

The Red Pyramid Study Guide

The Red Pyramid by Rick Riordan

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Plot Summary

The Red Pyramid by Rick Riordan is a fascinating fantasy novel about a pair of siblings who must work together to save the world. After witnessing their father disappear after performing a feat of magic, Sadie and Carter Kane struggle to accept the truth of Egyptian mythology, battling gods and demons in their effort to save their family and the world. The Red Pyramid is an engaging and entertaining novel that demonstrates the loyalty and tenacity of this brother and sister duo.

At the British Museum in London, Carter and Sadie Kane watches their father, Julius, summon five gods from the Rosetta Stone, but Julius is imprisoned in a coffin by Set, the Egyptian god of chaos. The police question the children at their grandparents' house, but their Uncle Amos kidnaps them, with their grandparents' consent, and takes them to their family mansion in Brooklyn, atop a warehouse. While sleeping, Carter's ba—his spirit—travels to Phoenix, Arizona, where he learns that Set plans to summon a storm to demolish the continent on the third Demon Day, Set's birthday. When Carter tells Amos about this the next morning, Amos leaves the children to search for Set in order to learn more about his plans.

After Amos leaves, the mansion is attacked by Set's minions, but when Sadie tells her cat, Muffin, to save them, the cat transforms into the fierce goddess, Bast, who defeats Set's minions and takes the children to Central Park where they are accosted by Serqet, the scorpion goddess. While searching for the temple in the Metropolitan Museum, Sadie and Carter are joined by Zia Rashid, who helps them escape through a portal to go to the House of Life where they will be trained as magicians. Unfortunately, Sadie and Carter must soon leave the First Nome when Chief Lector Iskandar dies and is replaced by Desjardins, who views them as a threat since they host gods, Horus and Isis, something that is forbidden by the House.

In Paris, the children, with Bast's help, retrieve a book that instructs them on how to defeat Set. They visit the author, Thoth, who tells them Sadie will be able to read the spell when the time comes. Thoth also informs them they will need the Feather of Truth and Set's secret name to defeat him. After traveling to the Land of the Dead and convincing Anubis to give them the Feather of Truth, Carter and Sadie seek Nephthys to learn Set's secret name, but when they are attacked by Sobek, Bast sacrifices herself to save them.

Amos finally rejoins his niece and nephew in time for them to meet Zia in Las Cruces, New Mexico, but Desjardins attacks the Kanes, summoning Sekhmet who Sadie, Carter and Zia defeat. Zia accompanies the Kanes to Phoenix, and while Carter battles Set, Sadie transports the pyramid to Washington, DC after realizing they cannot defeat Set in his place of power, the desert. Before Sadie can complete the spell, she sees Apophis, the god of chaos, and realizes Apophis plans to use the power from the pyramid for herself. After discontinuing the spell, Sadie forces Set to help them save the world from Apophis. In order to prove to Desjardins that they are not possessed by the



gods they are hosting, Sadie and Carter release the gods, storing part of their essence in their amulets.

Carter and Sadie visit the Land of the Dead again to see their father, who knew he must die to restore Osiris, the god he is hosting, to Osiris's throne. Horus and Isis express their gratitude to the Kane children by restoring their family mansion and sending Bast back to the regular world to serve as their guardian. The children use the djied amulet their father gave them to attract others who have the blood of the pharaohs because they must relearn the path of the gods in order to defeat Apophis when she attempts to rise again.



Section 1: Chapters 1-3

Section 1: Chapters 1-3 Summary

The Red Pyramid by Rick Riordan is a fascinating fantasy novel about a pair of siblings who must work together to save the world. After witnessing their father disappear after performing a feat of magic, Sadie and Carter Kane struggle to accept the truth of Egyptian mythology, battling gods and demons in their effort to save their family and the world. The Red Pyramid is an engaging and entertaining novel that demonstrates the loyalty and tenacity of this brother and sister duo.

In Chapter 1: A Death at the Needle, Carter instructs the reader to listen carefully because he and Sadie may be their only hope. Carter Kane and his father, Julius, visit Sadie, Carter's sister, on Christmas Eve; Sadie lives with their maternal grandparents, the Fausts, and Carter and Julius are only permitted to visit her twice a year. Carter worries because his dad seems unusually nervous, and when they see a man in a trench coat as they walk toward the Fausts' house, Julius tells Carter to retrieve Sadie while he talks to the man.

When Sadie notices her father talking to the strange man, she persuades Carter to eavesdrop with her, but they do not understand why the man, Amos, is threatening their father that Per Ankh is shadowing him and will stop him if Amos does not. Julius insists they are all in danger if he does not do this, and Amos flees when Sadie greets her father.

At the museum, Carter is confused when he notices that there is a man and two children still in the cab that Julius tells the driver to take to Chelsea.

In Chapter 2: An Explosion for Christmas, Julius sends Sadie and Carter out of the Egyptian gallery while he privately views the Rosetta Stone. Hovering at the entrance to the gallery, they see Julius touch the stone with a curved white stick and blue hieroglyphs appear where the stick makes contact. The blue light turns white, the Rosetta Stone explodes, and Carter loses consciousness. He hears laughter when he regains consciousness and sees a flicker of light from which the laughter exudes which appears to be the vague outline of a fiery man. The fiery man and Julius argue for a bit, but the fiery man insists the House cannot defeat him. Saying "Good-bye, Osiris" (p. 27), the man conjures a coffin around Julius which then sinks into the floor.

In Chapter 3: Imprisoned with my Cat, the police are at the museum when Sadie awakes. The police separate Carter and Sadie for questioning but do not believe their stories. The police take the children to the Fausts' house where Sadie is locked in her room with Muffin. As she tries to write the symbols, the police woman comes to retrieve her and takes her to talk to Chief Inspector Williams, who suspects Julius of being affiliated with terrorists. Sadie sees Amos out the window, but he disappears before she can show him to the inspector. She mentions Amos, but the inspector says they talked



to Amos in New York an hour again. The inspector says it is time to go downstairs and discuss the consequences with Sadie's grandparents.

Section 1: Chapters 1-3 Analysis

The novel begins with a warning that this is a transcript of a digital recording so the author makes no claims of authenticity. It seems impossible that Carter and Sadie are telling the truth, but the reader must decide for himself. In Chapter 1, Carter introduces himself and tells the reader that the right person should go to the school and find the locker, but they can only keep it for a week or it will consume them.

Their story begins in London, the night their father blew up the British Museum. Carter Kane is fourteen years old and has traveled the world with his archaeologist father, Julius Kane, since his mother, Ruby, died when he was eight years old. The events of the novel are foreshadowed when Carter and Sadie overhear Julius talking to Amos, but the discussion is very vague and mysterious at this point in the novel.

As Julius, Sadie and Carter take a taxi to the British Museum, Julius stops at Cleopatra's Needle to see where it all happened, and the children realize this is where their mother died. Julius asks if Sadie still has her cat, Muffin, and the amulet he gave her. He also gave Carter an amulet of the Eye of Horus. Sadie says the Faustus blame Julius for Ruby's death, but as Julius begins to tell the children about their mother's death, they notice two figures in Egyptian garb, and Julius hurries them into the cab because they are out of time, promising to explain everything at the museum where he will make everything right. Carter hesitates at the gate before following Sadie inside, but he should have dragged her away then.

In Chapter 2, Julius tries to protect his children from what he is doing, but they spy on him despite his insistence that they stay away from the Egyptian gallery. Though it seems impossible, Sadie translates her father's hieroglyphs to mean "Osiris, come", but she does not know how she is able to translate the ancient language. Julius tells the fiery man to return to the Duat because he was not summoned, and opening his archaeology toolbox, he withdraws a small rod which elongates into a wooden staff. The staff turns into a serpent which attacks the fiery man, but after burning the staff to ash, the man tells Julius that he released all five and soon more will be released. The House cannot stop him. After the sarcophagus in which Julius is imprisoned sinks into the floor, Sadie throws a stone at the man's head, and when he turns, Carter sees the most hideous animal-humanoid figure he could imagine. The man reaches out for the Kane children, but an invisible force pushes him back. The man and girl in Egyptian garb from Cleopatra's Needle appear, the room erupts in flame, and the girl draws a curved knife from her belt as Carter passes out.

In Chapter 3, Sadie wonders why Julius asked about her amulet, and she cannot fathom why she could read the hieroglyphs. She is questioned by the police, and the inspector claims Carter already told them everything, causing Sadie to become angry at him for lying to children; "Carter would never say a word against Dad, and neither will



!" (p. 37). The inspector takes Sadie downstairs to discuss the consequences with her grandparents.



Section 2: Chapters 4-6

Section 2: Chapters 4-6 Summary

In Chapter 4: Kidnapped by a Not-So-Stranger, Carter clutches Julius' workbag as he slumps on the couch, but the inspector does not seem to even notice the bag. As the inspector threatens to charge the children, he blinks as if he has forgotten something and suddenly changes his mind and deports them instead. Grandpa is furious when he sees Amos on the front porch. Amos greets the Faustus mildly before telling Carter and Sadie they must come with him. Sadie feels betrayed as her grandparents agree with Amos. Amos draws the hieroglyph for boat on the window, and Carter points to an Egyptian reed boat docked down at the quayside. Gran reminds Sadie to take Muffin with her, and Muffin jumps into Sadie's arms. When Sadie objects again to leaving with some stranger, Amos says he is Julius' brother, hurrying the children along because they have a long way to go.

In Chapter 5: We Meet the Monkey, the boat moves at an astounding speed, and it seems impossible when they reach New York within minutes. Amos shows the children the family mansion, perched on top of a warehouse in a huge industrial yard, and he welcomes them to the Twenty-First Nome, explaining that the world is divided into 360 Nomes with Egypt being the first. Amos stops at the entrance which has no handle or door and instructs Carter to enter first. Getting a strange feeling, Carter raises his hand, causing the door to rise into the ceiling.

Inside, the children are amazed by the Great Room, which is centered around a statue of an Egyptian god holding a scroll with an ankh with a rectangle at the top, and Sadie recognizes the symbol of Per Ankh which means the House of Life. Claiming he will explain the rest in daylight, Amos summons a baboon, Khufu, to lead the children to their rooms, claiming they have a lot to get used to but they need their rest if they are going to survive and save Julius. Amos secures Julius' workbag in the library before allowing Khufu to escort Carter and Sadie to their rooms. Carter goes to sleep, but he does not sleep on the ivory headrest inscribed with hieroglyphs because it is uncomfortable.

In Chapter 6: Breakfast with a Crocodile, Carter feels himself drift away as he sleeps, and he looks down on his resting body. Carter floats through the air to the desert where two figures standing on a ridge do not seem to notice him. The fiery form from the museum appears, and the two hideous creatures grovel before him. The fiery man learns the city below is Phoenix and talks about how he entombed one already, one is weak and he will soon deal with the other two. He instructs the toadies to build his temple here where he will summon the greatest storm ever known to cleanse everything. In the morning, Carter dresses in the Egyptian peasant-style clothes in his closet and goes downstairs to join Amos and Sadie for breakfast on the terrace. Carter is astounded by the albino crocodile, Philip of Macedonia, swimming in the pool.



When Sadie and Carter demand Amos explain, Amos tells them Julius was trying to summon a god but it worked, unfortunately. The Egyptian gods are real, and in ancient times, each temple had a branch of magicians called the House of Life. Amos and Julius belong to the House of Life because the Kanes have been magicians almost since the beginning. The Faustus are also an ancient line of magicians, though Ruby was the first to practice magic in her family for many generations. Therefore, Sadie and Carter combine the blood of two ancient families which have a long, complicated history with the gods, and Amos tells them "you are the most powerful Kane children to be born in many centuries" (p. 73).

Amos explains that Julius was using the Rosetta Stone as a focal point to work a powerful spell, but he did not understand how much power the relic contained. He was only trying to summon Osiris, the lord of the dead, and Sadie and Carter wonder if Julius was trying to resurrect Ruby. Amos believes Julius successfully released and joined with Osiris, but he did not get to use his power because he released five gods that were trapped together because they were so dangerous. Amos tells them they must be trained properly in order to find Julius and put things right or the whole world is in danger. When Carter tells Amos about his trip to Phoenix, Amos decides he must learn more if they are going to defeat the Red Lord. Carter and Sadie will be safe in the mansion since it is protected by magic. After Amos leaves, Sadie immediately says it is time to explore the library.

Section 2: Chapters 4-6 Analysis

In Chapter 4, Gran and Grandpa Faust look nervous as the inspector claims they need to tell him the truth, and as he continues badgering the children, Sadie explodes at the implication that Julius abandoned them. The inspector seems to magically forget his threat to charge the children and deports them instead, and he does not even seem to notice Amos on the front porch as he storms out the door. When Amos insists Carter and Sadie go to New York with him, Sadie objects to leaving with a stranger, but Amos objects that he is not a stranger. Carter refuses to leave with someone who nearly fought Julius, but Amos assures him he was trying to prevent Julius from doing something rash. Gran and Grandpa argue with Amos, but he insists that he is the only one who can protect the children now; they need to get to safety in New York within the next hour before the inspector changes his mind. Amos summons a reed boat to take them to New York, and Muffin jumps into Sadie's arms to accompany them. Amos tells Sadie that they are family when she again objects to leaving with a stranger, and Sadie recalls Uncle Amos wishing her a happy birthday when she was very young.

In Chapter 5, Carter feels guilty for leaving London without Julius, but he believes Amos that Julius is beyond their help right now and Amos is the only one who seems to know anything. It seems impossible when the boat reaches New York within only a few minutes. At the Kanes' family mansion, Amos grants Muffin permission to enter, explaining to Sadie and Carter that there are special circumstances regarding Muffin. Carter recognizes the statue in the Great Room as Thoth, the Egyptian god of knowledge, and Amos explains Thoth is the only god who is still allowed in the House of



Life and he was its founder. He explains the gods are often depicted with animal heads because "they are primal forces... a sort of bridge between humanity and nature" (p. 56). The children's rooms are amazing, but they are annoyed to find that they are locked inside. Sadie asks Carter if they can trust Amos, and he reassures her though he trusts nothing after all he has seen today. Carter notes that not sleeping on the ivory headrest was his first big mistake, foreshadowing his description of his ba's travels which occurs in the next chapter.

In Chapter 6, when Carter feels himself drifting away from his body, his form, other than his face, becomes that of a bird, but he knows he is not dreaming because he does not dream in color or with all of his senses. Carter floats to Phoenix where he overhears Set's plans to construct a pyramid in order to summon a gigantic storm. Musing on Phoenix, Set thinks it is fitting since he will soon rise from its ashes; it will be a lovely birthday present. Carter wakes in his room in Amos' house and is swept with grief for Julius, but an older, wiser voice in his head tells him there's no time for grief. When Amos tells Carter Merry Christmas, Carter realizes this is the first Christmas he has spent with his sister since their mother died.

Amos tells the children he will begin his explanations after they eat. In his explanation, Amos includes information about the Kanes' involvement with the gods since the very beginning as well as the fact that Carter and Sadie are the most powerful Kane children to be born in many centuries. The House of Life has spent much of the last two thousand years trying to contain the gods. Ruby died while attempting something she and Julius thought was for the greater good, forcing Julius to move constantly because the House monitored his activities for fear he would continue his research. The House also dictated that Sadie and Carter be separated because they would become more powerful if they were raised together. Sadie and Carter recall arguing during Sadie's sixth birthday party and causing her cake to explode.

When Carter tells Amos about his trip to Phoenix, Amos explains that Carter's soul, or ba, traveled through the shallow currents of the Duat while he slept, but it would not have done so if he had used the enchanted headrest. Amos is worried about the Red Lord's plans and says he must go to learn more if they are going to defeat the Red Lord. He will train the children when he returns. The mansion is protected so they will be safe, but Amos forbids them to go into the library before disappearing over the edge of the terrace. Sadie immediately says it is time to explore the library.



