

# **Second Foundation Study Guide**

## **Second Foundation by Isaac Asimov**

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# Plot Summary

The Second Foundation is the third installment in Issac Asimov's Foundation series. Divided into two parts, "Search by the Mule" and "Search By the Foundation," it details two unsuccessful attempts to try to find and destroy the Second Foundation. The Second Foundation thwarts the Mule's attempt when they trap him at the planet Rossem and condition his mind to believe the Second Foundation never existed. Fifty-five years later, the Foundation try to find the them in an attempt relinquish the control they have over their destiny. However, again, the Second Foundation proves too strong.

In the first part, the Mule has all but destroyed the Foundation and has begun to build his own Empire. However, he knows that he can never truly claim success until he has found and destroyed the mythical Second Foundation and sends his general, Hans Pritcher, and the untrustworthy Bail Channis out on a quest to find it. With his skills of mind control, the Mule knows Channis is an agent of the Second Foundation, but at the same time, relies on Channis to inadvertently lead the Mule to the right location.

Channis takes Pritcher to the planet Rossem. At this point, Pritcher becomes suspicious of his comrade and arrests him on treason. He tells Channis that in fifteen minutes the Mule will arrive and kill him. However, by the time Mule arrives, Channis has taken over Pritchard's mind. Though his mind control is inferior to the Mule's, he tells him if he does not put down his blaster, he will give Pritchard the order to kill him. If the Mule puts down his blaster then he can have back Pritchard's mind. The Mule relinquishes his weapon and sets about weakening Channis' resolve. Fortunately, Channis only has to wait a few moments before the Second Foundation's First Speaker enters the room. The First Speaker tells the Mule that Channis has taken him to the wrong planet. Channis thinks Rossem is the Second Foundation, but only because the Second Foundation has conditioned his mind. Channis agreed to the conditioning so as to lead the Mule into a trap without being at risk of giving away their true location. At this point, the Mule drops his guard, and the First Speaker enters his mind. He conditions the Mule to believe the Second Foundation does not exist.

In the second part, the 14-year old Arcadia Darell is writing a report for school when a man appears at her window. The man's name is Pelleas Anthor and says he has come to see her father Dr. Darell. At this point Dr. Darell enters his daughter's room. He has been expecting Anthor and takes him downstairs to talk.

Seven days later Dr. Darell, Anthor, Homir Munn, Dr. Elvett Semic and Jole Turbor meet to discuss the Second Foundation. They decide to send Homir Munn to Kalgan where he can visit the Mule's now empty palace and find information. Upstairs, Arcadia listens into their conversation.

The next day Munn leaves for Kalgan. However, midway through the journey he finds Arcadia hiding in his baggage compartment. Realizing to turn back would look suspicious, he decides he has no choice but to take Arcadia with him.

When they arrive in Kalgan, Munn manages to set up a meeting with the Kalgan leader Lord Stettin. Stettin permits Munn access to the Mule's records but soon becomes suspicious of his real motives. On their second meeting, Stettin tells Munn he knows the real reason he has come to Kalgan and has decided to hold him and Arcadia prisoner, while he conducts a war against the Foundation. In the next room Stettin's mistress, Callia, helps Arcadia to escape.

Arcadia flees to the Kalgan Spaceport. She knows she cannot go back to the Foundation so she buys a ticket to Trantor. Just before she is about to leave, the Kalgan police enter the terminal to arrest her. Now in a desperate situation, she runs into the trader Palver Preemer and his wife. Preemer bribes the police and takes Arcadia back to his home in Trantor.

In Trantor, Arcadia has information she must get to her father, but with a war now raging, it is impossible for her to leave. She decides her best bet is to persuade Palver that war is potentially very profitable for a trader, and he could sell his goods to the Foundation. Palver agrees this is a great idea and sets off with a mind to make his fortune and a promise he will deliver Arcadia's father her message.

The Foundation defeats Kalgan and the five conspirators meet again at Dr. Darell's house. Homir Munn tells his friends that he could find no evidence of the Second Foundation's location and thinks it does not exist. However, Anthon refutes his claim and says members of the Second Foundation have tampered with Munn's mind. He says the Second Foundation is located on Kalgan. Dr. Darell disagrees. He says he stayed on Terminus to develop a Mental Static device. This device can detect members of the Second Foundation by blocking their brain waves, and the device found no evidence that Kalgan was home to any Second Foundation members. In fact, Arcadia sent him a message saying a circle has no end, and it was from this message he realized the Second Foundation was on Terminus. Anthon says this is not true, but Darell turns on the Mental Static Device, proving Anthon is a Second Foundationer.

