

The Naked Sun Study Guide

The Naked Sun by Isaac Asimov

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Contents

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| The Naked Sun Study Guide..... | 1 |
| Contents..... | 2 |
| Plot Summary..... | 3 |
| Chapter 1-3..... | 4 |
| Chapter 4-7..... | 7 |
| Chapter 8-11..... | 10 |
| Chapter 12-15..... | 12 |
| Chapter 16-18..... | 15 |
| Characters..... | 17 |
| Objects/Places..... | 20 |
| Themes..... | 22 |
| Style..... | 24 |
| Quotes..... | 26 |
| Topics for Discussion..... | 28 |



Plot Summary

The Naked Sun by Isaac Asimov is the story of an Earthman, Elijah Baley, who is called to a distant planet of Solaria. In Solaria, robots vastly outnumber humans and people go their whole lives without seeing another person, yet on this planet, a murder has been committed. Elijah soon finds that he is in the middle of a conspiracy that goes beyond one murder and will affect more than just one planet.

Elijah Baley, an Earthman detective, is asked for by name to investigate the death of Rikaine Delmarre on a distant planet. The planet, Solaria, contains only a few thousand people and has no crime and so no police. Some of those on Earth feel that the outer planets, such as Solaria, pose a threat to them. Elijah is also told it is important that he find out as much about Solaria while he is there. Elijah reluctantly takes the assignment and meets up with a partner that he had worked with once before, Daneel Olivaw. Daneel is a robot that convincingly passes for human.

Elijah and Daneel begin their investigation but have trouble getting straight answers from those who knew Rikaine Delmarre. On the planet of Solaria, it is considered foul to be within seeing distance of anyone else and the whole planet is fully dependent upon their robots. Before long, Elijah discovers that Rikaine Delmarre knew something was happening that would threaten human life, but Rikaine Delmarre didn't explain what that was. The robotics first law states that a robot can't knowingly hurt a human. Before long there is another attempted murder and then an attempt on Elijah's life.

Elijah begins to realize that the robots are somehow involved. Elijah is interviewing the wife of Rikaine Delmarre when suddenly Elijah has an attack and faints. Elijah would have fallen into a pond and drowned had Daneel not shown up. When Elijah awakens, he suddenly has a realization of who is involved and what is going on. Elijah calls a meeting with the people that knew Rikaine Delmarre. Over an elaborate set up, Elijah explains who orchestrated the murder of Rikaine Delmarre as well as an attempt on Elijah's life. The person is the head of robotics, Jothan Leebig. He admits to all the crimes before he takes poison, killing himself. Jothan Leebig had spent his time trying to get past the robots first law so that he could use them in war. Rikaine Delmarre found this out and Leebig had him killed.

Elijah finds that Earth's weakness is more of their own fear and suggests a way to begin fixing Earth's problems. The answer to this problem will take more than one day to fix.



Chapter 1-3

Chapter 1-3 Summary

The Naked Sun by Isaac Asimov is the story of an Earthman, Elijah Baley, who is called to a distant planet of Solaria. In Solaria, robots vastly outnumber humans and people go their whole lives without seeing another person, yet on this planet a murder has been committed. Elijah soon finds that he is in the middle of a conspiracy that goes beyond one murder and will affect more than just one planet.

Chapter one begins with Elijah Baley, a detective, traveling on a plane to Washington to receive his new orders. Elijah is nervous about the sense of urgency that was implied with his summons. Elijah sits on the plane thinking about how little there is between him and the outside world. The people of Earth have been encased in a steel dome for so many years that no Earth person has ever been outside. The thought of being this close to the outside world and open spaces causes Elijah to feel dizzy and sick. The dome on Earth creates a barrier between them and the outside areas of Earth where robots work on farms and in mines.

Elijah arrives to speak to Undersecretary Albert Minnim to receive his orders. Albert tells Elijah that the orders are for Elijah to go to one of the Outer Worlds to a planet called Solaria. There has been a murder on the planet and they have no police force due to there being no crime in the past. Elijah doesn't want to go and is confused as to why they would want an Earthman. People on the Outer Worlds believe Earthmen to be nasty humans that are covered in germs. Elijah tries to refuse the assignment, but Albert reminds him that Earth is in trouble in regards to the social status and tells Elijah that they need him to take note of everything on Solaria. No Earthman has ever been on Solaria before. There are fifty Outer Worlds and although their population is vastly smaller than that of Earth, they still hold a military power far greater. Elijah is put on a plane immediately without a chance to say goodbye to his wife, Jesse, or his son.

Elijah is put on the ship to take him to Solaria. Elijah is given no information other than there was a murder. Once on the ship, a robot comes to him and tells him that someone from the planet of Aurora will be joining him before long. Elijah refers to every robot as boy and hates the sight of a robot doing a man's job. Elijah had been partnered with a robot before, R. Daneel Olivaw, and feels differently about Daneel.

Chapter two begins with Elijah arriving at Solaria. The man from Aurora that comes to meet him is R. Daneel Olivaw. Elijah is very excited to see his old friend again but realizes that he was told a man was meeting him, not a robot. It doesn't take long for Elijah to realize that no one realizes that Daneel is a robot and the authorities on Aurora fully intend for him to pass as human. Daneel doesn't answer any questions in regard to why he is trying to pass for human, but arranges for a tube to go from the space ship to their travel car so that Elijah won't be required to be in the open since Earthmen have such a problem with it.



Once in the car, Daneel tells Elijah the planet's statistics. The thing that catches Elijah's attention is the fact that the vastly large planet consists of only twenty thousand people when it could hold a great deal more and still not be crowded. In addition to the people, there are two hundred million working robots. The thought of ten thousand robots to every human is disturbing to Elijah. The main importance to Solaria is the robots that they create.