Section 3: Chapters 7-9

Section 3: Chapters 7-9 Summary

In Chapter 7: I Drop a Little Man on his Head, once Sadie uses the spell for destroy which Amos demonstrated earlier in order to open the library doors, Carter rushes to Julius' workbag which sits on a stone table in the center of the room and withdraws wax, a wooden stylus, a palette, ink, twine, an ebony cat statue and a roll of papyrus. Lastly, Sadie retrieves a crudely-made wax figurine without legs. Carter says there is nothing here to explain what happened to Julius or how to get him back, so Sadie tells the wax man to tell them what he knows. She screams and drops the figurine when he becomes warm and tells her "I answer the call" (page 92). The figurine tells her he is a shabti who Julius calls Doughboy, but he refuses to make any educated guesses because Sadie only commanded him to tell her what he knows, so declaring his task fulfilled, he returns to wax. The children search the papyrus scrolls contained in the plastic cylinders until they find one titled "Blood of the Great House" which contains the lineage of all the pharaohs' dynasties, but they are unable to read it because the names are written inside cartouches, magic ropes that protect the holder of the names from evil magic and other magicians. Sadie begins believing all this crazy Egyptian stuff is real when she finds the Kanes' name on the document. Carter recounts the story of the gods of the Demon Days which are the five gods Julius released. The children hear a crash in the Great Room and run for the stairs as Khufu barks in alarm.

In Chapter 8: Muffin Plays with Knives, Sadie and Carter run to the window to see two enormous creatures wrestling with Philip of Macedonia in the pool. Khufu hands Muffin to Sadie as the serpopards manage to destroy the magic and break the doors. As Carter grabs a sword from Amos' wall, Sadie remembers Amos saying Muffin would protect her so she orders the cat to protect them. The pendant on Muffin's collar gleams, and the monsters are thrown back by an explosion of dry air coming from Muffin. Sadie is shocked to see a lithe woman standing where Muffin was a moment before, and the woman extracts two knives from her sleeves and quickly dispatches the two serpopards. Carter recognizes the woman as Bast, goddess of cats, and Bast tells Carter and Sadie to hurry while they can still make it out alive. In Chapter 9: We Run from Four Guys in Skirts, Bast leads the children outside as four men in kilts and sandals, carrying an oversized coffin, come down the stairs. Bast explains they are carriers summoned from the Duat and will stop at nothing to retrieve their prey and take it back to their master in the sedan.

Section 3: Chapters 7-9 Analysis

In Chapter 7, Sadie believes that whenever something is forbidden, it is a good reason to do it. Carter is hesitant to enter the library, but Sadie points out it contains powerful stuff they will need to save Julius. The doors are locked with padlocks and steel chains, but they explode when Sadie uses the words and hieroglyphics she saw Amos use for



"destroy"; however, the use of so much magic nearly causes Sadie to collapse, but she forgets her dizziness as she notes the grandeur of the library. Rather than books and shelves, the walls are lined with cubbyholes containing plastic cylinders, and ceramic statues stand at each of the four compass points. When the children summon Julius's shabti, he tells them that they are going to be in trouble when Julius finds out the children triggered him. When they tell him Julius is missing, Doughboy claims he is free at last and tries to escape, but Sadie throws him back in the box and demands he answer her questions. After Carter recounts the events at the museum, Doughboy excitedly says Julius is almost certainly dead after releasing the five gods of the Demon Days. Sadie finds a scroll depicting five animal-headed gods, and Carter realizes these are the children of Nut, the sky goddess, and they are connected to the Demon Days, but he cannot remember the whole story. When he wishes for the story in English, one of the statues retrieves a cylinder for the children, and as Carter reads it, he notes this is bad news if Julius released these five gods. Nut and her husband Geb, the earth god, wanted children, but Ra, the sun god and king of the gods, forbid Nut to give birth on any day or night of the year because of a prophecy that a child of Nut and Geb would one day replace Ra as king of the gods. Playing dice with Khons, the moon god, Nut won enough moonlight to create five new days to add to the end of the year, the Demon Days, and gave birth to one of her children on each of these days: Osiris, Horus, Set, Isis and Nephthys. Set is the villain of Egyptian mythology, and Sadie recognizes the Red Lord from the depiction of Set. The Demon Days start tomorrow, and Julius told Set "they'll stop you before the Demon Days are over" (page 103). Sadie is scared, but the voice in the back of her head tells her it is not impossible and they must defeat Set in order to save Julius.

In Chapter 8, the house is attacked by snake-like creatures. After preventing Sadie from leaving the house since it is protected by magic, Carter takes her to the library to show her images of the snake-like monsters with heads of cats called serpopards. Set told his minions to send the longnecks first when Carter was in Phoenix, so the children know the monsters are trying to capture them. Khufu retrieves the children to see the serpopards spitting poison on the glass door. When the serpopards break through the house's protective magic, Khufu charges the monsters and is thrown outside into the void. Bast, the cat goddess, emerges from Muffin when Sadie orders her cat to protect them, and Bast quickly dispatches the serpopards. She says they must leave because worse will be coming, and when she learns Sadie cannot open a door into the Duat, she says they need to get to the obelisk in Central Park. In Chapter 9, Carter retrieves Julius' magic kit from the library while Bast argues with Sadie about searching for Philip of Macedonia and Khufu. Bast insists they leave now because the fact that the house's defenses were breached so easily indicates it was sabotaged by a magician of the House. Outside, a gray tom cat approaches Bast to offer his help; he will spread news of the Kanes' predicament so that soon all cats in New York will be on alert. Bast tenses and hides the children behind a stack of crates while she attacks and destroys a wrecking ball. When the ground shakes, Bast says their time is up. She steals a Lexus convertible as smoke and flames billow from every window of the mansion. Bast flies through the traffic in Brooklyn as the four carriers from the Duat jog behind the car. Bast will not be able to teleport the children because her power in this host is limited. She explains she made a deal with Julius to protect Sadie if he allowed Bast to stay in the



world in a minor form. Carter guesses his parents released Bast from Cleopatra's Needle, but she says that is not important right now. When he asks why the House of Life forbids summoning gods if gods are so powerful and helpful, Bast says magicians are paranoid, but right now they need to get far from New York and get help to challenge Set, meaning they will summon more gods of course.



Section 4: Chapters 10-12

Section 4: Chapters 10-12 Summary

In Chapter 10: Bast Goes Green, the carriers follow Bast and the children within a block so Bast summons hordes of cats to buy some time. Bast leaves Sadie to concentrate on opening a gateway through the Duat while she defends them, inviting Carter to help her. Bast's aura expands into a twenty-foot goddess with a cat head as she summons her combat magic, slicing the carriers in half. But when the carriers reform, Bast tells Carter to help cut them into smaller pieces. Sadie is getting nowhere as the brush rustles with a slithery sound. Bast growls as Serqet, the Scorpion goddess, emerges. Saying things are about to get ugly, Bast tells Carter and Sadie to find the temple in the museum and she will catch up. Carter grabs Sadie and they run to the museum.

In Chapter 11: We Meet the Human Flamethrower, Carter pulls Sadie into the museum as Bast is overtaken by scorpions. As they run from the sounds of approaching scorpions, they run into the Arab girl from the British museum. Carter unsheathes his sword. After learning Amos and Bast are not with them, the girl introduces herself as Zia Rashid, telling them "right now, I must save your miserable lives" (p. 136). Zia makes a hieroglyph for open in front of the temple and tells the children it will open in ten minutes since portals can only appear at auspicious moments. She erects a protection circle around the temple just before scorpions appear at the entrance to the gallery followed by Serqet.

In Chapter 12: A Jump Through the Hourglass, Serqet demands Zia hand over the younglings, but Zia says she is mistress of the elements, telling the goddess "leave or be destroyed" (p. 142). Zia binds Serqet with the Seven Ribbons of Hathor, causing Serqet to fall and transform into another woman, her mortal host; however, the black haze surrounding the woman grows darker because Serqet is reforming, though Zia claims this is impossible. When Carter points out that the portal is closing, Zia, Carter and Sadie jump into the swirling vortex, escaping the black cloud forming into a large, angry scorpion.

Section 4: Chapters 10-12 Analysis

In Chapter 10, Bast parks at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and leads Sadie and Carter into Central Park to the giant obelisk where she tells Sadie to get started; they need to get out of here before Set summons other gods to his cause. Bast explains the world is about order and chaos, not good and evil, and Set is ruled by chaos. As Bast ponders Carter's questions about the other four gods Julius released, a Siamese cat warns Bast that the carriers are near and something stronger is coming from the east. Sadie is unable to open a portal, so when Serqet appears, Bast sends the children to the temple in the Metropolitan Museum.



In Chapter 11, Sadie's inability to open the portal makes her feel like a failure. She and Carter rush past the guards into the Egyptian exhibit, and when they begin arguing about who had a worse upbringing, the glass next to them shatters, reminding them that they need to control their tempers. They are joined by Zia, the Arab girl from the British Museum who assures them she will protect them because she was ordered to do so by her superiors. As Zia leads Carter and Sadie through the halls, she taps on the glass, waking statues which wait for their enemies to buy them time. They reach the temple Bast mentioned, which Zia explains is the Temple of Dendur, built by the Romans when they occupied Egypt, and it has enough power to open a gate out of the museum since it was dedicated to Isis. Sadie does not want to trust Zia since she wanted to kill the Kanes at the British Museum, but Zia insists they are safe with her because her superiors believe they are innocents. When Serqet appears in the gallery, Sadie warns Zia that Serqet defeated Bast, asking what chance Zia will have against the goddess. As the head of her staff bursts into bright flames, Zia says "I am a scribe in the House of Life, Sadie Kane. I am trained to fight gods" (p. 140).

In Chapter 12, Zia points her staff at Serqet, but the flames engulfing the goddess quickly die as Serqet says that Set will soon lay waste to this land. Throwing her wand as a diversion, Zia grabs something from her sleeve and jumps from the circle as Carter yells that the gate is open since what looks like a sand hourglass has appeared in front of the temple. Sadie wants to help because she knows Zia is going to use the ribbons, and she knows they will not work, though she does not know how she has this knowledge. Zia tries to bind Serqet with the Seven Ribbons of Hathor, but Serqet breaks the bonds, so Zia, Sadie and Carter leave the Metropolitan Museum through the portal.



Section 5: Chapters 13-15

Section 5: Chapters 13-15 Summary

In Chapter 13: I Face the Killer Turkey, Carter tumbles from the vortex onto a cold, tile floor, and Sadie and Zia land on top of him. Explaining they are here to see the ruins of Heliopolis which are under the airport, Zia leads them through a maintenance door, down stone steps and stops at the bottom. They pass a few other people as Zia leads Carter and Sadie through a marketplace and past a building filled with children which Zia explains are initiates learning to scry. When they reach a twenty-foot tall sphinx, Zia explains they are directly under the Sphinx at Giza, but the tunnel leading up to the Sphinx has been closed because archaeologists came too close to discovering the secrets underneath. She leads them to the Hall of Ages, pressing her hand against a seal bearing the symbol for the House of Life. She warns them to behave because they are about to meet the Chief Lector.

In Chapter 14: A French Guy Almost Kills Us, Carter and Sadie walk through the Hall of Ages, filled with hieroglyphs and images of the past floating through the air. At the end of the hall, they reach a dais with an empty throne. An old man sits on the steps beneath the throne, and he seems to be reading Carter's entire being when he looks at the boy. The Frenchman from the British Museum steps from the shadows, introducing himself as Desjardins and the old man as Chief Lector Iskandar who welcomes the Kanes to the House of Life. Desjardins says Iskandar will allow Zia to test Carter and Sadie while he seeks the truth and lies in their tale, promising to punish them for their lies. Zia shows Carter and Sadie to their quarters for the evening.

In Chapter 15: A Godly Birthday Party, Sadie is taken to the girls' dormitory, but she cannot sleep so she sneaks to the Hall of Ages because she wants another look at the Age of the Gods. When she touches an image of a vast hall filled with revelers, she finds herself in the palace of the gods where she witnesses Set capturing Osiris in the sarcophagus he used to imprison her father. A hand on Sadie's shoulder causes the images to evaporate. Iskandar apologizes for the interruption but he had to as Sadie was almost dead.

Sadie passes out and wakes curled at Iskandar's feet on the steps below the throne. When she tells the Chief Lector about her vision, he tells her she saw a very old event: Set taking the throne of Egypt by force. Iskandar further explains that the greatest pharaohs often became hosts for the gods, especially Horus, who gave them power and wisdom, allowing them to build Egypt into a mighty empire. Few achieved their attempts to host the gods. When Egypt fell to Rome, it became clear that mankind no longer had the strength of will to master a god's power, and those who did were the blood of the pharaohs. Iskandar tells Sadie she has a hard path ahead, but he is now convinced she must take it. Her brother will need her guidance, but Zia will help them. He touches Sadie's forehead, and she falls into a deep sleep.



Section 5: Chapters 13-15 Analysis

In Chapter 13, Carter realizes they are in the Cairo airport when they emerge from the portal, and Zia says they must hurry; Serqet cannot follow them because the artifact requires a twelve-hour cool down period after being used for a portal, but they still have to worry about airport security. Welcoming Carter and Sadie to the First Nome, Zia explains each magician must unbar the path for herself. Carter is annoyed that Zia, like Bast, looks at Sadie as though she has superpowers, so he draws his sword and marches across the plank to the doorway between two statues. The door glows, and a red light coalesces into a five-foot birdman who smiles at Carter and says "Pari, niswa nafeer" (p. 151). He winks at Carter and disappears as Zia gasps. She explains the creature is a ba that guards the entrances of the House. When Carter asks Sadie what the ba said, she tells her brother it mistook him for someone else because it said "Go forth, good king" (p. 152). Zia is apprehensive with Carter because the ba called him king.

In Chapter 14, the Hall of Ages is the weirdest place Carter and Sadie have seen yet, with millions of hieroglyphs floating through the air. Zia warns them against spending too much time looking at the images from the Age of the Gods because the memories are so powerful they can destroy a mortal's mind. They pass through the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom, the New Kingdom, and the Ptolemaic times, as Zia explains the hall lengthens each year to encompass history up to the present. When Carter asks why Iskandar does not sit on the throne, Desjardins translates from Iskandar's native tongue, Alexandrian Greek, that the throne is for the pharaoh and has been vacant since Egypt fell to Rome. Iskandar says that Sadie and Carter will not be held responsible for their family's past crimes, but they must stay in the First Nome to be properly trained. Carter objects that they need to find their father, and he and Sadie tell Iskandar the story of their adventures, excluding certain facts as he is told to do so by the voice in his head. Desjardins does not believe the Kaness' story, but Zia tells him how she could not defeat Serqet with the Seven Ribbons so maybe the rumors are true about the gods escaping; maybe she could not banish Serqet because Set is increasing chaos. Iskandar stops the argument between Zia and Desjardins by smiling at Zia. After studying Carter for some time, Iskandar disappears with Desjardins in a blinding flash of light. Zia will now show Carter and Sadie to their quarters and will test what magic they know and how they know it in the morning. When Sadie asks what will happen if they fail, Zia tells them this is not the type of test one fails; they will pass, or they will die.

In Chapter 15, Sadie touches an image in the Hall of Ages and witnesses a scene from antiquity. A muscular African man, Osiris, sits on the throne in the center of the room, and a beautiful, pregnant woman, Isis, dances at his side; Sadie gasps when she realizes the woman has her mother's face. The gods do not seem to notice her, except for a handsome boy around sixteen years old, who tells her to watch but not interfere before disappearing. Osiris tells Isis happy birthday and that they will soon mark the birth of their son, Horus, whose new incarnation will be his greatest yet. The celebration is interrupted by Set's arrival, and Set claims he has come to celebrate his brother's birthday. Set presents the golden sarcophagus he used to imprison Julius and claims



the box will increase the powers of the only god who fits it perfectly. Since none of the other gods fit, Osiris tries against Isis's warning, and Set locks Osiris inside and seals the lid. Set tells Isis her child will never be born because he is king now, but another goddess attacks Set and tells Isis to flee. As Isis turns into a bird and flies away, Sadie becomes Isis and feels Set closing in as Isis speaks in her head "Avenge Osiris. Crown Horus king!" (p. 176). When Sadie tells Iskandar what she saw, he explains Set hid Osiris's coffin and Isis searched the entire world to find it, but Osiris was resurrected in the Underworld and became King of the Dead. After many battles, Horus won the throne of Egypt from Set. The story is old, but it has been repeated many times throughout history, though the settings and hosts change. Sometimes, the relationships between the gods change as they take different human hosts, but they prefer human hosts since humans possess one thing the gods do not, creativity. Iskandar tells Sadie she reminds him of her mother. Ruby studied at the First Nome, and she was the first to possess the power of divination in many centuries.