# 1-3

## 1-3 Summary

The novel begins on the planet Kalgan. The mutant creature, the Mule, has defeated the Foundation and in five years has become leader of the Galaxy. The reason for his rapid rise to power is his ability to control and condition the minds of individuals. His current General, Han Pritcher, is one of the men he calls his converted. Originally, Han was a member of the Foundation. However, when he tried to assassinate the Mule, the Mule overpowered Han's mind. Now Han remembers his past only with embarrassment and will do anything to prove his loyalty to his new master.

Currently, the Mule has Han searching for the Second Foundation. It was said three-hundred years ago that Hari Seldon set up two scientific foundations. The Mule has destroyed the first one, but no one knows where the second one is. He was agonizingly close five years ago when the librarian Ebling Mis was on the verge of telling him before he was killed. The Mule knows if he does not find its location and destroy it, he can never claim complete control of the Galaxy. Unfortunately, Han's latest report comes back negative, and he tells the Mule he is beginning to doubt the Second Foundation's existence. However, the Mule is certain it is out there somewhere, and he is going to send Han on a final mission to find it. This time, though, he has decided to change his tactics and send him out with a man named Bail Channis. Unlike Han, Channis is unconverted, and trustworthy only in the fact that he knows the only way to achieve his lust for fame is to stick close to the Mule. The reason the Mule has chosen him is that his drive for individual success will give the search new impetus.

Bail Channis is a good-looking and highly-popular member of the Kalgan community. Part of his popularity comes from the fact he openly ridicules the Mule's ugliness, yet somehow gets away with it. Currently, he is on the way to meeting the great leader. As he moves along the corridor, he states he fears neither the Mule nor the Second Foundation.

The Mule tells Channis that he wants to find the Second Foundation so the Mule can unite all scientists and work towards reducing the Seldon Plan from 1000 years to 300 years. He wants Channis to help him in his search because being unconverted means the Second Foundation are unlikely to detect that he is one of the Mule's subjects. Channis asks how he knows the Foundation exists. The Mule says he knows because they have been tampering with his men's minds.

In the spaceship, Han Pritcher and Bail Channis talk over their mission. Pritcher immediately takes a dislike to Channis and says very little. Channis says he thinks they are looking for a world that is strong in mental power but lacking in the physical sciences to develop a modern society. In other words, they are looking for a planet that is backward in its ways. He says the Second Foundation is said to be at Stars End and thinks the planet Tazenda is near that location. Furthermore, though it holds a lot of

power over surrounding planets, it is scientifically backwards. Does the Mule know we are going there asks Pritcher. When Channis says he does not, Pritcher pulls out his gun. In reply, Channis smiles. Pritcher suddenly feels strange and lowers his weapon, quietly congratulating Channis on his discovery.

A while later, one of the technicians approaches Channis with the news he has found a hyper relay device in the ship's engine room. The narrator explains that the hyper relay is a device allowing outside sources to follow a ship through hyperspace. Channis tells the technician to put it back.

Channis decides to land on a small planet near Tazender called Rossem. Here they can decide on their next step. When the ship lands, it is beginning to snow and the local farmers come out of their houses to greet what they call visitors from outer space. Their tone towards Pritcher and Channis is friendly, and they invite them to meet the country's elders.

## **1-3 Analysis**

The Second Foundation is the final installment of a trilogy. However, the reader does not have to read them in any particular order, or even have to read all three, because Asimov opens each book with a comprehensive overview of what has gone before. Here he explains the development of the Seldon Plan and his use of mass action to accurately predict the future. Unfortunately, the plan only accounted for human behavior and could not predict the rise of a mutant such as the Mule. The Mule has taken over the Foundation and is now searching for the mythical Second Foundation.

Immediately, Asimov enters a story, which throughout, details his character's obsession with finding the Second Foundation. Equally, the Second Foundation does not want anyone to find their location, and from the beginning, Asimov signifies this by setting the groundwork for a series of double crosses aimed to confuse both the reader and the characters. Here, the Mule tells Hans Pritcher he is sending him on a trip with the unconverted Bail Channis because he thinks Channis will add new impetus to the mission. However, when the Mule meets Channis, he tells him he wants him to go because the Second Foundation will be more responsive to an unconverted man. This is only a slight show of dishonesty, but it is enough to attract the reader's attention.

Asimov intrigues the reader further when he shows the distrust and even hatred Pritcher has for Channis. This shows an individual completely at the control of the Mule; however, Pritcher is equally someone who could easily turn against him. When Channis persuades Pritcher to drop his weapon with a mere smile and then to head to Tazender, the reader sees the bond between Mule and Pritcher is breakable, foreshadowing events to come. Furthermore it hints at the fact Channis is not the person he claims to be.

