

# **Red Prophet Study Guide**

## **Red Prophet by Orson Scott Card**

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# Plot Summary

Red Prophet by Orson Scott Card is the second in the Alvin Maker series and is a dramatic look at what early America could have been. This work of fiction involves characters pulled from reality that include Ta-Kumsaw (Tecumseh) and his brother Tenskwa-Tawa (Tenskwatawa); taken from the time of Napoleon Bonaparte shortly after his victory against the Spanish Army. Alvin Junior is the seventh son of a seventh son, and as such has been born with unusual gifts. Alvin is a Maker. In this volume of the series, Alvin's gifts are becoming noticeable to a degree that his father, Alvin Miller, believes it is in his best interest to indenture him to learn a trade. However, before he can reach his destination, he and his brother are taken hostage by a renegade group of Reds who were hired to incite upheaval between the white and red populations by self proclaimed Governor William Harrison.

Harrison see the Red population as a race not much above that of common house pets and treats them as such. He keeps them well liquored, insisting that the best Red is a drunken Red. Carthage City, where Harrison has his garrison of soldiers is a supply center for whiskey and Harrison lives well from the proceeds. When Armor-Of-God Weaver who runs the nearest town called Vigor Church advocates peaceful relations with the Reds, he sets up the conditions that lead to Alvin's kidnapping. Lolla-Wossiky is destined to become Tenskwa-Tawa, The Prophet. When Governor Harrison shot and killed his father in front of him, he lost touch with himself and the land until Alvin heals him. He has a vision, showing him that he will gather the Reds together and he does so, forming Prophetstown across the river from Vigor Church, and drawing Reds away from liquor and back to the land and families they love.

The kidnapping of Alvin and his brother Measure sets in motion the very war that General Harrison hoped for, but under circumstances he could not have predicted. Tenskwa-Tawa sees the kidnapping and sends his brother, Ta-Kumsaw, to rescue the brothers, knowing that their lives are intertwined. When Ta-Kumsaw brings them to Tenskwa-Tawa, Alvin learns that his fate is to keep Ta-Kumsaw alive. His special gifts, which allow him to heal and to hear the land the way a Red man does, are necessary when Ta-Kumsaw and his brother part company. This happens shortly after the massacre at Tippy-Canoe that is incited by Harrison as a direct result of the kidnapping he orchestrated.

The Reds never fight back. Standing together as a group with their families, they submit to the future the Prophet has assured them is necessary. When Measure suddenly shows up, alive and spreading the truth about Harrison, the killing ends. Tenskwa-Tawa puts a curse on those involved, including a special curse for Harrison. With characters that are unusual, including Taleswapper (who travels collecting stories of importance); Hooch Palmer who is a "spark" and supplies the Reds and Harrison with whiskey; Becca - Ta-Kumsaw's wife who lives her life at a loom that weaves the lives of many into her cloth that is hundreds of years long; Gilbert, the Marquis de Lafayette with his amulet of protection against the influences of Napoleon and more, their story is overlapping and filled with intermingled plot lines. It is a version of American history that

never was but could have been. Red Prophet is an unusual tale told about dangerous and complicated times.



# Chapters 1: Hooch

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Hooch Palmer's flatboat is one of the few that remain unmolested as it makes its way down the Hio River to Carthage City with its full load of spirits. The main reason for that is the one barrel that contains gunpowder. Two towns on the Wobbish hope to be the capital city - Carthage City, run by Governor Bill Harrison, and Vigor Church run by Armor-of-God Weaver. Hooch doesn't care which one wins, as long as he continues to profit.

Lolla-Wossiky seems pickled, despite the recent lack of "likker" in Carthage City. Andrew Jackson arrives and recognizes Hootch, claiming he owes him money and is agitated that there are so many Reds in town. Harrison invites Lolla and his brother Ta-Kumsaw into his office to prove how civilized Reds can be. Ta-Kumsaw tells Harrison Hooch is violating the treaty by selling whisky to the natives. Harrison assures him that he will uphold the law and the treaty, but Ta-Kumsaw is unimpressed. Ta-Kumsaw warns him about possible consequences.

Jackson storms out and Harrison admits to Hooch that he doesn't much like him, but when war with the Reds comes, they'll be on the same side, and he believes even Armor-Of-God Weaver will join them.

Harrison gets agitated with Hooch, and has him arrested for the unpaid debts, and to investigate the charges that he is selling his whisky to the Reds. He leaves Hooch in jail for two days, and while Hooch is tempted to set fire to his house in anger, he realizes that he can't control where the fire will spread to. His shipment is seized to pay his debts and two days later he is in front of the judge - Harrison. The testimony given proves that Hooch sells all of his whisky to the fort, and he is cleared of that charge. Two hundred and twenty dollars is taken off the top and given to Jackson right there in court. Then he lets Hooch go but Jackson doesn't know that the subtler who the whisky is sold to is



actually Hooch himself, and after Jackson leaves, he'll happily sell the greater portion of the shipment to the Reds and he and Harrison will split the profits.

Still, the money that Jackson took irks him, so as he gets ready to leave, Hooch slowly heats up the straps of the pouch holding the coins, knowing the pouch would fall to the ground unnoticed. Not happy with merely getting his money back, he also heats up the saddles, so that by the time Jackson gets any distance from Carthage City, he'll be riding bareback. Then the Spark feels better.

## Chapters 1: Hooch Analysis

Hooch has a gift that extends beyond the ability to safely supply "likker" down the Hio River. Hooch is a spark, able to start fires simply by concentrating on the thought of making one. It's not something he is likely to brag about though, or soon he'd be blamed for every fire that started whether he was responsible or not. Hooch is sensible, but oddly enough, afraid of fire. He delivers the whisky to the fort and meets with Harrison, who has recently acquired a new wife from New Amsterdam, whom he is quite sensitive about. Hooch needles Harrison a little, making him flush.

Andrew Jackson arrives, and after hearing Harrison's opinions of the Reds and how to handle them by simply supplying them with whisky until they aren't a problem, he claims he'll need three baths just to get clean of Harrison and his bunch when he gets home. Ta-Kumsaw accuses Hooch of selling whisky to the Reds and threatens them that they'll be sorry if they don't abide by the treaty. He is disgusted by his brother's drunken behavior but still insists that Lolla is not as tame as Harrison thinks he is.

Jackson gets the money Hooch owes him by insisting Harrison arrest him now that he has him in custody, and as such, qualify for the reward offered. Harrison likes that deal, and does so, collecting Jackson's money for him in court two days later and subtly getting back at Hooch for needling him about his wife at the same time. Jackson thinks he's getting justice, but though the charges are dropped against Hooch for selling whisky to Reds, Hooch is actually the one who runs the alcohol store in the fort, and he'll be splitting profits with Harrison just as soon as Jackson leaves.

Hooch isn't impressed by the treatment Harrison gave him, but he files it away, knowing that he'll have an opportunity to get even. He uses his knack as a spark to retrieve his money and to make Jackson uncomfortable on the way home as well as the brief discomfort he caused him in Harrison's office. Hooch believes that Ta-Kumsaw has a knack as well, and warns Harrison about him, but Harrison is confident to the point of careless that he has control over Ta-Kumsaw through his brother Lolla-Wossiky, and figures that as long as Lolla wants his whisky, everything will be just fine.



## **Chapter 2: Ta-Kumsaw and Chapter 3: De Maurepas**

### **Chapter 2: Ta-Kumsaw and Chapter 3: De Maurepas Summary**

Ta-Kumsaw sees what Hooch does to Jackson. In fact, any Red man who cares to pay attention would have. He could see a twisting in the smoothness of the land showing that something was being manipulated. Ta-Kumsaw stands outside the stockade all day, watching the Reds from all tribes going in with pelts or baskets, and coming out with small amounts of whisky, or even only as much as has already been consumed inside.

Standing there, he listens to the land and knows that he is now the Chief of all Red men who will lead them in the war to eradicate white men from their land. He sees his brother steal a keg of whisky and run from the white men with it on his shoulder. He stops his brother, trying to explain the changes that have occurred and that he has been chosen to gather the Reds together in a fight against the White men, but Lolla refuses to join him. Lolla knows that he should have this power also, and much more, but whisky has dulled him from the land. With whisky and murder, the White men have stolen that from Lolla.

Frederic, the Comte de Maurepas and Gilbert the Marquis de La Fayette stand watching as General Napoleon Bonaparte arrives on the Marie-Philippe at the American dock on the shores of Lake Irrakwa. Each has their own agenda. Frederic, younger than Gilbert by considerable years, secretly hopes to unseat him. Gilbert is keeping track of each little slight to throw back at him one day when the time is right. Napoleon has been sent to secure Canada against America for King Charles, having just defeated the Spanish Army. Bonaparte gets off the Marie-Philippe and onto the barge that will take them through the locks into Canada. He is greeted by an enthusiastic Frederic and a less than thrilled Gilbert, who still tries to instill some sort of hierarchy.

Gilbert's friend Robespierre sent him a jeweled amulet to make him immune to the knack Napoleon has of getting people to bend to his desires and want to serve him. He watches as Frederic is affected, and looks adoringly at Napoleon. Once in Canada, Gilbert is to return to Niagara, leaving Bonaparte and Frederic to continue on to Detroit. He can hardly wait.

### **Chapter 2: Ta-Kumsaw and Chapter 3: De Maurepas Analysis**

While Ta-Kumsaw would have beaten any Red man he caught drinking, he would lay no hand on his younger brother Lolla-Wossiky. Deep down he knows the reason that Lolla





drinks. He understands that if he felt the murder of his father from miles away, his younger brother, at the age of ten (the young Red boy who cried when the bees died because he felt the loss of their lives so strongly) felt the death of his father and the shot that killed him in a way that left him mute for some time afterward. Ta-Kumsaw remembers how his father told him that Lolla-Wossiky would be a shaman and a great war leader for the Red men.

Even when Lolla finally began to rejoin life, Ta-Kumsaw could see that he moved and behaved with little feeling for the land, clumsy and unable to reconnect. Ta-Kumsaw believed that his brother still heard the gunshot with such clarity that he had to drink to function at all. As such, he forgave him - and only him, for doing so. Ta-Kumsaw also knew that if all white men left the land today, by tomorrow the land would be at peace again. He can feel how the alcohol turns his people into ghosts - cut off from the land - not dead, and not alive. When he sees Lolla running from the stockade with a keg of whisky, he tries to reconnect him with the land, but Lolla is unable to let go of the whisky. Weeping, he takes the keg into the forest. leaving Ta-Kumsaw standing there.

Frederic, the Comte de Maurepas, is embarrassed that he has to stand on an American canal barge when in his mind it should have been Canadian, and he is not bearing the humiliation that is more than personal or even familial. This is a humiliation of social standing and he finds it agonizing. Frederic wishes he could have stayed in France where they still had decent food and theater and where an enemy could be faced in a civilized manner.

Gilbert, the Marquis de La Fayette, insists that Frederic stop complaining. He even breaks protocol, to Frederic's horror, and goes forward to meet Napoleon instead of waiting for him to come to them as should be. He is also worried about the chain of command now that Bonaparte has arrived while General Frederic de Maurepas is eager to meet him. Gilbert has an amulet to make him immune to the charms of Napoleon, having been warned that he is very good at making people bend happily to his will, while Frederic is all but fawning over the General shortly after meeting with him.



## Chapter 4: Lolla-Wossiky: Pgs 59 - 79

### Chapter 4: Lolla-Wossiky: Pgs 59 - 79 Summary

Lolla-Wossiky leaves, taking his keg into the bush. He knows that everyone thinks he is a Red drunk, but no one suspects the truth. No one comes close enough to realize he has no likker smell on his breath. Since Lolla stumbles around, they all think he has found likker when no one else has any. Only he knows that he stole the keg so that he could find the dream beast in the north that calls him. Lolla is in so much pain all the time that he hopes to die. He has tried several times to go north, but after a couple of days, the black noise is so loud that he can't walk anymore. He carries the keg north, chanting to himself, counting out a thousand steps before allowing himself four small sips from the barrel. The first night, four small sips is too much for him, and he has to stop and sleep. On his journey, he comes across a bear who, like him, has only one eye, and he notices that when the bear searches the water for fish to catch, he does so with the missing eye, closing the one that still exists. Then Lolla realizes that he is looking at the bear through his bad eye, and can't see him when he looks through the good one.