Section 6: Chapters 16-18

Section 6: Chapters 16-18 Summary

In Chapter 16: How Zia Lost Her Eyebrows, Zia wakes Sadie and leads her to the cleansing room where they join Carter. Saying the Kanes are ready to duel now, Zia takes them to Luxor through a portal. After drawing circles in the sand, Zia instructs that the first to knock the other from their circle wins. As the children begin, a young initiate brings a message to Zia, who cries at the news that Iskandar died in his sleep. She also tells the Kanes that Desjardins is next in line and will have the Kanes executed as soon as he is named Chief Lector. Zia will have to obey when he orders her to bring them in. Sadie tells Zia about her conversation with Iskandar in the Hall of Ages, and Zia tells them to use the obelisk at the entrance. Sadie grabs Carter's hand, and they run.

In Chapter 17: A Bad Trip to Paris, Carter did not sleep much the night before fleeing Luxor because his ba decided to take a trip, despite the fact that he used his enchanted headrest. He floated to a cavern where he saw Set capture Amos. After waking in his body, Carter snuck to the marketplace where he saw Zia and followed her into a secret chamber with an altar depicting photographs of her as a child. He knows he is not supposed to see it when she throws a blue sphere through the ceiling, but Zia hears Carter when he tries to sneak out. At the obelisk, a magician summons sphinxes to attack the Kanes, so Carter draws his sword while Sadie attempts to open a portal. Carter and Sadie make it through the portal, but unfortunately, two sphinxes follow them. A dark form dispatches the sphinxes, and Bast asks if Carter and Sadie missed her.

In Chapter 18: When Fruit Bats Go Bad, Sadie realizes that they were in the room when Julius released the five gods, and when she admits to hearing a voice inside her, Carter confesses that he has also been hearing a voice. Sadie is hosting Isis, and Carter is hosting Horus. When Carter asks how they can stop Set, Bast suggests finding the book by Thoth about overcoming Set which is the prized possession of a certain magician, Desjardins. They need to steal it before sunset so they can still create a portal to America. Since Bast cannot enter Desjardins' mansion, Sadie and Carter turn into birds and fly to the roof to enter the library. When Carter hears a banging door below, he demands Doughboy show him the book of Thoth, but the book is booby-trapped, and the Kanes are attacked by fruit bats as they fly out of the mansion and join Bast. Bast tells them the closest portal is at the Louvre, and they run for their lives as Desjardins' front door blasts open.

Section 6: Chapters 16-18 Analysis

In Chapter 16, the Kanes drink water purified by Thoth to focus their minds, and Zia tattoos their tongues with the symbol of Ma'at to help them speak magic clearly. Since Carter will keep his father's magic toolkit, Zia supplies Sadie with her own before



leading them into the library of the First Nome, where they start with the basic test of the children drawing symbols and making them emerge in reality. When Sadie draws the symbol for fire, the flame erupts and singes Zia's eyebrows. Zia leads the children to Luxor to duel, explaining this is the best place to practice because it is still full of magic and was once sacred to the Kane family. She also warns them that they must know their limits or will exhaust themselves or literally burn up, but they can draw magic from other sources such as scrolls, wands, amulets, Ma'at or the gods. Some pharaohs actually hosted the gods, and the House suspects that Carter and Sadie are hosting gods, so Zia says to prove they are not by how weak their magic is. Angry, Sadie turns her staff into a lioness and throws it at Zia, but it charges Carter whose form turns into a superimposed falcon as he cuts in half.

When Zia learns that Iskandar has died, she warns Carter and Sadie that Desjardins will now become Chief Lector, and he will order her to bring them in; he will want them executed. The Kanes must flee now and destroy Set because the portals will not work during the Demon Days which begin at sundown. Zia warns them that Desjardins will order her to hunt them down so the next time they meet will be as enemies.

In Chapter 17, Carter's ba sees Set capture Amos, and when he wakes, Carter follows Zia through the marketplace. Zia tells him how her village was ravaged by an Egyptian monster and Iskandar found her and brought her to the First Nome. He is the only family she has ever known because she cannot remember her family. Zia is shocked that Carter saw her in the marketplace because she was masked by an invisibility spell which only the strongest magicians should be able to see through. In Luxor, Carter does not want to leave Zia, and he does not believe she will hunt them down, but he starts to suspect Desjardins is influenced by Set since Set spoke French in his vision. Carter and Sadie make it through the portal to Paris where they are rejoined by Bast.

In Chapter 18, Bast heals Carter's broken rib and assures the Kanes that the House will not find them yet because they will not suspect they are in Paris since it is Desjardins' territory. Also, their amulets protect them from the eyes of Set and other magicians; Bast can only find them because of her promise to protect Sadie. Bast is surprised it took the House twenty-four hours to decide to kill Sadie and Carter because they "used to blast godlings to dust in the first few minutes" (p. 215). When they realize they are hosting gods, Carter and Sadie want the gods out of them, but Bast says they should feel honored, and it is not possession because they all want the same thing: to defeat Set, and "in the end... only Horus and Isis can defeat Set and avenge the death of Osiris" (p. 219).

Carter and Sadie will need practice to control the powers unless they give the gods control, but they refuse to yield control to Isis and Horus. When Carter tells Bast and Sadie about his ba's travels, they all suspect Set is controlling Desjardins, and Bast emphasizes how important it is for the children to learn their powers since Set will act on his birthday, the third Demon Day. She tells them they cannot survive without the powers of the gods, warning them not to repeat their mother's mistake; Ruby died because she refused to merge with Bast when they released her from Cleopatra's Needle. Instead, Ruby used her own power to protect Julius and literally burned up.



When Bast tells the children they must steal an ancient book from Desjardins' library to learn how to defeat Set, Carter and Sadie fly to the roof of Desjardins' mansion and enter his library where Carter assumes his human form, but Sadie cannot so she keeps watch while Carter summons Doughboy to help him find the ancient book. While searching, Doughboy points out the portrait of Jean-Francois Champollion, the man who deciphered the hieroglyphs from the Rosetta Stone and Desjardins' uncle. Because Champollion was the first man outside the House of Life to ever unleash their magic, Iskandar accepted his descendants for training, causing Desjardins to be sensitive since he is such a newcomer. Carter finds the booby-trapped book, but they are chased from the mansion and must reach the nearest portal at the Louvre to escape Paris.



Section 7: Chapters 19-21

Section 7: Chapters 19-21 Summary

In Chapter 19: A Picnic in the Sky, Sadie summons a portal through which she, Carter and Bast escape. Since Sadie did not specify which American city she wanted, they are sent to the default portal for America, the biggest obelisk ever constructed, the Washington Monument. Since they cannot open another portal from the Washington Monument for twelve hours, after which the Demon Days will have already begun, Bast points out they will need another way to reach Arizona. While Bast scouts the area, Carter offers to keep watch to allow Sadie to rest.

In Chapter 20: I Visit the Star-Spangled Goddess, Sadie's ba visits Nut, the sky goddess, as she sleeps, and Nut advises Sadie to seek Thoth in his new home in Memphis but warns her to be wary because Thoth often asks for favors in exchange for his advice. She gives Sadie three plane tickets to Memphis, warning they will be beyond her help as they get closer to Set. Nut tells Sadie she must wake now because Set's minion is closing in on their hideout. After Nut asks her to deliver a note to Geb, Sadie wakes in her body in Washington, D. C. and tells Bast and Carter they need to leave immediately, explaining her vision as Carter looks out the window and notes that Set's minion has arrived.

In Chapter 21: Aunt Kitty to the Rescue, the hideous Set animal climbs the Washington Monument, so Bast instructs Carter and Sadie to fly away and meet her at Terminal A of Reagan National. She jumps from the window as they fly away. At the airport, Sadie cannot return to her human form, so Carter carries her on his arm. Luckily, when a police officer approaches Carter to chide him for having an animal in the airport, Bast arrives and produces the proper paperwork. Bast shows Carter how to store his magic toolkit in a locker in the Duat so he can get through airport security.

Section 7: Chapters 19-21 Analysis

In Chapter 19, Bast warns Sadie will only have seconds to open the portal as they run toward the Louvre, and when they reach the glass pyramid, she points out that they only have one minute until sundown which is the last chance for summoning. In Sadie's mind, Isis asks where she wants to go, and when Sadie says America, a vortex appears at the very top of the pyramid. Bast throws Carter up into the vortex since the pyramid is too steep to climb, but then two magicians approach, claiming Bast has endangered all of mankind and will lead the Kane children to ruin. Deciding against being separated from Carter, Sadie allows Bast to throw her into the portal as well. Sadie wakes in a small room, where she sees Carter and Bast at the window.

When they reach Washington, D. C., Sadie is distraught that they cannot read Thoth's book, and they are stuck in Washington, D. C. with only two days to get to Arizona and



stop Set in order to save Julius and Amos. Since the building seems to be humming, Bast explains obelisks are used as portals because they contain magic energy. When Sadie asks about the magician in Paris who claimed Bast had abandoned her post, Bast admits she was imprisoned with a creature of chaos as magicians often lock gods in with monsters so the monsters have no time to try to escape. Ruby's final act of magic locked the monster inside, but the magician believes Bast should have stayed and fought the monster forever. While Bast leaves to scout the area, Carter and Sadie agree Bast is hiding something; they know Julius and Ruby were up to something bigger since freeing Bast was not worth Ruby losing her life.

In Chapter 20, Sadie's ba leaves her body when she falls asleep, and she finds herself in a black void with the boy from her vision in the Hall of Ages, who leads her to a luxury flat in the middle of the sky with Nut, the sky goddess. Nut does not need a host because she is one of the few gods who was never imprisoned. Nut tells Sadie she must make the House of Life understand that a war with the gods will only serve chaos. Lamenting that she has been separated from Geb for five thousand years for disobeying Ra's wishes, Nut explains Set is still one of her children and suggests "perhaps the way to defeat him is not the way you would imagine" (p. 253), foreshadowing that Set may not need to be destroyed. She also tells Sadie to remember that Julius released five gods, asking where is the fifth, Nephthys, Set's wife. Sadie returns to her body as Set's minion arrives at the Washington Monument.

In Chapter 21, the Set animal is hideous, and Bast explains it is Set's symbolic creature because it shares his strength, cunning and evil nature. As it begins climbing the Washington Monument, Bast instructs Sadie and Carter to fly away while she jumps down to distract it, and they will meet at Terminal A of Reagan National. While Bast jumps from the window and attacks the Set animal, Sadie and Carter turn into birds and fly to the airport. Carter has difficulty resuming his human form until he thinks of Julius, but Sadie cannot manage the change. Carter calms her down and ties her to his arm. He walks into the airport with the kite on his arm, and as a policeman stops him, Bast appears in time to claim they are going to a falconry competition in Memphis. She produces the paperwork and convinces the police officer to leave them alone. She tells Carter the Set animal is near, but they can still make it to the gate first. She instructs him in storing his magic toolkit in a locker in the Duat.



Section 8: Chapters 22-24

Section 8: Chapters 22-24 Summary

In Chapter 22: Leroy Meets the Locker of Doom, people begin screaming about a rabid moose right as Carter, Sadie and Bast get through security, and since Carter cannot allow the Set animal to hurt these people, he summons his box from the Duat, telling Bast to take Sadie ahead. He engages in battle with Leroy, and when he feels his strength fading, he thinks of his locker in the Duat and locks Leroy inside. When Bast convinces Carter to sleep to heal from his battle, his ba travels to Phoenix, entering a crevice in Camelback Mountain where he sees the mountain has been hollowed out to allow for construction of a giant, red pyramid. Claiming it is time to use Amos and they will soon have a family reunion with Horus, Isis and Nephthys bowing at his feet, Set looks at Carter and asks "isn't that right, boy" (p. 276). Carter is paralyzed as Set reaches out to grab him.

In Chapter 23: Professor Thoth's Final Exam, Carter, Sadie and Bast reach Memphis where they travel to the University of Memphis and finds baboons, including Khufu who leads them to Thoth. Sadie explains everything that has been going on and asks Thoth to read the book they stole from Desjardins, and after she tells him about how Ruby saw something so bad that she convinced Iskandar that the gods and mortals will need each other to face it, Thoth agrees to explain the spell book if the children prove they are in control of their gods by retrieving an item of power from a magician's tomb.

In Chapter 24: I Blow Up Some Blue Suede Shoes, Carter and Sadie find themselves in Graceland, and they run into the house when they note two magicians following them. Carter attempts to distract them while Sadie searches for the item of power, but he is turned into a lizard, and Sadie sticks him in her pocket. Sadie leads the magicians outside where she immobilizes but does not kill them. After she turns Carter back into a human, they realize the magicians are actually shabti; they must have been Thoth's test. Sadie repairs the damage they did to the house using magic, and Carter finds an ankh necklace on Elvis' grave, attached to a small papyrus scroll showing the Cat of Ra fighting the sun god's main enemy, Aphophis, the snake and the embodiment of chaos. People assume the cat is Sekhmet, the lion goddess who did Ra's dirty work, but Carter and Sadie realizes the picture is of Bast. The doorway opens, and the children return to question Thoth.

Section 8: Chapters 22-24 Analysis

In Chapter 22, Carter decides to fight the Bast animal because he cannot let it hurt the innocent bystanders in the airport. Carter taunts the Set animal as too ugly for a name, dubbing it Leroy. After locking the Set animal in his locker in the Duat, Carter rejoins Bast and Sadie, and Bast is impressed because it takes a lot of strength to put the Set animal in his locker. When Carter's ba travels to Camelback Mountain, he realizes why



the energy feels familiar when Set tells Face of Horror that the pyramid will be the final and eternal tomb of Osiris, meaning the energy belongs to Julius. Carter is paralyzed in fear when Set reaches out to grab him.

In Chapter 23, Carter notices that Sadie has regained her human form when he startles awake. His stories about life with Julius made her wonder for the first time if she had gotten the better end of the bargain, but she does not tell him that memories of Ruby were what helped her change back into a human. Bast is concerned as Carter recounts his ba's travels; the idea is horrendous even for Set as his planned explosion will leave him with nothing to rule. In Memphis, Bast says Thoth will find a center of learning, so they go to the University of Memphis where they find baboons, Thoth's sacred animal, playing basketball. Khufu is also with the baboons, having made his way to Thoth when neither Amos nor the children returned to the mansion. After beating Carter in a game of basketball, Khufu leads them to the office of Dr. Thoth in an abandoned science building. Thoth greets Isis and Horus, but he does not believe they are not in charge of their hosts. He cannot believe they would dare ask for his help in defeating Set after the last time, explaining how their last battle nearly destroyed the world. Thoth is surprised when he realizes Sadie is in control, but he warns her it will not last because Isis is deceptive and power-hungry. Thoth agrees to help Carter and Sadie if they first retrieve an item of power from a magician's tomb for him, proving they are in control of their gods; this foreshadows their adventure in the next chapter. Opening a portal, a feat Thoth can accomplish even on the Demon Days since he is a god of magic, Thoth promises they will have a barbeque if they succeed, and Sadie and Carter are pulled into a dark void.

In Chapter 24, Carter and Sadie find themselves in Graceland where they are pursued by two magicians. Making the room pitch-black and ordering a rhinestone suit to attack the two magicians, Sadie runs into the backyard, realizing that the item of power will be on Elvis' grave. One magician, Jerrod, follows Sadie, and when he turns his staff into a large komodo dragon, Sadie asks for Isis's help and shatters the staff. When the other magician, Wayne, emerges from the house and summons wind to steal Sadie's staff, Isis instructs Sadie to use her rope, so Sadie sends her twine to immobilize Wayne. Ignoring Isis's insistence that they kill him, Sadie silences him, telling him "I'm not your enemy, but I can't have you killing me, either" (p. 306). Carter and Sadie retrieve an ankh from Elvis's grave which contains a scroll showing Bast battling Apophis. This foreshadows what they soon learn about the monster Bast was imprisoned with.