Asimov raises further questions when the ship's technician finds a hyper relay on board. Channis knows the Mule probably put it there to follow them but asks the technician to

put it back. Asimov shows Pritcher also knows Mule has planted a hyper relay is on the ship, yet it is a fact he is determined to keep to himself. By planting such intrigue, Asimov can afford to introduce some of his more complex scientific ideas without losing the reader's interest.



## 4-6

### 4-6 Summary

Channis and Pritchard meet with the Rossem elders. It is rare they get any visitors on their planet and the elders show great excitement, asking them about their ship, how they fly it and from what planet they came. Eventually, Pritchard stops them. He pardons his rudeness, but he says they are new to the planet and would like to know more about it; they are particularly interested in finding information about Tazenda. The elders say Tazenda is a great and noble ruler, providing Rossem with nothing but peace. Channis interrupts to ask if the elders could set up a meeting with the Tazenda governor. There is no need, says one of the elders. He knew Channis and Pritchard were coming and will be arriving in Rossem tomorrow.

When they are alone, Channis tells Pritchard he has no doubt Tazenda is the Second Foundation. For a start, they seem to hold the planet in great reverence and with not a little fear. Yet at the same time, everything runs exceptionally smoothly. They pay their taxes and seem to live a healthy lifestyle. Pritchard says the people in Rossem are nothing but peasants, and Tazender only scares them into behaving well. Channis argues they may be peasants, but they are neither starving nor unhappy. All that points to the fact Second Foundationers have conditioned their minds.

The next day, the Tazender governor arrives in Rossem. As he approaches in his car, Pritchard grows fearful. He wonders how he thought before the Mule tampered with his mind. What was his life like? However, such thoughts, linked as they are to disloyalty to his master, make him feel sick to his stomach. The feeling worsens when he realizes if the governor is from the Second Foundation, he has the power to readjust him or perhaps tamper with his mind even further. The governor gets out of his car and enters a building. Moments later, an elder invites Channis and Pritchard to follow him.

Back in their private chambers, Channis asks what Pritchard made of the governor. Pritchard tells Channis if the governor is a member of the Second Foundation, he is a very poor specimen. Channis tells him they are probably bluffing. After all, neither Channis nor Pritchard is any use to them; it is the Mule they are after. Channis proposes they wait until the time comes when they can make a deal. Pritchard pulls out his blaster and says there will be no deal because he is arresting Channis on charges of treason. On what grounds Channis asks. On the grounds, you are a Second Foundationer. For what other reason would the Mule hire a young, unconditioned nobody and send him on an important mission? Because he could trust me says Channis. No says Pritchard because he knew that he could not trust you. He knew you would guide him straight to the Second Foundation. Why, Channis asks, should I lead him to the Second Foundation? It would make no sense. Pritchard tells him because the Second Foundation needs nuclear weapons, but right now, the reason does not matter because in 15 minutes the Mule himself should arrive. Channis tells Pritchard he thinks the Second Foundation has tampered with his mind because not only is his thinking wrong,



but he is putting their mission at risk. Pritchard says nothing has happened to his mind because he still feels the same degree of loyalty he has always felt towards the Mule, and it is for the Mule, he is currently holding Channis at gunpoint. Channis tells him the Second Foundation would not alter his feeling of loyalty because the Mule would detect such a change too easily. He asks Pritchard if he has been feeling weak recently. Perhaps he has been is thinking of his past life and how he used to feel before the Mule conditioned his mind. Pritchard is loosening his grip on his gun when the Mule walks through the door.

The Mule says Pritchard is right—Channis is a second Foundationer. Channis has been altering the minds of the Kalgan people for a while, but the Mule did not find out until he noticed Channis had the ability to resist his mind control. Only a Second Foundationer could possess such ability. The Mule pulls out his blaster to kill Channis, but in the second it took him to draw his gun, Channis takes over Pritchard's mind, reconditioning him to his previous state. The Mule's finger stays steady on the trigger, feeling Pritchard's hatred emanating towards him. Channis tells the Mule that at this moment he is controlling Pritchard's urge to kill. If the Mule shoots Channis then Pritchard will kill the Mule. If the Mule turns to recondition Pritchard's mind, the Channis will kill the Mule. His only choice is to put down his weapon. If he does that, he can have Pritchard back. The Mule puts down his gun and reconditions Pritchard's mind. However, he then turns back to Channis and overpowers him. He tells Channis that he has sent men to destroy Tazenda, and it now lies in ruins. What it wants to know is why Channis feels so little regret with what the Mule just said. It can only mean Tazenda is not the Second Foundation. Under the Mule's control, Channis has no choice but to admit Tazenda is not the right planet and in fact, the Second Foundation is in Rossem. At this point, the Second Foundation's First Speaker walks through the door.