Elijah asks for the car top to be pushed back. Daneel refuses explaining that he doesn't want anything to happen to Elijah. Into every robot there are the three Robotic Laws programmed. The First Law of Robotics focuses on explaining that a robot can't hurt a human or remain inactive when a human is going to be hurt. The second says that a robot must obey all orders given by humans except if it interferes with the first law. The last law says that a robot must protect itself unless doing so contradicts the first or second law. Elijah reaches over and is able to flip the intercom and ask the driver robot to let down the top before Daneel can reverse the process. Elijah looks at everything whizzing by the car and up at the sun and then everything goes dark.

Chapter three starts with Elijah waking looking at Daneel. The strain from suddenly being in the open had caused Elijah to faint. Daneel doesn't think it's a good idea for Elijah to go out in the open again but Elijah states that it is necessary for him to become accustomed to such things. They are in a large building and Daneel explains that the building was built just for Elijah's presence and will be torn down when he is gone. Daneel suddenly states that Hannis Gruer, the head of Solarian security, is waiting to speak to Elijah. Daneel is taken to the room where Hannis Gruer is sitting. Daneel refrains from shaking the man's hand since Solarians believe Earthmen to be disgusting. Gruer explains that the limited human populace and the widely scattered location of each human makes the crime on Solaria nonexistent. Since they have no experience with this they decided they needed someone that understood people and crime in order to find the killer. Gruer explains that there is only one person that could have possibly committed this crime but that this one person couldn't have done the crime. The victim is Rikaine Delmarre and he was the planet's fetologist. Gruer tells Elijah that the person that could explain what happened before the murder was the victim's wife, Gladia. When they are done speaking Elijah is shocked when the figure of Gruer and everything immediately around him vanishes. It had been a holographic transmission.

That night Elijah realizes that something very dangerous is going on. He feels trapped but knows that the reason that he is here and Daneel's secrecy about his robot form all point to much more than a simple murder.

Chapter 1-3 Analysis

Elijah loves his wife very much, and one of the things that bothers him the most when he is told that he has to go to Solaria is the fact that he has to leave his wife and his son behind. As the story continues, Elijah will dream about his wife and seem to miss her terribly. Despite how much Elijah seems to care for her, it will become clear that Elijah is



human and will feel attracted to the main suspect in the murder case. Elijah doesn't act on his feelings, but they are described and seemingly very pronounced.

At this point in the story the reason for Daneel posing as a human isn't clear. He has told Elijah that the reason is simply to make it seem out of convenience for Elijah. Elijah had more or less been told to spy on Solaria while he is there. Elijah will decide soon that Daneel may very well have the same orders, although this will never be substantiated. Elijah cares very much for Daneel. Daneel will seem to take Elijah's welfare very seriously, but he is a robot and that is what he is programmed to do. Despite this, Elijah obviously cares much more for Daneel than just a machine.

The relationship between Earth and the Outer Worlds has been explained to a great extent before Elijah left for Solaria. Later in the story, there will be more explained about Solaria. As the story continues, it appears that much of what Elijah had believed to be facts about the Outer Worlds may be very wrong. When Elijah returns to Earth, it will become clear that Elijah will have changed during his stay on Solaria.

In the next few chapters, it will become clear how little Elijah is wanted on Solaria. It will be shown in both reaction to Elijah himself and the views that everyone takes in regards to the murder victim. The people seem disturbed that there was a murder, but there seems to be very little emotion in regard to the fact that a human life was taken. The people of the planet will almost seem as if they view the murder as the loss of an important robot. The human relationship factors will be key to several different plots developing in the story. The meaning of fetologist will be explained later in the book as a person who makes sure that the children born on Solaria are healthy and genetically pure.



Chapter 4-7

Chapter 4-7 Summary

Chapter four opens with Elijah waking up. Elijah begins to ask more questions about the people of Solaria. Daneel explains that the holographic view used to visit with Gruer the day before is the only way that people see each other. Elijah is upset that he is expected not to see people in order to investigate the case. The viewer used with Gruer was state of the art but leaves Elijah feeling that there was a lot that is lacking in a non physical visitation. The Solarians call the use of the holographic communication "viewing" rather than "seeing", and consider the two things completely different.

Later that day, Elijah views Gladia, the wife of the victim. Gladia is very attractive and claims to know a little about Earth, but while on the viewer, Elijah is taken aback by the fact that Gladia is naked.

As the story continues in chapter five, Gladia covers herself and explains that it is viewing and not seeing, and so on Solaria it doesn't matter what you wear on the viewer since people can't touch or smell you. Elijah doesn't fully agree with her theories on seeing being different than viewing, but accepts her logic as a belief on Solaria. Gladia had been married to her husband for ten years. Gladia explains that they did "see" each other when they were scheduled to, but other than that they didn't have a great deal of contact. Gladia answers Elijah's questions and then she asks if it were possible for Elijah and Daneel to reach out and touch each other if they wanted to. Elijah is confused by this but admits that they are in the same room. Gladia then relates how she heard a scream and raced to where she found her husband bludgeoned to death. Gladia then explains that she fainted and the robots took care of her. Gladia is certain that her husband wouldn't have allowed anyone to see him and he hadn't seen anyone but Gladia since he was a boy. Elijah asks Gladia who it is that Gruer thinks had to have committed the murder. Gladia smiles a small smile and says it is her.

Chapter six begins with Daneel explaining that the only other human in the house with the victim had been Gladia, but they decided she couldn't have done it because she was immediately found by the robots and there was no weapon in the house. Elijah asks Gladia if she committed the murder and she answers with a simple no. Elijah thanks Gladia for her cooperation and they break contact on the viewer.