Section 9: Chapters 25-27

Section 9: Chapters 25-27 Summary

In Chapter 25: We Win an All-Expenses-Paid Trip to Death, Carter and Sadie join Thoth on the Mississippi River. Refusing to discuss the painting, Thoth tells them the incantation will banish Set to the Duat and reduce his power for centuries, but the words can only be spoken in Set's presence; Sadie will know what to do when the time comes. Thoth tells them they will also need Set's secret name which can only come from the owner's lips or the person nearest to his heart, and they will need the Feather of Truth which they must retrieve from the Hall of Judgment in the Land of the Dead. Thoth vanishes after showing Carter and Sadie an old-fashioned steamboat that will take them to the Land of the Dead, and Khufu leads them down to the shore.

In Chapter 26: Aboard the Egyptian Queen, Sadie spots Bast in the captain's house with a demon with a human body and a double-bladed ax for a head, Bloodstained Blade, who is bound to the Kane family because Julius and Ruby summoned this boat. After the children make arrangements to visit the Hall of Judgment, Bast tells them she was the Eye of Ra and that she was imprisoned to fight Apophis, but Ruby and Julius released her because she was losing and Ruby saw horrific consequences if Apophis defeated Bast. Because Carter questions the fairness of Bast's order and whether order is really better than chaos, the Eye of Horus teaches his ba a lesson when Carter goes to sleep. Carter's ba floats several places before reaching a river in a canyon where something dark and powerful waits for him under the water. A woman and a ten-year-old child, Isis and Horus, find Osiris's battered sarcophagus, but when Set appears and shatters it, they fly away. Carter returns to the steamboat where Horus tells him that Set destroyed his father and will do the same to Carter's. Isis and Nephthys found all the pieces and bound them together but could not bring Osiris back to life fully, so he was only fit to rule in the Duat, but the loss gave Horus anger which strengthened him to defeat Set. When Carter argues he does not want a throne but his father, Horus says his mission is not to save Julius because the world is at stake. As Carter wakes, Bast tells him they are approaching the First Cataract, the entrance of the Land of the Dead.

In Chapter 27: A Demon with Free Samples, Bloodstained Blade summons Sadie to the prow because her challenge will be coming soon, and Bast explains mortal souls are always challenged to prove their worth before entering the Land of the Dead. As they see their destination, a giant figure with a lion head emerges from the river, introducing himself as Shezmu and daring the Kanes to name him. Carter tells Sadie to keep Shezmu busy while he searches the "Book of the Dead" for Shezmu's secret name. Sadie praises Shezmu's muscles and asks about his titles, flattering him, and Shezmu tells her he is also Lord of Perfume and gives her a free sample of foul-smelling dust. Shezmu serves Osiris, and though the throne is empty, he believes Osiris will return. Sadie asks what his friends call him, and Shezmu says if he had friends they would call him Slaughterer of Souls, Fierce of Face. Carter returns but is unable to read the name, and Shezmu is shocked when Sadie names him Slaughterer of Souls, Fierce of Face,



but he allows them to pass after giving Carter a sample of his foul perfume. Passing Shezmu, the boat nears the Lake of Fire.

Section 9: Chapters 25-27 Analysis

In Chapter 25, Carter and Sadie emerge on the bank of the Mississippi River next to a large glass and metal pyramid where Thoth tells them he is glad they survived and asks for the ankh. Thoth is impressed that Sadie controlled Isis and refrained from killing the magicians, and he also praises Carter for doing well turning into a lizard, as though Carter's failure was also some sort of test. He throws the necklace at the statue of Ramesses, and it wraps around the pharaoh's neck. Carter asks if the painting has something to do with why his parents released the gods, but Thoth agreed only to explain the spell book, so he tells them the incantation will banish Set to the Duat and reduce his power for centuries, but the words can only be spoken in Set's presence; Sadie will know what to do when the time comes. Thoth tells them they will also need Set's secret name which can only come from the owner's lips or the person nearest to his heart, and they will need the Feather of Truth which they must retrieve from the Hall of Judgment in the Land of the Dead. This foreshadows Carter and Sadie's trip to the Land of the Dead. Thoth grants Khufu permission to go with the Kane children before telling them the blood of the pharaohs always has access to a boat, but they must make sure to use it wisely. After showing them an old-fashioned steamboat on the river, Thoth disappears, and Khufu takes their hands and leads them down to the shore.

In Chapter 26, the boat is named the Egyptian Queen, and two painted eyes move on the prow, searching the river for trouble. The children make arrangements to visit the Hall of Judgment, and as they eat, Bast admits she was the Eye of Ra and was proud to fight Apophis for centuries; however, when Ra withdrew to the heavens, he bound Bast to Apophis and cast them into the abyss to fight forever, realizing the world would only be safe when they ripped each other to pieces. Bast was eager to escape when Julius gave her the opportunity, and Ruby sealed the abyss with her life force, but as the years go by, Bast is less certain the prison will hold Apophis and she knows it will be her fault if he escapes and regains power. Ruby and Julius released Bast because she was losing the fight, and Ruby foresaw horrible things if Apophis overcame Bast. When Carter claims Ra's order was unfair, Bast warns him that questioning the authority of the rightful king could cause him to fall under the influence of chaos, and Horus chides him for unworthy thoughts.

Carter goes to bed, and his ba floats to the steamboat's wheelhouse where the Eye of Horus is at the wheel, claiming he needs to be taught a lesson because he wondered if order is really better than chaos and got distracted from the real enemy, Set. Carter's ba is whisked to an airplane where he finds Zia, Desjardins and two other magicians struggling to protect the innocents from the turbulence that Set causes, but Zia is able to land the plane in a cow pasture. He then travels to Phoenix where he hears Set laughing and then on to Amos's ruined house in Brooklyn. Carter then finds his ba at a river in a canyon where something dark and powerful waits under the water for him, and Horus warns him this is only the beginning. Carter sees Set destroy Osiris's



sarcophagus, and when he returns to the steamboat, Horus tells him that Set will destroy Carter's father as he destroyed Horus's father, but they can use their anger to defeat Set and take their throne. Carter argues that he only wants to save his father, but Horus tells him the world is at stake and that is more important. This foreshadows Julius's necessary death. Carter wakes to find they are approaching the entrance to the Land of the Dead.

In Chapter 27, Sadie and Carter follow Bast to the wheelhouse where Bloodstained Blade tells them it should be just ahead. Sadie screams as he navigates the rapids of the First Cataracts using "The Book of the Dead", and they cross into the Land of the Dead. As they pass villages of lost and confused souls that never found their way to the Hall of Judgment, Bast explains they are waiting for Ra's boat to travel by and bring sunlight and warmth to the Duat, but he no longer visits; legend says the world will end when Ra is too tired to continue living in his weakened state. Shezmu appears to challenge Carter and Sadie to name him, and while Carter searches the "Book of the Dead" for Shezmu's true name, Sadie talks to him to distract him, following Isis's lead. In doing this, she manages to extract Shezmu's true name from the demon himself, but Shezmu is shocked when Sadie names him. Sadie demonstrates her wit and cunning in this event. After Shezmu allows them to pass, the glow on the horizon becomes a blaze of light, and Bast tells Carter and Sadie "the Lake of Fire. This is where it gets interesting" (p. 345).



Section 10: Chapters 28-30

Section 10: Chapters 28-30 Summary

In Chapter 28: I Have a Date with the God of Toilet Paper, Iskandar appears at the Gates of the West and talks to Sadie for a bit about the fact that order and chaos are about to collide more violently than they have in eons and she and Carter will be instrumental in balancing the forces or destroying everything. Pronouncing that they have courage in abundance, he allows them to pass. When they reach the temple of the Hall of Judgment, Bast runs away when a jackal approaches, but the jackal transforms into Anubis who agrees to hear their request. Anubis takes Sadie to a graveyard in New Orleans where he refuses to give her the feather because it will burn her to death if she tells a single lie, but after Sadie answers his three questions, one being whether she will sacrifice her father to save the world, Anubis gives Sadie the feather, warning her she must hurry to stop Set. Carter and Khufu appear in the cemetery, and Sadie shows Carter the Feather of Truth, but she marches away before he can ask any questions because she is not in the mood to tell the truth.

In Chapter 29: Zia Sets a Rendezvous, Carter, Sadie and Bast leave New Orleans in a borrowed RV on December 28th, the day before Set's birthday. Bast has a plan to learn Set's secret name, but it requires a stop and will be dangerous. Carter practices with his sword in the back of the RV as Horus coaches him. Horus warns him something bad will happen at the river. Zia appears in Carter's mind to ask him to meet in Las Cruces, NM that night to discuss something that must be said in person and try to convince Desjardins they are on the same side. She warns Carter not to trust Amos before disappearing.

In Chapter 30: Bast Keeps a Promise, Bast wakes Carter when they reach El Paso, TX near the Rio Grande which she believes is the best place to summon Nephthys. Carter recognizes the river from his ba's travels, and while Bast and Sadie try to communicate with Nephthys who is sheltered far away in a sleeping host, Carter investigates rapids in the river. He is attacked by a crocodile, but he kills it when he hears Bast yell and realizes Sadie is in danger. Carter and Bast battle Sobek, the crocodile god, and his minions; when Sobek seems to be winning, Bast jumps into the water, telling Carter to take Sadie and leave. When a half-dead cat falls at his feet, Carter realizes it is only Muffin when Bast's talisman crumples; Bast sacrificed herself to send Sobek back to the underworld. A white crocodile appears behind Carter to battle Sobek's two remaining minions, and Amos says Philip will not be able to keep them busy for long so they need to get out of here if they are to have any chance of survival.

Section 10: Chapters 28-30 Analysis

In Chapter 28, Iskandar appears at the Gates of the West and tells Sadie his decision to ban the gods was the right choice at the time, but Ruby foresaw chaos would reclaim all



creation and they needed to reestablish the old way, the path of the gods. Iskandar knew she was right in his heart, but since he refused to accept it, Ruby and Julius sacrificed themselves to put things right because he was too stubborn to change. He cannot tell them what to do about Set because he must do his job and decide to grant them access to the Lake of Fire, but he warns Sadie that Ma'at and Isfet, order and chaos, are about to collide more violently than they have in eons and Carter and Sadie will be instrumental in balancing the forces or destroying everything. His job is to assess their courage, and since they have that in abundance, Iskandar allows them to pass, and everyone else on board wakes from their trances.

Bloodstained Blade tells Sadie and Carter goodbye as they disembark at the black temple, and Bast warns them to stay alert because the Dog is near, but she runs off when a jackal tackles her. The jackal transforms into the boy from Sadie's dreams, Anubis, and when Carter tells Anubis they have come for the Feather of Truth, Anubis says he does not deal with the living but he will allow them a chance to explain since they show good taste by traveling with a baboon. Khufu tells Anubis their story, but Anubis says he will show them when he will not help, turning into a jackal and racing off with Carter and Sadie following him into the Hall of Judgment.

In the Hall of Judgment, Anubis shows them that the scales are broken because Ma'at is weakening, and he has been unable to fix them. Sadie is the only one who notices a graveyard butting into the room, and when she focuses on the sound of jazz at Anubis's instruction, she finds herself alone in New Orleans with Anubis who explains he does not like Horus but Isis always treated him like a son, though he agrees that Sadie does not act like a godling. Anubis tells Sadie the Feather of Truth is too dangerous to give to a mortal because it cannot abide a single lie and would burn her to ashes if she spoke a single untruth or acted untruthfully while carrying it.

Sadie realizes Set is Anubis's father, but Anubis tells her he never met Set because Nephthys gave him to Osiris when he was a child because she did not want him to know his father and he was different; he was not a warrior like his cousin, Horus. When Sadie points out that Osiris must return so the world does not fall to chaos, Anubis agrees to give her the feather under three conditions: only she can handle it, she must listen to Nephthys when they find her, and she must answer three questions to prove she is honest. Since his first question is if she is ready, Anubis asks if Sadie would give her life for her brother, and she answers yes. Sadie hesitates when Anubis asks if she is prepared to lose her father if it means saving the world, but when she admits she would if it were the only choice, Anubis praises her strength and courage in admitting the truth. He warns her she must hurry to stop Set before disappearing.

In Chapter 29, Sadie does not want to talk about what happened with Anubis, and Bast is upset for abandoning them again because protecting Carter and Sadie is more important than fighting Apophis since they are the only chance to reconcile the gods and the House of Life. She promises she will not fail them again. Bast comes up with a plan to learn Set's secret name, so Carter practices his sword work while Horus coaches him. Horus's warning about the river foreshadows the challenge Carter, Sadie and Bast will face at their stop to acquire Set's secret name. Zia pushes Horus's voice out to warn



Carter that Desjardins knows they are headed to Phoenix to stop Set, so he is going there to stop them because they are not supposed to use god powers.

The House magicians are separating into two teams, and Zia wants to meet in Las Cruces, New Mexico tonight to tell Carter something that must be said in person. Together, they can try to convince Desjardins they are on the same side. She disappears because her partner, Mel, returns from the bathroom, but first, Zia warns Carter not to trust Amos, foreshadowing the fact that Set is influencing Amos.

Bast wakes Carter hours later to tell him they have arrived, and he nearly has a heart attack when he sees the narrow mountain road on which they are parked in El Paso, Texas near the Rio Grande. Bast believes this is the best place to summon Nephthys since it is a river civilization near the desert, but as they climb down to the river to summon Nephthys, Carter recognizes the place from his ba's travels and warns Bast and Sadie to stay away from the water because he knows there is something bad lurking there. Sadie touches the water and asks to see Nephthys, but the reply is faint because she is sheltered far away in a sleeping host. Carter notices an immigrant family crossing the river downstream, but when he looks back, they are gone so he goes to check it out. He enters the water to search for the family and jumps at Horus's command as a giant crocodile attacks him. When he hears Bast yelling, he knows Sadie is in trouble, so he summons the strength to kill the crocodile and turns to see Bast battling another crocodile while Sadie lies in a crumpled heap on the riverbank. Bast assures Carter that Sadie will live as Sobek, the crocodile god appears. Horus warns Carter not to show weakness in front of Sobek but also not to let Sobek grab him or he will pull Carter down and drown him. When Bast calls him a traitor, Sobek tells her that Horus has no strength in this form and Set offers power. Sobek drags Carter into the water, but without allowing Horus control, Carter breaks free and jumps from the water. Bast and Carter battle Sobek until they are weak, and Bast tells Carter to take Sadie and flee. Charging Sobek, Bast disappears underneath the water, and a half-dead cat lands at Carter's feet. The cat is only Muffin, as Bast sacrificed herself to save Carter and Sadie. Amos appears and urges the children to follow him if they are to have any chance of survival.



Section 11: Chapters 31-33

Section 11: Chapters 31-33 Summary

In Chapter 31: I Deliver a Love Note, Sadie cries when she wakes and learns that Bast sacrificed herself to defeat Sobek, but she sleeps when Khufu gives her healing medication. When Sadie sleeps, her ba travels to visit Geb. She delivers Nut's love note, and to thank her, Geb advises her to go to the place of the crosses. Geb disappears, and Sadie returns to her body.

In Chapter 32: The Place of Crosses, Carter and Sadie will not tell Amos how they plan to defeat Set, and Amos agrees, though he is frustrated that he cannot trust himself. Amos objects when Carter suggests going to Las Cruces, New Mexico, but when Sadie connects the name of the city to Geb's message, they travel to Las Cruces where they encounter Zia. As they talk, Desjardins and two magicians close in on them, threatening to destroy Zia as well if she attempts to defend the Kanes. Amos battles Desjardins, but when he begins to lose, Zia sends a pillar of fire after Desjardins, leaving herself powerless until it fades. In retaliation, Desjardins summons Sekhmet, and Carter and Sadie run while Amos distracts the lion goddess.