The First Speaker heals Channis' mind and turns his attention to the Mule. He tells him Channis volunteered to lead the Mule into a trap, and he has fought bravely, despite the fact the Mule's mental powers are infinitely better. The Mule laughs and says whether he is fallen into a trap or not it does not change that he has just ordered his men to destroy Rossem. In reply, the first speaker says he could not risk Channis giving away their real location and conditioned his mind to think the Second Foundation was in Rossem. There were Second Foundationers on the planet, but Rossem is not their base. Knowing he has outwitted him, the Mule drops his head, allowing the First Speaker to enter his mind. The First Speaker conditions the Mule to believe the Second Foundation does not exist.

## 4-6 Analysis

One of the book's major themes is mind control. Though the Second Foundation is a science fiction book, the reader can relate this theme to the 1940s and 1950s, where, in the aftermath of war, both the USA and the USSR had the power to obtain cultural dominance over their respective parts of the world. Asimov first hints at this comparison when in the previous section, Channis says the Second Foundation is located at the opposite end of the Galaxy. Here Asimov shows the era's paranoia and fear when

Pritchard worries the Tazender governor could take over his mind and switch his allegiance to the Second Foundation. In the end, his fear is justified, but in general, Asimov uses such moments to satirize his political environment.

As the section continues, the satire increases. The reader finds out Channis is a Second Foundationer. The Mule enters the scene claiming Channis is the one being double-crossed. However, moments later the Second Foundation's First Speaker walks in telling the Mule they have set the meeting up to trap him. He then defeats the Mule and conditions his mind to believe the Second Foundation never existed. The result is everything goes back to its original state, in between the threat of war and the hope of peace, much like the mechanics of the Cold War. Furthermore, the First Speaker sends the Mule back to Kalgan a changed mutant, satirizing the idea that a dictator's lust for dominance has its basis in their low self-image.



## 7-9

### 7-9 Summary

60 years later, the fourteen-year-old, Arcadia Darell is at home working on an essay about the Seldon Plan when a man appears at her bedroom window. He asks Arcadia to let him in, but she tells him must have the wrong house because she is not that sort of girl. The man is struggling to keep his grip on the window and tells her he has come to see her father about a very important matter. Arcadia opens the window, and the man scrambles into her room. She tells him he must behave himself because she has a baseball under her bed and is not afraid to use it. The man repeats the claim that has come to see her father Dr. Darell. His name is Pelleus Anthor, and if she fetches her father, he will leave her alone. She says she knows he has come to see her father because he has been expecting an important visitor all day. Only that morning, Dr. Darell sent their maid Poli on holiday and made up the spare bed. Suddenly, Dr. Darell rushes into the room. He asks the man his name and Anthor happily tells him. Dr. Darell relaxes, but reprimands his daughter for letting a stranger into the house so easily. He tells her he could have been anybody. Furthermore, she has been rude to him and there certainly no need for that. Arcadia says she was only rude because he was looking through her window. Anyway, if he was invited why does he come to an upstairs window? If he wanted to be inconspicuous, it would make more sense to knock on the door. Dr. Darell tells his daughter to keep her nose out of things she does not understand; however, Arcadia surprises her father by saying she knows exactly why Anthor has come. He has come to discuss the Second Foundation. Surprised, the Doctor tells his daughter to get on with her work and leads Anthor downstairs. On the way, Anthor asks if his daughter has ever mentioned marriage. Why do you ask? I do not mean to offend, Anthor says, but if she does, I highly recommend you shoot him. The doctor says he is not offended and knows exactly what Anthor means.

Over the course of seven days, Dr. Darell shows Anthor around the city, introducing him as the doctor's cousin. On the seventh day, he sets up a meeting in his house with himself; Anthor; the librarian and Mule specialist Homir Munn; the visicaster Jole Turbor, and the professor of physics Elvett Semic. Arcadia has also kept herself busy. She befriended a boy at school called Olynthus and persuaded him to make her a sound receiver. She has put the recording device in the room where the five are having a meeting and is now in her bedroom listening to their discussion.

Dr. Darell begins the meeting by introducing Anthor. He tells the group he is a student of his old friend, Dr. Kleise, and he has come to help him find the Second Foundation. A few of the group members worry that at 29, he is too young, but Anthor ensures them he has experience beyond his years. At this point, Homir interrupts. He says we can sit here all night and talk about Anthor, but we are here to discuss the Second Foundation. Anthor agrees, but before they start, he would like to scan everyone's mind and make sure nobody is from the Second Foundation. The group thinks this only fair and they all make their way to Dr. Darell's laboratory. Everyone's results come out clear, but Anthor

says there is one more person he would like to test, Arcadia. Arcadia has just enough time to turn off her sound receiver before her father walks into her room and escorts her to his lab. Again, the results are clear.