Once the viewer is off, Daneel tells Elijah that he believes Gladia let her nudity be shown in order to sway Elijah and effect his judgment. Elijah doesn't believe this, but Daneel is certain that Gladia is attempting to manipulate them. Gladia had told Elijah there was a robot in the room when her husband was killed, although the robot wasn't fully functioning. Elijah wants to take a look at the robot and see if any information can be gathered from it. After viewing a human killed, the violation of the first law severely damaged the positronic brain and all that the robot had recorded was the victim acknowledging his death.



After dinner, Gruer is summoned on the viewer again to discuss the robot and other facts about the murder. Gruer admits that every bit of evidence was cleaned by the house robots, the body cremated, no weapon found at the scene and no one ever visited the murder scene but rather used a viewer. Elijah becomes upset and demands to know why he was sent for if everyone has decided to sentence Gladia without further proof. Gruer sends Daneel to shut the shades, explaining that Elijah is obviously having an attack. With Daneel gone, Gruer explains that there is a conspiracy that the victim, Mr. Delmarre, had stumbled upon. While Delmarre hadn't told Gruer the specifics of it, he had said that it would be a danger to every human. Gruer says that they needed an Earthman because Solarians don't understand people. While talking, Gruer takes a drink of his water and suddenly falls to the floor.

In chapter seven, Elijah jumps up and screams for the house robots to help their master. The robots whisk the man away and send for the doctor. Elijah knows that Gruer was poisoned. Elijah tells the robots at Gruer's to search the grounds for any human and detain him. Elijah and Daneel quickly check on the location of Gladia Delmarre, but find that she is at home thousands of miles from Gruer. If she committed the poisoning, then she had an accomplice. Elijah is certain that on this planet there aren't two murderers acting alone. The doctor views Gruer but refuses to see him and is unsure if Gruer will live or not. Elijah wants to have things in the house tested to see who could have poisoned Gruer, but the robots have already begun their jobs of cleaning up the mess and all evidence is gone. There was no sign on the estate of anyone present at Gruer's home.

Chapter 4-7 Analysis

The fact that Gladia is so intrigued by the fact that Daneel and Elijah are in the same room together is the first indication to the reader of how seriously the Solarian's are about their space not being intruded upon. There will be two main facts that hinder Elijah's investigation while on Solaria. The first will be everyone's view of Earthmen. The common view of Earth people is that they are germ ridden and a lower human. This will be spoken out loud to Elijah and will become evident when speaking with people on Solaria. The second is the culture on Solaria. Often Elijah will say a simple word or phrase, such as children, love, affection, or face to face, that will create a reaction in the people he is speaking to. The vast differences in culture at times will appear to be enough to stop him from his investigation.

When Elijah is talking to Gladia, she seems to be uncomfortable talking about children. In the coming chapters, the place where Dr. Delmarre worked will be visited by Elijah. It will be here that the reader will get a better understanding of how Solaria conducts its population control and how children are viewed. It will also show how Solaria creates the isolation lifestyle that all Solarian's share.

Gladia will be a character that is seen quite a bit, but it will never be fully clear if she is trying to manipulate Elijah or not. It is possible that Elijah is letting his feelings cloud his own judgment. Daneel will be convinced of this. When Elijah goes back to Earth, Albert



Minnim will believe that Elijah's feelings may have well played a part in his decisions as well. Much of this will never fully be explained.

There are still characters that are vital to the story that haven't been introduced yet. The reader will meet the rest of the characters in the next few chapters. The poisoning of Gruer will be important and will be much of what convinces Elijah that Gladia is not as guilty as everyone believes her to be. Daneel will continue to believe that it is possible for her to have set up much of what has happened.



Chapter 8-11

Chapter 8-11 Summary

Chapter eight begins with Elijah and Gladia discussing who could have committed the poisoning of Gruer. Gladia agrees that it was the same person and if that is true then it couldn't be her because she had never been to the Gruer estate. Elijah corrects her that anyone on Solaria could have figured out a way to poison Gruer without being there. Gladia becomes angry and breaks communication.

Later, Elijah and Daneel contact the replacement for Gruer, Corwin Attlebish. Attlebish says that Gruer is still alive, but they don't know if he will live or not. Attlebish says that it is impossible that Gruer was poisoned and tells Elijah and Daneel that Solaria doesn't need them and to leave immediately. Elijah accuses Attlebish of being scared that whoever tried to kill Gruer will come after him as well. Attlebish listens to Daneel and Elijah speak and realizes he has little choice but to let them stay to avoid making the planet Aurora angry. Elijah explains that he will be seeing people, no longer viewing, and he demands papers from Attlebish to show that this is acceptable.

After communication is broken, Daneel admits to Elijah that the planet of Aurora has been worried for sometime about Solaria but says he is unable to speak freely about his concerns. Daneel then explains that he was given strict instructions to guard Elijah's life and refuses to let him leave the estate to see people. Even if Daneel has to hurt Elijah, he will not let him go.

In chapter nine, Elijah tells Daneel that he needs proof that Daneel is a robot and not a person pretending to be R. Daneel Olivaw. When Daneel opens his shirt and exposes his wiring, Elijah calls in several robots to witness Daneel. The robots do not have to obey another robot and Elijah tells them to hold Daneel in this room and not let him move no matter what. Elijah then tells them to be sure and tell no one of Daneel's true nature, robot or human. With Daneel under guard, Elijah leaves to go start his interviewing. Elijah's first stop is to see a Solarian sociologist and find out more about the Solarian culture. The sociologist, Anselmo Quemot agrees to see Elijah, but Anselmo has trouble facing Elijah and has to sit a distance away from him. Anselmo explains that Solarian's culture is very much like that of Earth itself.

In chapter ten, Anselmo explains that Solaria is different from the different Outer Worlds, even Aurora, and how they started their colonization. Only the rich and elite set up homes on Solaria with the thought that if you could go your whole life without running into another human because of the size of your estate, it only proved how high your status was. Anselmo suddenly runs out of the room and a viewer is turned on with Anselmo in a different room in the house. Anselmo explains that the thought of sitting and breathing the same air that had been in Elijah's lungs was too much to handle and he had to leave. Anselmo admits that Delmarre had been a good friend of his and they played chess often. Elijah also learns that Delmarre had an assistant at the fetal labs.



