swears to her that he did not and finds himself wanting to pull her into his arms when he sees how upset she is. Silently, June fishes around in her pocket and draws out the pendant that used to belong to Day. She gives it back to him and he puts it on.

In a flashback, Day remembers the day that he received the pendant. He'd been very young, and his father, who had a job that had something to do with the Colonies, had come across an ancient US quarter dating from the year 1990. Both of his parents had



been so excited to have found it because it proved his father's theory that the Colonies and the Republic used to be all one big country called the United States. This was information that they knew would be heretical in nature to the Republic, so they took the quarter and hid it inside of the pendant.

#### Chapter 10: June

June agrees to go out to dinner with Thomas, who has found out about her off camera meeting with Day. She tells him that she intends to get to the truth about how her brother died. Thomas, obviously jealous, tells June that Day is dangerous and that he has manipulated her until she isn't thinking clearly. June attempts to ask leading questions that would help her to determine whether or not Thomas knew anything more about her brother's death, but she gets nowhere.

Later, after Thomas has gone, June looks through Metias' journals, again. It begins to bother her that there are so many misspelled words, because that was not her brother's way. She figures out that the mistakes are intentional and she begins to keep a running list of them. They eventually spell out the name of a website:  
[www.followmejunebug.com](http://www.followmejunebug.com)

June immediately goes to the website and finds a secret blog that Metias had written. He lists all of the evidence that he'd found in regard to the murder of their parents. He says on the blogs that their parents did not die in an auto accident, but that they were murdered because their father, who was a medical researcher, found out that the plague had been engineered to weed out people in the population who has weak genes. Metias also states in his blogs that the researchers would test the new strains of plague on those children who failed the Trial. They intended to use the new strains of plague to use against the Colonies. He also states that the plague strains were being tested on the poor sectors of their own cities, via a new duct system. His last entry states that he's told Thomas what he suspects. June becomes very still after reading the blogs. She's certain that the person who killed her brother is Thomas.

June takes the next day off and Thomas calls to see why she missed work. She gives him an excuse about not feeling well and takes the day to consider what her next actions will be. At the end of the day she knows that she will help Day to escape.

#### Chapter 11: Day

Day continues to struggle against his captivity, even trying to fake being ill so that the guards will come and investigate. This escape attempt fails miserably. One of the guards, however, lets it slip that Eden, Day's younger brother, has become 'patient zero'. Day's heart sinks because this just confirms what he had suspected. His brother is a test subject for the new plague strain. He grabs for the guard who tells him this and several other guards rush into the room to help subdue him. One of those guards is June, who quickly whispers in his ear that she will be coming to help him escape soon.



After he has been tied to a gurney, and the guards all leave, Jameson enters the room. She baits and torments Day. When he taunts her, she leans down to deliver her final words and Day lurches forward and bites her.

## Chapter 12: June

The only safe way for June to get to the Lake sector is to travel along the tops of the roofs. She finally makes it and is able to locate Kaede and Tess. Tess has joined Kaede in becoming one of the Patriots for the Colonies. Kaede doesn't want to trust June, but when June gives her the money that June was gifted for capturing Day, Kaede relents. June tells Kaede that she is going to try and free Day. She hands Kaede an electro-bomb which disables the Republic guns for a few minutes. The plan they hatch includes Kaede breaking John (Day's older brother) out of jail first. Then, a few days later, Patriots dressed as guards will break Day free.

## Analysis

Again, dreams figure into the landscape of the characters. June, in Chapter 8, has a dream that tells her the real truth, the truth that she has been agonizing over: Day didn't kill Metias. When June wakes she is certain that Day is innocent of her brother's death. Interestingly, now that the reader knows that both Day and June are geniuses, both characters have obtained different pieces of a bigger picture. When they begin to combine them, the truth begins to emerge about the Republic, their parents' deaths, and about the Republic's agenda. Together the two protagonists are stronger and smarter than they are alone.

In Chapters 7-12 the fact emerges that Day, who has always questioned things, has gotten June to start doing the same thing. This suggests that critical thinking can only come when one does not blindly accept a leader's words. Asking questions keeps people and countries free. Thomas, on the other hand, does not ask questions. He blindly accepts what he's told. This is probably why he agreed to kill Metias.

The Patriots are an interesting group in that they are part of the colonies, a rebellious group. Students of United States history cannot help but make the connection between the Patriots, the colonies, and their use of the American flag as their rally point. The Patriots, then, are a remnant of what once was the United States. The Republic is trying to suppress and/or eradicate them. It is a stark contrast between totalitarianism and democracy.