The meeting gets under way. Anthon takes some papers out of his suitcase and hands them around the group. He tells them each one shows a brain scan of a member of government and each one proves the Second Foundation has tampered with their minds. The Second Foundation has complete control over their lives and they need to put a stop to it. Anthon says the first step is to find more information on the Second Foundation's location. Everyone knows the Mule has spent his life looking for the Second Foundation, and he may have found something that could point them in the right direction. Consequently, they need someone to go to the Mule's palace in Kalgan and do some research. Anthon says they have chosen Homir because he is an expert on the Mule, and therefore a request to look through the Mule's records will not look suspicious.

## **7-9 Analysis**

The difficulties a reader may find is, first, understanding the character's obsession with finding and destroying the Second Foundation and, second, understanding why the Second Foundation is so intent on hiding their location. The only character that seems to have a worthy motive is the Mule. In the first part, he claims he wants to find the Second Foundation so he can bring all the scientists together and work towards reducing the time it takes to achieve Hari Seldon's goals. However, in this section, Dr. Darell and his conspirators have no motive beyond the fact that they do not want the Second Foundation to dictate their lives. This reasoning is confusing because both Foundations are working towards the same goal.

As a result, the character's effort seem futile and Asimov's characterization superficial. For example, can the reader believe Dr. Darell wants to destroy the Second Foundation when his mother killed Ebling Mis to keep its location secret? Asimov does suggest the Second Foundation used Darell's mother as a tool to defeat the Mule, but he does not indicate whether Darell ever understood this. In the fifth section, Darell claims he became interested in finding the Second Foundation after his wife died and suddenly realized he lived in a hateful universe. Again, this excuse seems thin, and even if Darell is a logical scholar, it is hard to believe he has the self-knowledge to make such a statement.

# 10-12

## 10-12 Summary

While Dr. Darell eats his breakfast, his maid Poli runs excitedly into the room. She tells him Arcadia has disappeared. Dr. Darell asks how she knows and Poli hands him a note. It says Arcadia has gone to Kalgan with her Uncle Homir. She is sorry she did not tell him of her plans, but she hates goodbyes. Surprisingly, Dr. Darell takes the news well and tells Poli he thinks Arcadia is mature enough to take care of herself.

Unfortunately, Anthor's view is not so relaxed. He says she could jeopardize the whole mission, and they should call Homir's ship back straight away. Dr. Darell disagrees. He says his daughter is an intelligent girl and would have thought this whole thing through. For example, she did not have to write them a letter, but she did so they do not waste time going to the police. Furthermore, her presence is likely to deflect any suspicions away from Homir's real motives.

Meanwhile, aboard Homir's ship, Arcadia is hiding in the luggage compartment listening to Homir walking around. When she hears nothing but silence, she decides he is asleep and climbs down into the cabin. However, Homir is not asleep, but pointing a blaster straight at Arcadia. When he sees it is only his friend's daughter, he asks what in space she is doing hiding away here. He says he must take her back at once, but Arcadia says that would not be wise. He is supposed to be detracting as little attention from himself as possible and turning back, so close to his destination, would almost certainly raise suspicions. Homir asks if her father knows she is here and Arcadia admits he does not, but she is confident he would tell Homir the same thing. At that point, Homir receives a spacegram from Dr. Darell. It tells Arcadia to have a good time, and he will see her when she gets back.

Kalgan was once the pleasure capital of the Galaxy. However, when the Mule decided to use it as the center of his empire, it soon lost its sense of fun and became a major political force. Since the Mule's death, the planet has been run by a number of Lords, each one assuming the Mule's title of First Citizen and maintaining the fiction they are also conquerors. The current Lord Stettin is no different, once an admiral in the Kalgan navy, he has a high regard for military force.

Stettin is in his chambers talking to his First Minister Lev Merius. Merius is trying to persuade Stettin not to go into war. Stettin tells him that his predecessor built the strongest and biggest navy in the Galaxy, but never used it. Now the navy is so big, the treasury is struggling. Furthermore his men want to go and fight as they have been inactive for too many years. Merius says he understands what Stettin is saying, but fight the Foundation? Even the Mule would have been wise not to have attacked the Foundation. Stettin tells Merius that the Mule relinquished the Foundation's power, and its days of controlling the Galaxy is in the past. What about the Second Foundation? Merius asks. Stettin laughs. He says there is evidence pointing to the fact that the Mule disrupted the Seldon Plan, and consequently, there is the opportunity for Stettin to begin

the groundwork for a new empire. Merius says their knowledge is not great enough to risk trusting such theories. Stettin tells him a man called Homir Munn has come to Kalgan asking to see the Mule's palace; perhaps he could help them.

