

The Mote in God's Eye Study Guide

The Mote in God's Eye by Larry Niven

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



Contents

The Mote in God's Eye Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	5
Prologue.....	7
Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 1, Command.....	8
Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 2, The Passengers.....	9
Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 3, Dinner Party.....	11
Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 4, Priority OC.....	12
Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 5, The Face of God.....	13
Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 6, The Light Sail.....	14
Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 7, The Crazy Eddie Probe.....	15
Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 8, The Alien.....	16
Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 9, His Highness has Decided.....	17
Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 10, The Planet Killer.....	18
Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 11, The Church of Him.....	19
Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 12, Descent into Hell.....	20
Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 13, Look around You.....	21
Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 14, The Engineer.....	22
Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 15, Work.....	23
Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 16, Idiot Savant.....	24
Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 17, Mr. Crawford's Eviction.....	25
Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 18, The Stone Beehive.....	26
Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 19, Channel Two's Popularity.....	27
Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 20, Night Watch.....	28
Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 21, The Ambassadors.....	29



[Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 22, Word Games.....30](#)

[Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 23, Eliza Crossing the Ice.....31](#)

[Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 24, Brownies.....32](#)

[Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 25, The Captain's Motie.....33](#)

[Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 26, Mote Prime.....34](#)

[Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 27, The Guided Tour.....35](#)

[Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 28, Kaffee Klatsch.....36](#)

[Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 29, Watchmakers.....37](#)

[Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 30, Nightmare.....38](#)

[Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 31, Defeat.....39](#)

[Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 32, Lenin.....40](#)

[Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 33, Planetfall.....41](#)

[Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 34, Trespassers.....42](#)

[Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 35, Run Rabbit Run.....43](#)

[Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 36, Judgment.....45](#)

[Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 37, History Lesson.....46](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 38, Final Solution.....47](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 39 Departure.....48](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 40, Farewell.....49](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 41, Gift Ship.....50](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 42, A Broken Bag of Glass.....51](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 43, Trader's Lament.....52](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 44, Council of War.....53](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 45, Crazy Eddie Jump.....54](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 46, Personal and Urgent.....55](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 47, Homeward Bound.....56](#)



[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 48, Civilian.....57](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 49, Parades.....58](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 50, The Art of Negotiation.....59](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 51, After the Ball is Over.....60](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 52, Options.....61](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 53, The Dijin.....62](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 54, Out of the Bottle.....63](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 55, Renner's Hole Card.....64](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 56, Last Hope.....65](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 57, All the Skills of Treason.....66](#)

[Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 58, And Maybe the Horse will Sing.....67](#)

[Epilogue.....68](#)

[Characters.....69](#)

[Objects/Places.....75](#)

[Themes.....78](#)

[Style.....80](#)

[Quotes.....82](#)

[Topics for Discussion.....84](#)



Plot Summary

The Mote in God's Eye by Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle is set in the future (beginning 3012 AD) and is about first contact between humans and a very intelligent, highly effective tool-maker race. The story begins by presenting the current state and some history of the human Empire in the galaxies. Faster-than-light travel has allowed humanity to spread across a vast amount of space, encompassing the challenges and benefits of such a change. A series of rebellions are still being handled as a result of an extended, difficult war where many individual planets and systems attempted to secede from the Empire to their own autonomy. The trouble started with the Sauron System, where base human form and genetics were allowed to change more than on other planets. Sauron was interested in creating the ultimate soldier; the resulting wars lasted for hundreds of years and forced many planets to revert to very primitive cultures as a result of isolation and lack of resources from the Empire. As the story begins, the Empire is re-consolidating and rescuing those planets that have been cut off from the rest. The main characters begin their journey on a recently rebellious planet.

An alien spaceship using a light sail to fly at speeds below the speed of light appears in the human system of New Caledonia. The ship has been traveling for at least 135 years. The warship sent from the rebellious system back to New Caledonia for re-fitting and repairs is the closest to intercept the alien ship. The humans capture the pod and the adventure of first contact begins. An alien is found on the pod and the expected dissection and studies begin. In addition, political wrangling, panic, and planning begin. The Viceroy ruling the New Caledonia system, the Emperor's appointed representative, determines that a mission of two ships will be sent to the alien system that sent out the pod. The process to develop communication and some measure of understanding between two completely dissimilar races is involved and has varied results. Both species are wary, protective, and secretive.

Communication is established; understanding, however, remains more distant. One of the warships is invaded by a lower species of the alien system, one of the warships must be destroyed. Three Midshipmen end up lost and hidden on the planet, uncovering the aliens' desperate secrets of uncontrollable population explosion and giving their lives to protect Empire secrets. Three aliens are sent to accompany the remaining human ship and crew back to New Caledonia as ambassadors. They will never return home. During their negotiations, the humans finally decipher the biologically-forced reproduction cycle of the aliens and resulting, consistent, cultural cyclic de-evolution of their planet. The humans are forced to take action limiting the aliens' spread beyond their home system. Difficult choices result and the alien ambassadors choose to help with the process, hoping any time they can purchase for their species through their betrayal creates the possibility for someone to discover a way to change the population-fall cycle.

The plot is designed like a wheel with spokes. The reader experiences a main plot revolving around threats to the Empire that becomes focused on the aliens found in The Mote in God's Eye. Each spoke of the wheel contributes a subplot that is about a



specific character or action, and the effect is of each part combining to create movement and tension that drive the overall action forward. The book presents complex ideas and situations; the complex design of the plot reflects this fact and is successfully used to support the complexity that is presented.



Prologue

Prologue Summary

Faster-than-light travel means the time needed to travel between different solar systems via jump points is null; humanity has expanded rather than possibly becoming extinct. At the same time, the species has continued to find a way to apply this technology to conflict and war.

Prologue Analysis

The prologue begins by setting the stage for the story. The year is 3029 AD, humanity has spread to the stars via faster-than-light travel, conducted a war on a grand scale, all while still remaining mostly ignorant of all the distance between the individual star systems that have been colonized. The reader is presented with the information that mankind has created incredible advancements and retained some of the least favorable characteristics of the species. By pointing out that vast areas in the galaxies still remain a mystery to the star-faring empire, the authors begin foreshadowing what's to come in the book.



Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 1, Command

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 1, Command Summary

Roderick Blaine is promoted to Captain of the navy ship the MacArthur. He has three tasks: get the vessel back to New Scotland for repair; transport Lady Sandra Fuller Bright to New Scotlan keep Trader Horace Hussein Bury, undocumented engineer of the rebellion on the ship until it arrives at the Capital.

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 1, Command Analysis

The central character of the novel is introduced and aspects of his character are quickly developed. Rod Blaine is conscientious, devoted, and driven to prove his merit apart from his aristocratic birth. His independent actions to negotiate with a rebel leader show his respect for life and a willingness to behave in unusual manners. At the same time, the reader is shown that his good intentions may have results the young commander is unable to anticipate.

Blaine's surprise promotion is an ideal venue for all of these attributes to begin evolving. He desires to prove himself in this unusual opportunity. His humanity is revealed by how he reacts to the rebel brutality. His agreement with Stone and consequent choices demonstrate he is unorthodox, thanks to his privileged upbringing accustomed. It is unclear whether his personality and character will help or hinder him in the rest of story.



Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 2, The Passengers

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 2, The Passengers Summary

Horace is unhappy that the rebellion did not succeed but believes the Navy cannot prove his guilt.

Blaine oversees repairs to his ship. Jack Cargill as First Lieutenant and Executive Officer, is at odds with Chief Officer and Commander Jock Sinclair.

Sally Fowler, recent anthropology graduate, is leaving New Chicago for passage on the MacArthur.

The ship will get into space successfully despite the repairs and reduced manpower.

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 2, The Passengers Analysis

The introduction of Horace Bury begins to develop one of the key concepts of *The Mote in God's Eye*. By many standards Bury has done really well for himself and his family based on their humble beginnings; they are not part of the Empire's nobility. Bury also demonstrates a personality and values orientation that is not universal: he believes money is the measure of any individual. Situations he found painful or difficult are resolved by spending enough money to change the results. As Blaine is so focused on proving himself and thereby blinded in some ways, Bury is unaware of the possibility that an individual might be committed to something besides wealth. Both men begin to reveal the flaws that will effect themselves, others, and the plot.

Sally Fowler's character brings a variety of influences into the situation on board the MacArthur. As the niece of a powerful Empire senator, she represents an element of power that must be handled with care and respect. At the same time, the omniscient, third-person narrative style demonstrates that Sally's mental stability may be in question. Her internal dialogue reveals that her ability to adapt to her prison experience is uncertain. She continues to hold the experience, other individuals, and even part of herself at a distance. Her youth, exclusive family position, and education did not prepare her for the brutal realities of rebellion in the Empire.

The introduction of the passengers to the other key characters, Rod and MacArthur, begin the real movement of the story. Enough disparate elements are now present to effect each other and the movement of the plot. It is not possible to accurately predict how the flaws and foibles of each individual will interact. This allows the reader to

become more involved with the story and curious about the remaining events. At the same time, knowing this is a novel about first contact with aliens with no hint of such so far, creates tension and anticipation in the plot.



Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 3, Dinner Party

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 3, Dinner Party Summary

Rod holds a dinner party for the officers and guests.

Horace fishes for information. Sally's desire is to study the societies that fell back into primitivism as a result of the Secession Wars. Combined with the fact that war takes the most fit individuals to fight, the paradigm of survival of the fittest as an evolutionary path is completely inhibited.

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 3, Dinner Party Analysis

The Dinner Party highlights Rod's situation with too little resources and young, inexperienced officers. The latter fact plays right into Horace's search for information. MacArthur as a central character continues to develop. Beautiful, unusual appointments for the captain's table reveal that MacArthur in her current state is not a true representation. She clearly has an extensive, successful history that will be restored once the ship reaches New Scotland. Sally begins to make a little progress toward feelings other than numbness. The lengthy conversation around intelligence and evolution foreshadows that this theory may not be the only one that is reasonable. The primary purpose of the dinner party in the plot is served: a theory to be disproved is presented while tensions and potential personal conflict remaining from the Secession Wars are added to the mix. These intense factors quickly end the gathering.



Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 4, Priority OC

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 4, Priority OC Summary

Rod receives a priority message that an alien object has entered the system. The MacArthur is to take a direct approach to Brigit, refuel quickly, and meet the artifact.

The object appears to have come from an area of the Coal Sack called the Mote in God's Eye. There is no known jump point into The Mote system. .

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 4, Priority OC Analysis

In this chapter the stage is set for the next scene of the story. The system of New Caledonia described and the plot turns to finally introduce the aliens. The backdrop is set for MacArthur and Rod to meet aliens. The urgency of local Navy headquarters is clear: MacArthur is given a direct route to refuel with the highest priority to complete refueling quickly. Passengers suddenly become a lower priority as Navy business for humanity calls.



Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 5, The Face of God

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 5, The Face of God Summary

Rod is frightened by the size of the alien object. Rod has both too little and too much data available to actually speculate on any alien details.

MacArthur reaches Brigit. Rod goes outside to inspect the ship and sees the Coal Sack arrangement of a dense cloud formed in the shape of a hooded man. Against this form the red giant star Murcheson's Eye becomes a malevolent Eye of God with a tiny white giant placed as The Mote in God's Eye.

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 5, The Face of God Analysis

The fifth chapter introduces the first external conflict to the plot and subplots of the book. Until this time all of the conflicts presented have been focused on human-to-human experience. The combination of conflicts at the highest level between Empire and rebels down to individual humans such Rod's conflicts with commanding officers all revolve around an element of humanity. At this point the possibility of conflict between humanity and other begins. Rod's thoughts about the approaching object clearly illustrate the vast difference and even incomprehensibility of something other than human. As a military individual he has experience and training to fear such differences. This is contrasted with Sally's anthropological perspective. Whatever caution might have been felt by Rod is quickly subjugated when he feels threatened at losing this opportunity. So as commanded, he focuses everyone's effort on refueling and re-equipping the ship for immediate departure. The last glimpse at the Coal Sack showing the Face of God continues the foreshadowing of doubt, danger, and uncertainty.



Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 6, The Light Sail

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 6, The Light Sail Summary

The MacArthur is underway to intercept the alien ship which is traveling on a very fast course. The ship takes three and half days to reach the rendezvous point.

The ship is called to battle stations and the encounter begins.

The first action is to pinpoint the small pod that is attached to the huge light sail via a number of shrouds. Rod makes it clear the pod is the objective and communication is initiated. Without anyone on the ship noticing, the light sail gets brighter, briefly flashes some sort of silhouetted image, and then sends an extremely bright flash towards the MacArthur. Rod instructs to proceed through the light sail. The ship clears the light sail with no noticeable impact. The shrouds connecting the pod to the sail are found and cut, and the pod starts to fall towards the sun. The entire crew focuses on the order to take the pod aboard.

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 6, The Light Sail Analysis

The action in the story achieves its first movement upwards in chapter six. The movement continues through a number of levers applied as slightly different points. The new Sailing Master, Kevin Renner, is clearly demonstrated as a valuable crew member whose skills are very valuable. This is demonstrated to such an extent that the reader is lead to wonder how important his skills will be at some future date. Horace Bury exhibits his usual self-absorption and desire to meddle in affairs by demanding information and speculating that perhaps he can get an alien trading advantage. Such comments may have been made simply to annoy the Commander, and it's clear that if such an opportunity arises Horace will definitely pursue it. Sally also provides input that focuses the intensity on the situation by pointing out assumptions that may be inaccurate. In addition to all the other contributions different crew and passengers make to move the plot forward and focus the action of this chapter, Rod again demonstrates his unorthodox approach by choosing to fly through and damage the light sail to facilitate the acquisition of the alien pod. These elements combine to increase intensity and motion in the story.



Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 7, The Crazy Eddie Probe,

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 7, The Crazy Eddie Probe, Summary

Rod orders a hanger bay secured and open to vacuum. Using a tractor beam, the pod is brought into the bay—with much damage done. .

The MacArthur will need to meet another ship for refueling. The damage report indicates that the MacArthur will make it home provided she doesn't have to fight.

The pod is non-responsive and evidences no activity.

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 7, The Crazy Eddie Probe, Analysis

Capturing the probe allows the plot and the characters to complete the tension created in the previous chapter. Simultaneously, the unfathomable pod remains a point of tension. The silence of Horace at this point is noticeable for being in contrast with his earlier communication with the Captain. It's also clear that this assignment has gone a long way to unifying the miscellaneous crew aboard the ship.



Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 8, The Alien

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 8, The Alien Summary

Rod is given all information and access regarding the alien and the pod. The alien creature is much shorter than humans and evolved to a completely different configuration, such as two opposable thumbs on both of the right hands and a third arm that appears to be stiff and club-like, ending in permanently curved fingers.

The probe indicates vastly different ways of thinking and working than humans have adopted. The alien itself, nicknamed a Motie since it originated in the Mote in God's Eye, is a highly developed tool-maker.

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 8, The Alien Analysis

A major theme of the book continues to evolve in this chapter. Humanity and the Navy have just acquired a plethora of data about a previously unknown species: anatomy, biology, chemistry, engineering capability, and even design sensibilities. The data is virtually meaningless except for one key point: the species are very intelligent toolmakers. Motivations, organization, culture, language, religion, social patterns, all the qualities that define a society, remain a mystery. The alien and the probe continue to be data bits from which something might be inferred, and the accuracy of those inferences cannot be determined. This revelation contrasts and compares with Rod Blaine's shock and distaste for being responsible for the alien's demise. The data set has been expanded and the case for humanity remains: the loss experienced to obtain this information.



Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 9, His Highness has Decided

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 9, His Highness has Decided Summary

A day later, the Emperor's appointed ruler, the Viceroy, approves a mission to the Mote. Rod will be taking MacArthur to the Mote in God's Eye.

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 9, His Highness has Decided Analysis

The structure and function of politics within the Empire are further revealed in this segment of the story. As any of the human characters must exist in this milieu, the machinations and byplays allow the reader to have a deeper understanding of context for human actions in the story. The activities highlight Rod's flaw in a different way: he is so focused on what's put just before him that he doesn't anticipate what others around him will do. In this case, it does not hurt him, but his ability to comprehend the political situation and still be surprised by something so obvious develops his unique character and qualities. The ongoing issues existing within human society continue to be demonstrated: a stereotypical response of military and science disciplines and personalities that don't take risks compared to those who do show that, while humanity has obtained the stars for a long time, many of the basic ways humans function has not changed.



Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 10, The Planet Killer

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 10, The Planet Killer Summary

MacArthur will be outfitted as a complete science mission vessel and accompanied by another vessel, the Lenin, commanded by Admiral Lavernti Kutuzov. The MacArthur cannot be allowed to fall under alien control, and Kutuzov's job is to destroy the other ship if it captured.

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 10, The Planet Killer Analysis

At this point in the story the expected conflict between science and military is presented very succinctly. The conflict is not any surprise and all that needs to be highlighted to move the story along are the different arguments and assumptions under which each camp operates. The specific dynamics for the mission also are given an initial complexity that hints at further development in the plot. Rod's quasi-conflicting urges leading a first-contact mission demonstrate his interest in this type of mission while also showing his ability to act creatively while his crew and ship. It's also clear he is concerned about retaining his passengers on this next voyage; however, he is instructed to do so by the Emperor's appointed local ruler.

The complexity of what might happen on this mission is further highlighted by the introduction of the Navy Admiral known as The Butcher, who will kill entire planet's population if he deems it necessary. The comments of those present during this meeting don't provide enough information to make Admiral Kutuzov's real character clear. One other aspect of the meeting benefits Rod: the Viceroy's opinion, while not equal to that of a high-ranking military man, does bolster the decision to field-promote Rod and keep him with MacArthur rather than shifting him to some other, smaller initial command.



Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 11, The Church of Him

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 11, The Church of Him Summary

Potter is going with Renner and Staley to visit The Church of Him in the small town on New Scotland where Potter grew up. They want to see the picture of the Eye and Mote that Potter described earlier in the story. When they see the old holograph, all three men are shocked; the difference is extreme. The priest tells them if they wanted to believe such a chance was a created phenomenon, they are welcome to do so.

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 11, The Church of Him Analysis

The picture in the decrepit Church of Him follows the theme that isolated data is virtually useless and at best, disconcerting. The Navy men did not expect to find a visual record of an event that they believe happened, but so clearly demonstrates the massive and very different capabilities of the aliens. The religious aspect brought to the story also adds to the stronger feeling of an expedition headed into a mystery and likely a highly developed species increases the feeling of unpredictability.



Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 12, Descent into Hell

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 12, Descent into Hell Summary

MacArthur is departing in complete chaos. The crew is overcrowded to make room for the scientists.

As MacArthur and Lenin get closer to Murcheson's Eye, Kutuzov takes the lead to find the jump point.

Part 1, The Crazy Eddie Probe: Chapter 12, Descent into Hell Analysis

MacArthur's departure and approach to the new jump point continue to highlight the inherent conflict created between understanding and assumptions when dealing with data. Kevin Renner is a perfect foil for Horvath's struggle to see that anyone else's reading of the data from the encounter with the pod might be valuable or accurate. As a sailor at heart and someone who's basically non-military and non-scientific, his perspective is unique. He also adds the quality of a "common man" to the conversation.

Bury and Buckman develop an odd friendship. While Bury speculates it could simply be his supply of high quality coffee, Bury is fascinated with the man in some ways. He clearly cannot be bought; money and power are to serve the purpose of research. Bury has met a few people like this but still finds them very interesting. They are people he doesn't understand very well.

Gavin Potter's observation about where the jump point must be follows a similar track: the educated but inexperienced crew member has identified what will occur. In both cases, Gavin and Kevin add depth to the continuing theme of data, context and meaning.



Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 13, Look around You

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 13, Look around You Summary

A female Motie of the Engineer class is exploring the asteroids for scarce metal resources and is the first to notice the arrival of the Empire ship and heads toward intercept.

MacArthur breaks into the new system after the jump and the initial data begins to pour in. Rod's crew finds the planet and communication is initiated.

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 13, Look around You Analysis

The reader is given brief, initial glimpses into alien sociology as the Engineer considers her tasks, the Navy ships, and how desperately she wants the metal they contain. Her thoughts seem to reveal a caste-like arrangement based on the function and specialization of different groups. Humans rarely like to accept the fact that technological advances frequently impact our society in a quasi-caste manner, but even activities and discussions on board the ship demonstrate this type of division and specialization. Individuals of different disciplines are unable to imagine someone else's perceptions. The resulting competition and reduced use of resources is demonstrated by the Navy communications group not being included in the search for the inhabited planet, despite this being a logical application of their abilities and equipment.

This chapter also reveals how Rod 's ability to blend the differing attitudes and capabilities present in the entire mission. He functions as a bridge between the different elements.



Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 14, The Engineer

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 14, The Engineer Summary

Jonathan Whitbred pilots the small space taxi toward the alien mining vessel and opens his airlock, hoping the alien will get the message. The Midshipman crosses to the alien ship. The Motie is waiting for him.

The alien is shorter than the one that was in the pod and has only brown fur with no white markings on it. Small creatures scurry around the ship.

Jonathan invites the Motie to return to MacArthur with him. She puts on the suit in a moment and then grabs a couple of the small Moties and jams them in a plastic bag.

The alien executes an unbelievably perfect leap into the space taxi airlock. Jonathan quickly gets to the ship in time to stop the Motie from disassembling the control panel. The space taxi proceeds towards MacArthur as the crew go to battle stations in preparation for the arrival of the alien.

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 14, The Engineer Analysis

The chapter adds to the characterization of the alien Engineer and Motie differences. Thanks to the third person omniscient narrator, the reader develops more understanding of the Moties than the crew and scientists. The technique allows an extra layer of tension to be added to the story. It also creates more questions than answers. While the Midshipman's assumptions about the smaller Moties are reasonable, there's no way to know for sure what the small creatures are. This further develops the main theme of the novel.



Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 15, Work

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 15, Work Summary

The Engineer is impressed and disappointed by both ships. She decides it's best to wait for instructions or the arrival of a higher class, perhaps a Mediator or a Master.

The alien is only interested in tools, not language, math, or diagrams of mathematical principles.

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 15, Work Analysis

The tool-making abilities of the Motie are demonstrated to a very high degree. Her lack of interest in other things is confusing to the humans. They are not quite sure what to make of her very specific abilities. When not given a task, the Motie waits with infinite patience. Once again, the theme of the disparity between data and meaning develops as part of the alien contact process.



Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 16, Idiot Savant

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 16, Idiot Savant Summary

Rod Whitbred about his time on the alien ship and with the Motie.

Sally tries to communicate by drawing a mathematical diagram. The Motie takes the computer apart and rebuilds it then returns it to Sally.

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 16, Idiot Savant Analysis

Differences and assumptions continue to play out as in the process of ongoing alien contact. Different members of the crew and science team view the Motie's behavior as completely different things and as having varying motivations. Capabilities for adapting and controlling her environment are impressively high. On the other side of the spectrum, they can't really figure out how initiate communication with the alien. They have no idea that she feels like communication isn't her job, her task. She's waiting for one of her own kind who fulfills that role.



Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 17, Mr. Crawford's Eviction

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 17, Mr. Crawford's Eviction Summary

The Motie sleeps. Everyone can tell there are at least three classifications of the aliens.

Another ship, likely a warship, is approaching MacArthur. Lenin is informed, Buckman is directed to look for specific information, and a small expedition is sent to the Motie's asteroid.

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 17, Mr. Crawford's Eviction Analysis

Wonder and confusion are added to the story at this point. Many of the things observed about the Brown Motie are amazing. In other ways, she seems clueless. The reason the larger alien brought the pair of smaller animals on board is a complete mystery. Data on the system and the planet are expanding. Much of what the humans are learning about the asteroid belt is wondrous. The atmosphere on the planet is confusing. That pattern for learning about and dealing with the aliens begins to evolve in this chapter. The variety of discoveries develop the main theme and the decision about the approaching ship reflects ideas of fatal flaws and assumptions.



Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 18, The Stone Beehive

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 18, The Stone Beehive Summary

Horace Bury visits the little Moties with an eye to selling them as exotic pets. Kevin points out the deliberate and meaningful approach of the Motie ship.

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 18, The Stone Beehive Analysis

The Stone Beehive adds more data and questions. Heavily mined asteroids, an odd atmosphere, and another ship headed out to meet the humans provide for a complexity to the plot and at the same time the subplot of the main and supporting characters happens. The asteroid is the first hint of the incredible age of the Motie race and culture, along with the variety of the species. Unknown to the humans in the story, this is the first key piece to the secrets the Moties will hide from the humans.



Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 19, Channel Two's Popularity

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 19, Channel Two's Popularity Summary

Rod still finds the creatures interesting. Sandy Sinclair notices the little Moties are having sexual intercourse. Both creatures were female when they first came on board so one of them has become male.

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 19, Channel Two's Popularity Analysis

Humor is used effectively in this chapter for the first time in an overarching method. While serious debates happen between and within individuals, the Moties continue living their lives. Somehow, no one has noticed during this process that one of the small creatures, most likely the one who has recently given birth, is no longer female. The resulting intercourse between the two creatures draws every possible reaction from horror to fascination. While this information does highlight the main theme regarding data, it is more focused on the simple vagaries of trying to make sense of a completely alien and unknown thing. The section functions as a form of comic relief against the impending arrival of the large Motie vessel.



Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 20, Night Watch

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 20, Night Watch Summary

Cargill and crew return. Whitbred volunteers to unload the artifacts from the asteroid.

Whitbred is now on night watch and visits the miniature Moties. As he opens the door, one of the creatures escapes so quickly all he can do is close the door to stop any others from escaping.

Rod is disgusted; he must report this problem to the Lenin and her admiral. Kutuzov is highly suspicious, believing the small Moties to be spies sent to learn MacArthur's secrets.

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 20, Night Watch Analysis

More data is presented in this chapter: additional disparate parts that still don't make up a coherent whole. The Motie planet has enough atmosphere to sustain life and extensive asteroid impacts. At the same time, the mummies from the asteroid display an unexpected diversity of evolution around a single theme. During the entire chapter, as the reader receives new information about the aliens, the crew, and other relationships between characters, it is also important to note that the non-scientific, less senior Navy men continue to come up with interesting and unusual observations. Some of these ideas stem from experience, others from curiosity, and some from just not thinking like everyone else. The reader is not told which of these ideas are useful for the future. The frequency with which "regular" servicemen create some kind of insight is important for moving the plot forward.



Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 21, The Ambassadors

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 21, The Ambassadors Summary

The Motie ship is clearly not a warship. Rod sends the space taxi over to the new vessel. From the volunteers, Whitbred is sent once again.

This time, when Whitbred opens the airlock on his small ship, the response from the Motie ship is immediate. He gets to the other airlock and waits for the Motie to invite him inside.

When the Midshipman is dressed down to a tight skin suit, the Moties conduct an extensive exploration of his physiology.

The Captain directs Jonathan back into space for a secure conversation. The Moties will not be invited on board while any miniatures are loose. In fact, scientists will come to the Moties but MacArthur will move further away as a precaution. Kutuzov wants to be sure the miniatures cannot contact the new group of aliens.

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 21, The Ambassadors Analysis

Two species previously unknown to each other trying to figure how to communicate and assess the other species creates a unique atmosphere. There are small incongruities, such as the Moties not needing to orient in the same direction in space humans do. Another difference is the Moties having children on their space vessel. Despite the very short time of contact with the new species, many individuals have already formed solid opinions about the Moties. It's interesting to note that the scientists, trained to be objective, are actually less objective, making assumptions based on very little data. The military staff responds by feeling more paranoid. Motie aggression tendencies are all but unknown. The push and pull between the assumptions and what's still unknown is a focal point of this chapter and the entire book.



Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 22, Word Games

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 22, Word Games Summary

The cutter is cramped and awkward. On the Motie ship, each human is brought to the tool room for observation.

Sally finds subtle differences between the Browns and the larger, brown and white furred Moties. They have excellent memories, a great willingness to work, and a phenomenal vocal range.

Dr. Horvath uses his discretion to invite the Moties onto the cutter. The tool room becomes a topic of conversation once more. The scientists can tell the Moties are very interested in their reactions to the room.

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 22, Word Games Analysis

The Moties learn more Anglic and the scientists assign more and more human motivations to the aliens. The anthropomorphizing of the species doesn't even seem to dawn on the scientists as it is happening. It simply becomes stronger as the action of saying the same words strengthens the impression that the meaning is the same. No one seems willing to admit or notice that motivation and culture continue to be a complete blank to the humans. The uncertainty, conflict, and confusion between the groups and fact versus interpretation effectively foreshadow an inevitable, monumental difficulty between aliens and humans.



Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 23, Eliza Crossing the Ice

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 23, Eliza Crossing the Ice Summary

Scientists are going crazy over each batch of data, resources are stretched. Sinclair spends three days in the tool room and is finally assigned a Fyunch (Motie).

Horace Bury is bored. The primary thing of value for Bury at this point is learning that Motie pets definitely need to be secured.

The Moties constantly change their ship. The scientists want an access tunnel built from the Motie ship to the cutter. Rod is worried about his most important civilian passengers all being involved in the initial studies of the Moties and the increased risk from the connecting tunnel. Despite his dislike of the idea, Rod finally approves.

The Moties start on the tunnel right away. Rod is worried and calls a conference on the MacArthur. He wants to believe that no communication has occurred between the escaped miniatures and the rest of the aliens.

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 23, Eliza Crossing the Ice Analysis

Providing a human expert in tools to work the tool room on the alien ship seems to have created little additional clarity. The aliens were very interested in his abilities and adaptations. At the same time, they were slow to assign Sinclair a Fyunch (click), indicating some desire to group him with the non-essential cutter crew. At the same time, the subplot surrounding the escaped Moties is coming to a head. It's clear that, despite no previous visual of miniatures on board the embassy Motie ship, they do exist there. This accelerates the problem on MacArthur. This section of the book shows how humans are moving closer to accepting the Moties while not moving closer to understanding them. No one but Rod and Kutuzov see the risk in the escaped miniature aliens.



Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 24, Brownies

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 24, Brownies Summary

Rod begins the meeting by asking questions about the Moties and he records all the responses for the record. Rod reveals that the record may be evidence used for his court martial trial for failing to protect Imperial military secrets. He believes the small Moties loose on his ship have had every opportunity to discover these secrets.

It turns out that the ship is in an epidemic of "brownie" encounters—small beings who fix things if left a gift. Regardless of any other logic or needs, the ship will be sterilized to vacuum in a very short time. Rod instructs everyone to get ready to open the ship, by sections, to hard vacuum. Further conversation reveals that the legend of Crazy Eddie is attributed to anything that is crazy or doesn't work. The extermination will continue and the group puts their hope in the Lenin's ability to protect them.

Bury easily figures out the miniatures are being exterminated and is glad he already has a pair in suspended animation.

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 24, Brownies Analysis

The primary purpose of this chapter is creating more tension between the spokes of the wheel that are each pulling on the movement of the plot. In some cases, individuals and their subplots gain a greater understanding of the situation from the perspective of military secrecy and protection. In other cases, the additional miniatures allow other factions to feel more strongly about the trustworthiness of the Moties. Regardless of any person or group's perspective, the extent to which Rod, and therefore Admiral Kutuzov, believe there to be a problem finally impresses everyone.



Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 25, The Captain's Motie

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 25, The Captain's Motie Summary

The Moties invite MacArthur to move into orbit around their main planet so humans can visit the planet. The Admiral agrees with the understanding that if something goes wrong he will destroy the MacArthur and leave. Each of the Moties studying a human has developed a phenomenal ability to mimic that human, to the extent that individual humans are constantly checking to see who they are talking to.

All the assigned Moties are Mediators who return to the embassy ship and the Master who commands them. Although the Master is a secret, Admiral Kutuzov has figured it out. The Mediators are directed to find out about procreation without revealing how important it is to get this information.

Part 2, The Crazy Eddie Point: Chapter 25, The Captain's Motie Analysis

This glimpse into Motie society and thought shows they are just as confused attempting to interpret human data. The ability of humans to both command and obey is particularly troublesome for the Moties. Beyond mechanics, human reproduction also remains a mystery to the Moties. During the discussion, various Mediators contribute a comment or perspective demonstrating how little the Moties can interpret what they've learned. The difficulty of integrating alien truths into their consciousness is also demonstrated. At this point in the story, the concept of data without context directly creating fatal flaws is demonstrated as a quality of being an evolved species, not a human characteristic.



Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 26, Mote Prime

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 26, Mote Prime Summary

The cutter and MacArthur head towards orbit around the planet. Surprisingly, the trip to the surface is uneventful. The Motie assigned to Horace comes forward and they begin to speak. The Fyunch is the agent of a Master who is interested in trade with the humans. Soon, all of the humans from the cutter are loaded into local cars custom-designed to fit their needs.

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 26, Mote Prime Analysis

On the planet, the Moties are very effective at showing the humans exactly what they want them to see and barely even hinting at anything that might be hidden or avoided. The planet, people, and buildings seem appropriately odd while also being organized in ways that are comprehensible. The resources and time dedicated to making the visiting humans, who are now actually the aliens, comfortable is astounding. The air in the Castle has been purified and balanced, and even some native foods have been identified that are safe to eat. In the later case, the taste is uncertain, but they can be processed by the human system. All of this serves primarily as setup for the next part of the story on the actual planet.



Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 27, The Guided Tour

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 27, The Guided Tour Summary

After breakfast the group walks to the museum. Every picture is a Motie doing something specific. There are no pictures that are just about something beautiful.

The next stop is a zoo, confusingly located in a building. Each floor is a different habitat. Many of the creatures they see are extinct. The odd thing is that basically everything they see bears some resemblance to the Moties.

Dinner that night offers one native food and the rest from ships stores. There are no night clubs or alcohol. What comes out of tonight's conversation is the desire to see the lifestyle of a White, a Master. It seems this can be arranged. Caught out once again by the longer day, the humans head off to bed.

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 27, The Guided Tour Analysis

Patterns of evolution and thought are the point of the twenty-seventh chapter. While the Moties are interested in the science behind the humans' different perception of color in their artwork, the fact that their visitors were looking for a completely different type of art doesn't really register. The human visitors are equally as unable to see differences: each group in the zoo is a specific adaptations of the same species. The specimens are much more coherent than Terran species and no one seems to notice. The odd "blindness" each group evidences contributes to the book's theme surrounding the relationship, or lack thereof, between data and meaning.



Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 28, Kaffee Klatsch

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 28, Kaffee Klatsch Summary

Horvath wants to replace the unnecessary Marines with scientists. Some of them know about the Alderson Drive and the Langston Field, and this has to be negotiated out. Whitbred reveals that the Moties have been observing Murcheson's Eye for at least a few thousand years and have in fact predicted when the star will go supernova. A geologist is agreed upon and Sally looks forward to her input due to the layered civilizations she's found while digging on the planet.

Horvath continues to complain about military interference with the research, expecting the Chaplin to agree with him. He's surprised when David explains that although part of him agrees, he has enough experience on military ships to be uncomfortable with the fact they've seen nothing of warriors, a fighting caste, or even weapons. The Chaplin is convinced they exist somewhere.

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 28, Kaffee Klatsch Analysis

The different perspectives continue to impact how the mission is carried out. Sally and Horvath remain convinced the Moties are completely without hostility. David Hardy, standing firmly in his place as a connector between all the viewpoints on the ship, points out that what the Moties don't say about war and conflict is very telling. The reader is being prepared for what will eventually be revealed about war on Mote Prime.



Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 29, Watchmakers

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 29, Watchmakers Summary

Inspection reveals extensive alterations have been made all around the ship indicating that the mini-Moties are still on board. The ships prepare to leave the system for safety and security. Those on the planet are recalled through secret code, not revealing the extent of the problem to the aliens. In a very brief time the miniature Motie problem escalates: the hanger has been drastically altered, including the Langston Field. The Captain issues an intruder alert and Cargill is suddenly inspired to check the defensive ship guns. The batteries are filled with miniatures. They've been eating rats and probably even each other. Once again, the situation quickly escalates. This time the little creatures are armed and chaos ensues.

Emergency evacuations begin. Rod talks to Kutuzov from an airlock and the decision is made to scuttle the MacArthur. The Admiral convinces Rod his top priority is to get the civilians onto Lenin; they are the most valuable resource due to their knowledge and experience with the aliens. Plans are made to retrieve key items and activate prepared torpedoes to destroy the ship. The battle rages on and plans, counter plans, and last ditch efforts are made. When the cutter approaching from the planet hails MacArthur, it is ignored. Lenin will contact the small boat to take care of the passengers.

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 29, Watchmakers Analysis

Misunderstanding, lack of military discipline, failure to believe there is a threat, the nature of the aliens: any and all of these factors basically create a Watchmaker invasion. Humans are finally seeing some of what Moties are capable of. Their capability to reproduce coupled with such phenomenal tool adaptation abilities have literally rendered MacArthur helpless. Being overrun by idiot savants who have developed a taste for aggression is not the kind of threat that was imagined could ruin the mission. Now it's too late, and no one can recover from the damage.



Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 30, Nightmare

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 30, Nightmare Summary

Lenin contacts the cutter with detailed but odd orders. The Fyunch (click) are denied access to Lenin. Each person is closely inspected before being allowed to board. Horace is still aboard, and despite his fright manages somehow to retrieve the air tank with the small Moties in stasis. Working the wire from MacArthur to a Lenin transport ship, he sees the Moties have taken over a space suit. Horace creates a ruckus over the alien-filled space suit and throws his fake air tank at the suited Moties. The Marines see to it that the creatures are stopped.

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 30, Nightmare Analysis

The contrast in this chapter between Horace's addictive need to keep his two Moties in stasis and the incredible battle the military has just to get everyone off the ship before it is impossible is a remarkable juxtaposition. The Watchmakers have overrun the ship, altering an untold number of things in unfathomable ways. Still the Trader clings to his need to have and sell the creatures as pets. It's not until he encounters their deliberate slyness mimicking humans in a space suit that he's jerked out of his lifelong patterns. The traumatic way in which he finally gives up the canister by throwing it at the group of aliens in the space suit approaching him will prove to be significant. This violent and disturbing process becomes key in his character development.



Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 31, Defeat

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 31, Defeat Summary

It's a battle to the finish. Rod is determined to stay with the MacArthur until she is destroyed but the Admiral doesn't allow this. Rod is now the most valuable person in the system and may be the only Navy officer who has any chance of devising a way to protect the Navy from this type of infestation in the future. The two men finally reach an agreement. Potter, Whitbred, and Staley are sent back to MacArthur to set the self-destruct torpedoes for detonation. The men end up fighting their way through the ship and must take to lifeboat pods to escape the dying ship at the last minute. The pods are highly adapted by the Moties, who may not be trustworthy, but it's the only choice.

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 31, Defeat Analysis

The subplot surrounding MacArthur as a character comes to an end. This vessel as a character that anchors plot, personality, and home for many of the other characters cannot recover from the invasion. The ship and her controls are out of control. Starting in New Chicago and ending here at Mote Prime, the vessel has been fixed, adapted, and innovated into oblivion. The tiny Moties are nearly equivalent to a cancer, and MacArthur's body has become a traitor to itself and those it serves. Like any good Navy man, it's clear that Rod's affection for his ship is such that this is like losing a family member.



Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 32, Lenin

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 32, Lenin Summary

Rod is escorted to Lenin's bridge. The Captain sees Lenin's boats pull away from MacArthur and realizes the end is near. While everyone watches and waits, nothing happens. The weapons do not detonate.

Admiral Kutuzov fires on the other ship and the changes made to the Langston Field are discovered. The aliens contact the Lenin. The aliens report the three lifeboats attempted re-entry to the planet and were destroyed by the atmosphere. The two senior officers want to see a copy of the tape the aliens claim they have regarding this situation; both believe it's a lie. Once the field completely overloads, Lenin is able to destroy MacArthur. The remaining warship is headed home.

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 32, Lenin Analysis

The destruction of the MacArthur has a quality of inevitability to it. While the action does contribute something of a denouement for the plot, it's also the climax of only MacArthur's plot. Other characters and story elements still have much further to go. It's only much later in the story during another subplot line that the real significance of this situation is revealed, so there is some foreshadowing occurring during this event. By the time of MacArthur's demise, Rod and Admiral Kutuzov's characters are developed to such an extent that their reactions are expected.



Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 33, Planetfall

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 33, Planetfall Summary

The three midshipmen are in crazily altered lifeboats and crash on the planet in an open, farming area. From their different landing sites, each of the men sees a large building, and they agree to meet there. Whitbred gets very close to the building in his pod, Potter walks a bit, and Staley is much more distant. No one is able to make contact with Lenin. Potter gets to the building and figures out the combination lock. He and Whitbread enter the building.

Staley has been hiking towards the building for nearly three hours when he notices an airplane overhead. He waves at the plane which does land near him. Two Moties get out. One is Whitbred's Fyunch (click) and a new Mediator called Charlie. They are frantic to get him in the plane and leave. The Moties insist that the other two men must be retrieved. The humans are at risk just being on this part of the planet. The Moties become even more worried when they learn that the other middies are likely to have entered the building.

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 33, Planetfall Analysis

The story shifts to the subplot surrounding the three Midshipmen. The large building in the middle of nowhere clearly is significant and proves irresistible. In common human fashion, curiosity is the lever that gets the ball rolling regardless of the outcome.



Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 34, Trespassers

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 34, Trespassers Summary

The building is some kind of museum. It contains a variety of living structures of different construction and sophistication as well as weapons of all styles and technologies. Within this domed building is collected the entire range of social expression ever created by the Moties.

The plane of Fyunch (click)s and Staley lands near the entrance to the building. A Brown Motie rigs up some diversions outside the museum. The Moties finally reveal that the men are now under a death sentence. Having seen the museum, they know too much to be allowed to leave the planet or communicate with Lenin. Their only hope is get to a Master leading a faction that doesn't feel quite as strict about these limitations. The Moties have been close to war for a while, one that will likely lead to another complete collapse.

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 34, Trespassers Analysis

The Admiral and Chaplain were right: the dark side of the Moties begins to be revealed. There have been many wars on this planet, with most imaginable sources of power and type of technology. This situation also demonstrates how completely Fyunch (click) identify with their assigned individuals; they now make decisions and arguments like their specific human. This is such a deep identification that the aliens even make gestures or physical accommodations that match what the human subject would do. With the two components well established, the story is successfully launched on the track of this specific subplot.



Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 35, Run Rabbit Run

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 35, Run Rabbit Run Summary

Staley and the Moties find the men in the Museum. Whitbred and Porter are difficult to convince that the situation is very grave. The men are still at large due to Masters fighting over jurisdiction and the right to decide what happens to the humans. Whitbred's Fyunch (click) is going against her Master in this case. Charlie wants the men to get to her Master who might not kill them.

The humans collect weapons from displays and head to the subway beneath the museum to defend against the troops that will arrive. Horst waits for a subway car to arrive carrying an antique x-ray cannon. He covers the first car and second subway cars in crossed paths of x-ray destruction.

The group moves bodies out of the first car and collect weapons from the Warriors' bodies. The Brown with the group is able to inspect the weapons and disarm any traps for using them. One of the armaments is some sort of grenade launcher. The Moties program the car to head back the way it came. Horst learns how long the tunnel is and that further along it's only about ten meters from the surface.

The Moties explain about the Cycles in greater detail as they travel. The museums are set up so that once a re-evolving society has some math and science, they can access such a museum and short-cut to improved technology. The hope is that eventually Moties will develop to a level where they can change their own biology. The probe the humans found actually caused a war that ended a cycle. There is some evidence the collapse was triggered early by Mediators to reduce the extent of devastation. The servicemen are even more convinced that Lenin needs this information.

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 35, Run Rabbit Run Analysis

The political, biological, and historical incongruities of the Motie species have been laid bare. Human scientists could not imagine a species where failing to become pregnant causes one to die. It turns out that Mediators are mules, they cannot get pregnant and so will live about twenty-five years, or fifteen past maturity. And the concept of birth control as Sally described it for humans infuriates the Moties. Something similar has been tried. However, unless such a program is instigated on a planet-wide scale, other factions breed so quickly they easily have the numbers to overwhelm the group practicing population control. Therefore, the Moties have developed ways to evolve to



higher levels through each fall back into savagery. If any individual did mutate to live without reproducing, the mutation probably ended, as that would be a way to power and prestige in the species so the non-offspring status would be highly protected. The humans respond by becoming more committed to staying alive and getting in touch with Lenin. This motivates Horst towards more usual behavior, such as blasting through the subway tunnel. He has reached the point where respecting anything Motie is no longer necessary. Warning other humans of the real threat posed by the aliens is priority one.



Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 36, Judgment

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 36, Judgment Summary

The empty car continues on as a diversion and the group walks toward the nearest city. After much discussion and some very intense moments, the end result is that the men have no real choice: their best option is to meet the Charlie's Master, King Peter. He at least is not dead-set on killing them and might be persuaded to allow contact with Lenin.

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 36, Judgment Analysis

The choice before the men at this point initially seems very complicated. In the end, the subplot moves forward because the only real choice left to the humans is to stop now and die or continue on. The situation is a direct inversion of the theme surrounding data and context. The men now have vast amounts of new information about the alien species. When compared against the actual situation, the data becomes second priority. First priority is attempting to get to a person and location where the data might prove useful. The contrast created with the inversion of the theme is creative, clever, and successful in further developing the importance of the entire picture influencing the meaning of a fact.



Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 37, History Lesson

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 37, History Lesson Summary

The group walks to the nearest city, (Bird Whistle). Charlie commandeers a truck as her right as a Mediator. On the drive, Gavin points out that they are twice doomed thanks to too much information about Empire technology and now Motie history. Although it seems unlikely, they are also committed to getting a warning out to the Lenin if there is any way possible. The truck stops; the group moves to an airplane thanks to Charlie's agreement with the Master who owns the plane.

Motie history seems irresolvable. At the same time, the Midshipmen begin to see how futile their situation is on the planet. The benefit of their deaths is starkly highlighted. The course has changed; they are headed to Castle City. The City is a weapon free, Warrior free area by agreement between the various Masters. It is controlled by a neutral, sterile male keeper without any alliances that immediately relate to the problem. The men begin to hope that something has been left behind by Kevin that they can use to contact Lenin. Meanwhile, the war has started. The first stages are more demonstrations of power than outright destruction.

Part 3, Meet Crazy Eddie: Chapter 37, History Lesson Analysis

The outcome of this subplot is inevitable. Two very powerful species both want the men incapacitated. The only variable left is when and how the men will chose their own endings. They valiantly hold out until the last possible moment.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 38, Final Solution

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 38, Final Solution Summary

The Motie war for control over the humans has begun. The conflict begins with small shows of strength. The group of Moties and Midshipmen reach and try to defend the Castle. Outside, the two factions struggle over control of the Castle. The Navy men desperately use a helmet comm to call Lenin. Rod Blaine's voice answers, and the men get suspicious. Rod can't answer their cryptic question and they realize it's a Motie using his voice. Charlie realizes her Master has won; the men are doomed. When the troops enter the castle, Staley dies defending his post. When the troops ask the others to surrender, Whitbred makes his choice. He beheads Porter, whose faith forbids suicide, and then kills himself to protect the Empire's secrets.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 38, Final Solution Analysis

The anticipated outcome of Navy men left behind on the planet comes to a conclusion in this chapter. Although the men, the Moties, and the reader have been aware this is the likely outcome of this combined plot line, the chapter serves to illustrate the other end of the spectrum of the theme surrounding the importance of data, context, and meaning. In this case, meaningful understanding results in a choice with no other options. In order to be true to themselves, their species, and everything else the men believe in, the end of their lives is the only believable outcome.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 39 Departure

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 39 Departure Summary

Dr. Horvath blames the Admiral for loss and delay; he wants to return to the embassy ship and go back to learning about Moties. Lenin is returning to New Scotland. Horvath is finally allowed to communicate with the embassy ship that claims to have gifts to give the humans for their return. The Admiral is much against introducing anything else to his vessel. The precautions taken to avoid more miniatures on board are extensive. Added to that is the fact that he basically is ordered to not trust the aliens and gifts become problematic.