The theme of Civil Disobedience is demonstrated in June's willingness to break the rules against hacking into the internet files held by the government. She goes to Metias' blog, which in and of itself is contraband, and learns the truth about her family. It is through this that she is able to understand who most likely killed Metias. She also learns who to trust.

The theme of Family is also demonstrated as Day has a flashback to his earlier years when his parents gave him the pendant. The symbolism of the pendant is more fully



explained within the theme of Family. The 1990 US quarter that is hidden within the pendant, is a reminder that the Colonies and the Republic used to be one large united territory, instead of the propaganda that has been feed to the masses. Day literally carries the truth around his neck. When June gives him back the pendant, she is not only giving him back the link to his family, but she is accepting the truth that it represents.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Discuss the significance of Day's pendant.

## **Discussion Question 2**

Discuss the theme of Civil Disobedience.

## **Discussion Question 3**

How does the author use dreams in this novel?

## **Vocabulary**

static, earpieces, shackled, glassy, interrogation, corridor, blurred, expression, resist, strewn, convocation, spillover, hilt, textured, composure, assume, sheathed, canteen, flinch



## Part Two, Chapters 13-18

### Summary

#### Chapter 13: Day

Day is asleep. He dreams about something that happened when he was a little boy. He had been playing street hockey with his brothers when the puck (which was a balled up piece of paper) had gone wide and struck a police officer in the face. The officer had picked up Day and beaten him with the baton, only stopping after Day's mother and father offered him all of the money they had. On top of that the officer had taken their dinner, too. Later, John had told him that the police officer hadn't beaten him because of the ball in the face. He had beaten him because of the look on Day's face.

In the present, Day snaps awake and realizes where he is. He worries about John and that he is the reason that his brother is going to be executed.

#### Chapter 14: June

Thomas tries to make up for his earlier mistakes and asks June to go see a movie. June is repulsed by the idea, but decides to go with him so that he won't suspect her when she goes to free Day. During the date she gently plumbs him for information about Day's incarceration and the process for the execution.

She struggles to keep her face neutral when Thomas tells her smugly that they have moved up Day's execution time to that very night. June is calm exteriorly, but on the inside she's panicked because the timeframe doesn't allow Kaede time to deploy the electro-bomb and get John out. The fact that she's been left out of the loop in regards to Day's execution means that either Jameson or Thomas, or both, suspect where her sympathies lie. She needs a new plan.

#### Chapter 15: Day

It is Day's execution morning. Guards, including June, enter his cell. One of them ask him if he has any last requests. June indicates to him that he should ask to see John, which Day does. John is brought to him and he tries to encourage Day to stand strong and to be brave. They embrace and Day is led away. Over his shoulder as he is going down the hall, he hears Thomas tell June that she is under arrest for suspicion of collusion with the enemy.

#### Chapter 16: June

The missing electro-bomb is what gave June away, she figures. Thomas confirms that suspicion when he begins asking her questions. He makes it clear that he doesn't want to interrogate her, but has been asked by Jameson to do so. Thomas waits for June to deny it, but she won't, and Thomas's face goes stone cold. Before he can take action



against her there is a loud blast. June hopes that it is the Patriots. Taking advantage of the distraction June slips away from the interrogation room and finds the mechanical room where she shuts down the power. Then she sprints for the cells on the upper level where John and Day would be.

As she runs past a window she sees that the people in the square are rioting because the Patriots are throwing handfuls of money from the rooftops. When June reaches John and Day she finds them overpowering the guards. Day is slightly disoriented due to a blow to the head he received from one of the guards. Day's injury slows him down and June rushes back to help him. John pushes them ahead of him and stays behind to slow the oncoming guards down. His sacrifice enables Day and June to clear the building where Kaede and the Patriots were waiting for them on motorcycles.

#### Chapter 17: Day

At some point Day figures he must have passed out because he wakes up on a rooftop outside of the city. June tells him what happened to John and he is devastated. A jumbotron shows John being shot, but the news headline says that it is Day who is being shot. Day is about to lose himself in his grief and guilt but June reminds him that he still has another brother that needs him. Day turns his focus back to the rebellion.