Chapter eleven has Elijah viewing Delmarre's assistant, a woman named Klorissa Cantoro. She agrees to see Elijah but is obviously disturbed by the thought. She demands that Elijah keep a good distance and not get too close.

When Elijah arrives, he is worn from being out in the open all day but is determined to face his fears and prove he isn't as fragile as Daneel had thought him to be. Elijah is told that Delmarre volunteered for his job as fetal engineer and that it had been his job to make sure the children that were taken to full term were healthy. The fetuses are brought to the farm a month after conception. Klorissa is shocked that anyone is investigating the death of Dr. Delmarre, stating that the wife, Gladia, had obviously committed the crime. Elijah tells Klorissa that he believes Klorissa herself is a suspect.

Chapter 8-11 Analysis

Klorissa is an example of what Solarian's believe and how the belief will hinder Elijah's investigation. The thought of human contact is so disturbing to the people on Solaria that the job of fetal engineer is one that no one wants. Despite this fact the long life, more than two hundred years, and the lack of health problems, make the job of fetal engineer important to their way of life. Dr. Delmarre had volunteered for the job because he truly believed it to be that important. Despite the fact that Klorissa also believes it to be vital and important to the way the Solarians live, she will seem to be more angry that she is left in charge of the fetal farm rather than mourning the death of Dr. Delmarre.

Elijah was able to trap Daneel in the house by exposing his true robot form to the house robots. Despite this fact there are loopholes in every command given to a robot and Daneel will be able to escape his wardens and leave the house. Elijah will say in the story several times that Robots are logical, but it will be clear that they lack an ability to think outside of the box. Daneel will come up with many theories in regard to the murder that may have happened. These theories are sound in many respects and will provide a way that the murderer could have been Mrs. Gladia Delmarre. Despite the logic that Daneel uses, Elijah will explain that Daneel is not capable of figuring out this puzzle. It will be clear later in the last chapters of the story that Elijah was correct.

Elijah is going out into the sunlight, the open spaces, and forcing himself to face fear that is so overwhelming that it causes him to nearly faint in the beginning of the story. Elijah is slowly growing used to the feeling and it will become evident that he almost seems to like it while it still causes him a slight discomfort. The fact that he has forced himself to adjust to these feelings will be key in his actions when he returns to Earth.



Chapter 12-15

Chapter 12-15 Summary

Chapter twelve begins with Klorissa laughing at the thought that she would kill Dr. Delmarre. She explains that the last thing she wanted was to be left in charge of the fetal farm and the children, all of them grotesque. Klorissa continues the tour of the fetal farm and explains that Dr. Delmarre had been working on robots that would be able to spank children, although that is in theory a direct violation of the first law. Klorissa also tells Elijah that the people of Solaria hate to be married. It is disgusting and unnatural and Dr. Delmarre had been working on a way to fertilize eggs so that the need for marriage would be done away with and no one would ever have to see each other again.

While they are visiting the children, Elijah is nearly shot by a child with an arrow. Upon examination, Elijah realizes the arrow is poisoned. The robot with the child told the child that a human was a lesser humanoid that was covered in germs and shouldn't be allowed on Solaria. The robot can't remember where he got the information or the poisoned arrow, which looks different from the others.

Chapter thirteen begins with Elijah viewing Gladia Delmarre to say he needs to come and see her. She sits shocked for a moment and then agrees. Before they break communication, Elijah asks Gladia if she knew Jothan Leebig, the man who Dr. Delmarre had been working with in the robotics area. Gladia admits that she does and that they are friends. Jothan had been so completely cut off that he had refused to marry. Dr. Delmarre had called him a bad Solarian, explaining that marriage was a nasty thing but had to be done for the good of Solaria. Gladia says that Leebig had gotten angry with her several months before the death of her husband and refused to talk to her any longer.

Next Elijah calls Jothan Leebig on the viewer. The call is accepted with some reluctance. Leebig tries to end the conversation, but Elijah just explains that he will come see Jothan in person if the call is ignored. Jothan agrees to talk and explains that in order to get a robot to discipline a child you would have to weaken the first law programed into the robots. Elijah then tells Jothan that he believes the first law of robots has been deliberately misquoted in order to hide the fact that robots can commit murder.

Chapter fourteen begins with Leebig yelling and saying things that like that causes distrust of robots and to distrust a robot is a human disease. Elijah explains that the robotic law doesn't explain that a robot can't knowingly cause harm to a human. If the robot doesn't know it is causing harm then there is the loophole and a way to use the robot. If a robot was told to empty a packet containing poison into someone's water but the robot was told the packet was harmless and then to forget that they had done so, the robot wouldn't know what they had done. Leebig becomes angry, stating that no Solarian would do such a thing. Elijah asks Leebig if Dr. Delmarre was going to end



their partnership and Leebig denies it. Leebig says they had been working on models with removable arms like the one present when Dr. Delmarre had been killed. Leebig had destroyed the robot since it was completely destroyed. When Elijah says that Gladia Delmarre had said otherwise, Leebig tells Elijah that Gladia and Dr. Delmarre fought constantly and told Leebig all about it.

In chapter fifteen, Elijah arrives at Gladia Delmarre's home. She allows him much closer to her than Klorissa had. They take a walk outside and sit down on a bench when Elijah asks Gladia about the fight she had had with her husband. She admits that she had wanted to be affectionate with her husband but he thought it wrong. Gladia explains that they were fighting and she was yelling and then she remembers nothing but standing over her husband's body on the floor. She can't remember killing him, and if she had killed him she believes she would have remembered such a thing. Elijah has been out in the open much that day and suddenly begins to feel dizzy hearing Gladia scream and then nothing.