Lolla comes closer to his dream beast, crossing three covered rivers. Oddly, the black noise is quieter on the bridges. He comes to a town with no stockade and secures his barrel in a tree before circling to get a closer look. He sees a building the white men are erecting that isn't dark and closed in. As he investigates, a white man startles him, asking who he is. Lolla tells him, pretending to be very drunk. Armor-Of-God knows he is not a local Red, he is a Shaw-Nee. He invites Lolla to come for dinner. All of these things surprise Lolla, especially that he isn't being locked up.

Lolla goes to Armor-Of-God's house for dinner, where Armor-Of-God and Reverend Thrower try to explain who Jesus Christ is and the concept of God. The black noise seems stronger when the Reverend is near. The next day, Lolla is baptized by Reverend Thrower, who convinces him that to know God is to know true happiness. Lolla thinks that maybe Jesus Christ is the dream beast he is looking for, but the baptism doesn't reveal Christ to him and he is disappointed.

Lolla realizes the Reverend and Armor-Of-God are both blind. Neither of them sees the hexes Armor-Of-God's wife uses around the house. Armor even points out a young man who is supposed to be a hex carver with great talent, expressing his disappointment in the fact that his family supports this blasphemy against God, but strangely, Lolla can't see the child. He can just see where the area around him is disturbed. Then he closes his good eye and can see him bathed in light with his bad eye, just like he saw the bear.



## Chapter 4: Lolla-Wossiky: Pgs 59 - 79 Analysis

Lolla knows that his brother thinks he stole the likker to go and get blind drunk. He knows that Ta-Kumsaw thinks he is one of the stupid Reds who will drink himself to death, but it isn't true. Like the rest, all Ta-Kumsaw sees is his brother stumbling around, and he assumes it is because he has had too much whisky. No one stops to really think about the fact that there has been very little whisky for the last two months. No one notices that Lolla's breath does not smell of whisky. Lolla doesn't care. He lets them all believe he is just a stupid drunk Red man, and tells no one about the black noise that invades his mind and makes life too painful to bear. It is this noise that causes him to stagger around, unable to touch the land like a Red man can. It is this black noise that fills him so much that he can hardly hear or think and makes him want to die. He tells no one these things, and instead he lies at the foot of White Murderer Harrison's door and listens to all that is said and remembers.

The white light from his dream beast to the north calls to him. It calls so loud and strong that several times Lolla has begun walking that way, but when the whisky wears off, the black noise is so loud that it forces him to turn back. Now, he has the keg that he can take, limiting himself to four sips every thousand feet - just enough to keep the black noise down enough to keep going. White men didn't understand the dream beast. Armor-Of-God knew about it, but when a Red man is born he stays asleep for a long time until the dream beast calls. The beast wakes you from your dream and teaches you your place in the land. Then you can go home to tell the shaman and your family what your dream beast was and the shaman will help you to learn your new name.

When Reverend Thrower offers to baptize Lolla, telling Lolla that he will find true happiness through Christ, Lolla begins to hope that perhaps this "Christ" person is the beast he is searching for. The baptism doesn't reveal him though. They talk about hexes, and Lolla realizes that Armor-Of-God doesn't know anything about hexes. Armor-Of-God doesn't even realize that his own house is protected by some of the strongest and natural hexes Lolla has ever seen - especially in a white man's house. He admires Armor-Of-God's wife Eleanor, knowing that she is much more than she appears to be. He even tells her she is beautiful, eliciting a surprise response from her as white men don't usually complement her. Her beauty is a native style of beauty, but Lolla sees.



## Chapter 4: Lolla-Wossiky: Pgs 80 - 98

### Chapter 4: Lolla-Wossiky: Pgs 80 - 98 Summary

Lolla wanders the town in white man clothes that Armor-Of-God's wife Eleanor provides. He frightens some people, so Armor-Of-God asks him not to visit homes when the men are away working on the church. Lolla spends most of his time in the commons. One day he hears a loud bang and thinks White Murderer Harrison has shot someone again, but is told that the ridge pole they were putting up in the church fell. Strangely, although it fell straight down on top of the child, Alvin, it miraculously split before it hit him, falling harmlessly to each side of him.

Going to the church, Lolla sees the area that is disturbed and with his good eye closed, he can see exactly where Alvin was standing. He can even see the route he took home, and follows it, watching the light of the boy as he gets ready for bed. He sees Alvin use his knack to manipulate the roaches in the house, sending them to his sisters' room to get even with them for a prank. It makes Lolla mad that Alvin causes the deaths of so many innocent creatures that he creeps in through his window, and teaches him the moral obligations of his gift by cutting his own hand. Then Lolla reveals himself and asks Alvin to make him whole. Alvin touches Lolla's slack eyelid, and the air cracks with a spark of light. Alvin thinks he has failed as the eyelid is still the same as before, but Lolla is so overcome, he can't tell Alvin what he's done. Instead, he pulls him close with both hands and kisses his forehead like a father would a son.

Lolla leaves the same way he came, but healed inside, and in tune with the land. He runs for the sheer joy of it, taking off the white man's clothes and throwing them into the river, but they don't sink. Amazed, Lolla sees that the river is black, and his blood from his hand causes the clothing to float. He moves forward, spreading his still bleeding palm over the surface of the water, and following it out to the middle of the river. Another vision begins. He sees himself in front of many red men, telling them they can be strong, inviting them to join him. He sees a crystal city, and then his mother, who tells him he is a prophet and his name is now Tenskwa-Tawa. Lolla the dreamer is now awake. He sees the history of all men on earth from beginning to end. The crystal city is made of water as clear as glass that would never melt. Anyone who looked into it had perfect vision. When he can see no more, he crawls back to shore and walks to the meadow where his vision shows him he will bring all the Reds together. The keg of whisky stays in the tree, no longer needed.

### Chapter 4: Lolla-Wossiky: Pgs 80 - 98 Analysis

Lolla feels stupid and clumsy dressed as a white man. He feels more and more like he is losing touch with the land and becoming as dead as a white man. His senses are so dulled that he drinks more, but that doesn't help. Then he hears a bang that sounds like a gunshot. He asks about it and is told that it was the sound of a ridge beam falling. He



learns how Alvin narrowly missed being crushed, through some miracle. Lolla can see the place in the church where the air is disturbed. He can feel where Alvin had been standing and can see where he walked home. Lolla feels the need to follow. Standing outside of Alvin's house, he watches through the walls and sees the silly exchange that Alvin has with his sisters. He can see that Alvin has a pact with the roaches in the house. They only go where they are allowed, and in return Alvin never kills them. Alvin's sisters put pins in his nightshirt, and Alvin thinks they are scorpions. He retaliates by sending all of the roaches into his sister's room.

Lolla-Wossiky is horrified. Alvin's lie to the roaches, telling them they would find food in his sisters' room, causes the unnecessary death of so many of them and violates the trust they shared. Lolla, the child who once felt the death of the bees, now felt those deaths. He understood now why he was there. When the house finally settles, Lolla climbs into Alvin's room through the window. Alvin can't see him, so he gathers the light in the room around him. He can feel Alvin's terror, so he sends calming influences. Alvin sees him as a being surrounded in light, and thinks he is an angel. Lolla takes his knife out and cuts his own palm, deep. He uses the pain to create a picture in Alvin's mind of life through the eyes of a roach. When he finally ends the vision, Alvin is sobbing. Again he sends calming influences, and Alvin promises he will never do it again but can't tell Lolla what it is he won't do.

Lolla sends him another vision. He calls a deer to him so that he can kill it for food, showing Alvin how to use his gift for good and makes him understand that using his knack for his own gain was evil. Finally, Alvin understands. Then Lolla knew that he was Alvin's dream beast, but still couldn't understand why he was there. In a sudden flash of understanding, he goes to Alvin and mentally asks to be made whole. Alvin touches him, and Lolla's black noise is suddenly gone. His sense of the land has returned, and he is stunned by the strength of it. He is overcome with emotion when he kisses Alvin's forehead and leaves. His visions aren't over, however.

Lolla's next vision comes to him at the Wobbish River where he throws the white mans' clothing he was wearing in. They are covered in blood from his wound and don't sink. He goes to the river and smears his blood on the surface, where it hardens like ice. He pushes the clothes ahead of himself, crawling forward to the middle of the river, amazed at the impossibility of it all. Another vision begins, and he sees himself talking to hundreds of Reds, convincing them to give up the likker and find themselves again. He sees his mother, who calls him a prophet and gives him his new name. He is now Tenskwa-Tawa and he will lead his people to greatness.



# Chapter Five: A Sign and Chapter Six: Powder Keg

## Chapter Five: A Sign and Chapter Six: Powder Keg Summary

When word reaches Harrison of a Red with one eye called the Prophet, he laughs, recognizing the description as Lolla-Wossiky, but the stories keep coming, so he calls the Reds together and suggests that if Lolla is a prophet, he should be able to heal his bad eye. The challenge is taken to Tenskwa-Tawa by two drunk Reds. He tells them that with one eye, he sees two men who love the land, their wives and families, and with the other he sees two sick men who are slaves to likker and who mock him using words of a murderer. He sends them back to Harrison to tell him that a fire will start in his home one day by no man's hand that will take what he dearly loves and is irreplaceable. The two men go back believers that Tenskwa-Tawa sees with both eyes equally.

Four years later, Hooch again arrives with a flatboat of whisky, but Harrison's men tell him they only need half. At first Hooch thinks they are getting whisky elsewhere, but then he notices there are no Reds waiting for likker. He asks his pole boys, and especially Mike Fink, to guard his cargo while he goes looking for Harrison, who claims to be too busy to see him. He sees the town hasn't grown and Harrison has switched offices to one without windows. He waits all day, and in the evening a corporal gets smart with him, so Hooch breaks his leg and as a result, is put in jail again, but not as gently as was the case before.

Finally, they bring him to Harrison, who greets him like an old friend and tells him about Ta-Kumsaw and Tenskwa-Tawa and how together they are turning Carthage into a ghost town by luring all the Reds to a place near Vigor Church they call Prophetstown. He suggests that if Hooch wants his charges to go away, he merely has to pay some of the more violent Reds to attack Vigor Church, kill some children and stir up enough trouble to drive a wedge between Red and White again. Hooch refuses, standing on principle, and Harrison tells him he'll hang otherwise and puts him back in his cell. Hooch is so angry he creates a spark and sends it to Harrison's house, burning it to the ground with his wife and son inside. Prisoners convince the jailers to release them to help, and Hooch heads straight for the flatboat. Harrison thought of that though, and paid Mike Fink to ensure he didn't escape. Mike strangles him for Harrison, and all the while Hooch is trying to light the fuse in the keg which Mike had already removed.



## Chapter Five: A Sign and Chapter Six: Powder Keg Analysis

When Harrison first hears about the Prophet, he isn't concerned. He knows from the description that it's Lolla-Wossiky. It takes a while before he realizes that Lolla is no longer his tame Red. He tries to use some of the remaining Reds to get a message to him and to undermine his strength, but it fails. Then Ta-Kumsaw sends him an invitation to come to the place they now call Prophet's town, guaranteeing his safety. He goes, and for three hours he listens to Ta-Kumsaw tell him about his visions for Red and White to live together in harmony. His words fall on deaf ears. All Harrison can see is how strong Ta-Kumsaw and Tenskwa-Tawa are together and how they actually undermine his authority. Tenskwa-Tawa preaches to the Reds, freeing them from the hold likker has on them while Ta-Kumsaw walks through the town at night with a group of loyal Reds, opening pens and freeing cattle and poultry alike, all disappearing into the night without a trace. The Reds, sober now, have no use for Carthage, and the Whites are afraid and unable to stop Ta-Kumsaw, so they are leaving as well. Slowly, Carthage City is becoming a ghost town.