#### Chapter 18: June

June and Day hop a train outside of town. It is headed to Las Vegas where Tess is. Day wants to make certain that she is okay before they head to the warfront for Eden. Day and June reconcile and admit their feelings for one another. June asks Day why he chose the street name that he did. He tells her that it was a name he gave himself as a reminder to 'walk in the light'.

## Analysis

Legend is the first book in what was intended to be a longer series. As such, many of the problems posed at the beginning of the novel are not fully resolved by the end of this first installment. The theme of Family is demonstrated through John's sacrifice, and Day's resolve to find Eden and bring him home. June has finally found out what happened to Metias and her parents. With John's death, Day feels that he is now the head of his family, and as such is responsible for Eden. This propels him into the next book in the trilogy.

June has undergone the largest change of any of the characters. At the beginning of the novel she has no intimate acquaintances, with the exception of her brother. She was focused on work, school, and her dog with little room for anything or anyone else. Her world was very black and white. When she becomes involved with Day and immersed into his world, shades of gray begin to appear and she matures as a character. She begins to care about others, to have empathy, to risk loving and losing. She also learns to ask questions rather than to blindly follow a leader's dictates, especially when it directly conflicts with her own moral and ethical compass.





The theme of Civil Disobedience is continued in these last chapters as the reader sees the people rioting in the execution square. The author suggests through these actions, and the choice made by Day and June that thinking independently is what ultimately makes a person stronger, and a country stronger. The fact that the rebellion is being led by a group called the Patriots, is also part of the Civil Disobedience theme in that they are fighting against a totalitarian regime, much like the original patriots did in United States history.

The revelation of Day's street name, and why he chose it, is very telling and adds to his characterization. He chose it to give himself hope, but as he has moved into a leadership role, one that will have larger implications in the following books in the series, his determination to look on the bright side, to choose the moral and ethical way to live and to walk in the light are actions of a good leader.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Discuss the theme of Civil Disobedience.

## **Discussion Question 2**

What does learning about Day's street name tell the reader about him?

## **Discussion Question 3**

How is Day able to deal with his grief and face the future?

## **Vocabulary**

subdued, circular, perceptive, rotation, glittering, weld, ornament, insulant, interact, grateful, induction, universal, misspelled, sifting, emanating, calculating, disjointed, mesmerized, imported



# Characters

## Day

Day, Daniel Wing, is fifteen years old. He supposedly failed his Trial test when he was 10, and as was the mandate, he was handed over to the state for use in a labor camp. The truth of the matter was that Day had scored a perfect score on the Trial test, but he also tested for rebellious tendencies. As a result, the state decided to keep him for experimentation.

Day managed to escape the laboratory. He became an enemy of the state. He disrupted supply lines and did whatever he could to cause mayhem and chaos to the authorities. He developed an almost Robin Hood like status among the poor in the districts.

He used to live in the Lake sector with his parents and brothers, John and Eden. He still likes to check in on them without their knowledge. When the book opens, only John knows that Day is still alive. Day is shown to be a kind, compassionate person, whose sense of justice and fairness propels him to make choices that often put him in danger or at risk. This part of his nature is what brings him into initial contact with June, a girl he will love toward the end of the novel.

## June Iparis

June is fifteen. She also had a perfect score on her Trial test. Unlike Day, she was sent directly to the best high schools and university to be groomed to go into the military. Her brother is in the military already, and she manages to excel in her classes, even jumping ahead several grades. She also likes to cause trouble by breaking the laws. She always rationalizes her adventures by telling those in charge that she was testing herself so that she can better serve the Republic.

June's brother is her whole world at the beginning of the novel. Her parents were killed in an auto accident; so, Metias has looked after her. When he is killed it sends her down a road of self discovery that she might otherwise not have pursued.

June is often coldly logical and clinical in her decisions. After she meets Day, she begins to mature and learn to trust others, even developing empathy for those who are less fortunate than herself. Her time living among the poor is part of what motivates her to make a difference in the Republic and to help Day and the Patriots accomplish their goals.

## Tess

Tess is a twelve year old orphan that Day finds rummaging through a dumpster one day. He takes pity on her, and she appoints herself to be his shadow. Day sees her as a little



sister. At the time the book opens, she has been with Day for a whole year and they work well as a team.

## **Mrs. Wing**

Mrs. Wing is the mother of Day, John, and Eden. She is killed when Thomas and the soldiers storm the house looking for Day.