Chapter 12-15 Analysis

Leebig has been introduced into the story. Despite the fact that he was introduced so late in the events, he is a crucial factor in what is taking place. It has been shown that Leebig is so conscious of human touch and adverse to it that he actually begins crying when Elijah tells him that he is coming to see Leebig in person. The fact that he is that frightened by the thought of human contact will be key in the events that take place later in the story.

Gladia has shown herself to be different than many of the Solarians. She doesn't want to be fully isolated. It has been explained that she did fight with her husband and much of what they fought over was the fact that Gladia was in love with her husband but he held firm to his believe that being in the same room with someone is a perversion to the way Solarians should live. Klorissa explained that it is what animals do and Leebig also commented on how grotesque it is.

Earth has viewed everyone in the Outer Worlds as superior to them. Elijah will comment on the fact that many of the people on Solaria don't fit the mold of what they believe Solarian's should look like. No human has ever been allowed on Solaria before, but it becomes apparent that the people on Solaria are really just people and are no better than humans despite the luxury in which they live or the long lives that they live. In the next set of chapters, Elijah will explain that all the things that the Earth people revere about the Solarian's are also the things that are the weakness of the Solarians.

Elijah heard nothing but Gladia scream when things went dark. In the next chapter, Daneel will be there and he will have put Gladia under house arrest. At that point in the story much will be explained. Elijah has figured out much of what has happened and now seems to know who has caused it. It will be Daneel and his responses to Elijah that cause Elijah to put the final puzzle piece in place. Daneel does a good job of fooling

those around him into thinking he is human, but his responses will be much harder to change.



Chapter 16-18

Chapter 16-18 Summary

Chapter sixteen begins with Elijah waking up to see Daneel. Daneel explains that they are still in Gladia Delmarre's home and that she has been put under house arrest. Daneel explains that when he arrived, Elijah was fainting. Behind him was a pond that Elijah would have drowned in and Gladia was making no motion to save him. Daneel is certain that Gladia was trying to kill Elijah but Elijah does not believe this. Daneel then explains that Dr. Thool, the one that came when Gladia fainted and her husband had been killed, is the biological father of Gladia, although Gladia doesn't know it. Daneel states that it is his belief that Dr. Thool moved the murder weapon to save his offspring. Elijah then asks for a hand and Daneel looks at him funny. Elijah has to rephrase the question and ask for help standing up. At that moment Elijah knows what happened to the weapon that killed Dr. Delmarre and who did it.

Chapter seventeen, Elijah has called a viewing conference in the home of Gladia Delmarre to reveal the killer and the motive. Elijah makes sure that Daneel knows what his job is and sends the robot on his way. Elijah begins the conference and stalls for a large portion of the meeting. Finally, Elijah explains that the reason for murder was a conspiracy that was preparing a war on the rest of the Outer Worlds and Earth for conquest. The group states that they believe this to be a ridiculous accusation, but Elijah continues to hold their attention. Finally, Elijah explains that the reason that no one could find a weapon is that no one thought a robot could be involved. The robot's arm was the weapon and Jothan Leebig was involved in killing Dr. Delmarre. Leebig had two reasons for killing Dr. Delmarre. The first was the fact that Leebig had fallen in love with Gladia and had been refused when he asked her to be his robotics assistant. The second was that Delmarre didn't want Leebig to use the robots to kill humans.

As chapter eighteen begins, Leebig denies all accusations, but Elijah explains that Leebig had found a way to make the positronic brain used in robots man a spacecraft. Upon explaining to the robot that there are no humans on an opposing ship or planet, the spacecraft could open fire without fear of hurting humans. The others in the room become outraged at Leebig's behavior and Attlebish places Leebig under house arrest and tells him not to touch any of his inventions or the documents pertaining to them until someone can make it to the house. Elijah reveals that he has already sent Daneel there to get the paper work and arrest Leebig. Leebig becomes frantic at the thought of a human in his house and admits to putting the robot in Dr. Delmarre's home as a weapon, poisoning Gruer, attempting to have Elijah shot with an arrow, and that he was in fact working on a robot to end the threat of humanities disease from Solaria and its perfect people. Daneel soon enters the room and Leebig becomes insane. Before Daneel can reach him, the man swallows a pill and commits suicide.

Gladia tells Daneel and Elijah goodbye and leaves Solaria for Aurora to start a new life. When Elijah arrives home, he reports on his findings to Undersecretary Albert Minnim



and explains the way Solaria lives and how stagnate and dehumanized they have become. Minnim asks who the killer of Dr. Delmarre was since it was obvious Leebig would rather have died than been in human presence. Elijah calmly states it was Gladia, but she has no memory of doing it and had been through enough. Elijah then gives his opinion about Earth and how they would be better at colonizations than many cultures and it would be a step towards correcting Earth's problems. Earth is much like Solaria in that they have isolated themselves. Solaria has isolated the individuals but Earth has isolated the planet from all others.

When Elijah heads home, he knows he has changed and will never feel that the city is his safe home. He knows the problem will take more than a day to fix, but can picture his son on a distant planet creating a new world.

Chapter 16-18 Analysis

The initial plot in the book, the murder that called Elijah to Solaria, is one of the plots that gets eventually takes a back seat to the larger problems that become evident. Elijah had wanted to get his job done and go home but he begins to take a different view of the situation and what is going on. Elijah finds out who the killer of Dr. Delmarre was, but that is the person that Elijah lets go. The reader isn't told what becomes of Daneel or if he returned to Aurora and told his superiors the truth. It is reasonable to think that if Elijah knew that Gladia was the real killer, then Daneel most likely was aware of it also. The threat of intergalactic warships manned by robots to kill off entire colonies of humans was a much larger problem than one single murder, and it is possible that Gladia is simply forgiven for her mistake.