In Chapter 33: We Go Into the Salsa Business, Sekhmet sets the boat on fire as Zia wakes and gets an idea. She points to a factory reading Magic Salsa, Inc. and tells the story of how when Sekhmet got out of hand and started killing everyone when Ra first summoned her, the people stopped her by telling her red beer was the blood of her enemies and allowing her to drink until she passed out. Sadie, Carter and Zia run through the factory, and Sadie causes everything to explode to distract Sekhmet while Carter turns into a falcon, flies to the salsa tanks and invites Sekhmet to feast on the blood of her enemies before destroying the Kanes. He slices the tanks open, and Sekhmet drinks until she falls asleep. When Zia ponders how they will get to Phoenix since the boat is so badly burned, Carter recalls Amos animating his coat to steer the boat, and Sadie says the most difficult part of such a spell is that they will need a shabti. Sadie and Carter look at each other and simultaneously call for Doughboy.

Section 11: Chapters 31-33 Analysis

In Chapter 31, Sadie is shocked to see Amos when she wakes. Amos says he was a fool to look for Set. Set does not need a human host as long as he has the pyramid, and he plans to use Osiris's power to augment the storm. The explosion will obliterate Osiris and Julius. The magic that froze Amos weakened, allowing him to escape, but he realizes that Set must have allowed it because it was so easy. Amos then searched for the children on his boat, and they are now in White Sands, New Mexico. The last thing Sadie remembers she was talking to Nephthys at the river, and Nephthys said she would send a message since she could not appear in person. She is distraught when she learns that Bast sacrificed herself.



As she sleeps, Sadie's ba grows large, and she can see Set's aura to the north, meaning his power is growing as his pyramid nears completion. Geb tells Sadie this is how gods see things, and she gives him the note from Nut. When he opens the envelope, fireworks burst out, forming a new constellation in the sky. To thank Sadie, Geb offers to grant her any favor the earth can grant. Since he cannot save Julius or destroy Set's pyramid, he gives her advice, telling her to go to the place of the crosses, foreshadowing Sadie's trip to this place. He warns her of danger awaiting at the place of the crosses, but she will also find what she needs most. Geb also tells her that Set is more than he appears, again foreshadowing Sadie's decision not to destroy Set.

In Chapter 32, Isis reminds Sadie to stay focused when she wakes and starts to cry upon seeing Muffin next to her. Sadie is uneasy when Amos wants to send Khufu and Muffin back to the mansion because she worries Set is influencing Amos, but she does not have much choice besides accepting Amos's help. Carter and Sadie refuse to tell Amos how they plan to defeat Set, and Amos agrees though it is frustrating that he cannot trust himself. When Carter suggests going to Las Cruces because he had a vision, Amos objects, but Sadie realizes they must go because of her vision regarding the place of the crosses.

Amos agrees reluctantly and flies the boat to the top of a small church in Las Cruces. After lunch, they wander through the streets until they see Zia, who looks at Amos with apprehension. When Sadie suggests Desjardins is helping Set, Zia gets angry and asks to talk to Carter alone. Carter agrees they need to work with the House of Life, but he and Sadie will not surrender. Tensing, Amos claims it is a trap as Desjardins and two other magicians close in on them, but Zia insists she did not set them up. Amos blasts Zia into a table, telling the children to flee if things get bad. When Desjardins causes an earthquake, Sadie stops it with a symbol provided by Isis, causing Desjardins to claim she is corrupted by the gods who bring nothing by destruction. When Zia argues they cannot fight each other, Desjardins threatens to destroy her also if she does not step away. Amos and Desjardins fight, but when Amos begins losing, Zia sends a pillar of fire, the most powerful spell a master of fire can summon, after Desjardins, and Isis tells Sadie the pillar will not leave Desjardins alone until it dissipates in six to twelve hours; however, Zia cannot work magic until it disappears, so she has left herself powerless in order to help the Kanes. Desjardins summons Sekhmet, saying "you choose to place your faith in the gods? Then die by the hands of a god" (p. 414). Amos tells the children to leave while he distracts Sekhmet, and looking scared, Carter tells Sadie they need to leave now.

In Chapter 33, something vaguely humanoid approaches from behind as Carter steers the boat through the sky, and Horus tells him it is Sekhmet, pointing out Desjardins' hypocrisy in choosing to kill the Kanes rather than stand on his principles. As Sekhmet chases them, Zia comes up with the idea of feeding Sekhmet salsa from a factory they pass, tricking her like the ancients did by telling her it is the blood of her enemies and inviting her to feast until she falls asleep. Luckily, Zia's plan works. When they wonder how they will get to Phoenix, Carter summons Doughboy to become a coat and drive them to Phoenix in a truck stolen from the factory.



Section 12: Chapters 34 & 35

Section 12: Chapters 34 & 35 Summary

In Chapter 34: Doughboy Gives Us a Ride, Zia says she supposes Iskandar saw this coming because he spoke to her privately when she and Desjardins returned from the British Museum, telling her she was in danger and he would take her somewhere safe, but she does not remember if he did because he sent her to find Carter and Sadie in New York almost immediately. She does not know how but she has a voice telling her Set's secret name. Carter realizes she is hosting Nephthys, and that is what Iskandar meant about her being in danger: she is a godling too. Zia disagrees because Desjardins would have noticed and destroyed her, and she does not believe Set is controlling Desjardins because she thinks Set is influencing Amos. She agrees to tell Carter Set's secret name but only if he promises not to tell Amos. Amos appears in front of the truck, saying they must get going because the storm is getting worse.

In Chapter 35: Men Ask for Directions (and Other Signs of the Apocalypse), Sadie's ba travels to Cleopatra's Needle while she sleeps, and Isis tells her Julius and Ruby were right that Bast was failing because chaos cannot be kept down forever. She shows Sadie London in ruins, but since Sadie cannot handle it, Isis takes her to the throne room in the palace of the gods where Anubis points to the empty throne, and Isis tells Sadie "Horus must become pharaoh. He must unite the gods and the House of Life. It is the only way" (p. 434). The gods gather around Sadie, but Zia wakes her while Amos and Carter in asking for direction in a gas station in Phoenix. Since Zia believes Set is controlling Amos, she will only agree to give Sadie Set's secret name if she uses it now against Amos, but before Sadie can agree, Amos and Carter return.

Section 12: Chapters 34 & 35 Analysis

In Chapter 34, Doughboy manages to look indignant as Carter smashes him into his jacket and animates him, instructing him to drive them to Phoenix in a truck from the factory. While Sadie naps in the back, Zia explains she will be shunned and exiled if they do not kill her, but when Carter suggests she come with them, she points out the House will hunt them down, even if they manage to defeat Set. Zia tells Carter about how Iskandar said she was in danger and promised to protect her, but she cannot remember if he did. She knows Nephthys's secret name, though she insists she is not possessed by the goddess. Zia believes that Amos is being influenced by Set, so she agrees to tell Carter's Set's secret name only if he promises not to tell Amos. She cannot use it herself because it is not her role to play. Unfortunately, Amos appears in front of them before Zia can tell Carter.

In Chapter 35, Sadie's ba visits Isis as she sleeps, and Isis tells her she must restore Horus to his throne. Zia believes Set is controlling Amos, and though she understands why Sadie does not want to believe Amos would betray her since she has lost so much



of her family already, she will only agree to give Sadie Set's secret name if Sadie will use it on Amos now, even though it is their only chance since the spell book will disappear after it is used; Zia believes they will never have the strength to confront Set in his base of power. Sadie agrees to use the name at the right time, but Zia insists now is the right time. Unfortunately, Carter and Amos return before Sadie can make a decision, and Amos smiles as he says they are very close as if that is good news.



Section 13: Chapter 36 & 37

Section 13: Chapter 36 & 37 Summary

In Chapter 36: Our Family Is Vaporized, the capstone, or pyramidion, is all that is left to complete the pyramid when Carter, Sadie, Amos and Zia reach Camelback Mountain. The capstone is suspended between two flying boats, so after they cause it to crash to the ground, Amos distracts the demons while Carter, Sadie and Zia fly into the pyramid. They see the golden sarcophagus buried beneath the throne. When Amos flies in through the hole in the ceiling, he says he has made sure no one would interrupt them so it is time to talk. He falls to his knees as his eyes turn red and steam rises from his body to form Set who sits on the throne and says "I suppose Zia gets to say 'I told you so'" (p. 450).

In Chapter 37: Leroy Gets His Revenge, Set explains he will entomb all four of his siblings in the chamber and his storm will be large enough to envelop the entire world. Carter rushes to Zia, but he does not believe Nephthys is possessing her because he has felt no divine power from her. Zia tries to fight Set, and Set scowls as he asks where Zia has hidden her before tossing Zia to the floor. Carter merges with Horus and challenges Set.

Section 13: Chapter 36 & 37 Analysis

In Chapter 36, Sadie, Carter, Amos and Zia drive through the eye of the storm, a circle of perfect calm, about a mile from Camelback Mountain. Since nothing is moving in the streets, they know they will be seen if they try to drive to the mountain, so Amos turns them into storm clouds despite Zia's objection that storm magic is chaos magic. They follow Amos to the mountain and peek into the crevice, learning only the pyramidion, the golden capstone, is left. It is suspended between two flying boat as the demons make a show of their triumph. Zia's magic returns. Carter and Sadie fly to the left boat, meeting Amos and knocking the demons off the boat. Amos's chant causes the second boat to disappear, and Carter cuts the ropes connecting the pyramidion to the left boat, causing the capstone to crash to the ground. Amos distracts the demons while Carter, Sadie and Zia fly to the pyramid, and Carter seals the entrance with the Eye of Horus. The symbols inside the pyramid make Carter uncomfortable, and Zia explains this pyramid is a "platform, a body to contain the power of Set. All these pictures are to increase chaos, and make it reign forever" (p. 447). In the throne room, the golden sarcophagus containing Julius is buried at the base of a hideously misshapen throne. When Amos enters through the ceiling, Set's form rises from him and sits on the throne, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing that Amos was partially possessed by Set.

In Chapter 37, Carter realizes coming here was a bad idea as they face Set on his throne with an army of demons outside and the world about to explode. Set explains that he did not fully possess Amos because most of his being was transferred to this



pyramid, but a sliver of his soul was enough to control Amos; he is offended at the idea of possessing that commoner Desjardins because the gods prefer blood of the pharaohs. Amos put up a good fight, and Set could not make him do some things without destroying him completely, so Amos's conflict and strange behavior makes sense. He nearly destroyed himself to save Carter and Sadie. Horus begs Carter for control, but Carter still refuses, causing Set to mock Horus for his host which leads Carter to knock him into a column with energy. Realizing that Zia was referring to Horus when she told him not to resist, Carter accepts that they have "to act in unison, trust each other completely, or we were both dead" (p. 457). They merge into a rare union, becoming one, and the magical bonds holding them shatter. Set taunts Horus, and Carter informs him "I am Carter Kane. Blood of the Pharaohs, Eye of Horus. And now, Set- brother, uncle, traitor- I'm going to crush you like a gnat" (p. 457).



Section 14: Chapters 38 & 39

Section 14: Chapters 38 & 39 Summary

In Chapter 38: *The House Is in the House*, Carter flies out of the pyramid with Set when he realizes they are going to destroy the pyramid, plus he needs to give Sadie time to free the sarcophagus which contains their father. Carter is shocked when he notices magicians from the House of Life battling Set's demons, but when Desjardins tries to destroy the capstone, Set stops him. Tripping Carter and placing the capstone, Set mocks that Carter cannot defeat him alone, especially in the desert, his source of power. Sadie rises from the air vent and agrees with Set, "except Horus is not alone. And we're not going to fight you in the desert" (p. 464). She strikes her staff against the pyramid and shouts the last words Carter would expect her to use as a battle cry.

In Chapter 39: *Zia Tells Me a Secret*, Sadie tends to Zia's wounds since they are physical while Carter battles Set. Zia tells Sadie she speaks with Nephthys's voice, and Set's secret name is Evil Day; Sadie must use the name to bend Set to her will and make him help. Zia pushes Sadie away because Carter needs her, and when Sadie argues she needs to free Julius, she is pulled into a vision. In the Hall of Judgment in the Land of the Dead, Anubis tells her "we have lost all balance. The throne cannot be empty. The restoration of Ma'at must begin here, in this hall" (p. 467). She is then swept to the throne room of the gods where Bast tells her the Duat is in turmoil because the gods have gone too long without a king. In the Hall of Ages, Iskandar tells her Ma'at needs a leader but Carter cannot do it alone. "This is your family's burden. You started the process. The Kanes alone will heal us or destroy us" (p. 469).

At Cleopatra's Needle, Sadie sees her parents discussing how they must start with the obelisk to defeat the enemy and they cannot fail because the world depends on it, but Ruby will not call on her help. Sadie pulls her hand back from the sarcophagus and accuses Isis of encouraging Ruby to open the obelisk and get herself killed. Julius's projection appears in front of Sadie, telling her not to blame Isis. None of them understood what would happen, but Ruby accepted her role when the time came. When Sadie tells Julius she hates him for failing to protect Ruby, he says she needed to get it out because "what you're about to do—you have to believe it's for the right reasons, not because you resent me" (p. 471). Sadie might be able to save Julius by opening the sarcophagus, but Osiris's power would be consumed by the pyramid and serve to strengthen Set. Osiris must take his throne. Julius disappears, and Sadie comes out of her trance. Knowing what she must do, Sadie merges with Isis and flies up the air shaft to the top of the pyramid as a kite.

Section 14: Chapters 38 & 39 Analysis

In Chapter 38, Carter does not pay attention to the destruction his fight with Set is causing until Sadie yells to get his attention as she tries to shield Zia and Amos from the



debris. Realizing he needs to get Set in the open to give Sadie time to free the sarcophagus, Carter sends a burst of energy to open the air vent above them, turns Set into a fruit bat, changes into a falcon, and shoots up through the air vent with Set in his talons. In the open, Set and Carter both revert to their warrior forms, but Set tells Carter it is too late, causing Carter to notice the magicians from the House of Life battling Set's demons. Set insists this will be the end of the House of Life; they cannot prevail while his pyramid stands. Desjardins joins the battle against Set, but Set prevents him from destroying the capstone. Though Horus's energy surges through Carter, he knows it is not enough to defeat Set who is patient in his knowledge that chaos is closer to victory with each passing moment. When Set mocks Carter that he will cannot win in Set's place of power, Sadie flies out of the pyramid and tells Set that Carter is not alone and they will not fight Set in his place of power.

In Chapter 39, Zia finally reveals Set's secret name to Sadie and pushes her away to help Carter. When Sadie argues that she first needs to free Julius, she is pulled into a vision. In her vision, Anubis, Bast and Iskandar counsel her on the necessity of restoring Ma'at through Osiris returning to his throne. Finally, Julius tells Sadie that Ruby had a premonition that chaos was rising and the House of Life was failing so they needed the gods. Isis counseled Ruby on what must be done, but Ruby knew she did not have the power to fully host Isis so she bought them time with her life. Carter and Sadie have the strongest blood of any Kane in three thousand years, and so they have the best chance of relearning the old ways and healing the breach between the magicians and the gods; it is their job to restore Ma'at. Though Sadie might be able to save Julius, it is more important that Osiris return to his throne. This indicates that Julius knows and accepts that he must die for the greater good, further foreshadowing his death. Sadie merges with Isis and flies out of the pyramid to help her brother.



Section 15: Chapters 40 & 41

Section 15: Chapters 40 & 41 Summary

In Chapter 40: I Ruin a Rather Important Spell, Sadie transports the pyramid and everyone in or around it to Washington, DC where the capstone has difficulty maintaining its power. As Carter battles Set, Sadie begins saying the spell, but as it nears completion, she notices snake forming in the clouds. She throws the Feather of Truth into the sky, breaking the spell and showing the serpent to Carter and Set. While Set is immobilized since Sadie spoke his true name, she agrees to release him if he will return to the Duat and return to earth only when they need his help fighting Apophis. Zia dies, but the children realize she was only a shabti; Iskandar hid Zia when she was possessed by Nephthys. As Desjardins fumes about Carter and Sadie releasing Set, they relinquish their gods as they tell him the House must relearn the old ways because they need the gods to help them defeat Apophis who is rising again. Sirens approach, and Sadie realizes they need to get Amos to safety.