## **Mr. Wing**

Mr. Wing is Day's father. The reader never meets him 'in person' in this novel. It is assumed that he has died as he does not make an appearance, except in flashbacks. In these flashbacks Day shows how his father, who worked near the Colonies sector, found an old 1990 United States quarter. He was so excited to have found it. It proved that the country used to be united and not divided as the Republic would have them believe.

## **John Wing**

John is Day's older brother. He works in a factory where his lungs are affected and his eyes are constantly burning. John protects the family when the soldiers come, and he is taken off to jail. He ends up sacrificing himself at the end of the novel so that Day and June can get away.

## **Eden Wing**

Eden is the ten year old brother of John and Day. He is shown to be incredibly intelligent and likes to build electronic devices out of remnants that he finds. He is purposely infected with the new mutated strain of the plague and is sent to the war front. At the end of the novel, Day is determined to go and find him and to bring him back.

## **Metias Iparis**

Metias is June's older brother. Though he appears to be loyal to the Republic and works in the military, he is leading a double life. He asks questions. The answers that he gets disturb him enough to compel him to create a secret blog which he leaves for June to find and read. He tells her the truth about their parents' death.

## **Thomas**

Thomas was a friend and colleague of Metias. He was originally Metias driver, but he worked his way up within the ranks. He often likes to throw it out at others that he came



from a lowly background but was able to rise above his humble beginnings. He is attracted to June and tries numerous times to get her to return his feelings. However, his violent nature repulses June, and she refuses him.

Thomas enjoys inflicting pain and is not above betrayal and revenge. Because he does not question the orders that he is given, he becomes a vehicle for the Republic's agenda. He shoots Day's mother in the head when the house is raided. He is the one who allows the soldiers to gun down the protesters in the street, killing more than a hundred people.

## **Commander Jameson**

Little is told about Jameson, other than she has risen to one of the highest positions in the Republic. She is shown to be ruthless and vengeful, and prefers order and rules. It is clear that she has mentored Thomas because they share many of the same personal traits. She is a master manipulator and fast tracks June's graduation in order to set June on Day's trail. She was complicit in the death of the protesters and covered up Metias' murder.

## **Chian**

Chian was Metias' mentor and trainer when he joined the army. Metias found him to be especially cruel and sadistic. He, in particular, dislikes Day because the scar that he sports on his face was the result of when he tried to capture Day.

## **Elector Primo**

This is the supreme ruler of the Republic. He has a son named Andran. There is very little information included about him except that his picture must be displayed in all homes and buildings.

## **Anden**

Anden is the Elector Primo's son. He tells June at her party that he intends to be the leader the following year.

## **Kaede**

Kaede lives in the Lake sector where Day was from. She works in a bar and takes part in Skiz fighting for money. The reader later learns that she is part of the Patriots group who are struggling to unite the two parts of the country.



# Symbols and Symbolism

## Day's Pendant

This necklace is worn by Day through the first part of the novel until he loses it in a confrontation with Metias. It seems very simple and plain, but inside of the pendant is an old 1990 US quarter, which would be considered heretical since the Republic maintains that the two parts of the country were never united. Day's father gave it to Day when he was very young and it was the only thing he was allowed to keep when he was taken away from his family on Trial day. The pendant represents the truth about the country. When June hands the pendant back to Day toward the end of the novel, it symbolizes the fact that she accepts the truth.

## Day's Real Name

Day's real name is Daniel, which literally interpreted means that 'God is my Judge'. This is highly appropriate given Day's personality and his cause. The actual account of Daniel has him standing firm on his moral beliefs to the point that he is persecuted for them. This is what happens to Day as well.

## The Sewer

In Chapter 3, Day escapes from the hospital by using the sewer. This represents how the rich view those who are poor. It also indicates Day's willingness to get himself, literally, dirty in the attempt to work against a corrupt government.

## Metias' Journal

During the course of the novel the reader finds that Metias has kept voluminous journals. June begins reading them and discovers a secret message hidden in its pages for her. It leads her to a secret blog where Metias lays out the evidence which indicates that their parents were killed. It also relates why they were killed.

## Rifle Grease

When Thomas comes to tell June of her brother's death, June sees rifle grease streaked across his forehead. This means very little to her at first. Then, when she looks at the hilt of the knife that killed her brother, she sees the grease again. She knows that it is Thomas who has killed her brother, not Day. The grease represents the mark of the Republic. Their dirt and grease have penetrated to the very depths of Thomas's character. The grease stands for the lies and deceit that Thomas is capable of committing.