Daneel had stated more than once in the book that he believed that Gladia was manipulating and trying to seduce Elijah to the effect that she would remain free of suspicion. This obviously did not work to the effect that Elijah knew that Gladia was in fact the person that had committed the murders. Despite his knowledge, he let her go free. Elijah justifies this because Gladia had been so manipulated by Leebig and because Elijah had used her for an experiment. Elijah had said in the front of the book that he was a detective first of all and that nothing Gladia could do would change that fact. It isn't explained why he let her go or if the reasons he gave his boss were correct.

Elijah's travel to Solaria obviously have a much larger impact than just a simple murder solved or even the halt of the creation of the robot warships. The fact that Elijah traveled to this distant planet changed his outlook on the Outer Worlds and the role that Earth plays. While the problems that Earth face are long term problems and will require time to change them, it appears to be clear that Elijah may be a first step in getting them changed.



Characters

Elijah Baley

Elijah Baley is a detective from Earth who is requested, by name, to investigate a murder on the distant planet of Solaria. The fact that Elijah is requested is extremely odd because Earth and Solaria, while not at war, have a very strained relationship, and it is widely known that Solaria feels vastly superior to Earthmen and believes them to be germ infested. Elijah will go to the planet reluctantly, and while he knows that it is his job, his first thoughts are simply on how he is going to get home. It will become clear that Elijah has principles and worries about more than just his own happiness when he is clearly presented with an opportunity to go home and chooses to stay. When Elijah chooses to stay, he does so with the belief that much more is at stake than the murder of one man.

Elijah will continually show himself to be both resourceful and determined as he looks into the affairs on Solaria. Elijah is complex in many ways as well. He has an open detest for robots, but his partner will be a robot. At one point, Elijah will feel what could be called love or affection for the robot when he is first reunited with the robot. It is possible that this was simply Elijah feeling relief at seeing someone he knew, but as the story continues, it will be shown that Elijah has a true concern for the robot despite his view of the creations.

Gladia Delmarre

Gladia Delmarre is a native to Solaria. The Solarian society believes that being in the same room with another person is disgusting, and so they have trained their children to have a natural fear and distaste for it. Gladia will prove that this nurturing doesn't overtake a person's nature in all cases. Gladia will desire to love her husband and have him love her. It will be her frustration over his lack of affection that causes her to murder him.

It is thought by R. Daneel Olivaw that Gladia is saying what she believes is necessary to keep Elijah Baley from looking at her as if she was a suspect for her husband's murder. Gladia will tell Elijah that she doesn't remember anything from her husband's death except finding the body. She will change her story to Elijah, but the fact that she denies committing the murder will remain the same. There will also be several incidents surrounding Gladia that will cause her to look more guilty, such as Elijah nearly falling into a pond to drown. Gladia will leave Solaria at the end of the story. The truth of her memories in regard to her husband's death will be unknown, but it appears that Elijah Baley believes she honestly does not remember, although he knows that she did in fact commit the murder.



R. Daneel Olivaw

A robot from the planet Aurora. Daneel is sent to the planet Solaria to protect Elijah Baley. Daneel passes for human to Robot and human alike with only Elijah knowing the truth. The R. in Daneel's name stands for Robot.

Dr. Altim Thool

The doctor that attends the death of Rikaine Delmarre. Dr. Thool will be looked at as possibly tampering with the murder scene. Gladia Delmarre will be revealed as his daughter, although no one on Solaria is supposed to know who their children are.

Rikaine Delmarre

Rikaine is murdered by his wife. Rikaine is a fetologist on the planet Solaria. Rikaine is described as a traditionalist and a good Solarian.

Hannis Gruer

Hannis Gruer is the head of Solarian security. Hannis is the one that requested that Elijah Baley come to investigate the murder. Hannis will be poisoned.

Anselmo Quemot

Anselmo Quemot is a sociologist on the planet Solaria. Anselmo believes that Solaria's society closely resembles that of the Spartans. Quemot tries to stay in the same room with Elijah but will be unable to.

Klorissa Cantoro

Klorissa Cantoro is the assistant of Dr. Rikaine Delmarre. Klorissa becomes fully in charge of the fetology department upon Rikaine's death. Klorissa agrees to see Elijah but forces him to keep at least twenty feet between them.

Jothan Leebig

Jothan Leebig is the leading robotics specialist on Solaria. Leebig orchestrated the death of Rikaine Delmarre, poisoned Hannis Gruer, and attempted to have Elijah killed in order to hide his robotic fleet he was creating. Leebig will kill himself in order to keep from being touched by human hands.



Albert Minnim

Undersecretary Albert Minnim is the person that Elijah Baley reports to on Earth. It is Albert that tells Elijah where he is going to investigate the murder. Minnim is worried that Earth is going to last less than a century.

Jessie Baley

Jessie is the wife of Elijah Baley. Jessie will have to stay behind on Earth while Elijah leaves for Solaria. Elijah will dream of Jessie while he is away and that she has lost weight.



Objects/Places

Solaria

Most of the story will take place on Solaria. Solaria is a planet distant to Earth, and although much of the planet is inhabitable and fertile, it contains only twenty thousand people. Solaria is a top exporter of robots and the planet ratio is ten thousand robots to every human.

First Law of Robotics

The first law of robotics is the law that all robots must abide by at all cost. If a robot sees this law broken it does damage to their positronic brain. The first law states: A robot may not injure a human being, or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.

Positronic Brain

The positronic brain in a robot controls its functions and acts as the control center. If a robot goes against one of the three laws that robots must abide, then the brain can become damaged.

Viewing

People on Solaria don't "see" each other because it is deemed unnecessary and filthy. Each person on Solaria communicates with the outside world by viewing people on a holographic screen.