In Chapter 41: We Stop the Recording, for Now, Carter and Sadie take Amos back to Brooklyn and lock their amulets in the library. They begin restoring the mansion. One night, Anubis summons them to the Land of the Dead where they find Julius, possessed by Osiris, sitting on the throne. They are also joined by Ruby, and both of their parents express their pride in Carter and Sadie. Julius also gives them an amulet of his symbol, the djed, which will help them stir the blood of the pharaohs in others and rebuild the House of Life. The children are then taken to the throne room of the gods where they witness Horus claim his throne. Horus thanks the children for their help and promises gifts in the morning. The next day, Carter finds new clothes and that the mansion has been fully restored. When Amos announces he will go to seek the aid of magic healers in the First Nome, Carter and Sadie worry about how they will recruit new members to the House of Life if they do not have a guardian; the gods complete their gift as Bast appears and volunteers for the job. Sadie and Carter hide the amulet in a locker, knowing the amulet will attract those who are blood of the pharaohs. They also record their adventures and send it to carefully chosen people, telling them to search for the djed which will awaken their power. The House of Life needs new blood if creation is going to survive, so they will be waiting for the blood of the pharaohs in Brooklyn.

Section 15: Chapters 40 & 41 Analysis

In Chapter 40, things are not going well when Sadie emerges from the pyramid. Telling Set that Horus is not alone, she slams her staff down and yells Washington, D. C. When Set reminds her she cannot open a portal during the Demon Days, she tells him "a mortal can't. But a goddess of magic can" (p. 476). A vortex appears and transports the pyramid and its surroundings to the National Mall in Washington, DC. The capstone has difficulty maintaining its magic when they are no longer in Phoenix, plus the most powerful focal point of Ma'at in North America, the Washington Monument, looms in



front of them. Carter battles with Set as Sadie summons "The Book of Overcoming Set" and begins reading the spell, causing the red pyramid to break apart as the capstone of the Washington Monument gleams silver. When Sadie hears Ruby tell her to stay focused and watch for her enemy, Sadie realizes her mother does not mean Set. As the Feather of Truth glows and the words begin tearing Set's form apart, Sadie names him Evil Day, the pyramid implodes, and Set falls to his knees. With one line left to speak, Sadie sees Set's chaos being sucked into the clouds, forming a snake, but she is the only one who can see it. Telling Carter and Set to look, Sadie throws the Feather of Truth into the sky, breaking the spell and making the serpent visible as it slowly loses power. Face of Horror yells at them as Carter throws his sword at the demon with deadly accuracy. Speaking in a different voice, Face of Horror tells them "Imagine what I shall do when fully formed" (p. 482).

Set is immobilized since Sadie spoke his true name, and she nears him, telling him Apophis was possessing Face of Horror and using Set to fuel her own power. They will need all of the gods, even Set, to defeat Apophis, and since Carter and Sadie have Set's secret name, they will release him if he swears by his own name that he will return to the Duat and return to earth only when they call him to help battle Apophis. Set disappears, and Carter and Sadie run to Amos and Zia, but there is no sign of the pyramid or the sarcophagus.

As Zia fades, she tells Carter she was just a placeholder and implores him to find her. When she turns cold and cracks, they realize she was just a shabti; Iskandar hid the real Zia when Nephthys joined with her which is why Nephthys told Sadie she was imprisoned in a sleeping host. Desjardins fumes about Carter and Sadie bargaining with Set, but Sadie tells him Apophis is rising so they need the gods and the House must relearn the old ways. It is hard to follow the path of the gods, but it is a necessary part of magic. As Desjardins threatens them, Carter and Sadie know what they must do. They give up the gods of their own free will, shocking Desjardins, who agrees there will be no more destruction today but insists the path to the gods will remain closed or the House will come after the Kane children. As sirens approach, Sadie realizes they need to leave. Carter worries about Julius, so she needs to be strong enough for both of them. They need to get Amos to safety.

In Chapter 41, Carter and Sadie take Amos back to the mansion in Brooklyn where Khufu greets them excitedly. Amos is distraught when he sees the destruction of his house, and Carter and Sadie works for weeks trying to restore it. They lock their amulets in a box in the library, knowing they must become more powerful magicians before tapping into that much power. One night, Sadie and Carter sit on the deck alone when Anubis summons them to the Land of the Dead because someone wants to see them. In the Hall of Judgment, the golden scales have been fixed because Julius, combined with Osiris, sits on the throne. Julius tells his children he is proud of them and the gods are in their debt, but he had to die in order to return Osiris to his throne. He assures them they all made the right choice because they now have a chance at rebirth and a chance to stop chaos for the first time in millennia because of Carter and Sadie. Restoring Osiris to his throne was more important than anything Julius could have done



in the real world. Another reason for his choice is Ruby who appears to tell her children how proud she is.

Julius gives Carter and Sadie an amulet of the djed, the symbol of Osiris which stands for stability and strength as well as renewed life from the ashes of death; they will need it to stir the blood of the pharaohs in other and rebuild the House of Life. Julius and Ruby tell their children goodbye, and Anubis takes them to the throne room of the gods where Horus and Isis stand next to the throne, amidst thousands of gods the children do not recognize. When Horus claims his throne, no one challenges him. He tells Carter and Sadie they have done much to restore Ma'at, but Apophis will not stay locked away forever. He bows to the children, and the other gods follow suit. He sends them away, promising they will find their gift in the morning.

Sadie and Carter return to the terrace in Brooklyn, and in the morning, Carter finds new clothes in his closet as the first of the gods' gifts. When he goes downstairs, he sees the gods have restored the mansion to its former glory as well. Amos joins Carter and Sadie for breakfast, looking better than he has since the battle with Set. He tells them he plans to go to the First Nome to seek the help of their magic healers, and he advises them to start recruiting blood of the pharaohs while he is gone because he agrees that rediscovering the path of the gods may be their only chance. When Amos leaves, Carter and Sadie worry about how they will recruit since they are two minors without accompaniment. Then, the gods complete their gift; Bast appears and volunteers for the job. A few days later, Sadie talks to Gran and Grandpa Faust who ask her to come home, but Sadie tells them she is already home, plus Carter would be lost without her. As Carter and Sadie settle into their routine, Sadie sees a school in her dream, and she and Carter record their story on the way to the school where they hide the amulet inside a locker which is partially in the Duat and will appear only to those with the blood of the pharaohs, serving to awaken their powers. Carter tells those who find it to make their way to Brooklyn where he and Sadie will attempt to train them in the path of the gods, though it will be difficult since no one has studied the path of the gods for two thousand years. They send their tape to a few carefully chosen people, telling them to look for the djed and that it will not take much to awaken their powers. The Kanes' story is not yet over yet as they still need to find the real Zia and gain the strength to defeat Apophis so the world is not destroyed.

The Author's Note at the end says much of the story is based in fact so either Sadie and Carter did a lot of research or they are telling the truth. He will relay the information if further recordings fall into his hands, but "until then, we can only hope that Carter and Sadie are wrong in their predictions about the rise of chaos" (p. 516).



Characters

Carter Kane

Carter Kane is one of the protagonists and narrators, along with his sister, Sadie. He is a fourteen-year-old, African-American boy who looks like his father, Julius. He is reasonably tall and fit, and Sadie's friends find him attractive. Carter travels the world with his father after his mother dies when he is eight years old. He partially hosts the Egyptian god Horus.

Sadie Kane

Sadie Kane is one of the protagonists and narrators, along with her brother, Carter. She is a twelve-year-old Caucasian girl who takes after her mother. She has straight, caramel-colored hair which she usually dyes with streaks of bright colors and blue eyes. Sadie has a British accent, is as tall as Carter, and constantly wears leather combat boots. After Sadie's mother dies when she is six years old, she lives with Gran and Grandpa Faust in London, only seeing her father and brother twice a year.

Zia Rashid

Zia Rashid is a magician from the First Nome. She is an attractive Arab girl with caramel-colored skin and short, black hair. She is approximately the same age as Carter and Sadie. Zia is at the British Museum when Julius releases the five gods of the Demon Days, and though she wants to kill the Kane children, Desjardins prevents her from doing so. While searching for the temple in the Metropolitan Museum, Sadie and Carter are joined by Zia Rashid who helps them escape through a portal to go to the House of Life where they will be trained as magicians, but when Iskandar dies and Desjardins becomes Chief Lector, Zia tells the children to flee for their lives. She later contacts Carter to arrange a meeting in Las Cruces, New Mexico where she stands against the House of Life in support of the Kanes. Zia helps Carter and Sadie defeat Sekhmet and accompanies them to Phoenix where they plan to face Set. Zia is convinced Amos is being possessed by Set, but she cannot convince Carter and Sadie. Zia dies after the battle with Set, but when she turns to stone, Carter and Sadie realize she is only a shabti; Iskandar hid the real Zia when she was possessed by the spirit of Nephthys at the British Museum, so Carter and Sadie still need to find her.

Bast

Bast is the cat goddess who is hosted by Sadie's cat, Muffin. Julius and Ruby released Bast from Cleopatra's Needle and charged her with protecting Sadie. Bast's post was battling Apophis for all eternity, but Julius and Ruby released her because she was failing. After Amos leaves to search for Set, the mansion is attacked by Set's minions,



but when Sadie tells Muffin to save them, the cat transforms into the fierce goddess, Bast, who defeats Set's minions and takes the children to Central Park where they are accosted by Serqet, the scorpion goddess. Bast rejoins Carter and Sadie in Paris after they escape from Desjardins in Luxor. In Paris, the children, with Bast's help, retrieve a book that instructs them on how to defeat Set. She also accompanies them to the Land of the Dead, but Bast runs when she is attacked by the jackal, Anubis. While trying to contact Nephthys, Carter and Sadie are accosted by Sobek, the crocodile god, and Bast sacrifices herself to save the children, being sent back to the Duat. As a way of thanking the Kane children for their help in restoring Osiris and Horus to their proper thrones, the gods restore Bast to earth, allowing her to serve as Carter and Sadie's guardian while Amos is seeking magical aid in the First Nome.

Desjardins

Desjardins is a French magician in the House of Life. He prevents Zia from killing Carter and Sadie in the British Museum, but when Iskandar dies and Desjardins becomes Chief Lector, he orders the execution of Carter and Sadie since they are hosting gods which is against the rules of the House of Life. Carter and Sadie are convinced that Set is controlling Desjardins, especially when they learn the book containing the spell to defeat Set is at Desjardins' house. In Las Cruces, New Mexico, Desjardins attacks the Kanes, summoning Sekhmet who Sadie, Carter and Zia defeat, and Zia sends a pillar of fire after Desjardins. Desjardins and his magicians battle Set's demon minions while Carter battles Set, but Desjardins is furious when Carter and Sadie release Set. In order to prove to Desjardins that they are not possessed by the gods they are hosting, Sadie and Carter release the gods, storing part of their essence in their amulets. Amazed, Desjardins parts in peace, promising that the House of Life will hunt the Kanes down if they attempt to follow the path of the gods.

Amos Kane

Amos Kane is Sadie and Carter's uncle. Also a magician, he is barrel-shaped with skin the color of roasted coffee, long braided hair and expensive clothes. After Julius summons the gods from the Rosetta Stone, Amos takes Carter and Sadie to the family mansion in Brooklyn, New Mexico, leaving them shortly afterward to investigate Set's plans. In doing this, Amos walks into a trap and is captured by Set, but he eventually escapes and returns to help his nephew and niece. Unfortunately, he is possessed by a piece of Set's soul, and after Carter and Sadie defeat Set, Amos is so distraught about being controlled by Set that he decides to go to the First Nome to seek the aid of magic healers.

Julius Kane

Julius Kane is Sadie and Carter's father. He is an African-American man with dark skin, a bald head and a goatee. He is an Egyptian archaeologist and a magician in the House



of Life. Julius releases the five gods of the Demon Days from the Rosetta Stone, and when he is possessed by Osiris, Set imprisons Julius and Osiris in a golden sarcophagus. Carter and Sadie spend the majority of the novel trying to free their father, but Julius knows he must die in order to restore Osiris to his throne in the Land of the Dead. He is also grateful to be reunited with Ruby, but as he points out, he is still Carter and Sadie's father, regardless of where he dwells. Julius gives his children an amulet of the djed which can be used to awaken the blood of the pharaohs in others, an artifact that they will need to reestablish the House of Life in the path of the gods.

Iskandar

Iskandar is the ancient Chief Lector when Carter and Sadie first arrive at the First Nome. He speaks his birth tongue, Alexandrian Greek. Against Desjardins' wishes, Iskandar orders Zia to test Carter and Sadie, but he dies while they are taking the test in Luxor. Sadie sees Iskandar again in the Land of the Dead when he tells her about Ruby's vision of chaos overtaking order and destroying creation, advising her that they must relearn the path of the gods in order to restore Ma'at.

Set

Set is the god of evil who imprisons Julius and Osiris in a golden sarcophagus after Julius releases him from the Rosetta Stone with his four brothers and sisters. Set builds a red pyramid in Phoenix, Arizona which he plans to use to consolidate his power and summon a storm large enough to destroy the world on his birthday, the third Demon Day. While Carter battles Set, Sadie transports the pyramid to Washington, D. C. after realizing they cannot defeat Set in his place of power, the desert. Before Sadie can complete the spell, she sees Apophis, the god of chaos, and realizes Apophis plans to use the power from the pyramid for herself. After discontinuing the spell, Sadie forces Set to help them save the world from Apophis.

Ruby Kane

Ruby Kane is Carter and Sadie's mother who died when Carter was eight years old and Sadie was six years old. Ruby foresaw chaos destroying all of Creation if Bast lost her fight with Apophis, which seemed to be occurring, so Ruby and Julius released Bast from Cleopatra's Needle, realizing they would need the help of the gods to defeat Apophis if she rose again. Ruby used her life force to seal Apophis's prison, dying as a result. Carter and Sadie see their mother in the Land of the Dead after Osiris is restored to his throne, and she tells them how proud she is of them both.

Anubis

Anubis, the god of death and funerals, visits Sadie's ba visions twice. He appears to her as a handsome sixteen-year-old boy, but others see him as a god with the head of a



jackal. Anubis serves Ma'at, and he gives Sadie the Feather of Truth which she needs in order to defeat Set, after ascertaining that she is worthy of the honor. Near the end, Anubis summons Carter and Sadie because Julius wants them to visit him so he can explain everything to them and give them an amulet of the djed.

Geb

Geb is the earth god to whom Sadie delivers a love note from Nut, his wife. After reminding Sadie that Set is his son and was once one of them, Geb gives Sadie advice in exchange for delivering the note; he tells her to go to the place of the crosses.

Nut

Nut, the sky goddess, summons Sadie's ba. After reminding Sadie that she loves her son, Set, and that he was once one of them, Nut sends Carter, Sadie and Bast to Thoth in Memphis for advice on defeating Set. She also asks Sadie to deliver a love note to her husband, Geb, from whom she has been separated for five thousand years.

Horus

Horus is the war god, son of Isis and Osiris. He is one of the gods that Julius releases from the Rosetta Stone, and Carter partially hosts Horus who aids Carter in his battles throughout the novel.

Isis

Isis is the goddess of magic, wife of Osiris and mother of Horus. She is one of the gods that Julius releases from the Rosetta Stone, and Sadie partially hosts Isis, who assists Sadie throughout the novel.

Nephthys

Nephthys, Set's wife, is the river goddess, and she is one of the gods that Julius releases from the Rosetta Stone. Nephthys lies in a sleeping host but promises to get a message to Sadie. The message comes in the form of Zia, who tells Sadie that Set's secret name is Evil Day. Nephthys actually possesses Zia, but the Zia that helps Carter and Sadie throughout the novel is actually a shabti because Iskandar hid the real Zia Rashid for her protection after he realized she was hosting a goddess.



Osiris

Osiris is the god of the underworld, the husband of Isis and the father of Horus. He is one of the five gods of the Demon Days, which Julius releases from the Rosetta Stone. Osiris possesses Julius, and Set imprisons both of them in a golden sarcophagus. Julius must die in order to restore Osiris to his throne in the Land of the Dead.