## 10-12 Analysis

The reader could argue the reason behind the conspirator's lack of an objective is that they are merely tools of the Second Foundation, used to guide the Galaxy into the next phase of the Seldon Plan. However, this would only make sense if the Second Foundation had conditioned Dr. Darell's mind to follow their ideals; at the end, the reader finds out this is not the case. Consequently, Darell's role as a main character becomes increasingly weak, providing no real threat to the Second Foundation's existence. Without that threat, the story becomes a one-sided journey towards the inevitable.

In contrast, his daughter Arcadia is a strong and willful character. In the previous section, she listened into the conspirator's conversation, and here she stows aboard Homir's ship, intent in playing a major part in the mission. Her motives make sense because she is a rebellious teenager wanting to follow her legendary grandmother's example. However, at the end of the book, the reader finds out the Second Foundation conditioned her mind to help them.

This may highlight the Second Foundation as an unstoppable force, but gives the story no real plausibility. Asimov has already shown the Second Foundation as impossible to defeat in the first novel of the series through the portrayal of a far more powerful character in the Mule. Here the reader may feel he is covering similar ground and with characters less equipped to deal with such a force. Therefore, when Stettin states he is thinking of declaring war, it carries no tension.

# 13-15

## 13-15 Summary

Arcadia and Homir visit Lord Stettin and his mistress Lady Callia. Arcadia is excited by the visit. She imagines Lady Callia as an intelligent woman who has manipulated her way into the Lord's affections. The reality, however, is very different. Lady Callia is plump and dimwitted. Nevertheless, Arcadia answers her questions about the Foundation and even tries to manipulate Callia into coaxing Stettin to allow Munn entrance into the Mule's palace. Initially Callia does not think it is a good idea because according to Kalgan culture, the Palace is cursed and no one has set foot inside since the Mule's death. Callia says Lord Stettin thinks the curse is nonsense, but even he has never dared to enter the palace. However, Arcadia tells Callia she has heard rumors Kalgan has the chance of becoming the next empire and only by going inside the palace can Munn discover if this is true.

Lord Stettin decides he cannot afford to allow Munn inside the palace. Of course, he does not believe that the Palace is cursed, but the fact is the majority of Kalgan's population does and he cannot afford to risk his popularity by allowing Munn inside. Stettin turns to see Lady Callia approach him. She asks if she can go with Arcadia and Munn to see the palace. Stettin tells her to mind her own business, and anyway, she cannot go because he has refused Munn entrance. Callia tells him that is a shame because the girl said Lord Stettin was going to make an empire. Stettin grabs Callia's arm and demands she repeat Arcadia's exact words. Callia tells him Arcadia had said the Seldon Plan had changed and there was a Second Foundation somewhere, arranging for Stettin to create the next empire. Immediately Seldon gives two important orders. First, he sends out 500 ships into space for what he classes as war games, and second, he sends a message to Munn giving him permission to enter the Mule's Palace. When Munn receives the order he worries something underhanded is happening. Arcadia on the other hand is delighted, thinking her plan has worked beautifully.

Dr. Darell mocks Kalgan for being a mere physical enemy. The Foundation has always defeated physical enemies—the problem and the real enemy is the Second Foundation. Dr. Darell states he first realized the extent of the Second Foundation's control over his life when his wife died five years ago. Her death made him open his eyes to the outside world and see that the Second Foundation's control was creating an oppressed and hateful Universe. His obsession with the Second Foundation gave his life meaning. He spent time with Dr. Kleise at the University of Sanntani but eventually grew to think Kleise's methods were limited and left to work on his own, developing mathematical concepts which could distinguish between a Second Foundationer's mind and a normal one.

Back in Kalgan, Arcadia is sitting in the anteroom of the Executive Offices of the First Citizen of the Galaxy, surrounded by armed guards. Homir is inside the office discussing important matters with Stettin. Arcadia senses a bad and foreboding atmosphere. Inside



the office, Stettin, dressed in full military uniform, tells Homir he knows exactly why he has come to Kalgan. He is investigating the Seldon Plan and by now he must realize that with Stettin at its helm, Kalgan will rise to become the next empire. However, he does not want to spoil the Plan through over confidence and says he needs Munn's help. Therefore, Homir must stay in Kalgan for the foreseeable future. He then asks if Arcadia is the granddaughter of the legendary Bayla Darell. Homir says she is, but the Darell family wishes no harm to Kalgan. Stettin laughs and says he wishes Arcadia no harm either. On the contrary, he wants to make her his mistress.

Callia drags Arcadia through the Palace corridors and past Stettin's guards. The guards have no power to stop Callia and as she passes, they click their heels in recognition of her authority. Callia takes Arcadia into her private chambers and orders her to undress. She gives Arcadia some clean clothes and some money and tells her she must go back to the Foundation and warn her people that Kalgan is about to attack. With that, Callia throws her arms across her face and runs away. For a second Arcadia stands still. She was sure she saw a look of almost inhuman amusement in Callia's eyes.