When Hooch arrives with more whisky, Harrison won't even meet with him. He is only concerned with his wife and son. Hooch sits all night outside his office, trying not to get mad but failing. When a mouthy soldier tells him that even a smart man would have realized by now that Harrison wasn't coming, Hooch breaks his leg and finds himself in jail. Harrison sees him the next day, and tells him that he can have his freedom for a price. He wants Hooch to pay Reds from somewhere else to raid Vigor Church and undo all of the good faith built up between Armor-Of-God and Tenskwa-Tawa. Harrison tells him it is that or hang for his crime and for hearing the offer to begin with. Hooch is angry enough to use his knack, and he directs it to Harrison's house, burning it to the ground, but his wife and son are caught in the nursery when it bursts into flames. When Hooch tries to make his escape, he discovers that Harrison has foreseen that and paid Mike Fink to stop him. Mike strangles him and becomes the new whisky runner that Harrison corrupts.



# Chapter 7: Captives

## Chapter 7: Captives Summary

Alvin Miller knows that his son has a knack, and as he grows his knack becomes more visible. After much discussion, a decision is made to send Alvin away to apprentice as a smithy. Alvin and his older brother Measure leave together to make the journey to Hatrack River. On the way, they are discussing the likelihood of being attacked by Reds when they suddenly find themselves surrounded. The Reds make them strip, and tie their arms behind their back. Then they slap the boys until blood is drawn, and slash their shirts, smearing them with blood. There isn't enough, so they slash Alvin's forehead and use the blood from that as well. Alvin doesn't cry out. One of them carves the names Ta-Kumsaw and Prophet into the saddles, and tying the bloodied clothing to them, sends them homeward after jabbing the horses with a knife. Thongs are tied around their necks and they are forced to run. Alvin heals his forehead and loosens the thong around Measure's neck so he can run without stooping. When they finally stop, the Reds notice the lack of injury to Alvin's face. One sits in front of Measure with his knife, but Alvin smooths the edge of the knife's blade, making it as dangerous as a spoon. He softens a tommy hawk until the stone crumbles in the Red's hand and does the same with a hatchet. For every form of torture or punishment the Reds think of, Alvin alters it rendering it harmless, making the Reds doubt their own sanity.

Then another group of Reds arrives. Alvin thinks they are being rescued, but while these Reds don't carry muskets, they still don't set Alvin and Measure free. This group, led by Ta-Kumsaw, was sent by the Prophet and given instructions to return Alvin and Measure to him. They are forced to run again, only this time Alvin tries to run like the Reds do, in tune with the land, able to traverse it without making a sound and at great speeds. He discovers that he can, but only if he doesn't think about it. He begins to hear the songs of nature, and seeing the difficulty Measure is having catching his breath, he sends his doodlebug inside his brother to open his lungs so he can get air. Soon they are both running easily. Ta-Kumsaw leads them into a Red village and walks away. They talk about escaping, but both realize it isn't possible. Ta-Kumsaw returns with two loincloths and corn mash, telling them that in the morning he will take them to Tenskwa-Tawa who saw that the Chok-Taw had taken them and sent Ta-Kumsaw and his group to rescue them. They are given blankets, and are soon fast asleep, exhausted after running the full day.

## Chapter 7: Captives Analysis

Alvin Junior feels small on the back of the large horse, but is excited about the prospect of the adventure he and his older brother Measure are embarking on. Faith Miller doesn't like it, fearing that this is the last time she will see her young son. She believes that Al is clumsy, always having accidents that turn out fine in the end, but are frightening nonetheless. After one such incident, Alvin had almost died even though he





knew he had the power to heal himself. Ever since the Shining Man had come to see him when he was six, he had never once used his knack to help himself. He would use his knack to find the places inside stone where it could break and then make it happen that way, but only as help to his father or someone else. When he broke his leg, most people believed he would die. Only advice from Taleswapper saved him by making him think back to the exact words used by the Shining Man. He had told Alvin to only use his knack to make all things whole. Remembering those words, Alvin realized that making his leg whole qualified, so he fixed it.

Measure tries to convince his Ma that they'll be fine, but she doesn't believe it, fearing Reds will somehow cause trouble. Alvin's Pa reminds her that the apprenticeship papers for Alvin in Hatrack River are signed and he has to go, even though they will miss him. Alvin is surprised when Pa shakes his hand, treating him like an adult just like his brother Measure. Alvin trusted his Pa, as did the rest of the men in town. If Pa said, "do this", he would do it. At first, when the Red men surround him and Measure, Alvin isn't too concerned, but Measure knows right away that these are not any of the Reds that follow Ta-Kumsaw or the Prophet. These Reds have muskets - something the Prophet refers to as only good for murdering. These Reds had been sent to inflict pain and suffering, but Alvin was one step ahead of them. Every time the Reds so much as thought of a new type of torture, Alvin rendered the weapon they used impotent. He made knives dull, hatchets fall apart, fires burn out and generally kept himself and Measure from injury. The Reds are so confused and unnerved by the events that they don't even notice Ta-Kumsaw and his men until they have been surrounded. They surrender, outnumbered, and Ta-Kumsaw leads the boys away. Again Alvin must use his gifts, first to help Measure open his lungs so that he can breathe easier as they run, and then to cause Ta-Kumsaw to slip when he tried to wrestle with Measure. Angry, Ta-Kumsaw led them to his village where they spend the night, and Measure explains to Alvin that by tripping Ta-Kumsaw when they had been about to wrestle had unmanned him in front of the others. Till then, Alvin hadn't realized it was simply a contest of manhood. He confesses his involvement to Ta-Kumsaw, but Ta-Kumsaw won't give him another opportunity to embarrass him. He does, however, tell Alvin that he knows what he is doing because one of his braves ran behind Alvin the whole way and watched how he manipulated things to ease their journey. He gives them food, loincloths and blankets, telling them that in the morning they will leave for the holy place where Tenskwa-Tawa waits for them. The last thing Alvin hears is the green song of the forest all around him.



# Chapter 8: Red-Lover and Chapter 9: Lake Mizogan

## Chapter 8: Red-Lover and Chapter 9: Lake Mizogan Summary

Calm has a difficult time settling his father. The tracks are no longer clear. Armor reminds them that Reds from Prophetstown are peaceful, and would never have signed their own names in the saddles of the horses. He makes the case that this is likely a job hired out by Bill Harrison. Tack Sweeper closes his eyes to survey the area, telling the group that so much happened that it is hard for him to sort out, even with his knack of being able to see events by standing where they happened. He recognizes Ta-Kumsaw's face in the crowd. Armor believes it, but is certain that he rescued the boys and says so. Al Senior disagrees, and tells Armor that it's all his fault for encouraging them all to be 'friends' with the Reds. Back in Vigor Church, Al Senior sees a group off who are leaving to round up reinforcements. Armor tells Reverend Thrower that he knows it's a mistake and that Ta-Kumsaw is no killer. Then Thrower tells him that perhaps this is all the will of God. Up the hill, Faith never once tells her husband that it is his fault his boys are gone. Two more sons, Wastenot and Wantnot come in with rifles over their shoulders, having practiced outside. Faith reminds them that killing all the Reds won't bring Alvin and Measure home, and if they kill so much as one Red man, they needn't bother coming home.

The next morning Ta-Kumsaw takes them to a large lake, and standing above it Alvin sees the coming of a tornado. He heads down the hill, reaches Ta-Kumsaw and tells him, but Ta-Kumsaw only laughs. He reaches over his head, touches another man and tells him Alvin is the "boy". Alvin is shocked to find he is staring at the Shining Man, and he isn't a dream. He apologizes again for not having healed him, but Tenskwa-Tawa corrects him, telling him he did. The wind picks up and Tenskwa-Tawa pushes the flint of an arrow through both feet and through his hands so that they bled copiously. Alvin tries to heal him but the Prophet tells him not to and begins walking out onto Lake Mizogan. Alvin can hardly believe his eyes as the water under the Prophet's feet turns hard as glass. He keeps walking, lifts his hands, and three tornadoes become one. He calls out to Alvin who feels compelled to go, remembering that the Shining Man loves him and means him no harm. Standing inside the tornado with him, Alvin sees the day of his birth. He rises up with Tenskwa-Tawa and sees a shining city, feeling peace emanating from it. Alvin asks him where the city is, but Tenskwa-Tawa says Red man alone can't build it. Alvin can see that as fast as it is being built on one end, it is falling down on the other. Then Tenskwa-Tawa, who now calls Alvin Roach Boy, sends him down, and just the thought has him sinking. At the bottom the visions continue. He sees the creation of the Earth, before people. He watches the story of Cain and Abel unfold, sees the history of mankind, and is enraptured. He doesn't want to leave, even when the Prophet returns, exhausted and haggard. He shares a small bit of his vision with Alvin, which



only makes him want to know more, but the Prophet knows it is time to go, and that this is his last time to this place. He has seen his future and he will not return, although his impact on his people will be immense.

## Chapter 8: Red-Lover and Chapter 9: Lake Mizogan Analysis

It took Alvin Senior's son Calm considerable effort to get his father to relax after they realized that the Reds had dragged his sons through the water. The whole family knew water was an evil force that had tried to claim Alvin Junior's life again and again. It didn't help matters much when they came across the torn underwear that Ta-Kumsaw had removed from the boys when it kept tripping them up. Armor calls his father-in-law Mr. Miller now, and has done so since Alvin Senior threw him bodily out of the house after Alvin Junior broke his leg and Armor had dared suggest that Al Junior was dying because of all the hexes and their sins of using 'beseechings'. He hadn't called him Pa since. Armor continues to defend the Reds in Prophetstown, reminding the searchers that none had ever so much as stolen a pig, or caused harm to a white man. They reluctantly agree with him, as they have great respect for Armor, who as store owner knows them all and has extended credit or kindness to each and every one of them at one time or another. When Tack Sweeper uses his knack and sees the use of hatchets, and then Ta-Kumsaw's face, Al Senior is almost sick with fear. He blames Armor for everything and gets in his face and tells him that he is worthless, a fool and as far as he is concerned, Bill Harrison is right. There is no such thing as a good Red. Al wants nothing more now than to get even.

To himself, Reverend Thrower thinks that God works in mysterious ways, and is certain that Al Junior is being punished for his "knack", which as far as Thrower is concerned, is the devil's work. Aloud, he tells Armor that perhaps it is all God's will, but Armor knows that the men in town are about to make a terrible mistake if they take up arms against the Reds in Prophetstown. At home, Faith doesn't say anything out loud, but her husband knows what she is thinking. He knows that she blames him for insisting the boys go to begin with. Wastenot is ready to kill in revenge, and when his mother tells him not to come home if he does, he just gets more angry. He leaves the house after announcing that perhaps he won't come back at all, slamming the door as he leaves. He couldn't be sure, but thought his Pa was crying. Still, it wouldn't stop him from killing every Red he could get his hands on.

Ta-Kumsaw takes Measure and Alvin to Lake Mizogan where the Prophet uses his gift to walk out into the lake, inviting a terrified Alvin to join him. They go up into a funnel cloud and the Prophet shows Alvin visions that begin with his own birth. Then he takes him higher, to a place where he sees a crystal city being built. It is a city of love and joy, of strength and goodness. All who reside there are strong and healthy. Alvin can feel that he is somehow tied to this city, but questions the Prophet, thinking he will be the one to create it. The Prophet leaves Alvin to return to the lake inside the funnel while he goes further to find his own answers. Alvin sees the history of man, and is in awe. Every place he looks out of, he sees another story unfold, and though at first petrified, now



only wants to stay and learn more. When the Prophet returns, he begs him to let him stay, and the Prophet reveals things about the future that only make him feel the need to know more. He tells Alvin that White and Red will be divided again by a river of blood, and the fear bubbles up in Alvin as he notices the Prophet's haggard expression for the first time. His family lives so close to where the changes will occur that he fears for their safety, but the Prophet assures him that his entire family will survive intact. Alvin allows himself to be led out, but they have lingered too long and the Prophet is barely able to return them to shore unscathed as the funnel collapses around them.