Fetology

Fetology is the study of genes in undeveloped embryos. On Solaria, all embryos are gathered a month after conception and taken to a lab where the genes and blood are tested. Only the "healthy" children are taken to full development. No children are born on Solaria outside of this system in order to control population and quality of health.

Poisoned Arrow

While visiting the fetal farms where the children are developed, one of the adolescent children shoots an arrow at Elijah. Upon inspection it is found that the arrow was in fact poisoned.



Aurora

Aurora is the name of Solaria's neighboring planet. Aurora's population is much larger and they don't agree with all of Solaria's way of life. It is from this planet that R. Danell Olivaw comes.

Expressway

The Expressway is the travel system used in the cities on Earth. Elijah prefers to travel this way in the beginning of the story.

Second Law of Robotics

The second law of robotics states: A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.

Third Law of Robotics

The third law of robotics states: A robot must protect its own existence, as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Laws.

Themes

The Search for Answers

From the first chapter in the book the main character, Elijah Baley, will be faced with vague facts and half truths. It will be his job to search out the answers not only to the murder but also to the way that Solaria works. Despite the fact that the people of Solaria understand that he is from a different world and wasn't raised the same way that they were, they seem to be unable to help him in understanding their culture.

Elijah will have help during his quest, but often his help causes him just as many questions. His first form of help while on the planet will be in the form of R. Daneel Olivaw. The confusion from Daneel comes from his actions in regards to Elijah and the fact that no one on Solaria, human or robot, realize that Daneel is a robot himself. Daneel will admit at one point in the story that his job is to protect Elijah, but this doesn't fully answer all of Elijah's questions.

As the story continues, Elijah will be forced to take information from several different places and try to find a way to piece it all together. The information will help him solve the problems that he faces within himself as well as discover the plot behind the murder on Solaria. The final problem that Elijah is faced with is in regard to his own home planet. Elijah is trying to find a way to help Earth. Elijah does find a solution for this but knows that it will take years to fix the damage that has been done to his planet and his people.

Nature versus Nurture

Solaria is a planet that has distanced itself from everything else that is human. It becomes clear that the main goal of the fetology field is to train the children to be something other than what humans are at birth. Humans are said to need affection and love and these things are seen to be natural in life in both humans and animals. On the planet of Solaria, they take the children and refuse to give them these basic needs and condition them to believe that touching other people, except to create a child, is wrong. One of the characters in the book will even make a comment that affection and love are foul words and will ask that they not be used. People seem to be ashamed to talk about the fact that they may have children, and it is considered to be private.

When the main character in the story asks about the fact that the child's basis instincts are being removed or suppressed, the argument is put into place that people train themselves against many different actions, responses, and thoughts. Some of the children take to the conditioning early, but it is clearly seen that some of the conditioning never fully takes. Jothan Leebig and Gladia Delmarre are two characters who show different sides of the spectrum. Gladia Delmarre was unable to fully let go of her desire to be affectionate and it eventually drove her to kill her husband. Jothan Leebig was so

against having another human within touching distance that he was willing to kill himself to avoid it.

The Need for Self-Reliance

The people of Solaria will be shown to have one fatal flaw. This flaw becomes obvious when it is shown to the reader that the people of the planet have become overwhelmingly cared for by their robots. The robots wash their masters, feed them, and provide every aspect of life. The robots are so complete in their training that the people on Solaria become hermits of a type, which over time creates their massive fear of being in the same room with another person. The Solarians are educated, but they only educate themselves and don't collaborate or take instruction from any other source.

Their dependency on the robots will cause them to be unable to take care of the murder that happens in their own community. Although they are a small planet and have a small human population, it will take an outsider to understand them. After a time, it becomes clear that they are specialized in their own areas but have no way of knowing any information past their small understanding because of their fear of doing anything that is deemed "unusual". When the main character, Elijah Baley, returns to Earth, he will explain that the things that they thought were Solaria's strengths, long life, low population and their robots, are actually their weaknesses as well.



Style

Style

Point of View

The story is written in the third person with the point of view coming from Elijah Baley as the main character. The view is limited shown by the fact that Baley often has to guess at what people are thinking depending upon things that he sees or hears. The point of view will show the feelings and inner thoughts of the main character. Since the reader will have only these to go on, the reader's opinion may change as the main character's opinion changes.

The story will contain dialogue, but much of the story that gives the reader background and knowledge of the way that the Earth the surrounding planets interact will come from exposition. While the story is told from the point of view of the main character, Elijah Baley, it becomes clear in the story that there are other characters that the reader will need to know feelings and thoughts of. The author will use large portions of dialogue to convey these points.

Setting

The setting in the story is fictional taking place in the distant future. The Earth is a place where part of the story takes place but it is so different and changed from the real world that it requires explanation for the reader to understand what the setting looks like. The vast majority of the story will take place on the planet of Solaria several light years from earth. The planet has a harsh sun that can cause damage to human eyes if it is stared at directly. Much of the planet of Solaria will appear to have a likeness to that of "real" Earth, but the main character in the story, a man from Earth, will find it very odd and frightening. This will give the reader an idea of how much the planet has changed in the course of the planet's history.

There will be other places described that the reader will not see, but most of the story will remain on Solaria. The main character will also take a trip in a ship across the vast distance between Earth and Solaria. The reader will be allowed to have an explanation as to what the jump through hyper space felt like as well as how unnerving it is for the Earthman who is forced to make these trips. The setting will also include a description of the relations between the planets. Earth has a strained relationship with most of the planets and apparently chooses to live in fear of the others. When the main character arrives at Solaria, he is referred to as dirty and germ infested as well as inferior. The setting creates a clear picture in the reader's mind and is entertaining.