Inquiries are again made regarding the Midshipmen. The Moties continue to say they died during re-entry as their pods were consumed by the heat. The Admiral finally agrees to rendezvous and inspect the gifts. The conversation is nearly complete when another ship launches from Mote Prime towards the Lenin carrying Ambassadors to return to New Scotland. The Admiral likes this even less. Lenin is leaving. Communication is cut off.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 39 Departure Analysis

The conflict between world views continues. The lack of truthfulness between the Moties and the humans is shown in sharp contrast. No military person actually believes that all three pods were destroyed. On the other hand, even though Dr. Horvath himself sometimes employs less than honest means to accomplish objectives, he insists that the aliens are harmless and the Navy is overreacting.

Spread through the arguments is Rod's grief and loss; he wants to avoid anything to do with the Moties and is busy brooding. Kutuzov is trying to avoid this. Rod is unwilling to cooperate much and so a form of conflict, one facilitated by apathy, occurs between Rod and other characters in the story.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 40, Farewell

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 40, Farewell Summary

The ship remains at battle-ready status during a funeral service for the middies. Kevin heads to Rob's cabin to interrupt his doldrums. They talk about the lost Midshipmen and Kevin clarifies that their deaths are not his fault. Rod then blames himself for not checking the self-detonating torpedoes for Moties and rats. Kevin insists the Captain stop brooding and do something useful. He reminds the Captain of the orders given for the entire mission and that his opinion must be solicited for decisions until the Lenin returns to New Scotland.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 40, Farewell Analysis

Kevin Renner has been a wild card during the entire story. At times he serves as comic relief, other times as some sort of wild intuitive, and now as someone who can find a way to move Rod from cycling through grief by focusing him in another direction. In this chapter, Kevin seems specifically included to motivate Rod to change. His encouragement of Rod to strengthen the bridge to Sally will be important for the rest of the story.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 41, Gift Ship

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 41, Gift Ship Summary

Kutuzov definitely wants to take the gift ship home and is not excited about having it connected to his boat. Dr. Horvath is going to follow the printed orders for the mission and insist on a full war council before the Admiral makes and enacts his decision.

Individuals have gone over and inspected the marvelous gift ship. Horvath has blind faith in Motie trustworthiness. Bury, on the other hand, is convinced they are evil and must be exterminated. Kutuzov responds by tempting Bury with the riches that could be had by exploiting whatever technology is on the gift ship. Bury says he'd rather pay to see the race ended. Between weakness in the Empire, trade problems, revolts, and other factors, the Navy does not need aliens added to the complexity.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 41, Gift Ship Analysis

On board the gift ship, Horvath demonstrates shockingly little objectivity for a man of science while simultaneously refusing to entertain any theory from others that isn't completely proven by facts. The Chaplin continues to serve as a bridge character. His experience and broad background serve to highlight the kind of complexity humanity can achieve when wrestling with fact, faith, and unknowns. His ability to combine these things in his person allows an even greater contrast with the Moties who have evolved as primarily single-function specialists.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 42, A Broken Bag of Glass

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 42, A Broken Bag of Glass Summary

Kevin visits Sally, who is distracted and unable to work; he asks for her help with Rod. Before long, the two are discussing the situation with the gift ship and the ambassadors. Sally is certain the Admiral must be convinced to take the Ambassadors back to New Scotland.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 42, A Broken Bag of Glass Analysis

The simple fact of two people who are attracted to each helping the other person in different ways brings an intimate dimension to the philosophical and political discussions happening around the Moties, the gift ship, and the Ambassadors. The possibilities of intercourse and reproduction in the alien species have been very focused on scientific and sociological perspectives. While this chapter does begin to alter the relationship between Sally and Rod, it also demonstrates that there is also a more individual element to all relationships.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 43, Trader's Lament

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 43, Trader's Lament Summary

Horace is frustrated on board Lenin. His drive to control his environment is completely thwarted. Bury believes the Moties are the most dangerous thing humanity has ever encountered. Sometimes Horace expresses his horrible temper, but never in public.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 43, Trader's Lament Analysis

Bury has become very paranoid. While he may very well be right in his assessment, his uncontrolled ranting about the Moties serves to further separate him from the crew and other civilians. He began the journey plotting and looking for trading opportunities. In his own way, Horace Bury has devolved as a result of his contact with the Moties.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 44, Council of War

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 44, Council of War Summary

Scientists and officers assemble for the War Council. The orders for the council are read and the meeting begins. The discussion revolves around one key point: did the Viceroy specifically command that no aliens board Lenin or was that his advice and then left up to the Admiral's discretion? The Admiral injects a difficult note into the meeting: Jack Cargill was asked to do a study and projection of the potential Motie fleet based on their resources and population. The results are frightening. The terms of restriction for the Motie Ambassadors are agreed to and the meeting adjourned.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 44, Council of War Analysis

Despite Dr. Horvath's belief in his own ability to manipulate people and get things done, he is outclassed by Kutuzov's tactics. The most surprising input comes from Rod Blaine, which does impact the Admiral's opinion. David Hardy makes significant contributions to the discussion. It would be surprising if the men who are most successful at bridging between the various methods of thought were not key contributors to the council. By changing his mind, the Admiral creates opportunities to ferret out the secrets that are being withheld by the Moties. The Admiral leaves the meeting before Horvath can get the gift ship on the table for discussion. It's unlikely that this is an accident.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 45, Crazy Eddie Jump

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 45, Crazy Eddie Jump Summary

Something has launched from Mote Prime towards the jump point. The Sailing Master is certain it's a fuel ship for the ambassador's boat. Meanwhile, Doctors Horvath and Buckman are discussing the asteroids. The asteroids were put into place after they have been completely mined and adapted with orbital paths that will never collide. Both men are shocked; they wonder how old the Motie civilization really is and are amazed at this accomplishment.

Rod and Sally meet with the Admiral regarding the gift ship, and Rod suggests extensive precautions for anything brought aboard from the craft. He also says that whether the Moties are a great opportunity or threat, the more humans learn about their technology the better poised they are to take whatever action is needed. Kutuzov agrees and puts Rod completely in control of safely retrieving things from the gift ship and completing all precautions.

The Motie Ambassadors arrive and prove to be two female Mediators and an older male Master. One of the Mediators is Charlie, the other is named Jock and the Master is called Ivan. Hardy is introduced as their prime human liaison and they are escorted to their quarters for quarantine by Marine guards. Jock is complaining about their accommodations and the lack of Brown to make changes for them. Charlie is quite clear that they would not be trusted if a Brown had accompanied them. Jock is disappointed that the human Master (Kutuzov) wasn't present when they boarded. Jock wants to be Fyunch (click) to the Admiral but the Master commands otherwise.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 45, Crazy Eddie Jump Analysis

This chapter of the book can be considered to express the idea that everyone is "human". Kutuzov proves he can adapt to situations, Rod shows he's learned to be the tough guy, and perhaps most interesting, the aliens clearly demonstrate that a personality that's never left home before is usually a bad tourist and behaves in a very human manner. No one likes to be uncomfortable and inconvenienced. Dr. Horvath shows the least amount of change or adaptation compared to the other individuals in this chapter. There is also the ironic touch of three Midshipmen dying on Mote Prime and the choice to send three ambassadors.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 46, Personal and Urgent

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 46, Personal and Urgent Summary

Now out of the Motie system, the Lenin's ship watch can revert to normal for the first time since MacArthur's demise. The Lenin soon makes contact with a tanker waiting on the other side of the jump area. A message sloop is also waiting. Kutuzov dictates his report and then summons Rod, who is being sent on the fast message sloop back to New Scotland. Surprised to be processed for court-martial so quickly, the Admiral corrects him. Rod is given a message coded at the commander level which is decoded by Kutuzov's personal assistant.

Rod tells Sally that her Uncle wants to know when they are getting married. Rod proposes and they will both be leaving on the message sloop to perform as Commissioners on the Imperial Commission for Moties.

The Imperium believes that the Motie crisis is not over and needs careful attention. Rod and Sally are obvious choices for the commission. Their personal experience with the Moties and their political stature in the Empire are a perfect match for the assignment. Oddly, they are a perfect wedding match for nearly the same reasons. Both knew at some point a marriage that was helpful to the Empire would be required.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 46, Personal and Urgent Analysis

The story provides a number of points in this chapter from which to re-create the tension needed to move the plot through the rest of book. Motie limitations due to jump points are the opening wedge for what the human race will do in response to the seemingly superior alien race. While Rod seems to believe he deserves to be court-martialed for his ship, the truth is the Empire needs him. He is able to see a useful purpose for himself, his experiences, and even his nobility in the new assignment. Sally's position as a woman of merit in society comes back into focus after so much emphasis on anthropology.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 47, Homeward Bound

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 47, Homeward Bound Summary

The Admiral puts together a huge party to send off the couple. It's time for the young Commissioners to depart. Their gear is loaded and the couple leaves with promises to hold the wedding until Lenin arrives so the crew can be guests and David Hardy can perform the ceremony.

On board, the accommodations are small. The gravity under acceleration is such that no real work is possible. Soon Murcheson's Eye and the Mote are far in the distance behind the sloop.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 47, Homeward Bound Analysis

Although this chapter happens in the middle of a division the authors created in the book, it's an important turning point. First contact has been made and investigated to the extent possible at this time. Now, it's time to deal with the results of the investigation and figure out what comes next. The experiences and life on the Navy ships is at an end. The layering of plots and sections allows the reader to remain interested and have resting points similar to an interlude in a musical composition.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 48, Civilian

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 48, Civilian Summary

Rod and Sally are rushed to New Scotland where they are met by Sally's uncle, Ben Fowler, the powerful Senator. Uncle Ben hustles them off, Rod is pushed into a room, and The Court of Inquiry begins immediately. Rod is absolved of all wrong-doing, and immediately discharged from the service.

The men rush off to the Palace. Rod and Sally will each have a suite of rooms at the Palace, and there are already appointments to attend. Ben explains that the Emperor will not turn over everything Motie to rest of the government until they really know what they are doing. However, neither can he come to New Scotland to manage this issue. So, he's appointing the commission, over which Ben has near complete discretion, to handle the situation. He does, however, ask Rod that if the order is needed to be given to exterminate the Moties, could he do it? Rod wouldn't like it but if that was the only choice to protect the human race he knows he's capable of doing so.

The group finally has to decide how to handle the Moties. Ideas and challenges flow; the Senator finally suggests starting with pure politics: dazzle everyone with show and footwork. Give the press and everyone in the Empire who's watching plenty to see and keep anything of substance off the record.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 48, Civilian Analysis

Moties demonstrated their ability to swiftly change the physical world. In this chapter, the human ability to adapt individuals and their assignments to suit the needs of the government and even the species is demonstrated. Humans definitely exhibit a greater ability in flexible thinking. This is even confirmed by the aliens with their constant references to Crazy Eddy ideas that seem to be a specialty of humans. In a subtle manner this chapter presents a common theme in most science fiction work: the creativity of human thought is what separates them from other species, including any not yet met.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 49, Parades

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 49, Parades Summary

Lenin has arrived amid pomp and circumstance and the Moties finally identify Senator Fowler whom they designate as a Mediator.