# Chapter 10: Gatlopp

## Chapter 10: Gatlopp Summary

After the visions in the tornado, Measure seldom sees Alvin. He is always with the Prophet or Ta-Kumsaw and when he does see him, he talks like the Reds, making no sense. He talks about the land dying, and about how it is important that he stay, but Measure knows that half of Wobbish County will be looking for them, and after the horses return with the Prophet's and Ta-Kumsaw's names carved into the saddle, people will think that is who took Measure and Alvin.

Finally, sick and tired of wandering around yet unable to leave, he asks Ta-Kumsaw straight out when he can go home. When he mentions the saddle carving to him, Ta-Kumsaw is surprised and angry. He and the Prophet yell at each other, but Ta-Kumsaw is only acting out a future that the Prophet has already seen. He knew about the saddles and said nothing and sent no word to the Miller family that their sons were okay. All of this is part of the future he sees coming and he knows he can't do anything to change it or the consequences could be grave. When they finish arguing, Measure is told to go home, but without Alvin. Measure can't understand why Alvin so readily agrees to this plan. Measure only knows that if he returns without Alvin, his parents will blame him.

Ta-Kumsaw can see this, and calls Measure a coward. Measure tries to hit him but is unsuccessful. Finally, Ta-Kumsaw challenges him to the Red's version of a duel - the Gatlopp. Measure has heard stories about the Gatlopp from Taleswapper and is fearful, but can't back down or he will indeed look the coward. Ta-Kumsaw goes first, walking between two lines of braves who all take turns hitting him with branches until he is bloodied, but still he never so much as flinches. Then it is Measure's turn, but before he walks, the Prophet yells out to the braves and not one swung a branch, having been told that to do so would only show the white man that Measure had been tortured. Measure is filled with shame and embarrassment by the time he reaches Ta-Kumsaw, who tells him to go home. Alvin still refuses to go, telling Measure that the Prophet told him he has to go with Ta-Kumsaw or they will both die. Measure leaves reluctantly, and walks for some time before hearing horses in the water. He turns towards them to find soldiers who, instead of rescuing him, call him a renegade, take him to General Harrison, and lock him in a root cellar. It is obvious that they don't want him to be found because they want war. Measure finally understands that it was Harrison who likely orchestrated their kidnapping to begin with.

## Chapter 10: Gatlopp Analysis

Measure wants Alvin to leave the Red camp with him but Alvin refuses. The Prophet has told them that if Alvin goes with Measure, he will be dead in three days. Measure doesn't believe him, but Alvin has seen too much not to. He insists that Measure go on



without him and tell their family he is fine and has gone on with Ta-Kumsaw willingly. He explains to Measure that he is still doing his apprenticeship, but instead of with a smithy, he is doing it with Ta-Kumsaw. Measure fears his parents' response to his leaving Alvin behind, but they leave him no choice. He feels like he has failed at everything. After an embarrassing pass through the Gatlopp, he heads in the direction they point him, still wearing nothing but the loincloth they provided him. He finds a stream and walks parallel to it, knowing it will take him back to Vigor Church, but on the way runs into soldiers who insist he is a Red and that he be led by a rope home. Finally, he flatly refuses and they take him the remainder of the way on horseback to an outlying farm he vaguely recognizes. Thinking that someone there will know and identify him, Measure is relieved, but his relief is short lived. General Harrison has commandeered the farmhouse to act as his temporary headquarters, and it occurs to Measure that Harrison knows exactly who he is, but would prefer that he hadn't been found. For Harrison, who is spoiling for a war with the Reds, for Measure to be found alive and well does not help. In fact, he calls Measure a renegade, treats him like a Red lover and accuses him of mixed loyalties. He throws him in a root cellar, locking him in. Measure knows how close he is to home, and can't believe they won't let him go. Slowly he realizes that it was likely Harrison who orchestrated the original kidnapping in order to stir up animosity. When Harrison tells Measure that no one is listening to Armor-Of-God anymore, Measure knows he has to get home and tell them the truth. He begins to dig his way out of the cellar with nothing more than his hands.

Meanwhile, Alvin is readying to leave with Ta-Kumsaw on a journey to all the other tribes. The Prophet has told him and Ta-Kumsaw that unless they leave the region together, neither one will survive. Ta-Kumsaw isn't as sure as Alvin is that his brother is correct.



# Chapter 11: Redboy

## Chapter 11: Redboy Summary

Measure leaves and the brothers stand at the dune with all of the Reds, each with their own philosophy. Tenskwa-Tawa says that in order for peace to happen, White and Red man must separate again and that the river be their divider. He asks that all men who join him take that oath. It simply states that no Red man will take a White man's weapon, steal belongings, bring harm to any of their people or use their tools, clothing or drink. Above all else, no life is to be taken that doesn't give itself up freely to die. Ta-Kumsaw has a different philosophy. He advocates that white man's weapons can be used to defend themselves, that every white must live under red man's law, leave the land or die, that no Red man will torture, or kill a prisoner and that no death of a Red man will go unpunished. When the sides are chosen by all, the Prophet is disappointed by how few stand with him. He reminds the many with Ta-Kumsaw that Alvin must stay with him or he will die, and the two groups go their separate ways. Tenskwa-Tawa returns to Prophetstown with his handful of men, despite the knowledge that he has seen his own death there, and Alvin follows Ta-Kumsaw and the remaining braves to Detroit.

Ta-Kumsaw runs at a brutal pace, sure that he will have to carry Alvin, but the boy runs behind him without slowing or tiring. They run five times faster than a white man can travel on horseback, and still Alvin allows the land to carry him along. When they reach Detroit, Alvin, like the rest of the natives, is not out of breath or tired. He is exhilarated, and at peace. Ta-Kumsaw sends most of the men to set up a new temporary home, while he and Alvin meet with Napoleon who chastises Ta-Kumsaw for all his talk of a great army that has yet to materialize. Napoleon wants the Red men to rise up against the White. In his mind, it is the only way that he will ever be able to return to France as a hero, successful in battle. Ta-Kumsaw knows Napoleon is using him, and the favor is returned. Ta-Kumsaw wants guns to fight the white man with. Napoleon assures him if he will guarantee them safe passage, the Irrakwa will provide guns. Ta-Kumsaw agrees, and Alvin tells Ta-Kumsaw that Napoleon is more dangerous than any man he knows because he uses love he hasn't earned to get men to do his bidding. Once gone, Ta-Kumsaw asks Alvin about his ability to run like a Red man and Alvin explains it best he can, and he tells Ta-Kumsaw about a vision he had about an eight sided mound that he has gone to in order to help Measure. Ta-Kumsaw knows he has to take Alvin there alone.

## Chapter 11: Redboy Analysis

Ta-Kumsaw resents having to take Alvin with him for two reasons. He believes the White boy will slow him down, and deep down he is afraid of him. Alvin is unlike any white person he has ever known, but the Prophet assures him that without Alvin at his side, he will surely die, and Ta-Kumsaw's men take that seriously. They will ensure that



wherever he goes, Alvin goes also. He sets a pace through the bush that is five times faster than the one he subjected Alvin and Measure to earlier, convinced that he will have to carry the boy, but it never happens. He keeps asking the men behind him what Alvin is doing, but the report keeps coming back that he is running. Not only does he keep up, but soon he stops making noise like a white man also. It is confusing for Ta-Kumsaw and he begins to wonder if perhaps his brother is right about this boy and that he can be taught to be a Red on the inside despite the color of his skin.

When Alvin and Ta-Kumsaw are with Napoleon, Alvin says nothing. He doesn't understand the French they are speaking, but he sees deeper than language. He understands that there is no decency in Napoleon. Napoleon manipulates all to his will using false love and Alvin not only sees it, but warns Ta-Kumsaw that Napoleon is the most dangerous man he has ever known. When Alvin tells Ta-Kumsaw about his feelings while they are running, Ta-Kumsaw says little. Alvin claims it is as though he is in a dream state, and his feet just find strength of their own, while for Ta-Kumsaw, it is as though he is even more in tune with everything around him. For Ta-Kumsaw, there is no dream state while running, but he doesn't tell Alvin that. Instead, he asks Alvin what he dreams of. When Alvin describes seeing himself at Eight Face Mound, Ta-Kumsaw is rattled. He knows that if a person dreams about the place, he must go there, but no white person has ever been there before. Still, he feels he has no choice but to take him, so he lies to his men, knowing they will never understand and that he will lose their faith in him if he tells them. Instead, he tells them where they will meet, and sets off with Alvin alone. They stop that night before they reach the Mound because Ta-Kumsaw is hoping to dream some meaning into this trip before actually taking Alvin there.





# Chapter 12: Cannons and Chapter 13: Eight-Face Mound

## Chapter 12: Cannons and Chapter 13: Eight-Face Mound Summary

Harrison gives Measure two choices after letting him spend the night in jail. The first is to tell the people at home that Ta-Kumsaw tortured both him and Alvin, thereby ensuring war, or have his body produced, although the latter is merely implied. Measure tells him that if he lets him go, he'll say nothing either way, about Ta-Kumsaw or Harrison's confinement, but that isn't good enough. He tells Mike Fink to treat him like a typical Red would, and before Measure can think too much he is gagged and Mike has broken his leg. Fink doesn't stop until Measure has broken arms, legs, ribs and neck.

Ta-Kumsaw takes Alvin to Licking River and the Land of Flints. That night he dreams of the Eight-Face Mound again. Ta-Kumsaw had already caught fish for breakfast, but Alvin doesn't want it. Just as he tries to figure out how to explain it, Taleswapper shows up. Alvin gives him his fish and introduces him to Ta-Kumsaw. He tells Taleswapper he dreamed of him and Taleswapper explains that he came because a young girl sent him a note to tell him that the Maker needs him. Tomorrow the Tippy Canoe will be filled with so much blood it will run scarlet. Ta-Kumsaw is mortified.

Then Taleswapper tells Alvin that he is supposed to climb the mound and heal Measure. Alvin walks around and around but can't find a path up the mound. They are almost back to the Red man's face when Alvin finds a trail. He climbs alone, and from the top can see that it is actually eight separate mounds. He hears water, and drinks from the stream. The water on the other side has a bank that is just like the east coast. He takes two steps on the other side and finds himself in front of Taleswapper and Ta-Kumsaw again. The he realizes the power of the mound. He takes a small step back and they disappear. He finds Vigor Church easily, and sees his father readying for war. He couldn't speak to tell him he isn't dead. Finally, taking very small steps, he finds Measure. Inside Measure's body, he can see that everything is broken and is dying. He can heal some of Measure, but to heal the broken bones he needs Measure to help him by putting them back into the right alignment. He does what he can with blood vessels and then bring Measure back to consciousness and a pain that is beyond imagining.

## Chapter 12: Cannons and Chapter 13: Eight-Face Mound Analysis

Measure nearly inhales the gag trying to get his breath after the initial scream that follows when Fink breaking his leg. Harrison tells Fink to take him back to the root cellar to finish, and when Measure tries to struggle, he breaks his arm right at the elbow.



Measure remained conscious as Mike broke the second leg, disjointed all of his fingers, crushed his hands, and broke both arms above and below the elbows. Harrison summoned him so he leaves Measure there after stomping on his chest to break his ribs. He bit off Measure's ear and then gave his head a good twist, breaking his neck. Finally darkness came for him. Somehow, the act of beating Measure changes Fink. He realizes it is not right. Fink is experiencing a life altering conscience attack.

Alvin dreams he climbs the mound and sees one tree different from the rest. All are silver but this is an older, gnarled tree with round white fruit. When he reaches out to taste it, he suddenly sees everyone he knows laughing at him, all except for Taleswapper who encourages him to eat. The taste is so good that it makes him tingle, but when he goes for a second bite, it is gone. Taleswapper tells him to remember the taste. Taleswapper confirms for Alvin that with the first bite, you know everything. With the second bite, you live forever. He wakes up with the taste still in his mouth and wants to remember it.