Outside the palace, Arcadia hails a taxi and tells the driver to take her to the spaceport. She is upset with herself. She thought she knew everything, but she has been made to look like what she is, a little girl. However, something at the back of Arcadia's mind says she is also probably the most important person in the Galaxy. As she enters the Spaceport, she realizes she knows the location of the Second Foundation.

A voice comes over the speakers and informs the Spaceport that they are searching for a dangerous fugitive and no one can leave until they have checked everybody's papers. Immediately Mamma takes Arcadia to the bathroom, leaving Pappa to deal with the police. A policeman asks for his papers and he hands them over. When Mamma gets back she hands over her papers too, but refuses to let Arcadia hand over hers. Pappa says it is their right to refuse, and they do not appreciate being hassled like this. Mamma insults the policeman further and he goes to find the Lieutenant. The Lieutenant tells Pappa if he does not hand over Arcadia's papers he will have to use force. Eventually Pappa gives him what he wants but slips a 500 Credit bill between the pages. Later that night Arcadia tells herself that an Arcadian Lieutenant would never usually accept a bribe, and they let her go on purpose. She does not know the reason, but she knows she needs to outwit them.

## 13-15 Analysis

Asimov attempts to cover his lack of characterization by showing a character as a weak stereotype and then later presenting them as something completely different. For example in the previous section, Asimov presented Callia as dimwitted and shallow, but at the end of this section, the reader discovers she is an agent of the Second Foundation and her stupidity was an act. Similarly, Preem Palver is not the simple trader he claims, but the Second foundation's First Speaker. In general, these subversions work to keep the reader guessing and therefore keeping their interest in the story.

However, because none of these characters supplies any real threat to the main characters, these subversions have little dramatic impact.

In some way, the reader could see this as the point of the book. The Second Foundation's only aim is to keep the Galaxy working towards the goal of the Seldon Plan, and the only way they can do that is by mediating between the First Foundation and its enemies. For example, here Callia does not tell either Stettin or Arcadia what to do, but guides them, keeping the Second Foundation's and her own identity a secret. Yet the reason why first the Mule and then the Foundation fears them so much is not only because they are so controlling, but also because they are a hidden force, the equivalent to a secret police. This is confusing because Asimov never leads the reader to believe anything other than the fact the Second Foundation is a force for good.

# 16-18

## 16-18 Summary

The war between Kalgan and Foundation is now underway, but all Dr. Darrell can think about is the safety of his daughter. However, he knows what he is doing at the moment is more important in terms of the majority of the people and for that reason he has to go along with it. Darell meets with Seimic and tells him he (Darell) needs him to build a resonator. Seimic tell him that for what Darell wants, Seimic would need 50 hyper relays, which is more hyper relays than he has ever seen in his life. Darell says it is a matter of state importance and therefore he will get them. Anchor knocks at the door and Darell quickly tells Seimic not to say a word to then others. Already both their lives are at risk and there is no point implicating anyone else.

Anchor walks in with an unknown man, introducing him as Lieutenant Dirige of the Kalgan Spaceport police. Dr. Darell asks what the space he thinks is doing bringing him here, and Anchor replies that the Lieutenant was the last person to see his daughter. Thinking Anchor means his daughter is dead, Darell goes to grab the policeman and is only stopped from going any further by the Lieutenant's calm manner. He tells the doctor he was the last person to see her on Kalgan, just before she left with a trader called Preem Palver to the planet Trantor. Anchor interrupts to say the Lieutenant works undercover for the Foundation. Yes, admits the Lieutenant and it seems Lord Stettin wanted to find your daughter. Dirige does not know the reason why, but it was lucky he got to her first and let her go. Satisfied his daughter is safe, Darell decides to go home and rest.

Back at the doctor's house Anchor tells Darell he should go to Trantor and see his daughter because in his current mood, he is no good to them. The doctor says there is nothing more he would like to do than see Arcadia, but thinks the Second Foundation sees him an important person and would have already predicted what Darell was likely to do when his daughter disappeared. For that reason he cannot afford to trust his instincts. Anchor says that the Second Foundation may have calculated he would stay. In which case, says Darell, he cannot win. Anyway, not every event is due to the manipulations of the Second Foundation, and Arcadia may have gone to Trantor under her own will. Anchor does not think so. He thinks the Second Foundation arranged Arcadia's escape because they wanted her back with the Foundation. However, Arcadia is a bright girl and realized going back to her home would be exactly what the Second Foundation would expect, so she went to Trantor instead. Anchor takes out copies of a brain scan he did on Dirige and shows the doctor that the Second Foundation had tampered with his brain. They had conditioned him to help Arcadia escape, but he had no power to stop her from going to Trantor because the Second Foundation was sure she would go back to Terminus.