Hardy and the Marines escort them to their quarters. The Moties wander around their quarters looking for bugs and cameras. They turn on the television and begin discussing the limitations they have on their mission. They are impacted by their shorter life spans as well as changes brought on by the hormone doses needed to keep Ivan sterile. The group also accepts that it's likely they will not be allowed home; they knew this before leaving Mote Prime.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 49, Parades Analysis

Humans who visited Mote Prime by and large viewed the Moties with curiosity and respect. It is interesting to notice that Motie Ambassadors seem to view humans and their rituals primarily with lack of interest, boredom, or even a bit of disdain. Ivan, in particular, perceives the elaborate reception for their arrival and later the parade as pointless activities. The Motie conversations parallel this attitude: they are here specifically with agendas and anything that doesn't further those objectives are of little interest. While this could be conjectured as an evolutionary bias thanks to their shorter lifespan, the varying extent of how the attitude is displayed by each alien implies it is more significant than a special tendency.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 50, The Art of Negotiation

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 50, The Art of Negotiation Summary

Sally is still perplexed by what gender transmutation means and the fact that the pilot was a Mediator not a Brown (Engineer). She still believes her Fyunch (click) could not have lied to her during their conversation about sexual activity.

Chaplin Hardy and Charlie are deep in conversation when the young Commissioners arrive. Each one in the group was chosen for experience and intelligence. The aliens have about ten years left to live, so they also feel pressure to make progress with the humans. When the Motie notices this information has distressed the humans, she suggests the meetings recess until tomorrow.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 50, The Art of Negotiation Analysis

In his own way, Ivan is becoming a little Crazy Eddy. Rather than focused on the belief that every problem must have a solution, the Master's focus seems a little more narrow every time the Moties discuss something. The two Mediators by their nature have a Crazy Eddy tendency, and that is also clear in how they behave. All of them are nervous that the humans are closing in on the truth. It appears they are right to worry.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 51, After the Ball is Over

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 51, After the Ball is Over Summary

The Commissioners and their staff are considering the short lifespan of the Moties. The men are able to postulate that population pressures could be severe if reproduction isn't controlled and decide control has been established. Fowler isn't convinced, though he is willing to be convinced. It's time to assemble everything available on Motie history.

In the Moties' quarters, Jock is ecstatic about the trade opportunities with the humans. Ivan suddenly realizes why MacArthur was destroyed and the source of human fear of the Moties. Given enough time, Watchmakers will destroy anything; they are a vital reason for every collapse the Motie world has experienced. The Moties are also learning to fear humans more thanks to the television: the story of Ivan the Butcher who sterilized an entire human planet to prevent a wider rebellion shows what humans are capable of.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 51, After the Ball is Over Analysis

Each piece of truth learned by the Moties and humans drives the energy closer to the final conclusion. Although a few options seem possible at this stage of the plot, the final selection remains to be seen. The Commissioners begin to see that extermination might be the only option and the Moties have learned that humans are capable of such an action. Moties have learned that MacArthur was destroyed due to one of their subspecies and so a mistake is what taught the aliens to fear the population of the Mote. The only action possible is to return to some sort of research or data collection between the two species. The existence of data and how to interpret it is once again demonstrated in the story.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 52, Options

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 52, Options Summary

A full meeting of the Commission is called, initially without the Moties present. The team is debating the extent and frequency of war on Mote Prime in conjunction with the birth rate of the aliens. Two scientists insist there have been a few extensive wars in ancient history of the planet. One war reduced the planet to little competition for space or survival with resulting rampant, simultaneous mutation. Another significant war using atomics seems to have created the mutations that splintered into the various subspecies. Combined with the rise of the White/Master class which then controlled breeding for their own purposes, a caste system evolved. Kevin suggests there had to be at least one more major war: Moties are so well adapted to free fall that something in their history allowed these adaptations to occur. Then Rod remembers Mars. Another war had to have occurred where asteroids were the primary weapon. Mote Prime is covered in caldera caused by asteroid impacts, hence the eerie resemblance to Mars.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 52, Options Analysis

The Moties' secret has been assembled. The truth is frightening for other races in the cosmos; Motie colonies across the galaxies have incredible potential for harm and disaster. Reasonable options will be put to the ambassadors and decisions made from that conversation. Perhaps the sheer size of the secret and the number of individuals who had to be flawless liars ensure the truth would be found out. Much of the tension in the plot unwinds. Data, meaning, and context finally converge to reveal the Motie cycles. The difficulties that remain are akin to falling motion rather than rising motion. Cleaning up after the discoveries must occur.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 53, The Dijin

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 53, The Dijin Summary

The Commission charges the aliens with lying about their wars and history. The aliens very successfully make a case for their choices. With their fast, pitched language, the aliens are able to communicate between themselves while still engaging the humans in debate. Reasons and logic move back and forth between those present.

Charlie had predicted the humans would offer to bring the Moties into the Empire with severe limitations. Her prediction allows them to make a beguiling and misleading counteroffer. Ivan's complete focus is on getting Moties out of their system.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 53, The Dijin Analysis

While the Commission has unraveled the truth regarding population pressure creating huge wars, they are still completely unaware of how successful the Moties are with communication. David Hardy, the linguist, occasionally gets small glimpses of how much is actually going on with Motie speech. It's still not possible for any human to follow all of the exchanges. In this case, Moties are successfully orchestrating the conversation and human response. At the break, only Hardy and Renner still seem to be disapproving of the Motie counteroffer.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 54, Out of the Bottle

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 54, Out of the Bottle Summary

Rod feels the weight of the impending decision and is concerned that he will lose Sally based on how he votes on the Motie counteroffer. It's clear something has to give; the external pressure on the Commission is getting out of control. Basically, Fowler agrees to go along with the proposal if a couple of things check out.

The Moties can tell this is the case when the small group returns. Charlie notices Renner is not in agreement and is focused on something yet to come. Jock agrees Renner is showing his poker face; however, she believes he has no power so Renner couldn't possibly have anything to contribute that will make any changes.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 54, Out of the Bottle Analysis

A variety of wild cards come into play during this chapter, each one related to a human's level of discomfort agreeing to the counteroffer. None of them tops the perpetual wild card in the story. Kevin obviously has something planned. The Moties have no idea what and little faith that it matters. Only Charlie is truly worried.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 55, Renner's Hole Card

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 55, Renner's Hole Card Summary

The Senator opens the detailed discussion of what the agreement entails and the negotiations commence. The main points about the Motie colonies are established and Renner wants to know what these colonies will be like, will they include all classes of Moties? Basically yes, as appropriate for the situation and status on the planet.

Renner is now fumbling with his pocket computer and shows something to the the entire group. First the computer displays the flash the Crazy Eddy Probe used to attack the MacArthur. Kevin explains and the Moties said they wondered what had happened to it but chose not to ask in case it was rude or upsetting. Kevin then runs the images that flashed on the light sail just prior to the probe firing on the MacArthur. He slows down the images and plays an image of each class of Motie: a Brown, a Doctor, a Runner, a Master, a Watchmaker . . . and then one the humans don't recognize. Kevin can even clarify the image that is unfamiliar. This type of Motie has been seen once before, at the art museum, and it was called a demon. The Sailing Master directs everyone's attention to the images once more: the creatures in the images are pregnant.

A defense for the image is quickly devised: a crazy cult that indulges in Motie sacrifice. When Jock insists they are myths, the scientist scoffs. Demons with weapons perfectly evolved to fight—this is not an accident or a myth. The possibilities are horrific based on Motie reproductive capabilities. This is the last straw for the Committee: war is the obvious means of population controlled on Mote Prime.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 55, Renner's Hole Card Analysis

Humans finally have enough recorded data to catch Moties in very dangerous lies and Kevin Renner has noticed. Experience, context and fact from the central theme merge at this moment to become power and motivation for choice. There is no joy in proving the Moties have been lying and the horrible extent to which the lies have been taken. However, in the interests of mankind, the Commission must make serious considerations. The Watchmakers could not be adequately exterminated to reclaim MacArthur; the fear is that the galaxy will end up with same problem. By this time each Motie is deep enough into their own psychosis so as to be unable to respond to the accusations and revelations in a helpful manner. Poorly coordinated as a team when they arrived, each Motie is now operating in nearly complete self-directed independence.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 56, Last Hope

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 56, Last Hope Summary

The Moties must be given an opportunity to surrender; Navy men and ships will die so those who won't surrender can draw first blood. Ivan is panicking; his race will be destroyed. Jock and Charlie continue to argue about the situation; Jock suddenly begins to change. To whatever extent Jock has acquired Fyunch (click) data on Admiral Kutuzov, the alien is shifting to that affinity. Using this technique, Jock figures out what must be done.

The Commission is going to order the extermination of the Moties. Politically, Fowler must set up the action so the Moties shoot first, allowing the extermination to happen as a result of that aggression. Fowler is committing ships and men to die to protect the future of the human race.

The Moties have called a meeting. Charlie tells the real story as her Master wanted to from the beginning, including the fate of the three midshipmen. Fowler reads the situation as the Moties not believing that he is willing to order a direct attack without opportunities for surrender or first blood to the Moties. The revelations mean he will give that order even at the cost of his career. Kutuzov is given leave to plan such an attack. Charlie interrupts and says she is not yet done speaking. There is another choice: Blockade.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 56, Last Hope Analysis

The Mediators who came as representatives are able to enact and serve their full purpose. By completely identifying with the correct, key Naval officer, they are able to devise another, less violent solution to the human fear of Motie over-population outside their home system. Until the humans are committed to whipping out the Motie race, the Mediators did not really have the need to completely fulfill the role they evolved specifically to serve. Mediators are basically evolved to go crazy: to completely absorb the reality of an enemy and so be able to devise a solution that's acceptable from the enemy's point of view, allowing a peaceful resolution to the problem.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 57, All the Skills of Treason

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 57, All the Skills of Treason Summary

The plans for the blockade and additional protections have been made. Sally is relieved that the Moties don't have to be exterminated.

Horace Bury is escorted to the palace by a large group of Marines. He expects to be sentenced for his part in the New Chicago rebellion. Then, he enters a small room that contains Rod and Senator Fowler. They play the tape of evidence against him. Playing a hand that Bury has played against others so many times, the Commission enlists him to help control the Traders Association as related to Motie issues. They also insist that he has resources in rebel and outer planets that can be used to move them into the support of the Empire.

Rod opens the door and Kevin Renner, in civilian clothes, enters the room. Kevin is quite happy to be back in his chosen form of civilian garb. Fowler and Renner go through the legal dance of keeping him as enlisted man. Kevin is to serve as Bury's personal merchant Captain.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 57, All the Skills of Treason Analysis

Rod is getting a quick and dirty education in back-office politics; the techniques are not all that different from how Ben handled Rod when he returned to New Scotland post haste. Fowler is leveraging the Motie situation to accomplish additional goals that are already trends. The Coal Sack is beginning to unify against the threat of the Moties; there's not been much trend in that direction before this time. In addition, Bury has already proven he has an extensive commercial espionage net with breadth and depth. This network is now taped for the Empire. With such simple expedients, two characters of the story are no longer loose ends. What they will do when the story ends is has been established.



Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 58, And Maybe the Horse will Sing

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 58, And Maybe the Horse will Sing Summary

A landing boat is waiting to take Kutuzov, Sinclair and Cargill to their new assignments on the Blockade. As they proceed back into the palace, Charlie relates the story of the condemned man who suggests he be given a year to teach the ruler's horse to sing. The man cites just a few things that could happen in a year, such as the ruler dying, the man himself dying, or perhaps the horse will begin to sing. To Charlie, it illustrates how completely alien humans really are.

Part 4, Crazy Eddie Answers: Chapter 58, And Maybe the Horse will Sing Analysis

More resolutions for individual characters happen in this chapter. All three military men have been important to Rod and Sally. While they go back out into some measure of danger, the reader can experience some relief that the men are going somewhere they want to be and to effect something they have experience with. Charlie, on the other hand, seems to be moving more into a new area as the story winds down. For the first time the Mediator appears to be experiencing the reality of a completely different species. Perhaps now that her role has been fulfilled she can look at her world differently; whatever the reason, the Motie doesn't make an effort to identify with any human and notices there are vast differences between them.