Taleswapper arrives, telling Alvin that a young girl told him where to go and told him of Alvin's vision of a crystal tower. She not only saw Alvin's futures, but as a Torch, she also saw the Prophet's futures. He was to be shot with Alvin Senior's gun the very next night, unless Measure arrives in time to prove that no one harmed him or Alvin. He explains Measure's capture by Harrison and how Fink is breaking his arms, legs and neck.

Ta-Kumsaw is convinced now that Alvin is half Red when he finds a trail going up. Ta-Kumsaw tells him the mound will give him everything he needs. He discovers the secret of the mound and how by taking a step he can travel miles. He finds his way to Vigor Church where preparations for war are occurring, and there is nothing he can do to stop it but find Measure. He steps carefully, finally finding him, and sending his doodlebug in to begin repairing the extensive damage. Measure is so broken that it makes Alvin hurt to see him. By nightfall, he finally wakes Measure to help him get his bones aligned.



# Chapter 14: Tippy-Canoe

## Chapter 14: Tippy-Canoe Summary

General Harrison tells Alvin Senior to stand with him and fire the first shot. Consumed with the loss of his sons, he loads a musket. Tenskwa-Tawa's followers stand in the meadow waiting, holding their children, husbands and wives, knowing their future and assured by Tenskwa-Tawa that their blood will not run in vain. Alvin Senior and the rest of the men fire again and again into the crowd. None of the Reds fight back or flee. They simply stand there, crowded together, and die - one layer at a time.

When Measure shows up and tells his father the truth, there is no shame that can match the shame they feel. Measure tells them that Harrison planned the whole thing. As proof, he shows them the moniker on the handkerchief used to gag him. The Prophet calls to Measure, but Measure won't walk on the blood of the Reds to get to him, not even to avoid the curse that follows. Tenskwa-Tawa understands, and then curses the town, covering their arms with blood. He tells them that from now on they must tell this story in its entirety to their wives, their children, their neighbors and to anyone who happens by their town. The men all nod, agreeing. The Prophet then tells Harrison that from now on he'll be known as Tippy-Canoe, and though his curse is the same, he must tell this story to at least one new person every day or he will feel the wounds of the Reds who died that day himself, one by one. He bears that curse until his death. Then he tells them all that he and his people will go west of the Mizzipy where White men will not be welcome. The water begins to flow behind him as he walks away. Then Alvin Miller and his sons walk home to share this story with their wives as instructed. Armor-Of-God meets them and Alvin Senior tells him he was right. Measure tell Armor about the curse, and he goes to them, ready to hear and accepting them despite their sins. He shakes their hands, holding his father-in-law's for some time.

## Chapter 14: Tippy-Canoe Analysis

Tenskwa-Tawa hopes that he can turn the coming pain and sacrifice into an event that can change the world. He wakes his village quietly, taking them to the meadow where they can face their attackers. General Harrison uses Alvin Senior's pain to inflame the situation. Mike Fink stands to one side. He doesn't see himself as a killer exactly, but his actions with Measure make him feel ashamed. He stands to one side as Harrison goads Alvin Senior into firing the first shot. The rest of the men join in, firing into the crowd of Reds who just stand there. Each seems to accept that it is their fate to die that day, knowing their sacrifice is important. The men of Vigor Church are filled with a blood lust as they fire repeatedly until Measure arrives. Then the truth of this massacre come to light. The men are all made aware that Harrison orchestrated the entire confrontation. They stop firing, filled with shame and remorse, some wishing they could join those who died.



The Prophet bestows upon them a curse, and while the men are ashamed, Harrison is angry and unhappy that his plan was interfered with. He refuses to approach the Prophet, but his horse walks him to the river where the Prophet adds another dimension to the curse he delivers. Harrison's own name will be forgotten and instead he will carry the name of Tippy-Canoe to honor those who died that day. Armor-Of-God forgives Alvin Senior for his actions immediately. He is ready to hear their story as is part of their curse, but after that it will never be discussed again. He cares only that he is still their son, brother and his wife is their daughter and sister. They are his family and his love for them continues untarnished by their actions. Instead, he accepts their remorse and shares their pain.



# Chapter 15: Two-Soul Man and Chapter 16: La Fayette

## Chapter 15: Two-Soul Man and Chapter 16: La Fayette Summary

Ta-Kumsaw begins to rock back and forth, enduring the ache that accompanies the knowledge that so many of his people were dying. Taleswapper sees his pain, and knows that Alvin failed to stop the slaughter. Taleswapper can't write about the story in this place so instead he recites the lines that go through his mind until Ta-Kumsaw stops him, telling him it is over. Ta-Kumsaw tells him that as a result of the massacre, he will have no problem assembling men to go to war against the white man. He asks Taleswapper what he saw, but it was Alvin's vision he recited, not his own.

Then, as the morning dawns and Alvin has still not returned, Ta-Kumsaw realizes that Alvin needs him. Unable to see the path that Alvin took, Ta-Kumsaw and Taleswapper must hold onto each other to simulate a man who is both red and white. Locked together in each other's embrace, they are able to see the path. They reach the top, seeing the valley that Alvin saw, and Ta-Kumsaw is lost but Taleswapper knows, and heads into the valley where they find him. Alvin is unresponsive, and without thinking, Taleswapper grabs a white fruit from a nearby tree, and Ta-Kumsaw force feeds it to Alvin. Slowly he regains consciousness, and weeps as he tells them about the events at Tippy-Canoe Creek.

Ta-Kumsaw leaves Alvin and Taleswapper there, and without Alvin, once again Taleswapper can't see the path. With great difficulty, he follows Alvin but can't go far. The thorns and brambles seem to close up behind Alvin and shred Taleswapper, who finally can go no further. Just ahead, Alvin finds a bloodied Ta-Kumsaw, who also could not descend alone. Though Ta-Kumsaw is not happy about he, he embraces Taleswapper once more to descend. They stay the night at the bottom, and in the morning Taleswapper leaves, kissing Alvin on the forehead but without a word to the man who seemed determined to go against everything the land tried to show him. As soon as he is far enough away that the words in his book make sense again, he writes down all that happened, including the poem that came to him. Then he heads for Vigor Church.

Gilbert de La Fayette reads a letter from de Maurepas to King Charles that is ripe with praise for Napoleon and his plan to incite Ta-Kumsaw into assembling his warriors to avenge the massacre at Tippy-Canoe. The letter asks that King Charles send another two thousand men to help with the fight. Gilbert sends his own letter to the King as well, enclosing a note from Napoleon that is as vain as it is sadly true. Gilbert will wait until just the right moment to send his amulet to de Maurepas, curious to see what will happen when Napoleon loses his influence over him. Then he writes one last letter to Robespierre, telling him in code of the upcoming plans and feeling like a betrayer. In a



way he wished he never had the amulet, and therefore had no desire to thwart Napoleon's plans.

## Chapter 15: Two-Soul Man and Chapter 16: La Fayette Analysis

Taleswapper prays, addressing the futility of all of it. He can't understand why so many had to suffer. As he has many times in the past, he is seized with the need to record this important event, but in this place he is unable to write, so he does the only thing he can do. He recites it out loud. Ta-Kumsaw stop him and tells Taleswapper that if all white men resembled him and men like Armor-Of-God Weaver, there would be no war.

Ta-Kumsaw realizes that Alvin needs him, and Taleswapper realizes how out of context it is for Ta-Kumsaw to want to rescue Alvin only moments after declaring that all white men will die. For the sake of two white boys, nine thousand Reds were killed. Ta-Kumsaw is so angry that he refuses to see or learn the lesson that the land is trying so desperately to teach him. First he is compelled to climb the mound in Taleswapper's embrace to rescue Alvin, and then must once again embrace Taleswapper in order to get down. All these are signs from the land that the only route to success lies in cooperation of Whites and Reds, but Ta-Kumsaw sees only vengeance, blood and murder. He wants to assemble armies that will push the white man out. Alvin is exhausted from healing Measure, witnessing the massacre at Tippy-Canoe and then healing Taleswapper and Ta-Kumsaw as they argue about the method they must employ to descend. It is almost more than Ta-Kumsaw can bear, and he even suggests that Taleswapper leave him behind, but then Taleswapper would be trapped as well. When they reach the bottom, there is no residual friendship like the one that Ta-Kumsaw extolled earlier. Now, he wants all white men dead or leaving the area for good.

Napoleon's vanity knows no limits. His plan is to use French men to counter the American troops that march north and fall back slowly, leading the Americans directly into ambush with the Reds who will slaughter them to a man. He has nothing but disdain for King Charles and communicates that fearlessly to Gilbert in his letter. Gilbert writes a letter to the King himself, enclosing the letter from Napoleon to him in which Napoleon brags about what an ineffectual leader King Charles really is and calling him a wooden head. Then he sends a coded letter to Robespierre in time to thwart Napoleon's plans. At the last possible moment, he will send his amulet to de Maurepas so that he might see events as they unfold without the influence of Napoleon's charms. Gilbert feels like a betrayer, but his plans are for the sake of a loyalty to the people, and he sees no choice.



# Chapter 17: Becca's Loom

## Chapter 17: Becca's Loom Summary

Alvin travels with Ta-Kumsaw, and at each tribe is asked to relate the story of the massacre again and again, inciting all who hear it to join Ta-Kumsaw's cause even though he knows it is wrong. Still, it is his duty to keep Ta-Kumsaw alive, and he does. Finally summer comes. They arrived at a White man's town that Alvin doesn't recognize, but to his surprise, everyone seems to know Ta-Kumsaw, although they all call him Ike.

Ta-Kumsaw leads him to a house, opens the door and walks in. Ta-Kumsaw says hello to someone named Becca, sounding every bit like an Englishman. Alvin is introduced to the white woman who says she has seen his thread in her loom for some time, and stories of him are widely told. Speaking like every bit an English gentleman, Ta-Kumsaw and Becca talk about the cloth she weaves and Alvin marvels at the unbroken length of colors that seem random to him. Becca shows Isaac where the Reds gather at Prophetstown from all tribes. Ta-Kumsaw pulls the cloth to himself until he reaches a spot where the green threads of the Reds just fell away in great numbers. Alvin understood then that he was looking at Tippy-Canoe, and the weave of the cloth began to take on life. Now, instead of green, the threads gather again, but this time black with hatred. Alvin can see that the cloth represents a length of many lifetimes. Then Alvin notices that the thread before the loom was all white. He asks where the colors come from and Becca just tells threads begin, threads end, all in the pattern of life. The thread seemed to have no beginning, and no end. She explains that the daughter she and Isaac had took part of the loom away with her and now it tracks the threads of life from Tenskwa-Tawa's people. She tells him a little of how she met Isaac, and how much working the loom meant to her - keeping her from the love of her life. Alvin asks if there is any way to change the outcome of the threads at Prophetstown, but Becca assures him that she merely weaves and has no direct affect over the choices people make. In the morning, he and Ta-Kumsaw leave again. Alvin never heard Ta-Kumsaw speak with an Englishman's voice again.

## Chapter 17: Becca's Loom Analysis

Alvin never complains to Ta-Kumsaw that he is using him to incite anger against his own race. He feels the burden of the Tippy-Canoe curse as deeply as if it were his own. Ta-Kumsaw makes it plain that there is no longer any friendship between them as well. To Alvin, it was as though he traveled alone, destined to tell the same horrible story again and again. Despite all of this, as he ran through the forest with Ta-Kumsaw, he still felt a great rightness about what he was doing. After almost a year of being with the Reds, Alvin is surprised to realize he didn't really want to return to the life of a White man. When people call Ta-Kumsaw Ike and he walks right into a house in the white man's town without knocking, Alvin doesn't know what to do. He sees Becca's loom for the first time, and is surprised by the random though beautiful colors. Once he understands a bit



more, he can actually see the patterns of life in the loom. He understands that each thread is a life with a beginning and eventually an end. She patiently explains that her job is to weave, and nothing more. She stays in her room, and works. Alvin can see the spot in the threads where Reds are gathering in Prophetstown, and he can see the place where the massacre at Tippy-Canoe occurred. It unsettles him to see so many gathering again. He uses his gift of extended sight to look more deeply into the threads, and understands that the cloth has been woven continuously for hundreds of years.