Serqet

Serqet is the scorpion goddess who attacks Carter, Sadie and Bast in Central Park. Bast tries to distract Serqet, but she is overcome. In the Metropolitan Museum, Zia binds Serqet with the Seven Ribbons of Hathor, but when they are unable to confine the goddess, Carter, Sadie and Zia escape to Cairo through a portal.

Sekhmet

Sekhmet is the lion goddess who Desjardins summons against Carter and Sadie in Las Cruces. They defeat Sekhmet by convincing her to gorge on salsa, telling her it is the blood of her enemies, until she falls asleep.

Thoth

Thoth is the god of knowledge whom Carter and Sadie visits in Memphis, and he tells them how to defeat Set after challenging them to ensure they are not controlled by the gods who possess them.

Khufu

Khufu is a baboon who lives with Amos. He befriends and helps Carter and Sadie.

Doughboy

Doughboy is Julius's shabti that unwillingly helps Carter and Sadie throughout the novel.

Bloodstained Blade

Bloodstained Blade is an axe-headed demon who takes Carter, Sadie and Bast to the Land of the Dead on the Egyptian Queen.



Objects/Places

British Museum

Julius Kane takes his children, Sadie and Carter, to the British Museum in London on Christmas Eve. While there, he unleashes five gods from the Rosetta Stone, and Set imprisons Julius and the god Osiris who Julius hosts in a golden sarcophagus.

Brooklyn, New York

Amos Kane takes his nephew and niece to their family mansion in Brooklyn, New York after escaping the British police who chase the Kanes after Julius demolishes the Rosetta Stone when he releases the five gods. When Amos leaves the children to search for Set and uncover Set's plans, Set's minions attack the mansion, but Bast protects the children after she is summoned from her form as Sadie's cat, Muffin.

Hall of Ages

Zia leads Carter and Sadie through the Hall of Ages in the First Nome on their way to meet Chief Lector Iskandar. The magnificent hallway is filled with floating hieroglyphs which record the history of the Egyptians. Each year, the hall gets longer to encompass their history up to the present.

First Nome

The First Nome, located under Cairo and Giza, is the oldest branch of the House of Life and the headquarters for all magicians. Zia transports Sadie and Carter to the First Nome after rescuing them from Serqet in New York.

Luxor

Zia leads Carter and Sadie to Luxor in order to test their magical abilities. They are testing when Zia receives the news that Iskandar has died and Desjardins is the new Chief Lector. Zia tells the Kane children to run because Desjardins will order their deaths, so Carter and Sadie manage to evade a magician who summons sphinxes to stop them from summoning a portal and escaping to Paris.



Paris

Carter and Sadie escape to Paris from Luxor when Desjardins orders their deaths. Bast tracks them down shortly after their arrival, and she aids them in stealing Desjardins' book which details how to destroy Set.

Cleopatra's Needle

Cleopatra's Needle is a large obelisk in London. Ruby Kane died at Cleopatra's Needle after she and Julius summoned Bast from her, and Ruby used her life force to lock the prison preventing Apophis from reentering the world.

Washington, DC

When Bast, Sadie and Carter summon a portal to escape Paris, they are transported to the Washington Monument in Washington, DC. Sadie transports the red pyramid and everyone inside it to Washington, DC during their battle with Set in order to escape the desert, Set's place of power, using the Washington Monument for power as it is the largest obelisk on the North American continent. She discontinues the spell when she realizes Apophis is trying to use the power generated to escape her prison because they will need all of the gods, even Set, to defeat Apophis. Sadie lets Set go after he promises to return to the Duat and return only when they need his help in defeating Apophis.

Memphis, Tennessee

At Nut's suggestion, Carter, Sadie and Bast take an airplane to Memphis, Tennessee to visit Thoth who is the only one that can explain the spell to destroy Set. They are reunited with Khufu when they visit Thoth at the University of Memphis, and Thoth agrees to explain the spell to them if they can prove their worth by retrieving an item of power from a great magician's tomb.

Graceland

To test the Kane children, Thoth sends them to Graceland where they are pursued by two magicians. The children defeat the magicians, though they refrain from killing them, and retrieve the item of power, an ankh with a scroll that lies on Elvis' grave. The magicians are actually shabti that Thoth sent after Carter and Sadie to test them because he fears they are being controlled by the gods they host, Horus and Isis. Since the Kanes pass his test, Thoth explains they simply need to read the spell in Set's presence, but he also advises them that they will need Set's true name and the Feather of Truth in order to cast the spell.



Ma'at

Ma'at is the order of the universe which the Egyptian gods serve. Sadie and Carter spend the entirety of the novel trying to restore Ma'at and prevent chaos from overtaking the world.

Ba

Ba is the Egyptian term for human souls. Carter and Sadie's bas frequently travel while they sleep.

Land of the Dead

In order to obtain the Feather of Truth which they need for the spell to defeat Set, Carter and Sadie must travel to the Land of the Dead. They do so on a boat driven by Bloodstained Blade. In the Land of the Dead, they note that the scales are not balanced, and Anubis tells them Osiris must be restored to his throne. After battling Set, Carter and Sadie are summoned to the Land of the Dead again where they see their father sitting upon Osiris's throne.

Feather of Truth

The Feather of Truth is a necessary ingredient in the spell to defeat Set, and Sadie and Carter must travel to the Land of the Dead to obtain it. Sadie convinces Anubis to give her the Feather of Truth after answering three questions, but Anubis warns Sadie that the feather will burn her to death if she utters an untruth while holding it. During the spell to vanquish Set, Sadie instead uses the Feather of Truth to show Carter and Set that Apophis is trying to regain power through Set's pyramid.

El Paso, Texas

Bast takes Sadie and Carter to El Paso, Texas to try to summon Nephthys, but they are unable to do so because Nephthys is imprisoned in a sleeping host; however, Nephthys promises to send a message to them to tell them Set's secret name. While in El Paso, they are attacked by Sobek, the crocodile god, and Bast sacrifices herself in order to save Sadie and Carter.

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Zia contacts Carter to ask him to meet her in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Additionally, Geb tells Sadie they will find what they need at the place of the crosses. Carter and Sadie convince Amos to detour to Las Cruces on their way to Phoenix, and this is where



they are attacked by Desjardins who summons Sekhmet. The children manage to escape with the help of Zia and Amos, and they continue on to Phoenix.

Phoenix, Arizona

Set begins building his pyramid in Phoenix, Arizona in Camelback Mountain, since the desert is his place of power. This is where Sadie and Carter travel to confront him. But as Carter and Set battle, Sadie realizes they cannot defeat Set in his place of power so she taps into Isis's power to transport them to Washington, DC.

Set's Pyramid

Set builds a red pyramid in Camelback Mountain near Phoenix, Arizona to act as his host and empower him. He plans to trap the other four gods, Osiris, Nephthys, Isis and Horus, inside the pyramid so he can unleash a storm of chaos large enough to destroy the entire world. Using the Feather of Truth, Sadie is able to show Set that Apophis plans to use the pyramid to escape her prison and send chaos to destroy the entire world.

House of Life

The House of Life is a group of Egyptian magicians that has been around since ancient times. Amos and Julius Kane are both magicians in the House of Life, but Julius has been exiled since he and Ruby released Bast from Cleopatra's Needle. Zia is also a magician in the House of Life, as is Desjardins. The House of Life forbids using the power of the gods, so after Chief Lector Iskandar dies, Desjardins becomes Chief Lector and orders the death of the Kane children. Luckily, Zia goes against the orders of the House to protect the children. In order to restore Ma'at and defeat Apophis, Julius tells his children they must recruit other children who are blood of the pharaohs and revitalize the House of Life by relearning the path of the gods.

The Duat

The Duat is a magical realm where the gods exist. Magicians can travel through the Duat, allowing them to open portals and travel between places much more quickly than they could in the regular world.



Themes

Egyptian Mythology

Egyptian mythology plays a major role in *The Red Pyramid*. Near the beginning of the novel, Julius releases the five gods of the Demon Days from the Rosetta Stone, and when he is possessed by Osiris, Set imprisons both Osiris and Julius in a golden sarcophagus. As a result of this event, Carter and Sadie spend the remainder of the novel trying to defeat Set and free their father. In the process, they learn a lot about Egyptian mythology.

At Amos's home, the children are amazed by the Great Room, which is centered around a statue of an Egyptian god holding a scroll with an ankh with a rectangle at the top. Sadie recognizes the symbol of Per Ankh which means the House of Life. Carter recognizes the statue as Thoth, the Egyptian god of knowledge, and Amos explains Thoth is the only god who is still allowed in the House of Life and he was its founder. He explains the gods are often depicted with animal heads because "they are primal forces... a sort of bridge between humanity and nature" (p. 56). Amos also tells the children that the Egyptian gods are real, and in ancient times, each temple had a branch of magicians called the House of Life.

Amos and Julius belong to the House of Life because the Kanes have been magicians almost since the beginning. The Fausts are also an ancient line of magicians, though Ruby was the first to practice magic in her family for many generations. Therefore, Sadie and Carter combine the blood of two ancient families, both of which have a long, complicated history with the gods. Amos tells them "you are the most powerful Kane children to be born in many centuries" (p. 73).

While researching in Amos's library, the children learn about the blood of the pharaohs and about the gods of the Demon Days: Nut and her husband Geb, the earth god, wanted children, but Ra, the sun god and king of the gods, forbade Nut to give birth on any day or night of the year because of a prophecy that a child of Nut and Geb would one day replace Ra as king of the gods. Playing dice with Khons, the moon god, Nut won enough moonlight to create five new days to add to the end of the year, the Demon Days, and gave birth to one of her children on each of these days: Osiris, Horus, Set, Isis and Nephthys.

After transforming into her goddess form from Muffin, Bast defends Carter and Sadie against the serpopards and against Serqet. After Zia rescues the Kanes from Serqet, she takes them to the First Nome where they meet Iskandar and Desjardins and learn a bit more about the House of Life. They also tour the Hall of Ages, which shows images of Egypt's history up to the present. Carter and Sadie are horrified when they learn they are hosting gods, Horus and Isis, but they eventually are able to embrace their partial possessions. Sadie's ba (spirit) visits Nut and Geb at various times as she sleeps. Carter and Sadie also meet Thoth, the god of knowledge in Memphis, and he teaches



them how to defeat Set. The Kanes and Bast travel to the Land of the Dead where Sadie convinces Anubis to entrust her with the Feather of Truth, one of the items necessary for defeating Set. Bast and Carter battle Sobek, the crocodile god, and when Sadie uses the power of the gods against Desjardins in Las Cruces, New Mexico, Desjardins summons Sekhmet, the lion goddess, but Sadie, Carter and Zia are able to trick Sekhmet and escape. Zia accompanies the Kanes to Phoenix, and while Carter battles Set, Sadie transports the pyramid to Washington, DC after realizing they cannot defeat Set in his place of power, the desert. Before Sadie can complete the spell, she sees Apophis, the god of chaos, and realizes Apophis plans to use the power from the pyramid for herself. After discontinuing the spell, Sadie forces Set to help them save the world from Apophis. In order to prove to Desjardins that they are not possessed by the gods they are hosting, Sadie and Carter release the gods, storing part of their essence in their amulets. Carter and Sadie visit the Land of the Dead again to see their father, who knew he must die to restore Osiris, the god he is hosting, to his throne. Horus and Isis express their gratitude to the Kane children by restoring their family mansion and sending Bast back to the regular world to serve as their guardian. The children use the djed amulet their father gave them to attract others who have the blood of the pharaohs because they must relearn the path of the gods in order to defeat Apophis when she attempts to rise again.

Sacrifice

A major theme in *The Red Pyramid* is the theme of sacrifice. Carter and Sadie unwittingly sacrifice much, and by the end of the novel, they willingly sacrifice nearly everything they have to aid the greater good. First, before Carter and Sadie know about the secrets of the House of Life and the Egyptian gods, Ruby sacrifices herself at Cleopatra's Needle when her children are six and eight years old. After seeing that Bast was losing her fight to Apophis and foreseeing the destruction of all of Creation as a result of Apophis regaining power, Ruby released Bast from her imprisonment, and then used her own life force to seal Apophis's prison so that Julius would be safe. Julius releases the five gods of the Demon Days from the Rosetta Stone, intending to join with Osiris, even though he knows that in order to restore Osiris to his throne, Julius must die. Julius sacrifices his life for the greater good, as his wife did. Through their actions, Julius and Ruby set the stage for Carter and Sadie to restore Ma'at and save the world.

When Sobek attacks Carter, Sadie and Bast, Bast charges Sobek because they are losing, and she is sent back to the Duat with Sobek as a result; she sacrifices her existence in the mortal world in order to protect Carter and Sadie. Though Amos is partially possessed by Set, he constantly fights the god of evil and chaos in order to help Carter and Sadie, nearly destroying himself in the process. Throughout the novel, Zia constantly tells Carter and Sadie she is not important, finally sacrificing herself at the battle with Set. Luckily, Carter and Sadie realize the Zia they know was only a shabti, which means the real Zia is still out there, hidden by Iskandar for her safety after he realized she was possessed by Nephthys. Carter and Sadie spend the entirety of the novel preparing for their battle with Set, but before Sadie finishes the spell to banish Set to the Duat, she realizes that Apophis is trying to use the power to rise from her prison.



Sadie sacrifices her desire to defeat Set for the greater good, knowing they will not be able to defeat Apophis without Set's help. In doing this, Carter and Sadie also sacrifice their father's life. They lose nearly everyone they love. Fortunately, the gods reward Carter and Sadie by restoring Bast to the mortal world to act as their guardian.

Magic

Magic plays a very important role in *The Red Pyramid*, as Carter and Sadie learn that their family comes from a long line of magicians in the House of Life, and they are the most powerful Kane children born in many centuries. Carter and Sadie first understand they are witnessing magic when Julius summons the five gods of the Demon Days from the Rosetta Stone at the British Museum, though it takes them a while to admit that they saw this act of magic. Soon after Julius is imprisoned by Set, Amos takes Carter and Sadie to New York in his magic flying ship which travels quickly through the Duat so that they are able to travel from London to Brooklyn in a matter of minutes. The children begin to learn more about magic as they attempt to research what has happened to Julius in Amos's library; Sadie practices magic for the first time when she causes the library door to explode so that they can enter the library. The children learn about Doughboy and other shabti during their research. Another example of the magic they learn is the portals through which they travel, sand vortexes that transport them from one place to another, often halfway across the world, in a matter of seconds by utilizing passages through the Duat. The children also begin to learn about magic as their bus travel while they sleep.

Carter and Sadie witness the magic of the Hall of Ages in the First Nome, and they begin to actually learn how to do magic of their own when Zia trains them, first in the library and then in Luxor. The Kane children practice magic during Thoth's test to prove that they are not controlled by their gods, Horus and Isis. They also use magic to travel to the Land of the Dead on the Egyptian Queen. Zia uses magic to enter Carter's mind and schedule a rendezvous in Las Cruces, New Mexico. In Las Cruces, New Mexico, Zia joins Carter, Sadie and Amos in battling Desjardins and two other magicians from the House of Life; Zia summons a pillar of fire, the most powerful spell a master of fire can use, to chase Desjardins, leaving herself powerless until the pillar disappears in six to twelve hours. In retaliation, Desjardins summons Sekhmet, the lion goddess, but the children defeat her using their wit.

In order to reach Camelback Mountain and challenge Set, Amos turns himself and the three children into storm clouds so they can approach the mountain without being detected. They all use magic while battling Set and his minions, but after Carter and Sadie merge with Horus and Isis, respectively, Sadie transports the red pyramid and everyone in and around it to Washington, DC so they can challenge Set away from his base of power. Sadie ruins the spell to banish Set to the Duat after realizing that Apophis plans to use the red pyramid to empower herself. Instead, she simply coerces Set to return to the Duat and remain there until they need his help to challenge Apophis, threatening him with the reminder that she knows his secret name. As an expression of

gratitude for Carter and Sadie's help, the gods restore Amos's mansion to its original state, and they restore Bast to the mortal world to be Carter and Sadie's guardian.