Epilogue

Epilogue Summary

Defiant, one of the ships wounded during the New Chicago rebellion, is on Blockade watch. Moties are coming through the jump point with new and innovative tricks.

The Mediators are comfortable prisoners at Blaine Manor. They work with the trivial things the Motie Institute comes up with and teach the Blaine children to read body language, both that of Moties and human. When thoughts become difficult, they remind each other that the Blockade buys time. Just like the man with the singing horse, perhaps time will bring along other, better solutions.

Epilogue Analysis

The Moties have learned more of what it means to be human: Crazy Eddies always believe there is an answer for every question. This is a very human attitude. Beyond such possibilities, all that remains is hope the purchased time will present other solutions.



Characters

Commander Roderick Blaine

Rod is one of the main characters in the story. He is the third son of the Marquis of Crucis and seeks his future in the Navy. He enters the military knowing he won't ever hold the family title as he has two older brothers. Rod enjoys the military and looks forward to developing his career. He is shocked when both brothers are killed and Rod becomes next in line for the Crucis title. His father, still alive, is a powerful man politically and the family is extremely wealthy. Rod grew up privileged and with anything he could want. As someone who's been raised around the machinations of high government, Rod is well schooled and prepared for the unavoidable political and social impacts of contacts with an alien culture.

Rod is desperate to prove himself as being more than just a child of the nobility. The loss of his brothers adds more charge to his desire to prove himself on his own merit in the Navy before being forced to return home. Throughout the story, Rod must utilize all attributes of his existence: his noble birthright, his intelligence, his instincts, and his communication skills. He begins the story as a relatively untried young officer. By the end of the story, Rod has gained experience, the depth that comes from adversity and the love of a woman who is his equal and a good match for his future. While his character does evolve, such changes are in directions that are expected and suitable to his original makeup. His greatest change is developing the ability to anticipate the difficult challenges and questions. As this skill develops, Rod is finally able to choose his actions and responses.

Fyunch (clicki)

A Fyunch (click) is a role fulfilled by a class or group of aliens. The aliens who fulfill this role come from the Mediator class. The class has been specifically bred and evolved to fulfill the role of consummate communicator. As part of this evolution, Fyunch (click) are all sterile—they are mules and cannot procreate. The class evolved to solve violent conflicts. They do this by identifying so completely with another individual, usually the enemy leader, that they can make up solutions that are acceptable to an aggressor while still having the power to stop the violence. This focus on finding problems is something all other classes of Moties find insane. Throughout the alien society, the belief that every problem has a solution is considered an insane principle. As the culture has been at least one hundred thousand years re-creating a growth/destruction cycle without any interruption, it's likely this has influenced the ability to believe solutions can actually occur. The focus, therefore, which supported the evolution of the Fyunch (click) is to lengthen the time it takes the Moties to over-populate into a war-driven collapse back into savagery.



Mediators, therefore, are evolved to go insane. The social slang for this process is becoming Crazy Eddie and means wanting a solution as opposed to a peaceful resolution. When a Mediator does become crazy, she is isolated and kept as comfortable as possible. Dealing with humans is a crazy thing for Moties: they either command or obey, not both. Attempting to think in ways that allows one person to give and act on orders is not really possible for the aliens. In normal circumstances Mediators broker a deal and then go on to the next negotiation. The individual Fyunch (click) so successfully identify with their human subjects that they become known by their human subject's name. Only humans of merit to the Moties are assigned such a counterpart. Engineers or tool-makers are not individuals of merit in Motie society.

First Lieutenant Jack Cargill

Jack Cargill is a junior officer on board MacArthur. He is an excellent officer and earns promotions throughout the story.

Engineer Jock (Sandy) Sinclair

Sandy Sinclair is a Navy man from New Scotland who can fix anything. Between Rod, Jack, and Sandy they form a very effective team on MacArthur. Sandy also earns promotions through the course of the book.

Admiral Richard George Plenkhanov

Plenkhanov is the Admiral in charge of the entire action to quell the rebellion on New Chicago. He requires an accounting of Rod's unusual choices and tactics. Then the man immediately turns around and promotes Blaine, gives him command of MacArthur and care of difficult individuals to transport.

Captain Bruno Cziller

Cziller is commanding officer of MacArthur at New Chicago. It is his choice on whether to shift command of his boat to Rod Blaine. He so chooses as Cziller is staying to govern the rebellious colony.

Horace Bury

Horace Bury is the son of a well-to-do merchant on the planet of Levant. Horace has left his home planet and begun creating an Empire-wide commercial empire for himself. His business model is that of a raider. He finds places where he can bring in his own planets and extensive automation on various planets at such a rate that he undercuts the local suppliers. Additional goods are shipped elsewhere in the Empire to make him more money. He demonstrates few morals and a willingness to employ any tactics to



get what he wants. A form of Muslim faith is common on Levant. Bury has this faith, but is very casual about his devotion. He prefers to believe more in his own capabilities. In addition, he has a very focused personality. Bury is fairly narcissistic, but his obsession with success regardless of the cost to anyone else is the crack on his surface that will evolve as the story continues.

Nabil

Nabil is servant to Horace Bury. In addition to being a valet and general manservant, Nabil is quite skilled in more criminal ability such as thievery and assassination.

Sally Fowler

Lady Sandra Bright Fowler is the niece of the powerful Senator Benjamin Fowler. He raised her after her parents passed away. She is fresh out of school having just finished her studies in anthropology and is stuck on New Chicago when the rebellion hits. She ends up trapped on the planet and in a prison camp. Sally has a strong drive to something other than follow the social norm of get married and having children for the Empire. This desire is part of what led her to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. This does, however, set her up for much more favorable options further down the road. Her character and personality are a mixture of a very protected young person and an educated but inexperienced professional who wants to make a difference. She is fairly naïve and this affects her participation in the story. Sally, as is true for all the other characters, evolves only to the least extent needed to move the story forward. In many ways the characterizations of the aliens have greater depth than those of Sally or the other humans in the story.

Adam

Adam is a family servant who cares for Sally Bright Fowler. He is an elderly person who supports Sally during her time as a prisoner of war during the New Chicago rebellion. He leaves MacArthur and the story before the ship heads to the Motie system.

Annie

Annie is an elderly servant for Sally Bright Fowler, niece to a Senator. She is with Sally during her imprisonment on New Chicago. Annie leaves the MacArthur during the Brigit refueling stop.



Kevin Renner

Kevin is a Master Sailor, or course plotter, who is hired aboard the MacArthur during the quick refueling stop on Brigit. His background is working on merchant vessels. He is exceptionally good at what he does and also a wiseacre.

Midshipman Gavin Potter

Gavin is a young man who is taken aboard the MacArthur during their refueling stop on Brigit. He is only sixteen years old and is from New Scotland. He proves to be an intelligent, well educated resource with valuable folklore information about the Mote in God's Eye. Potter, along with Staley and Whitbred, are part of one of the main subplots in the book.

Midshipman Horst Stanley

Horst has been a Midshipman for a few years. He is classic military hero individual: serious, incredible fit, and highly committed.

Midshipman Jonathan Whitbred

Jonathan is seventeen years old and has served on the MacArthur for a couple of years. He is a classic enlisted man: not too serious about what he's doing, highly capable, with a fairly warped perspective on military situations.

Romeo Frenzi

Romeo is a captain with a skill for administration and little skill for leading men. As a young Navy officer, Rod served under him for three months to their mutual dismay. Their unsuccessful relationship is revived on Brigit's supply depot.

Fleet Admiral Benji Howland Cranston

Cranston is Commander in Chief of the imperial forces stationed beyond the Coal Sack. He issues the orders to MacArthur to intercept the alien probe, believing Admiral Cziller to be in command of this vessel.

Duke Bonin

Duke Bonin is the Lord President of the ruling Council of New Scotland.



Sir Traffin Geary

Traffin is the Minister of External Affairs on the council of New Scotland. He is also, as anyone in this position must be, a member of the nobility.

Richard MacDonald Armstrong

Richard MacDonald Armstrong is the Coal Sack Sector Minister for War and a member of the nobility.

Dr. Anthony Horvath

Dr. Anthony Horvath is minister of science to New Scotland and not a member of the nobility. He is a professional administrator with years of experience getting what other scientists need so they can do their work. Horvath is also quite narcissistic, though well-intentioned. He will be the lead scientist on MacArthur for her scientific mission to the Motie system.

Viceroy Merrill

Viceroy Merrill is the ruler of New Scotland as appointed by the Emperor of the Third Empire of Man. He is a member of the nobility.

Admiral Lavrenti Kutuzov

Lavrenti Kutuzov is The Butcher of Istvan—he sterilized this planet of life to stop a system-wide rebellion. The Navy Admiral is of Russian descent and a bit fanatical about preserving ancient Russian customs.

Howard Grote Littlemead

Littlemead was the man who, after the Succession Wars and the brightening of Murcheson's Eye, was inspired to write the documents that founded the Church of Him on New Scotland. A few years later when the Eye when dark the faith of Himmists was shaken and Littlemead committed suicide.

Cardinal Randolph

Cardinal Randolph is the head of the Empire's faith in the New Caledonia system. He assigns Chaplin David Hardy to the mission to the Mote in God's Eye.



Chaplin David Hardy

David Hardy started his professional life as a linguist. When his wife died he had a crisis of faith, and in his searching entered the seminary to earn his ministerial credentials. While he loves serving the faith he is not well equipped to either teach or lead a parish. So, he comes to his next career and assignment: ministering to military men on Navy vessels. As a linguist and trained priest he is a perfect fit for the mission to the aliens.

Charlie

Charlie is a Motie Mediator who works for a Master that wants to tell humans the truth about the Motie situation and to keep the Midshipman who crash to Mote Prime on accident alive. Charlie does not become Fyunch (click). Later, Charlie shows up as one of the ambassadors to the Empire.

Benjamin Fowler

Fowler is Sally's uncle, a powerful senator, prime minister, and man who prefers comfort over appearance. He is very intelligent and often underestimated by his opponents.

Dr. Sigmund Horowitz

Horowitz is the university xenobiologist who has been studying the pod pilot while the mission to the Mote has been underway. Once the group and ambassadors return, he is the person who makes the connection between the rat-like Moties who evolved to live in destroyed cities to the unseen Warrior caste.

Jock

Jock is a Motie Mediator who goes back to New Scotland as an ambassador. She is extremely interested in Admiral Kutuzov.

Ivan

Ivan is a Motie Master who is sent to New Scotland with MacArthur as an ambassador. Although Ivan is a Master, he is not a Master to either Jock or Charlie, who are also sent with him. Ivan has been subjected to extensive hormone therapy to lock him into his male form. This will shorten his lifespan. If the Mediators were to die, Ivan would have no way to communicate with humans; that is outside his capability or skill set.



Objects/Places

MacArthur

Faster than light spaceship heavily damaged during controlling the rebellion on the planet New Chicago. The ship is Rod Blaine's first experience as commander of a vessel.

New Chicago

New Chicago is a near-Earth normal planet that has been colonized and recently rebelled against the Third (human) Empire. It is located in a group of systems known as the Coal Sack. The star that functions as the sun for the planet is a single, primary yellow star. New Chicago's gravity is .08 above normal for Earth while having a greater planetary density. Due to extreme seasonal variances resulting from tilt and rotation, the inhabited area is a narrow southern band of the planet which is only thirty percent land mass. The population produces their own foodstuffs on the planet. Mining and the processing of metal resources are the primary industry.

New Caledonia

This Coal Sack system is near a red super giant star known as Murcheson's Eye. The eye is named for a relative of a First Empire ruler. Jasper Murcheson convinced the council to terraform the system and establish an Imperial university in the system. Being near the star was his primary objective. The system includes the planets of New Ireland, New Scotland, and a tiny, uninhabitable Formar. Two other planets occupy the outer orbit in the system: Dagda and Mider. All planets and other orbiting bodies in the system are named for Celtic Mythological figures.