Language and Meaning

The language in the book from the majority of the people involved is informal and very relaxed. The exception to this will be a few characters who are well educated and the robots. The well educated people will speak a little more formally but the robots will be the large difference. The robots will be unable to take into account sarcasm and metaphors. When the main character asks a robot to "give me a hand" the robot is confused and doesn't understand. The character has to reword his phrase and say simply "help me up".

There are other moments in the book where there are phrases or words that will be explored more deeply that will help the main character, Elijah Baley, solve the murder and the mystery taking place on Solaria. The majority of the focus will be placed on the First Law of Robotics. The character will explain that the first law is actually misquoted on purpose so that people won't realize that robots are completely capable of murder.

The author will use words and meanings that the reader may not recognize when first reading the book, such as fetology, but these words and phrases will be explained. The majority of the phrases and words that have been created for this fictional world are created from root words that make the meaning easier to understand.

Structure

The story consists of 269 pages and divided into eighteen chapters. Each chapter has a title that gives a brief insight into what the chapter will focus on. In addition to this, there is a brief introduction at the front of the book explaining where the author got some of the inspiration for the books that he wrote.

The story contains laps in time or change in location. These changes are noted most often by a double space in the paragraphs. The main plot in the story begins as an investigation into a murder but soon will take on several sub plots, including the welfare of Earth in regard to the Solarian people and how the Solarian culture works. While many of these questions are looked at and answered in the story, there is one that remains partially open. When the main character returns to Earth, he will explain that Earth is in danger from itself and proposes an answer to Earth's problems and potential demise. Much of this almost seems to be ignored, but the main character will explain that it will take more than a day to fix a problem like that. The story will end with at least this one Earthman being set on the notion of changing what is wrong with the Earth society.



Quotes

"And Earth's City civilization completed the task, imprisoning Earthmen within the Cities by a wall of fear of open spaces that barred them from the robot-run farming and mining areas of their own planet; from even that."

Chap. 1, p. 4

"The fifty Outer Worlds, with a far smaller population, in combination, than that of Earth alone, nevertheless maintained a military potential perhaps a hundred times greater."

Chap. 1, p. 8

"He was trapped by Earth' danger, trapped in an environment he could scarcely endure, trapped by a responsibility he could not shirk. And, to add to all this, he was trapped somehow in the midst of a Spacer conflict the nature of which he did not understand."

Chap. 3, p. 49

"He must have gotten close to completion, too, or they wouldn't have dared the risk of having him openly slaughtered by violence. One thing Delmarre told me, though. The whole human race is in danger."

Chap. 6, p. 88

"Now here on Solaria, for the first time, the apex of the pyramid stands alone. In the place of the dispossessed are the robots. We have the first new society, the first really new one, the first great social invention since the farmers of Sumeria and Egypt invented cities."

Chap. 10, p. 142

"It's enough to keep the population steady, counting on a life expectancy of three hundred years and a population of twenty thousand."

Chap. 11, p. 158

"'What is an Earthman?' 'An inferior sort of human that out not to be allowed on Solaria because he breeds disease, master.'"

Chap. 13, p. 175

"Because anything, however small, that encourages distrust of robots is harmful. Distrusting robots is a human disease!"

Chap. 14, p. 191

"'Did you kill him?' 'I don't remember it, Elijah, and I would remember it if I did wouldn't I?'"

Chap. 15, p. 219

"I know what happened to the weapon; I know who is responsible. All at once, everything falls into place."

Chap. 16, p. 234



"Isn't it obvious, then, that, in having eliminated the impossible, what remains, however improbable, is the truth. The robot at the scene of the crime was the murder weapon, a murder weapon none of you could recognize by force of your training."

Chap. 17, p. 244

"I arranged Gruer's poisoning. I arranged the arrow meant for you. I even planned the spaceships as you said."

Chap. 18, p. 254

"Solaria cannot possibly correct its stagnation. It has passed a critical point and their dependence on robots has gone too far."

Chap. 18, p. 261

"He had told Minnim the Cities were wombs, and so they were. And what was the first thing a man must do before he can be a man? He must be born."

Chap. 18, p. 268



Topics for Discussion

Look at the relationship between Elijah and Daneel. Why is that Elijah treats Daneel in a friendly manner and all other robots in a more hostile manner? Does Daneel's physical appearance play a role?

Daneel told Elijah more than once in the story that he felt that Gladia Delmarre was trying to dissuade him from looking at her as if she was a suspect. In what ways did Gladia show she was innocent? In what ways did she appear guilty? Could Elijah have been wrong about Gladia?

Elijah said he would not let his feelings interfere in the murder investigation. Are a human's feelings completely improper in such situations at all times? How would the investigation gone differently if Daneel had conducted the interview alone?

Jothan Leebig was a true Solarian in many respects. Did anything in Jothan Leebig's actions contradict the Solarian beliefs or way of life? Explain.

Jothan Leebig refused to "see" anyone, even to the point of committing suicide, and yet he cared for Gladia. Gladia was excited about "seeing" people and eventually left her planet. What does this say about the conditioning that takes place on the fetal farms? Explain.

Albert Minnim tried to silence Elijah Baley from explaining about Earth's own need for change at the end of the book. Why would he not want to hear Elijah's point of view on the matter? What does it say about Elijah that he was unable to feel accepted back into the city when he returned?

Klorissa Cantono said that everyone is conditioned and that it is natural for people to try and advance themselves. In what way is the process taking place on Solaria progress? In what ways are they taking steps backwards? Does this mirror real life? Explain.

If Elijah knew that Gladia was in fact the killer, is it possible that Daneel did not know? If Daneel did know, why would he allow Gladia to go free and then help her move to Aurora?

Gladia Delmarre was called a murderer by everyone on Solaria. Is it more likely that she forgot that she had killed her husband, or that she was trying to convince Elijah that she did not kill her husband? Did she mean for Elijah to drown in her pond? Explain your answers.