## The Color White

The people in the Republic wear white as a color of mourning. This is directly opposite of what it is in modern society, which sees white as a symbol for purity. This would seem to suggest that things that were once pristine, honest, and pure are no longer that way in the Republic.

## American Flag

This is the flag that the rebellion group flies. The people are called the Patriots. They fight against the new Republic, whose flag and pledge of allegiance have been altered from their modern day version. Though they don't call their flag the American Flag, it is obvious in their description that it is patterned after the current United States flag.

## Eyes

In many instances the author uses eyes as a symbol of truth. Day sees the resemblance between Metias' eyes and June's eyes. He knows they are related. June sees the imperfection in Day's eye and knows that he's told her the truth about the experimentation that was done on him.

## Dreams

The author uses dreams to act as couriers of truth. Often when a character doesn't want to face the truth while awake, a dream will bring them to the real truth.

## Clothing

The author uses clothing as an indicator of a person's interior landscape and true self. This is true when the spy is caught and his buttons aren't genuine on his uniform. It is also evident when Day is able to discern that June is with the military because of the way in which she ties the knot on her cloak.



# Settings

## Los Angeles, California

Day's Lake sector, where his family lives, is located in a futuristic and totally apocalyptic version of Los Angeles, California. A large flood had presumably covered a good deal of the globe. After the waters receded, a new civilization emerged, one that was no longer the United States of America. The land is divided between the Colonies to the east and the Republic to the west.

The ruins of the past civilization dot the landscape. It is to one of the abandoned buildings (a library ironically enough) that Day takes June when she is injured. While there, the reader learns that libraries, banks, and most large businesses, were closed, destroyed, or turned over to the government to run after the flood.

## Drake University

This is the university where June and other high scoring Trial members are sent to continue their education. Attending Drake guarantees that the graduate will be admitted to the wealthy elite of the Republic culture.

## Central Hospital

This is where Day and Metias have their confrontation. Day gets away by throwing a knife and hitting Metias in the shoulder. Later, Thomas stabs Metias at the hospital, killing him.

## Republic Headquarters

This is where Day and his brother are taken to await their trial and execution. It is also where June discovers the truth about the Republic and where she becomes determined to help Day and John escape.

## The Library

When June is injured by Kaede in the Skiz fight, Day rescues her and takes her to an abandoned library.

# Themes and Motifs

## Have versus Have Nots

The author stated in an interview that she was influenced greatly by the classic novel, *Les Miserables*. This is a tale of the French Revolution. In particular, it chronicles the desperate plight of the poor that gave rise to the revolution. In much the same way, Lu uses the plight of the poor in the Republic and their suffering as a backdrop for Day's emergence as a hero of the people.

The disparity between the wealthy and the poor is exemplified in many sections of the book. First, there is the fact that Day's family must scrounge and scrimp to have even a decent meal. They don't have the common comforts of the wealthy, including clean water, adequate food, and access to medical care. Both June and Thomas, as well as Metias, enjoy a lavish lifestyle of parties, excessive food and drink, and nice places to live.

Educationally, the reader learns that those who are intelligent and compliant with Republic ideology are given high ranking positions in the Republic. This is evident with June's placement at Drake and also with Day's abduction and experimentation.

June, especially, becomes aware of the divide between the classes when she disguises herself and goes undercover to catch Day. What she experiences and sees there challenges what she's been taught about the poor, including the belief that the poor aren't intelligent enough to know that they are poor. Consequently, they are blissfully happy. The misery that she sees around her challenges that view to the point that she knows she has been deceived. She begins to ask questions.

## Civil Disobedience

Throughout the novel there are references to evaluating and judging one's own government. If the government, such as the Republic, is determined to be too punitive then the author suggests that it is the imperative of the people to rise up and challenge that government, no matter what the cost.

This is the determination that Day comes to as a result of his treatment after the Trial. Used and discarded as if his life were worthless, at an early age Day determines to do what he can to disrupt the government's policies and actions. Though he is aware of the Patriots and the Colonies, he specifically doesn't align himself with them, though at the end he does work with them to achieve a similar goal.

Civil disobedience can be experienced and participated in on many levels and in many ways. June practices civil disobedience when she questions the information that she has been given about her parents and she purposely breaks the rules and hacks into





the database. She also breaks the rules by helping Day to escape and taking the electro-bomb to Kaede.