New Scotland

New Scotland, in the New Caledonia system, is also the Imperial Capital for the Trans-Coal Sack sector. This status is due to the inhabitants' loyalty through the Secession Wars. Like the colonists on New Ireland, New Scotland citizens speak a form of Gaelic and use a form of English that is heavily accented with their dialect. New Scotland was originally terraformed as Jasper Murcheson wasn't content with the climate on New Ireland. As a relative of an Emperor, he had the influence to get both planets adapted for habitation. New Scotland is a major spaceship refit base during the current story occurring during the Third Empire.



New Ireland

New Ireland is a terraformed planet in the New Caledonia system. When discovered, the planet did not have free oxygen, so the process to make it inhabitable was expensive and extensive. The planet was colonized by people who maintained their Gaelic heritage, and who, during the Secession Wars, sided with the rebellion.

Dagda

Dagda is a gas giant at the most outlying orbit in the system of New Caledonia. Mider is in the same orbit. Dagda has fuel stations on two moons: Angus and Brigit. Brigit is for the Navy's use and non-military ships must have permission to approach the installation let alone use the facilities on the moon.

Mider

Mider is a planetary ball of metal in the New Caledonia system. It lies within the same orbit as Dagda. Mider is problematic for cosmologic science: the usual theories to form such a planet do not match the evidence of its makeup and existence.

Fomor

Fomor is a small, fairly useless planet in the New Caledonia system. It has no atmosphere, no resources of interest, and no features that stand out. Fomor does have one oddity: a few varieties of fungi grow on this planet that are related to other fungus found on Coal Sack planets. As the entire New Caledonian group was found to have no native life forms, how common fungi reached this planet is a cause of great debate, one with no answer in sight.

Quentin's Patch

Quentin's Patch is a small community on New Scotland. It is the home of Midshipman Potter and has a Church of Him with an old holograph of the bright Murcheson's Eye.

Mote Prime

Mote Prime is the home world of the Moties found in the system known as The Mote in God's Eye. It has slightly lower gravity than Earth, a much different atmosphere, and an extensive history of development, over-population, and collapse repeated for millennia.



(Bird Whistle)

(Bird Whistle) is a city near a museum on Mote Prime. The humans think of the city as "Bird Whistle) as they cannot reproduce the Motie sound that is the name of the city. Three servicemen from MacArthur crash near the museum. They meet there and enter the building. (Bird Whistle) is the closest place to which they can flee when the time comes.



Themes

Data, Meaning and Interpretation

The resounding theme of the difference between information as isolated facts versus established within a meaningful context is highlighted repeatedly in the book. The relative value and meaning of data is expressed through situations large and small, individuals and groups. Humans and aliens alike find themselves misled by bits of data. Unable to be completely apart from one's culture and perspective, true objectivity is difficult to achieve. The results of this basic conflict in communication and conceptualization carry a variety of consequence while playing out in a variety of ways in the story.

Inherent Flaws

The concept of flaws making the individual is not a new idea. The authors do develop this principle to a highly refined statement in the book. With the Moties the flaws make the species as well as the class within the species. A Mediator flaw is literally the ability to think so much like another individual one basically goes crazy. For various human characters, inherent flaws are what place them in the positions they occupy for the story. Rod Blaine is intelligent and able to follow orders. Having grown up in the aristocracy but without the need to hold the family title, he approaches obedience with a different with a different perspective. This make him a bit of a loose cannon, though highly ethical and so a perfect choice for the mission to the aliens. Each of the characters, including Moties, have inherent flaws that contribute to their place and role in the story.

Central Government for Survival

The book presents the idea that a species spread across the stars needs a strong central government to have continuity and safety. This is done by enforcing participation in the government, central languages for trade and communication and by denying a planet access beyond it's own atmosphere (or system on a larger scale) until a stable planetary government exists. The point is even emphasized by the Empire's leading statesman mocking the idea of the Moties being allowed access beyond their system based on their current, unstable governmental style.

Alien is Incomprehensible

The plot and characters constantly reveal how impossible it is for an individual to understand how truly alien a species is. Moties and humans alike assign the other's actions meanings based on their own perspectives. Examples such as Sally being convinced her alien couldn't lie to her, Moties missing the impact of the Watchmakers on



MacArthur or the extent of human curiosity when played out around the cycle museums all demonstrate this point. The situations where either side of the situation completely misunderstands the other are repeated extensively. Even despite the Motie Ambassadors' developing the ability to be funny from the human perspective, the inability to understand something alien remains true until the end of the book as demonstrated by Charlie being baffled by the singing horse story.



Style

Point of View

The novel is written from a third person omniscient narrator's perspective. This means the authors have access to all thoughts, emotions, and histories of any element of the story. This perspective is used to give the reader greater access to information about the Moties than the human characters in the story. While the point of view does allow for any information on any character and situation to be part of the authors' awareness, the complete revelation is used judiciously to build tension, move the plot forward, and draw the reader into the story. By placing the reader in a position of knowing more than anyone actually in the story, the reader has an opportunity to develop opinions and perhaps even emotions about the characters and the outcome for each individual in the story.

Third person omniscient is known as the most challenging author perspective to use. This point of view, however, also offers the most options. It is also a good match for *The Mote in God's Eye* due to the high-level and complex issues that make up the story. By choosing this point of view that can be considered an advanced writing technique, the experienced authors successfully match technique with the type of story being told and the demanding amount of information to be imparted.

Setting

The story is set far in the future of humanity. The human race has colonized the stars and done so quite a while ago. The Empire that mostly rules human space is the third empire since man took to the stars. To date, the first empire possessed technological advances that the current Third Empire cannot yet match. In addition to technological challenges, the Empire is attempting to re-assimilate planets that either left the Empire during the Secession Wars or were literally blasted back to primitive cultures as a result of the same conflict. The Empire, the planets, and the people are still divided and hurt from the conflict. Into this background comes the discovery that aliens from another system exist and have the ability to travel through space.

An alien probe arrives in human space, is captured and sets the central action of the story in motion. Included in the setting is a pivotal element: the Navy battleship *MacArthur*. *MacArthur* serves multiple and complex purposes in the story. As a location where people live, action occurs, and humans also meet aliens, this vessel is an important part of the background against which the story occurs.

Language and Meaning

Language fills a unique place in the story. While language is used in the story to differentiate between characters, their ranks and their planets of origin, the fact that



aliens and humans need to learn to communicate with each other expands the use and meaning of language in the story. Formal language is used in two specific manners. First, it's used in situations related to government and the nobility. The structures of government and peers of the realm are well matched with more formal syntax. The other situation using very strict language and structures is when the Moties are speaking to each other. Their language is much more complex than what humans use and they are able to converse much faster. When the authors represent Motie conversations a more stilted, formal type of language is used. When Moties speak to humans, they speak in a more vernacular style. This holds true until the very end of the story when the Moties finally begin speaking to the humans from their fully evolved roles rather than dealing with humans as projects. This indicates the first time the aliens interact with the humans as equals.

The meaning of language in this book matches the other complexities. One layer of meaning derives from the fact that the science fiction genre generates new words and concepts. So some meanings require the reader to extrapolate the meaning of making connections with concepts they already know. The use of more archaic language to reflect the social structure of the Empire may also challenge some readers. The last layer that affects the meaning of the text and the book itself is the main theme regarding the difference between information, context, and comprehending the meaning of language.

Structure

This novel is comprised of a prologue, four sections divided into fifty-eight chapters, and an epilogue. The length of the chapters varies greatly. Each chapter is named for a key phrase or action that occurs during the division. The brief prologue quickly and effectively establishes the mysteries that remain between the stars and the possible risk of these unknowns. The chapters serve to pace the action and mix in description or scenic development. The epilogue both wraps up the story and shows the ongoing uncertainty of dealing with something completely new. Lodged within the four larger sections, divided by the main focus of the action with the aliens, are subplot divisions more aligned with the characters involved in the story. As a result, the organization of the book presents a variety of layers and connections that are structured to meet various needs in developing plot, character, and tension.



Quotes

"We think Bury was behind the rebellion, but there's not enough evidence to put in preventative detention. . . All right we'll send him to Sparta to make his appeal. . . But who do I send him with, Blaine? He's worth millions. More. How many men would turn down a whole planet for a bribe?" Chap. 1, p. 11

"Now he bought and sold men who laughed at him, as he bought votes in Parliament, bought ships, and had almost bought this planet of New Chicago." Chap. 2, p. 14

"Visibly, Whitbred wondered if the Captain had been reading his mind, then decided that it was the Captain's prerogative." Chap. 5, p. 40

"The creature was stretched out on a laboratory table. The scale beside it showed that it was small, 1.24 meters from top of head to what Rod at first thought were shoes and then decided were it's feet. There were no toes, although a ridge of what might have been horn covered the forward edges. The rest was a scrambled nightmare." Chap. 8, p. 68

"In place of the usual orderly activity brought on by acceleration warming, MacArthur's corridors were boiling with personnel. Some of the scientists were half in battle armor having confused the acceleration warming with battle stations. Others stood in critical passageway blocking traffic and unable to decide where to go. Petty officers screamed at them unable to curse the civilians and also unable to do anything else." Chap. 12, p. 94

"While Renner slept, Horvath and Sally woke the physical sciences staff. None of them got much sleep that night." Chap. 17, p. 140

"There are Moties who give orders and there are Moties who make and fix tools. We are neither: we communicate. We can identify with a giver of orders and it is no strain but an alien giver of orders? It was too much." Chap. 25, p. 242

"The Moties all had that problem: which pair of hands to use to imitate human gestures. Renner expected Jackson's Motie to go psychotic. Jackson was left-handed." Chap. 26, p. 258

"What else can we do? We can't fight a whole goddamn planet, and we're not going to build secure communications out of anything we'll find around here." Chap. 36, p. 359

"Does the Crazy Eddie Drive affect humans like that. . . Disorientation. Vertigo, Inability to concentrate. Muscles out of control. Death wish." Chap. 46, p. 433

"His Majesty knows Sally and I put the Empire first. We've been indoctrinated that way from the day we were born. We can't even pretend to scientific objectivity where Imperial interests are concerned." Chap. 47, p. 446



"'They conceal their vulnerabilities,' said Charlie. 'And they never admit defeat. Even in their final minutes the midshipmen refused to surrender.'" Chap. 51, p. 495

"If anyone could teach a horse to sing hymns, it would be a trained Mediator." Epilogue, p. 560



Topics for Discussion

Discuss the concept of alien. What does this word mean? In what ways were alien concepts demonstrated in the story between individuals of the same species or class? How can/could such disconnects be addressed?

Discuss the Aristocracy. The social structure of the human society that has successfully colonized many planets revolves around a dynasty and the structure of nobility that results in positions of wealth and power being inherited from generation to generation. In what ways does this system demonstrate it is successful? How is it not successful? Compare and contrast the human version of aristocracy with that of Motie feudalism. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each version of this social form?

Discuss Species imperatives. Humans and Moties fear that the existence of the other may threaten their species. What is an imperative that drives either species forward (there may be more than one)? How is this drive expressed? What is the likely effect on the other, even additional, species?

Compare and contrast how humans and Moties attempt to avoid armed conflicts. What forces seem inevitable for each species? What can they learn from each other?

Discuss the difference between data and meaning. What experiences have you had in your life where facts were misinterpreted or were not enough to convey what was happening? When communication is challenging for you, what techniques do you use to work through those challenges? How do those experiences and techniques match or differ from those used by the humans and Moties who had the most contact with each other? How do you feel when you experience communication breakdowns?

Compare and contrast the difference between command and respect. Blaine, Kutuzov, Horvath, and Fowler all demonstrate the ability to command men and resources. How does that differ from how each person gives or receives respect? What relationship, if any, does the professional arena within which one moves effect that difference? What is your own experience with the similarities and differences between command and respect?

Discuss the idea of central control for survival. What strengths and weaknesses do you see expressed in the story about a strong, multiple-solar system governmental system? Do you agree or disagree that such a planetary government is essential for a species to survive? Why or why not? How does having a few dominant governments on Earth help or hurt the species and opportunities for survival?