He also understands that the man he admires and protects as Ta-Kumsaw also lived part of his life as a white man named Isaac. He and Becca had a child, and this now grown woman also weaves the cloth, but her portion is a cloth that represents the lives of Tenskwa-Tawa and his people. Alvin is amazed by it all, but nothing so much as the transformation that occurs once again when they leave, and Ta-Kumsaw reasserts himself as the dominant identity. He never speaks as Isaac again, and after a while, Alvin wonders if he heard it at all.





# Chapter 18: Detroit

## Chapter 18: Detroit Summary

Frederic de Maurepas receives a delivery from La Fayette. He is instructed to open the letters one at a time. The first contains the amulet with instructions that he should wear it as a guard against Satan, and being superstitious, he puts it on. The messenger tells him to wear it next to his skin and when he has placed it there, the messenger gives him the second envelope which instructs him to put Napoleon under arrest and charge him with a variety of charges that include treason. The instructions continue, and now, released from Napoleon's spell because of the amulet, de Maurepas has no trouble complying.

By the time Ta-Kumsaw arrives to pick up his rifles for the great battle to come, Napoleon is no longer in charge, and no rifles are issued. Betrayed, Ta-Kumsaw is left with little more than bows and arrows against the American army that comes. Ta-Kumsaw's men try to hold them off, but are unsuccessful. The French retreat and the Americans stream into Detroit. Ta-Kumsaw and his men are killed in the streets of Detroit, fighting to the end. Throughout the battle, Alvin stays close enough to continue healing Ta-Kumsaw. He hides, healing him until the bullets become too much for him to fix and Ta-Kumsaw finally falls. Out of the corner of his eye, Alvin could see the Unmaker enjoying the fruits of his destruction. With Ta-Kumsaw's body fallen on top of Alvin he works throughout the night, cutting out bullets and healing, undisturbed in his hiding place. The next afternoon, he wakes with Ta-Kumsaw, spent from the effort of keeping him alive. He pulls himself carefully out from under Ta-Kumsaw, drinks from a brook and takes water back with him to find Ta-Kumsaw awake. They walk away, making no effort to hide themselves, but are untouched by anyone.

At the headwaters of the My-Ammy, he and Ta-Kumsaw silently dig out a canoe together. When it is in the water, Ta-Kumsaw finally turns to Alvin and told him that if all white men were like him, he would never have been their enemy. Alvin stands there and watches as Ta-Kumsaw paddles out of sight before he begins walking downriver along the Wobbish to where he knows his family waits for him.

## Chapter 18: Detroit Analysis

Frederic is at first unhappy with the interruption of the messenger, but is superstitious enough to don the amulet that accompanies the Governor's first letter. Once he places it around his neck, Napoleon's power over him is gone. He is able to follow the instructions in the next letter without reservation. It is the betrayal of Napoleon that Gilbert has waited a long time for.

Napoleon and his followers are arrested for treason, and when Ta-Kumsaw arrives expecting to pick up arms, he is turned away empty handed. His dreams of winning a



war against the white man die in that instant. Still, Ta-Kumsaw has to push forward. If he runs now, there will never be anyone who follows him or trusts him again. Alvin stays close to him as the battle rages, the Americans overrunning Detroit and killing all who stand in their way. Ta-Kumsaw takes many bullets, but Alvin concentrates all of his energies on keeping him alive. He sees the Unmaker out of the corner of his eye now and then, knowing that He is reveling in the amount of destruction that is occurring. Keeping Ta-Kumsaw alive is a job that exhausts him both physically and mentally, but it is the sole reason Alvin has been with Ta-Kumsaw for this whole year. Everything so far in his life led to this moment, and he understood that it was his place in history to save this man. In fact, even at his young age, he grasped that nothing else neared this in importance.

When at last Ta-Kumsaw and Alvin wake, it is the following afternoon. Alvin is exhausted and they walk through the town unmolested by anyone. Those who see Ta-Kumsaw can only believe that they are seeing a ghost because of the reports of his death the previous day. Surely nothing earthly could have survived the amount of times he had been shot. As such, they make it to the river without trouble from either side, and quietly share the task of building a simple canoe. Ta-Kumsaw finally speaks to Alvin after a prolonged silence. He admits that if all white men were like him, the war would never have happened. Ta-Kumsaw's heart is heavy with the loss of so many, and Alvin watches him paddle away, knowing it is unlikely they will meet again for some time - if at all. Alvin knows the Wobbish will take him home. He follows it, a changed person from the boy who left Vigor Church. He isn't even sure that anyone will recognize him.



# Chapter 19: Homecoming

## Chapter 19: Homecoming Summary

Napoleon was treated with well on the way back to France, not forced to wear irons or confined. He dined with Governor La Fayette and La Fayette wondered how he ever mistrusted Napoleon. His amulet was buried with de Maurepas in a grave outside of Detroit.

Ta-Kumsaw paddled into the fog without fear. When he neared the shore, a man took an end of his canoe and pulled him in, helping Ta-Kumsaw out. He tells him to let the canoe go as there will be no more crossing to the other side, and Ta-Kumsaw recognizes the voice of his brother, Lolla-Wossiky.

When Alvin reached the outskirts of town, he found a sign tacked right on Wobbish road that warned all who came to either pass by or hear a tale that is unfit for the ears of man. He knew the purpose, but was no stranger. Vigor Church now looked like a proper town. He knew he had changed, grown taller, and walked differently, but changes had occurred inside him as well. As he neared home, Calvin was on the porch, and despite the changes in him he recognized him immediately. Measure was the first to come running and holding him by the shoulders they looked each other over for signs of harm, each knowing the depth of suffering the other had seen. Word spread quickly that Alvin was home, and his father told him the story Alvin knew he had to hear. At night, in his own bed, he could hear the greensong even though the forest was much more sparse than it had been. Contented, Alvin enjoyed the moment.

## Chapter 19: Homecoming Analysis

Since La Fayette no longer has the amulet, he is no longer immune to the charms of Napoleon. In fact, he isn't at all sure that Napoleon has such charms now, and the more time he spends with the man, the more he finds himself liking him and wishing things could have been different. The trip to France is long enough that La Fayette is glad to have Napoleon's company, though it makes him sad that now that they are friends and he can't understand why he once mistrusted the man so. Napoleon is a bit confused. For the longest time, he had thought that La Fayette was immune to his charm because of some inner strength. Now he knows that it is all due to an amulet buried in the grave with de Maurepas and the one man who he thought might be his equal is just another recent convert. He listens, but a big part of him wishes for the man he thought La Fayette was.

Ta-Kumsaw finds his way through the fog to the shoreline, and is helped to land by his brother. The sight of Lolla-Wossiky brings him to tears, while to comfort him, the Prophet sings a song filled with melancholy about the death of bees. The Prophet tells him to



send his canoe out into the river as they will have no more need of it. Red man will not cross the river again.

Alvin gets to town, and at the outer limits he sees the sign that warns strangers away from the area. Though he understands its need, he knows that his loved ones likely relive the depth of their shame with each telling. Alvin knows that feeling only too well. He has lived a version of it himself this past year, traveling with Ta-Kumsaw from one village to the next only to relate the story of the massacre at Tippy-Canoe again and again himself. In many ways, he has shared the curse of those men who participated, though his participation was voluntary. When Alvin sees Measure, they size each other up, each knowing that the other has suffered wounds that no other could imagine. Looking beneath the surface, they see each others scars, and acknowledge them wordlessly. Alvin's mother greets him like the sweet boy who left her home a year ago, but Alvin knows that boy is gone forever. Still, there is enough time for her to learn who he is. Now, he is merely content to live moment to moment in the familiarity that is his home.



# Characters

## Alvin Miller

Alvin Miller grew up on Wobbish Road in Vigor Church, North America, as the seventh son of a seventh son and the thirteenth child. As such, he is a boy with special gifts that more often than not decide his future. He begins by using his special gifts haphazardly. He is young, and doesn't realize the strength and power of these gifts he has, or the weight of responsibility that accompanies them. So it is in the beginning, as he helps his family by using his knack to create a perfect millstone without an effort, or even on a simpler level when he communicates with the roaches in the house to keep them from invading certain areas. The first time he uses his gift to retaliate against his sisters, he meets Lolla-Wossiky, who will become the Prophet as a result of his contact with Alvin. He shows Alvin the true responsibility of his gift and in return, Alvin removes the terrible blackness threatening to consume Lolla. When Lolla leaves Alvin, he feels a connection to the land that he feared was gone forever.

Once Alvin realizes that his gift can only be used to make things whole, or to fix things, his attitude changes. Alvin is so connected to the land and all that occupies it that he is able to run like a Red man through the bush for great distances; he is able to create an arrowhead from flint by merely feeling for the correct place to split it to create the proper edge. Alvin and the brothers Ta-Kumsaw and Tenskwa-Tawa have futures that intertwine with complicated patterns. He will spend more than a year shadowing Ta-Kumsaw to ensure that he stays alive, never understanding that his role is to save Ta-Kumsaw from death after the battle at Detroit.

The experience with the brothers changes Alvin in more ways than he can imagine. Not only does he think more like a Red man than a White man now, but he has a renewed appreciation for the land and the gift of life. His senses as a white man are gone for so long that he no longer feels comfortable in his own skin. While he knows that time at home with his family will bring the white man out in him again, he will never be same as he was when as a boy he left for his apprenticeship.

## Ta-Kumsaw

The prophet, and Lolla-Wossiky's twin brother, is the opposite of Lolla. Proud and defiant, he is cold, in control and most importantly, he is sober. At least six feet tall, he stands straight at attention in clean clothes. His head is shaved bald, and his eyes stare straight into space, but his attitude clearly transmits that he sees everything. He had a look like he thought he was better than those around him. He is the pride of the Shaw-Nee and all other Red men measure themselves against him.

He moves with grace, like a dangerous animal. He is also fearless of white men and disgusted with the lies they tell. From the beginning, Ta-Kumsaw has known that his



brother was destined for greater things, having been told by their father many years ago that he will be a great prophet one day, and lead his people back to the land. Ta-Kumsaw is every bit as much a prophet as his brother is. He has a stronger following, mainly because men can be much more easily incited to violence and vengeance than they can to submission and self sacrifice. Ta-Kumsaw advocates revenge against the white man and while many argue with his plan to retaliate, they are quick to change their position when the story of Tippy-Canoe is told. Ta-Kumsaw travels the countryside, gathering the tribes together in a single and united front against the white men and particularly against William Harrison who murdered his father and led the massacre at Tippy Canoe. Like Tenskwa-Tawa, he sees visions, and at Eight Face Mound he witnesses the Tippy-Canoe massacre as though he were there himself. The visions anger him to such a degree that he turns his back on Alvin, even though Alvin has never caused him harm directly or otherwise. When his great battle is done, he realizes the truth of Alvin's honesty, knowing that if all white men were like Alvin, there would have been no war.

## **Lolla-Wossiky / Tenskwa-Tawa / Shining Man**

A tame Red man who existed at Governor Harrison's beck and call, despite the fact that Bill had killed his father right in front of him and made no secret of it. He kept a handkerchief tied across his head where one eye was missing, to cover the empty eye socket. His hair was worn in a traditional Red style, with all but a strip down the middle plucked out. He wears a simple loin cloth with a fringe, and in his dream life, most white and red men alike think he is a drunk Red. Lolla-Wossiky has a secret though. He is seldom drunk. He drinks just a few careful swallows every day to keep the black noise away. He is confined to an area around Carthage Fort because he is dependent on those few swallows, because without them the black noise overwhelms him so completely that he looks falling down drunk even if he hasn't had a drink in days. Like most Red men, Lolla has had visions of his dream beast, and those visions have caused him to set out several times in search of it so that he can finally wake from his dream life, but the source of the call is so far away that he can't make it.