Day has purposely practiced a type of non-violent civil disobedience, such as Ghandi embraced. June discovers when she begins truly investigating Day that all of his crimes against the state show that he purposely went out of his way not to hurt anyone if he could help it. Even when he could have taken a life, he doesn't. This is what leads June to realize that it couldn't have been Day that killed her brother.

## Family

Love of family is one of the primary motivations in the novel. Day is driven, initially, by his desire to still take care of his family even though he is an enemy of the state. In Day's case, his love for his family, and later his brothers drive him to courageous acts that help a ragtag rebellion gain a foothold and a figurehead.

June's love of family takes a negative turn when Metias is killed and she vows revenge. Instead of learning the truth for herself, at least initially, she accepts what Jameson has told her and vows to find Day and make him pay. It is only when she shifts her attention back to her brother, and her love for him, that she uncovers his secret message to her, and finally learns the truth.

The strength of family is alluded to throughout the novel as both protagonists refuse to bow to the Republic's dictates, and instead choose to follow their family's moral and ethical codes. In Day's case, this also extends to those who fight with him, such as Kaede and Tess. This may be the author's nod to nontraditional families, showing that one does not have to be a blood relative to have a close family bond.

The Republic does not seem to care much about family because it has a policy of separating children from families on a routine basis. Even the wealthy children are removed from the care of their parents after they take their Trial. This is shown to be a detrimental practice as it makes the children more likely to rebel against the Republic as a surrogate parent.

## Perfection

Though a lesser theme in the novel, Perfection is included. The entire reason that the Republic releases the mutated plague virus on the population is to weed out those whose DNA is weak. They intend to 'breed' the perfect human being. This practice of genetic selection is called eugenics, and it is espoused by many modern thinkers.

The Republic values only those human beings with a certain aptitude and a willingness to be loyal to the Republic. All others who don't fit into that genetic mold are discarded or relegated to a lesser status, as inferior stock. This is the case with Day's parents, who were lower scoring Trial members. The entire reason that Day was sent away to be experimented on was because he was a genetic anomaly. He was highly intelligent, but



he was rebellious and curious by nature. Curiosity is seen by the Republic to be detrimental to peace in their society.

When June looks into Day's eyes and sees a small 'imperfection' in the corner of this eye, it is representative of how the Republic sees Day, as a small speck in the greater whole. However, it is seeing this imperfection and learning the reason why it came to be there that free June from any remaining conceptions she has about the Republic's agenda toward the people in the city.

Using a narrow definition of perfection creates people and workers who cannot, think for themselves. When free thinkers such as Day, June, and the Patriots are introduced into the equation, there is a threat of the derailment of the society. The author seems to be suggesting that it is the wide diversity of intelligence levels and aptitude levels that allow for the survival of society.

## **Violence and Power**

The author shows that violence in order to maintain power often comes at a great price for everyone. Quite often, on a smaller scale, when a character engages in violence, or is confronted with violence, their reaction tells a great deal about that character's morals and ethics.

The reader sees this in the opening confrontation between Day and Metias. Metias does not see Day as the enemy of the state that everyone else does, and in fact, feels badly for him because he knows that the kid is only there to probably try and steal plague medicine for someone he loves. This shows the humane and compassionate nature of Metias.

Day, himself, refuses to engage in violence that leads to someone's death. This is why John's death, as well as the death of the hundreds of demonstrators in the street, affects him so adversely. In comparison, when Thomas uses violence he does so willingly and gleefully. He enjoys the powerful feeling that committing a violent act gives him. This indicates that he most likely came from a place where he had no control or power in his life, and he found violence to be a way to obtain it. This is why he has no problem killing his own best friend when Jameson asks him to do so.

Kaede and Day both are morally ambiguous in some areas. Both participate in the Skiz fights on a regular basis, even though it is violent. Also, Day and Kaede will resort to violence when cornered, opting to survive or protect their families over causing harm to another person. While Day doesn't kill anyone, he certainly harms and injures many.

# Styles

## Point of View

Legend is told from the first-person perspective of two main characters—Day and June—the chapters switch back and forth between them.

The first person narration makes it so that readers become emotionally invested in the characters; allowing the reader to know what drives them, what makes them suffer, and why they make the mistakes they do. Since the reader has no more insight than the other characters, guessing future events is not possible. It's all a wild ride for the reader and for the narrators.