Style

Point of View

The point of view in *The Red Pyramid* is first person. The first person narrator alternates between Carter and Sadie Kane as they work together to recount their adventures. In the case of both narrators, the point of view is limited and mostly reliable, proven by their being able to only share what they witnessed or felt personally without knowledge of other events. The point of view is reliable in that they share what they know; though they find they do not know what is going on at first, their knowledge expands throughout the novel. One example of this is Carter and Sadie learning that Set is controlling Amos. This is important since it allows the reader to accompany the Kane children on their adventure, learning with them as they go.

The distribution of exposition and dialogue in the novel is fairly equal, and this is useful as scenes and events are described while allowing the reader to maintain focus on the interactions between the characters as well. This is particularly significant in regards to the developing relationship between the siblings. The viewpoint in this novel alternates between that of Carter and Sadie fairly equally.

Setting

This novel is set in both the real world and the Duat, an imaginary world in which the Egyptian gods exist. Magicians can travel through the Duat, allowing them to open portals and travel between places much more quickly than they could in the regular world.

The children travel around Europe and America in their adventures, as well as through the Duat. The characters are magicians from the House of Life, Egyptian gods, hosts to gods, mortals and demons. Julius Kane takes his children, Sadie and Carter, to the British Museum in London on Christmas Eve. While there, he unleashes five gods from the Rosetta Stone, and the god Set imprisons Julius and the god Osiris, who Julius hosts, in a golden sarcophagus. Amos Kane takes his nephew and niece to their family mansion in Brooklyn, New York after escaping the British police, who chase the Kanes after Julius demolishes the Rosetta Stone when he releases the five gods. When Amos leaves the children to search for Set and uncover Set's plans, Set's minions attack the mansion, but Bast protects the children after she is summoned from her form as Sadie's cat, Muffin.

The First Nome, located under Cairo and Giza, is the oldest branch of the House of Life and the headquarters for all magicians. Zia leads Carter and Sadie through the Hall of Ages in the First Nome on their way to meet Chief Lector Iskandar. The magnificent hallway is filled with floating hieroglyphs, which record the history of the Egyptians. Each year the hall gets longer, in order to encompass their history up to the present. Zia



transports Sadie and Carter to the First Nome after rescuing them from Serqet in New York.

Zia leads Carter and Sadie to Luxor in order to test their magical abilities. They are testing when Zia receives the news that Iskandar has died and Desjardins is the new Chief Lector. Zia tells the Kane children to run because Desjardins will order their deaths, so Carter and Sadie manage to evade a magician who summons sphinxes to stop them from summoning a portal and escaping to Paris. Carter and Sadie escape to Paris from Luxor when Desjardins orders their deaths. Bast tracks them down shortly after their arrival, and she aids them in stealing Desjardins' book which details how to destroy Set.

Cleopatra's Needle is a large obelisk in London. Ruby Kane died at Cleopatra's Needle after she and Julius summoned Bast, and Ruby used her life force to lock the prison, preventing Apophis from reentering the world. When Bast, Sadie, and Carter summon a portal to escape Paris, they are transported to the Washington Monument in Washington, DC. Sadie transports the red pyramid and everyone inside it to Washington, DC during their battle with Set in order to escape the desert, Set's place of power, using the Washington Monument for power as it is the largest obelisk on the North American continent. She discontinues the spell when she realizes Apophis is trying to use the power generated to escape her prison because they will need all of the gods, even Set, to defeat Apophis. Sadie lets Set go after he promises to return to the Duat and return only when they need his help in defeating Apophis.

At Nut's suggestion, Carter, Sadie and Bast take an airplane to Memphis, Tennessee to visit Thoth, who is the only one that can explain the spell to destroy Set. They are reunited with Khufu when they visit Thoth at the University of Memphis, and Thoth agrees to explain the spell to them if they can prove their worth by retrieving an item of power from a great magician's tomb. To test the Kane children, Thoth sends them to Graceland, where they are pursued by two magicians. The children defeat the magicians, though they refrain from killing them, and retrieve the item of power, an ankh with a scroll that lies on Elvis' grave. The magicians are actually shabti that Thoth sent after Carter and Sadie to test them because he fears they are being controlled by the gods they host, Horus and Isis. Since the Kanes pass his test, Thoth explains they simply need to read the spell in Set's presence, but he also advises them that they will need Set's true name and the Feather of Truth in order to cast the spell.

In order to obtain the Feather of Truth which they need for the spell to defeat Set, Carter and Sadie must travel to the Land of the Dead. They do so on a boat driven by Bloodstained Blade. In the Land of the Dead, they note that the scales are not balanced, and Anubis tells them Osiris must be restored to his throne. After battling Set, Carter and Sadie are summoned to the Land of the Dead again where they see their father sitting upon Osiris's throne.

Bast takes Sadie and Carter to El Paso, Texas to try to summon Nephthys, but they are unable to do so because Nephthys is imprisoned in a sleeping host; however, Nephthys promises to send a message to them to tell them Set's secret name. While in El Paso,



they are attacked by Sobek, the crocodile god, and Bast sacrifices herself in order to save Sadie and Carter. Zia contacts Carter to ask him to meet her in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Additionally, Geb tells Sadie they will find what they need at the place of the crosses.

Carter and Sadie convince Amos to detour to Las Cruces on their way to Phoenix, and this is where they are attacked by Desjardins, who summons Sekhmet. The children manage to escape with the help of Zia and Amos, and they continue on to Phoenix. Set begins building his pyramid in Phoenix, Arizona in Camelback Mountain since the desert is his place of power. This is where Sadie and Carter travel to confront him, but as Carter and Set battle, Sadie realizes they cannot defeat Set in his place of power, so she taps into Isis's power to transport them to Washington, DC.

Language and Meaning

The language used in *The Red Pyramid* is casual and informal. The sentences and syntax are generally constructed in a grammatically correct format. The language used is significant because the story is a transcript of a recording of Carter and Sadie's adventures, so accordingly, it is written as a twelve-year-old girl and fourteen-year-old boy would tell their story. The language used aids comprehension of the novel since it was written for children; because it sounds like children talking, it makes the tale more relatable to the target audience.

The language used characterizes the unique characters that are introduced in this novel, as well as the situations in which they find themselves and the goals they would like to accomplish. The distribution of exposition and dialogue in the novel is fairly equal, and this is useful as scenes and events are described while allowing the reader to maintain focus on the interactions between the characters as well. This is particularly significant in regards to the developing relationship between the siblings. The language is very effective as it accurately communicates like pre-teens or young teens talking to their peers. Overall, it is very easy to understand, and the comments between the siblings are frequently comical.

Structure

The Red Pyramid is divided into forty-one chapters and spans 514 pages. The chapters are detailed but fairly short, and they range from five to twenty-five pages in length, averaging about ten pages. Each chapter is titled in reference to its contents and the narrator's name. Each chapter encompasses a short amount of time, generally several hours at the most, and the entire action of the novel occurs in approximately one week.

The Red Pyramid by Rick Riordan is a fascinating fantasy novel about a pair of siblings who must work together to save the world. After witnessing their father disappear after performing a feat of magic, Sadie and Carter Kane struggle to accept the truth of Egyptian mythology, battling gods and demons in their effort to save their family and the world. *The Red Pyramid* is an engaging and entertaining novel that demonstrates the



loyalty and tenacity of this brother and sister duo. This novel is quite quick-paced. It is easy to read as it was written for younger children, and the only difficulty lies in understanding the Egyptian mythology that plays a central role to the action. The novel is fairly linear, but there are some flashbacks as Carter and Sadie recall times they spent with their parents. Overall, this is a very entertaining and enjoyable read.

Quotes

"The most important thing: when you open the package and find what's inside, don't keep it longer than a week. Sure, it'll be tempting. I mean, it will grant you almost unlimited power. But if you possess it too long, it will consume you. Learn its secrets quickly and pass it on. Hide it for the next person, the way Sadie and I did for you. Then be prepared for your life to get very interesting."

Carter, Chapter 1: A Death at the Needle, page 1

"Sweetheart, I love you. And I'm sorry... I'm sorry for many things, but there's no time now. If this works, I promise I'll make everything better for all of us. Carter, you're my brave man. You have to trust me. Remember, lock up Dr. Martin. Then stay out of this room!"

Julius Kane, Chapter 2: An Explosion for Christmas, page 21

"I had a lingering chill, as if someone was pushing ice-cold needles into the back of my neck. It had started when I looked at those blue glowing words Dad had drawn on the Rosetta Stone and I knew what they meant. A family disease perhaps? Can knowledge of boring Egyptian stuff be hereditary? With my luck."

Sadie, Chapter 3: Imprisoned with My Cat, pages 29-30

"The gods could appear in many forms- usually fully human or fully animal, but occasionally as a hybrid form like this. They are primal forces, you understand, a sort of bridge between humanity and nature. They are depicted with animal heads to show that they exist in two different worlds at once."

Amos, Chapter 5: We Meet the Monkey, page 56

"Fairness does not mean everyone gets the same. Fairness means everyone gets what they need. And the only way to get what you need is to make it happen yourself."

Julius, Chapter 6: Breakfast with a Crocodile, page 67

"The two of you... you combine the blood of two ancient families, both of which have a long, complicated history with the gods. You are the most powerful Kane children to be born in many centuries."

Amos, Chapter 6: Breakfast with a Crocodile, page 73

"It's not impossible. To save Dad, we must defeat Set."

Sadie, Chapter 7: I Drop a Little Man on His Head, page 103

"The point is I couldn't believe I'd been asked to open a magic doorway when clearly I had no such skill, and now my brother was dragging me away. I felt like an utter failure."

Sadie, Chapter 11: We Meet the Human Flamethrower, page 131

"That would've been simpler. Unfortunately, my superiors think you might be innocents. So for now, I can't kill you. But I also can't allow you to fall into the hands of the Red



Lord. And so... you can trust me."

Zia, Chapter 11: We Meet the Human Flamethrower, page 138

"This is an entrance to the First Nome, the oldest branch of the House of Life, headquarters for all magicians. My job was to bring you here safely, but I cannot help you cross. Each magician must unbar the path for herself, and the challenge is different for each supplicant."

Zia, Chapter 13: I Face the Killer Turkey, page 149

"This is not the sort of test you fail, Sadie Kane. You pass or you die."

Zia, Chapter 14: A French Guy Almost Kills Us, page 168

"You have a hard path ahead of you, but I'm convinced now it's a path you must take, for all our sakes. Your brother will need your guidance."

Iskandar, Chapter 15: A Godly Birthday Party, page 182

"One learns by doing. This is not school, Sadie. You cannot learn magic by sitting at a desk and taking notes. You can only learn magic by doing magic."

Zia, Chapter 16: How Zia Lost Her Eyebrows, page 192

"First off, Sadie, you don't have all of her. Gods are very powerful. We can exist in many places at once. But yes, part of Isis's spirit now resides in you. Just as Carter now carries the spirit of Horus. And frankly, you both should feel honored."

Bast, Chapter 18: When Fruit Bats Go Bad, page 218

"Our enemies are more resourceful than I imagined. They have temporarily disabled my favorite pet and are now speeding toward us. We must finish before they arrive. Sunrise on my birthday, Face of Horror. No later. It will be the dawn of my new kingdom. I will scour all life from this continent, and this pyramid shall stand as a monument to my power- the final and eternal tomb of Osiris!"

Set, Chapter 22: Leroy Meets the Locker of Doom, page 275

"I'm not your enemy. But I can't have you killing me, either."

Sadie, Chapter 24: I Blow Up Some Blue Suede Shoes, page 306

"I was losing my fight. Your father told me that your mother had foreseen... horrible things if the Serpent overcame me. They had to free me, give me time to heal. They said it was the first step in restoring the gods. I don't pretend to understand their whole plan. I was relieved to take your father's offer. I convinced myself I was doing the right thing for the gods. But it does not change the fact that I was a coward. I failed in my duty."

Bast, Chapter 26: Aboard the Egyptian Queen, page 327

"Your mother foresaw a great imbalance. She foresaw the day- very soon- when Ma'at would be destroyed, and chaos would reclaim all of Creation. She insisted that only the gods and the House together could prevail. The old way- the path of the gods- would have to be reestablished. I was a foolish old man. I knew in my heart she was right, but I refused to believe... and your parents took it upon themselves to act. They sacrificed



themselves trying to put things right, because I was too stubborn to change. For that, I am truly sorry."

Iskandar, Chapter 28: I Have a Date with the God of Toilet Paper, pages 348-349

"The two of you are not just blood of the pharaohs. You're the most powerful royal children to be born in centuries. You're the only chance we have of reconciling the gods and the House of Life, of relearning the old ways before it's too late. If you could learn the path of the gods, you could find other with royal blood and teach them. You could revitalize the House of Life. What your parents did- everything they did, was to prepare the way for you."

Bast, Chapter 29: Zia Sets a Rendezvous, page 370

"I summon Sekhmet! You choose to place your faith in the gods? Then die by the hands of a god."

Desjardins, Chapter 32: The Place of Crosses, page 414

"Chaos cannot be kept down forever. It grows. It seeps into the cracks of civilization, breaks down the edges. It cannot be kept in balance. That is simply its nature."

Isis, Chapter 35: Men Ask for Directions (and Other Signs of the Apocalypse), page 433

"We need a ruler. Horus must become pharaoh. He must unite the gods and the House of Life. It is the only way."

Isis, Chapter 35: Men Ask for Directions (and Other Signs of the Apocalypse), page 434

"This pyramid is not a tomb. It is a platform, a body to contain the power of Set. All these pictures are to increase chaos, and make it reign forever."

Zia, Chapter 36: Our Family Is Vaporized, page 447

"Ah, Nephthys. At the beginning of time, you were my treacherous sister. In another incarnation, in another age, you were my treacherous wife. Now, I think you'll make a nice appetizer. True, you're the weakest of us all, but you're still one of the five, and there is power in collecting the complete set. The complete Set! That's funny! Now let's consume your energy and entomb your soul, shall we?"

Set, Chapter 37: Leroy Gets His Revenge, page 455

"This is the end of the House. They cannot prevail as long as my pyramid stands."

Set, Chapter 38: The House Is in the House, page 461

"The Duat is in turmoil. The gods have gone too long without a king. If Set doesn't take over, someone else must. The enemy is coming. Don't let me die in vain."

Bast, Chapter 39: Zia Tells Me a Secret, page 468

"Sadie. Don't blame Isis for your mother's fate. None of us understood exactly what would happen. Even your mother could only see bits and pieces of the future. But when the time came, your mother accepted her role. It was her decision."

Julius, Chapter 39: Zia Tells Me a Secret, page 471



"This is not over, godling. All this I have wrought with a wisp of my voice, the merest bit of my essence wriggling from my weakened cage. Imagine what I shall do when fully formed."

Apophis, Chapter 40: I Ruin a Rather Important Spell, page 482

"We've given up the gods of our own free will. And you've got a lot to learn about what's possible."

Sadie, Chapter 40: I Ruin a Rather Important Spell, page 490

"We made the right choice. We all did. If you had saved me in the world above, we would have lost everything. For the first time in millennia, we have a chance at rebirth, and a chance to stop chaos because of you... The Duat is the foundation for the real world. If there is chaos here, it reverberates in the upper world. Helping Osiris to his throne was a first step, a thousand times more important than anything I could've done in the world above- except being your father. And I am still your father."

Julius, Chapter 41: We Stop the Recording, for Now, page 501

"I told them I couldn't very well go home, because I already was home. This is where I belong. Thanks to the Duat, I can see my friends whenever I want. And besides, you'd be lost without me."

Sadie, Chapter 41: We Stop the Recording, for Now, page 512



Topics for Discussion

Why is it up to Sadie and Carter to defeat Set?

What does Julius Kane do at the British Museum?

What is the House of Life, how do they feel about Sadie and Carter, and why?

Why does Zia help Sadie and Carter?

How do Horus and Isis assist Carter and Sadie throughout The Red Pyramid?

What do Carter and Sadie's adventures in The Red Pyramid do to their sibling relationship?

Why do the gods help the Kanes in their battle against Set?

Why does Sadie mess up the spell to destroy Set?

According to Julius Kane, why must he stay in the Land of the Dead?

Why do Sadie and Carter make the recording of their story?