After just a couple of days, the pain from the black noise is so loud that he can't tell which way he is going anymore and he is forced to turn back. When Lolla-Wossiky meets Alvin Miller Junior, Alvin heals him, and he becomes Tenskwa-Tawa, the prophet. From then on, his life is dedicated to helping other Reds from all tribes to see the truth of their lives and to give them the strength to connect them with the land once more. He rapidly becomes one of the most powerful Reds, known by all and revered by all who hear of him and especially those who meet him.

After meeting Alvin, Tenskwa-Tawa changes. While the drooping eye is still recognizable, and he doesn't carry himself in a kingly manner like Ta-Kumsaw does, he has a power that radiates from him. He is wiry, and stooped, and his legs could be described as scrawny.



## Armor-Of-God Weaver

Armor married into the Miller family and respects them all. He has a store in the center of Vigor Church and is a pious, God fearing man. He believes that knacks of any kind are the devil's playground and will denounce even his own wife for practicing any form of them whatsoever. Armor is not terribly observant about the world around him, though. His home and the immediate area around it are full of hexes meant to ward off evil and keep them safe - all powerfully strong and created using natural objects by his wife. It is the only way in which she deceives him. He is close friends with Reverend Thrower, and advocates peace between the Red and White populations. Until the kidnapping of Alvin and Measure, his words were taken sincerely and respected by all. This is a large part of the reason that such a population of Red men could coexist with them on the other side of the river in Prophetstown. When the Miller boys are kidnapped, he loses the respect of his fellow townsmen, and they lust for blood and vengeance.

## Hooch Palmer aka Ulysses Brock

Hooch is a whiskey runner who sells his wares up and down the Hio River. His first name is a result of his stock in trade, and he wears it with pride. Hooch is also a spark. It's his knack, but it's kept in line by the mere fact that Hooch is afraid of fire. Hooch is a savvy businessman, if not somewhat underhanded. It isn't beyond him to make sure other whiskey runners got held up so that the folks at his destination are dry and eager to see him.

He was once known as Ulysses Brock by Andrew Jackson from days before he began running "likker" down the river. When Andrew sees him in Carthage, he has him arrested until he can make restitution. Four years later, he is arrested again for breaking a corporal's knee, and to get himself out of the predicament he is in, he burns down Harrison's house, killing his wife and son in the process.

## Mike Fink

Mike is a river rat, who is originally hired by Hooch to act as his pole boy for his whisky run to Carthage City. Mike is for hire however, and when General Harrison offers him money to eliminate Hooch should he show himself, Mike has no trouble complying. He kills Hooch after Hooch sets fire to the Governor's home and then the fort as it spread, and worked as Harrison's goon for some time. This relationship finally comes to an end towards the end of the story after Mike was ordered to break Measure into pieces and leave him burned and dead like renegade Reds would. He realizes that Harrison is on a path that he would rather not be, and when wrong from right asserts itself in him, he finally cuts his ties with Harrison at Tippy-Canoe.



## William Henry Harrison (Bill)

Bill Harrison is the Governor of Carthage City. Harrison gave the stockade that name in an effort to make it more civilized, and is as vain as they come, having appointed himself as Governor. He calls himself a General, but in fact has never so much as had a commission that was more than a Colonel. Bill's new wife is a young fifteen-year-old who he adores and who gives him a son.

Harrison is looking for a war with the Reds and goes out of his way to incite people in that direction. He even kidnaps Measure and has Mike Fink break his arms, legs and as many other bones as he can, intending to burn him and leave him for his family to find and assume Reds are responsible. When the massacre at Tippy-Canoe occurs, he is there on horseback, telling Alvin Senior that since the Reds kidnapped and killed his sons, he should fire the first shot.

Harrison is cursed like the rest after the shooting is over, and instead of feeling guilty about the situation, having killed innocent people for nothing, Harrison is angry that his plans did not go the way he wanted them to. His curse is one that includes he must tell one new person each day about his part - truthfully - at Tippy Canoe or face a lifetime with blood on his hands. Despite this, he still incites more people to fight yet another battle against the Reds at Detroit.

## Taleswapper

Taleswapper travels light. He carries a change of clothes, bits of food and a book. The front third of the book contained single sentences written by people that summed up the most important thing they had ever seen in their lives. The last two thirds are bound and contain stories that Taleswapper wrote about things that had happened, that he believed were important and true. He has white hair where he isn't already bald. He wears a hat, and carries little more than his pouch as he travels.

## Peggy

Peggy is a young girl, just a little older than Alvin. She is a Torch, and has been all her life. She was present when Alvin was born, saving him by removing the caul that still covered his face when he was born. This act created a link to him that would last a lifetime. She had merely to think of him and she can see his heartfire and all of his possible futures playing out. From the moment of his birth, she had watched him, helped him where she could, and saved his life on many occasions.

## Napoleon Bonaparte

A short Corsican General sent by King Charles of France to ensure Canada's success against America, securing the wealth of the fur trade. He has a knack of making people





want to serve him and be loyal to him. Those he uses it on are overwhelmed with the sense that he will enhance and enrich their lives. Napoleon seeks to rule all by soft spoken word, and praise intermingled with suggestion and coercion. He manages very well with most white men, but Ta-Kumsaw laughs at him. Ta-Kumsaw has his own agenda, and it merely happens to align itself with Napoleon's. Napoleon encourages Ta-Kumsaw to gather his warriors and fight the white men, driving them from the land so that Napoleon can have the great battle that he knows will be necessary to get him out of exile and back to France. He has nothing but loathing for La Fayette and De Maurepas, whom he claims hold him hostage in Detroit, telling him that without an army of men at his side it isn't safe to venture more than fifty miles in any direction. Napoleon knows he is held captive, at least temporarily.

## **Gilbert La Fayette**

Marquis de La Fayette, who believed that Canada was a repository for the dregs of French society, is a founder of the Club of Feuillants and was exiled to Canada to live out his life where he could do no harm. He has a knack of being able to read a person's most secret wish or desire, and it is a knack that enables him to guess at most everything else. Though not able to read minds, he can read motivation, and once he knows the desire, the rest is easy. Having been warned that Napoleon has a knack for making people want to serve him, he had his friend Robespierre send him an amulet that would render him immune to Napoleon's charms. Gilbert's intentions were to manipulate Bonaparte to serve democracy by ensuring that upon his return to France, he would be ready to end the ruling class tyranny instead of adding more crowns to the King Charles.

La Fayette believes that to triumph over America, they will require enough settlers in numbers to overwhelm the Americans man for man and family for family.

## **Frederic Comte de Maurepas**

Frederic is a young Comte who believes that waiting for Napoleon to arrive is the greatest humiliation he could possibly suffer. He sees Canada as a repository for the dregs of French society. He wishes that La Fayette had managed to stay in France long enough to attain a posting with more elegance where they could face a civilized enemy. Frederic is feeling the personal humiliation of his exile to Canada. To make matters worse, he is now expected to greet Napoleon Bonaparte, the French general sent by King Charles to ensure Canada's triumph over America. He was sent to Detroit and secretly hopes to unseat La Fayette from his position of power in Niagara.

## **Pucky-Shinwa**

Lolla-Wossiky, Methowa-Tasky and Ta-Kumsaw's father, was shot and killed by William Harrison right in front of Lolla when they were young.



## **Wastenot Miller**

Wastenot and his brother Wantnot are looking for blood. They seek to do nothing more than to avenge the presumed deaths of their brothers, Alvin and Measure, despite their mother's assertions that they will no longer be welcomed by her if they take a single life, Red or otherwise.

## **Wantnot Miller**

Wantnot and his brother practice with rifles to be prepared for the coming battle against the Reds. Both are willing to sacrifice everything in the name of vengeance.

## **Calm Miller**

Calm Miller lives up to his name. One of the seven living sons of Alvin Miller Senior, he is calm and reasonable, always in control. He uses his calm demeanor to bring his father back from the depths of despair and hopelessness when together they search for Alvin Junior and Measure.

## **Faith Miller**

Faith Miller is a God fearing Christian woman who still understands that knacks are a gift from God and not to be squandered. She also believes highly in the power of prayer, and above all that life is sacred. She tries to give these gifts to her sons, one and all, and takes a harsh stand against them when they stray from the path of righteousness.



## Objects/Places

### Hio River

Hio River is an offshoot of the Mizzipy River that runs through Wobbish County down to Dekane.

### Carthage City

Carthage City is the name Governor Bill Harrison gave to the stockade that housed a hundred soldiers at the confluence of the Hio and Little My-Ammy Rivers. It was slowly growing up into the status of a village however.

### Vigor Church

Located in Wobbish County, Vigor Church is a village on the Wobbish River where it meets Tippy Canoe Creek. Named for Vigor Miller, the oldest of the Miller's sons who died to save his pregnant mother from drowning.

### Marie-Philippe

Sailing ship that brought Napoleon Bonaparte from France.

### Lake Irrakwa

Least and lowest of the Great Lakes.

### Lake Mizogan

The place where Alvin and Measure are taken by Ta-Kumsaw and where Alvin has his vision of the crystal city.

### Crystal City

A city that is light without dark, clean without dirty, healthy without sick, strong without weak, plenty without hunger.



## **Gatlopp**

A test of courage the Red men have where two lines of braves are formed and the challengers walk between them while the braves hit them with branches as a test of their manhood and courage.

## **Eight-face Mound**

A place the Red men considered holy, and that Alvin dreamed of the first day he was with Ta-Kumsaw on their journey. Every face has a different mound and destination. Red men can only climb Red man's face. Builder's face leads to the ancient city still alive; Beast's face leads to a land where Buffalo and another animal with horns that come from its mouth. There are four faces as well as the Medicine face, making eight in total, but even Ta-Kumsaw doesn't know the other four or their names. Traditionally, the mound is closed to white men.

## **Land of the Flints**

Resting place where Ta-Kumsaw stops with Alvin to seek answers in his own dreams before taking Alvin to Eight-Face Mound.

## **Vinegar Riley's house**

House with root cellar that Harrison commandeers and holds Measure.

## **Heartfire**

The spark of life that exists in all living things. It is the spark that is visible to a Torch.

## **Torch**

The name given to someone who can see into the future paths of any heartfire that is concentrated on.

## **Maker**

The title given to someone who can use his inner strength or power to alter any given item with concentration.



## **Speaking Meadow**

The place where Ta-Kumsaw assembles his believers before the massacre.

## **Tippy-Canoe Creek**

Site of the massacre of the Reds that curses the residents of Vigor Church for life.

## **Detroit**

City in which Napoleon resided and was subsequently arrested for treason.

## **Prophetstown**

The area across the river from Vigor Church where Tenskwa-Tawa gathered his people.



# Themes

## Religion versus Superstition

Armor-Of-God is an extremely religious and pious man. He tries to live his life in accordance with his beliefs, and for the most part, he succeeds. He runs the general store in Vigor Church and is a generous and understanding man, extending credit when needed, and trusting his neighbors. This includes the Red population in the area. He is eager to lead by example, treating natives exactly the same as he would anyone else. In this manner, he is every bit an upstanding and respectable member of his community. He often invites those less fortunate to share a meal, or offers his home as a place to sleep, even extending this offer to complete strangers, regardless of their nationality. It is this steadfast behavior that earns him the unilateral respect and admiration of those in his community. If Vigor Church were ever to grow to be the capital city as he would have liked, he would probably be the Governor, as he even now is the person to whom the townspeople trust and turn to. Reverend Thrower, his friend and regular companion, presents himself in much the same manner; however, the rules of church and God apply only to a degree. Like any religion, when something that is not completely understood occurs, it becomes devil behavior and eradication by any means necessary is acceptable.