The split narration also allows readers to see the same event from two different perspectives. For example, when Day's mother is killed, readers are shown his perspective, which is pure shock and rage. From June's perspective, the readers see guilt and horror. First person narration allows readers to gain a more complete and complex understanding of the characters, the plot, and ultimately the themes that the author is trying to demonstrate.

## Language and Meaning

The language of the story is sprinkled with futuristic concepts and words which hold no meaning in today's world. However, the use of the unfamiliar words in context with the story's setting helps the reader to grasp their meanings. Acronyms are often used to depict military jargon. These are usually deciphered or explained by the writer. References are often made to a far and distant past Earth civilization that tips its head to current times.

## Structure

The structure of the novel alternates viewpoints between two main characters, Day and June, who come from different sides of the same struggle. Both characters move the plot along through its 18 chapters, with most of the conflict coming from the need to survive and determine the truth about their government and the past.



## Quotes

Better genes make for better soldiers make for better chance of victory against the Colonies, my professors always say.”

-- June (Part One, Chapter 1)

**Importance:** This shows June's mindset at the beginning of the novel. She has truly bought into the rhetoric that she has been taught.

What a bunch of cons, men who had barely passed their Trials. I wonder if I can catch the plague from these people, even though I'm vaccinated. Who knows where they've been. Then I stop myself. Metias had told me never to judge the poor like that.

-- June (Part one, Chapter 10)

**Importance:** This is when June goes undercover as a poor person living on the street. It shows that her mindset is completely elitist. She also remembers her brother cautioning her against this type of thinking.

If there's something we need to hear about, the generals will tell us.

-- Thomas (Part One, Chapter 22)

**Importance:** This quote is indicative of Thomas' mindless and blind devotion to the Republic. He does not think for himself and doesn't care to do so.

You think we go to labor camps if we fail? June, the only labor camps are the morgues in hospital basements.

-- Day (Part Two, Chapter 1)

**Importance:** Day reveals to June the truth about what happens to those children who fail their Trial.

They experimented on him. Probably for the military. This I'm sure of now, and the thought makes me ill.”

-- June (Part Two, Chapter 4)

**Importance:** This shows June's shift in mindset. She accepts the truth that Day has offered her. Now she must decide what she will do with this new knowledge.

What if I'm eating dinner with my brother's murderer? Logic. Caution and logic. Out of the corner of my eye, I see Thomas's hands. What if those are the hands that stabbed Metias straight through the heart?”

-- June (Part Two, Chapter 10 paragraph 13)

**Importance:** June goes with Thomas to the movies so that he won't suspect her of trying to free Day. She highly suspects that Thomas killed her brother, and it is all she can do to keep her face neutral.



Then June leans over and whispers in my ear. "Don't try it again," she says, "because you won't be able to do it alone. You'll need my help."

-- Day (Part Two, Chapter 11 paragraph 34)

**Importance:** This is where both Day and June realize that they need each other and are stronger together than they are apart.

My first instinct is to attack Thomas. That's what I would have done if he'd caught me without so many soldiers around. Lunge at him with everything I've got, knock him unconscious, then reach Day and make a run for the exits.

-- June (Part 2, Chapter 16 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** Thomas has just told her that she is being investigated for treason. Day has just been led away for his execution, and June is hoping that Kaede and the Patriots will make their move soon.

In the southern swamplands between the two warfronts. It's a genuine coin from nineteen-ninety. See the name? United States. It was real.

-- Day (Part Two, Chapter 9 paragraph 3)

**Importance:** This is Day recalling what his father told him when he'd shown him the coin and explained the significance of its existence.

Then I hear a click, see a faint light scan across my skin, and the white page disappears. In its place appears what looks like a blog. My breath catches in my throat. There are six brief entries here.

-- June (Part Two, Chapter 10 paragraph 4)

**Importance:** This is where June reads Metias' secret blog and learns the truth about her parents' death.

These black marks look like rifle grease. Almost like the streak of grease that was on Thomas's forehead when I first saw him that night."

-- June (Part Two, Chapter 8 paragraph 2)

**Importance:** This is where June figures out that it was Thomas who killed her brother.

I don't see what the big deal is, though. I've worn nicer dresses before, and this one feels too modern and lopsided. This dress could've bought a kid in the slum sectors several months' worth of food.

-- June (Part Two, Chapter 2 paragraph 1)

**Importance:** June's mindset has changed significantly from the way it was at the beginning of the novel. She now recognizes the great disparity between the wealthy and the poor and she hates it.