Where Armor fails with respect to those in his community is his attitude towards those that are endowed with special abilities. Whether those abilities are God given is something he won't even consider, and instead, in his mind, all who have unexplained advantages in any area are deemed to be practicing a dark art of some kind. He leaves no room for the possibility that these gifts were given at birth and therefore were gifts from the God he so sincerely worships. His desire to divorce himself from any form of knack or ability even extends even to the woman he loves and married and to her family, in which several members are specially gifted. Her family, strong in many areas, is well known for their extraordinary abilities, but to Armor they are an abomination and he won't allow his wife to openly practice any of her gifts or talents. He refuses to allow her to protect their home by setting up harmless wards against evil but his efforts to contain her are unsuccessful, as his wife has found ways to express her gifts more subtly. Despite her protection hexes, strong and well placed all around and in their home, Armor remains blissfully unaware they exist and sure of her compliance with his wishes. Her gifts harm nothing, in that their only aim is to protect their home and him in the process, and yet if he found out, he would be angry, force her to remove them and likely lose faith in her entirely. This un-Christian like behavior in him is in direct opposition to the rest of his character and is an example of how religion and superstition clash, often with unhappy consequences.



## Perception of Reds versus Whites Regarding The Land

The Red man lives on the land and in harmony with the land. They listen to all of nature, using their extraordinary connection to the land to travel great distances by foot at incredible speeds, to hunt for food, and by interaction and understanding of the land in general. They never kill an animal or creature without cause or permission, asking the creatures they hunt if they will offer their lives up so that they might have sustenance, and often the animals will offer themselves when asked so that the Red man may live. As long as they maintain this touch with the land and the other creatures that inhabit it, they live in harmony. They understand how their presence affects the land, including all that dwell in or on it, and do all they can to live in harmony with everything that exists from trees to birds and everything in between, getting messages from nature in all forms as they do. Problems for the Red man begin when they encounter white man. Should they choose to use white man's tools, for example, they slowly lose touch with the land. The white man's likker further divorces them from feeling, and if a Red man is not careful they will lose their entire connection to the land.

White man has no such connection with the land, while many may think that their behavior enhances or improves the land they occupy. They overpower, overwhelm and override everything they come into contact with. By using tools, they divorce themselves from the land, losing any connection they might have. By using weapons, they divorce themselves from the other creatures of the land, and rather than attempt to live in harmony with what they find, they look for a way to overcome or overrun anything in the way. Food is something to be grown by plowing down surrounding green spaces, shelter is created by carving out space and using trees to build, and all is done without so much as a thought to how what is done affects the area they occupy. When the Red man disagrees with their methods, they are seen as a nuisance, and they are plied with likker or just relocated to suit the white man. In this way, a white colony more closely resembles a locust invasion. They believe themselves to be above and beyond all others. This practice has existed since the beginning of modern white man's existence, and has led to the problems of overpopulation, hunger and pollution we face today. Had the white man taken time to learn the ways the Red population existed, hardly disturbing the land around them at all, they would likely have lived better, longer, and with less negative consequences.

## Land Rights versus Perception of Rights

Red population believes that their existence on the land is as much a part of it as are the trees, or any other living thing. They live accordingly. While they don't believe in land ownership, they manage to live with reasonable harmony, and discord is settled by fighting which generally leads to one group relocating far enough from the other to avoid problems. All of this is done without harm or consequence to the land. In some ways nomadic, the native population doesn't stay in any place beyond the area's ability to retain them. Rather than take more than they need from the land, they attempt to blend



in with it, and become part of the larger picture, believing that to do otherwise is next to losing their identity - which in a sense it is.

White men move into an area and declare it belongs to them. They have no concept of the fact that land is not an acquisition or a prize, but something that should be adapted to and blended in with. A white population will decimate any area they move onto. They begin by clearing the land, killing its ability to be self sustaining. They plant their crops, often with no thought as to how this affects or drains the land they use. They build their homes with a permanence and use of implements that scars and rapes the land around them. As a result, from a Red man's perspective (and anyone else who looks at the situation objectively, which includes the occasionally enlightened white man) the white man is killing the land they move onto. In no time at all, life is all about the white man who have moved in, with no regard for anything or anyone who occupied the space before them. The concept of ownership is a perception they have that is in direct opposition to how the red man lived on the land for many years before they arrived without altering or harming the land in the process.





# Style

## Point of View

In *Red Prophet*, the author uses a first person perspective, switching between the characters that are central to each chapter. For example, in the first chapter, the story is told from Hooch Palmer's perspective as he supplies whisky to the soldiers and the Reds at Carthage City. In the second chapter, which deals with La Fayette and de Maurepas waiting to greet Napoleon upon his arrival, the story is told from their perspective. Each chapter is narrated by the characters central to the chapter. While this might seem confusing, Orson Scott Card does a reliable and competent job of blending the ideas and thoughts of these central characters, making the novel a good read from beginning to end. The story has strength of opinion and insights as the central characters interact, and this form of variable narration actually gives the reader a much better view of the motivations surrounding the intricate and often overlapping plot lines. By giving voice to such a variety of characters, the reader gains insight into the feelings of not only the main character, Alvin, but also the Prophet Tenskwa-Tawa, his brother Ta-Kumsaw, Alvin's family, Alvin's brother Measure, Armor-Of-God Weaver, Hooch Parlmer, Governor Harrison, La Fayette and de Maurepas. Definitely a rich tapestry of ideas and opinions.

## Setting

This story is set in early America, when land was being settled by White men in areas that the Red men had always roamed free. It is a story that begins in Carthage City, but takes the reader to Vigor Church, Tippy-Canoe, Detroit and many places in between, as Ta-Kumsaw and Alvin travel the country to gain support for an uprising against the white man. The reader is also introduced to places with special significance to the Red peoples like Eight Faced Mound, where Alvin is able to travel great distances with each footstep, and Lake Mizogon, where Alvin and Tenskwa-Tawa rise up inside a tornado to view their visions of the future. Alvin also sees the past in his time inside the tornado, watching as man evolved on the planet and giving him a greater insight into how people came to be. His vision includes a crystal city, which he sees with the Prophet. At the same time, the Prophet sees the battles to come and realizes that unless Alvin stays with his brother Ta-Kumsaw, they will both die. He sends them off together, and Alvin goes willingly, even meeting Becca and learning that Ta-Kumsaw also lived a white man's life for a time. All the events come to a head in Tippy-Canoe where the massacre occurs and in Detroit where Ta-Kumsaw and his followers take a stand against General Harrison and his army.



## Language and Meaning

In *Red Prophet*, Orson Scott Card endeavors to convey what life would be like in the days of American when slave trading existed; whiskey was taken down river on rafts powered by pole boys; and white men were just beginning to invade land that had been part of the red man's purview exclusively. The author does a good job of lending authenticity to his novel in several key areas. Orson Scott Card begins by using language that was likely commonplace in those days, where English is still in its developing stages and education was a luxury for white men and those especially of privilege. Words that are altered to suit the time period "likker" for liquor. These alternate spellings are not frequent enough to make reading difficult, but do lend an air of authenticity. Another way in which the author conveys the time period while ensuring his readers recognize that this is fiction is by his use of names from the history books, changed to become part of the story. Men like Tecumseh are represented in *Red Prophet* as Ta-Kumsaw; his brother Tenskwatawa is changed slightly to Tenskwa-Tawa and so on. He includes other names recognizable by all including Napoleon Bonaparte, General William Harrison; King Charles, etc. These minor changes in names include the tribes and places involved. Some of the author's choices for the native bands for example include the Chippy-Wa, Shaw-Nee and Wee-Aw, and familiar places such as My-Ammy and Mizippy. While the story very loosely follows the path history took in America, Orson Scott Card's additions and rearrangements are anything but a distraction. In fact, his use of the mixture of racial tension, political upheaval, slavery and even witchcraft of sorts all blend to make this a most enjoyable read.

## Structure

*Red Prophet* is a novel of 311 pages and divided into nineteen chapters. Each chapter is titled, highlighting the ideal the chapter conveys. In the first chapter, titled Hooch, the name refers to both the transfer of whisky to Fort Carthage and also to the first name of the character responsible for the whisky trade in that area. This chapter is thirty pages in length and sets up the trouble that began when "likker" was introduced and encouraged by white men to the red population to keep them docile and manageable. The second chapter introduces one of the two brothers who will feature throughout the story. Ta-Kumsaw is a character fashioned loosely around the real life native (Tecumseh) and introduces the beginning of the revolt against the white men and General William Harrison in particular. The third chapter introduces the political structure in civilized America. It also introduces Napoleon's arrival and the friction created by it. Chapter four brings Ta-Kumsaw's brother, Lolla-Wossiky into the picture more clearly. While he was introduced in an earlier chapter, this section begins his journey into a life away from whisky and towards the prophet he will become under his new name of Tenskwa-Tawa. Chapter five, called A Sign, introduces Alvin, who will play a feature roll from that point forward in the story, beginning with his healing of Lolla-Wossiky enabling him to see his new future in a vision. Most of the main characters have been introduced by this point, and in chapters that range from ten to thirty pages in length, the conflicts between red and white man play out in the remaining pages.



## Quotes

"We won't have peace and we won't have civilization until that's done (Reds are pushed west of the Mizzipy). And since Appalachee and the U.S. alike are convinced that Reds can be treated like human beings, we've got to solve our Red problem before we join the Union."

Ch. 1, p. 16

"He defeated the Spanish army in three weeks, while his superior officer was indisposed with dysentery."

Ch. 3, p. 48

"True talking White man, how come White Murdering Harrison not kill you yet?"

Ch. 4, p. 70

"I want to be Governor so Red men and White men can live together in peace here, farming the land side by side, going to the same schools so someday there ain't no difference between Red and White."

Ch. 5, p. 74

"Bill, I've lied, cheated, and sometimes killed to get ahead in the world, but one thing I've never done is bribe somebody to go steal some mother's children and torture them to death."

Ch. 6, p. 114

"Your God is nothing and nowhere, so you can build a church with nothing alive inside, a church that could be anywhere, it doesn't matter - nothing and nowhere."

Ch. 7, p. 147

"I will break the tower now, and you will remember what we did and said here."

Ch. 9, p. 179

"Them Chok-Taw who took us- if they weren't your own boys, which I ain't quite satisfied about either, if you want to know - they carved your name into the saddle on my horse and then jabbed the horse so it'd run."

Ch. 10, pp. 174-75

"That love of a commander makes men fight better than love of country, and love of country better than the hope of glory, and the hope of glory better than looting, and



looting better than wages."  
Chap. 11, p. 203

"You mean you can see where other folks did their doodlebug or beseeching or hex or charm?"  
Ch. 12, p. 218

"If some stranger comes along, and you don't tell him the whole story before you sleep, then the blood will come back on your hands, and stay there until you do tell him."  
Ch. 14, p. 246

"And if all men came like you, to learn this land, then there'd be no war between us."  
Ch. 15, p. 253

"All that matters is what you do with however many years you have."  
Ch. 17, p. 287

"The defeat you will suffer without me will mark you as the champion fool in the history of the French army."  
Ch. 18, p. 298

"If all White men were true like you, Alvin, I would never have been their enemy."  
Ch. 19, p. 304



## Topics for Discussion

How did Ta-Kumsaw know that his father had been killed?

What event made Ta-Kumsaw realize that he was no longer a boy, and was in fact chosen by the land to be the Chief to all Red men in the war against the White man, and how was this message carried to all Red men in advance of his arrival?

Who healed Lolla-Wossiky and how? What was Lolla searching for when that happened?

Lolla-Wossiky has three distinct personalities. Name and describe them.

What event in Lolla's life prevented him from functioning as a Red man before his meeting with Alvin?

How did the Prophet show Alvin the crystal city? What else did Alvin learn?

Why was Measure reluctant to leave Alvin behind?

What did the Prophet want Ta-Kumsaw to do and why was he supposed to take Alvin with him.

Who orchestrated the kidnapping of Alvin and Measure? Why?

What is the purpose of the loom Becca works on?

Why did Ta-Kumsaw still fight in Detroit despite a lack of weapons?

Why was Napoleon arrested? Who made this possible and why?

Why did Alvin continue to share the story of Tippy-Canoe despite the knowledge that he was helping to work the Reds up to fight the Whites?

Why did Becca stay with the loom? Becca claims not to be a weaver by name and won't reveal what she should likely be called. Why?

Why does William Harrison kidnap Measure and order Mike Fink to kill him? What was significant about the manner in which he was to be killed?