Arcadia settles with Mama and Preem Palver in Trantor. It is Arcadia's birthplace, and she wants to see the imperial library where she was born and where her legendary



grandmother, Bayla Darell, did most of her work. Palver says it is too far to go, but Arcadia knows he is scared. One day Arcadia comes down for breakfast just as Palver is telling his wife there is a war raging between the Foundation and Kalgan. Mama tells Palver to shut up, but it is too late and Arcadia has already overheard. Immediately she knows she needs to get a message to her father about the location of the Second foundation but realizes it is now almost impossible. She asks Palver if he is thinking of going on a business trip, but he says not at the moment. Are you bored? He asks. Arcadia says she is fine. Later on, she again approaches Palver. She says she thinks the Foundation would be willing to pay smugglers prices for food and any trader who is willing to take the risk could make a lot of money. Two weeks later Palver has arranged to travel to the Foundation with a shipload of goods. Before he goes Arcadia asks him to deliver a message to her father. However, he has to promise not to tell anyone but her father. When Palver promises, she whispers the secret in his ear.

## 16-18 Analysis

Though Asimov explains a lot in the final chapter, he does not foreshadow anything. In fact Asimov does the reverse and plays to the readers expectations before turning everything on its head. For example, in this chapter, Anthor tries to persuade Dr. Darell to visit his daughter in Trantor. Later on, the reader finds out Anthor is a Second Foundationer and his suggestion to Darell contradicts the First Speaker's claim that he made sure Arcadia was not reunited with her father until the right time. However, it is difficult for the reader to know how much the Second Foundation knows about human behavior—whether Anthor is telling the doctor to go and see Arcadia knowing the doctor will refuse. Similarly there is no suggestion Preem Palver is the Second Foundation's First Speaker until the last line of the book. Yet, he plays the role of trader so convincingly, it is difficult to believe he is such an important person. For example, when Arcadia walks downstairs for breakfast, she overhears Mamma and Anthor talking about the war. Mamma tells him to shut up because she does not want Arcadia to know. However, in the final chapter, the reader can guess they did want Arcadia to know, and it was all part of their plan to encourage her to ask Palver to deliver her father a message. When the readers finishes the book, they can probably go back through the story and find similar examples. However, the question remains if these red herrings have any dramatic impact.

# 19-22

## 19-22 Summary

Junior Officer Tippellum steps into Jole Turbor's office on the third fleet to inform him they have just taken in a prisoner called Preem Palver. Turbor has recently spoken to Dr. Darell and knows exactly who the prisoner so requests to see Palver alone. Turbor asks Palver what is the name of the girl he has abducted, and Palver replies that her name is Arcadia Darell. Is she okay asks Turbor. Plaver says she is safe and in good health. After their interview, Turbor assures the Admiral that Palver is not a spy. However, Palver still cannot leave the ship because they are in the middle of a war; when it is over, they can they let him go.

The Foundation wins the war and Palver survives, landing back in Terminus in the middle of the celebrations. However, he is not there to party and manages to come to an arrangement to deliver twenty shiploads of food pervmonth at a war price. Furthermore, he visits Dr. Darell and gives him Arcadia's message. In reply, Darell tells him to tell Arcadia she can come back to the Foundation.

Back in Kalgan, Stettin is seething. The Foundation have destroyed all his ships and with it his dreams. He asks his First Minister Meluis what went wrong. Meluis tells him it was treason. Stettin asks if he knew that all along. Melius says yes he did, but Stettin refused to listen to him. Instead, he insisted going into a battle he could never win because he is not the Mule. His men know he is not the Mule. They know they are attacking a planet they have no chance of defeating. Therefore, they went into battle lacking any self-confidence. He recommends Stettin send Munn back to the Foundation as a peace envoy. Stettin agrees he has no choice. On the eighth day of the New Year, Homir leaves for Terminus as an ambassador of peace. He is excited because he finally knows the truth about the Second Foundation.

With the war formally ended, the five conspirators, Dr. Darell, Homir Munn, Jole Turbor, Palleus Anthor and Dr. Elmett Seimic arrange another meeting. The group talks about the Foundation's victory, which everyone agrees was a mere skirmish. Darell says Arcadia is coming back in a week's time and can hardly contain his happiness at the prospect of meeting her again. Anthor, though, is annoyed. He tells the group that this is all very well, but they should be talking about the Second Foundation. He asks if they think that a silly war has changed anything. The danger, he says, is still there and they still must defeat it. Munn interrupts and says during his time in Kalgan, he made a vital discovery. With all attention on him he explains there is no risk from the Second Foundation simply because it does not exist. The Mule spent years searching for it. He traveled to every planet in the Universe and did not find it because it does not exist. Anthor is not convinced. He asks Homir if that is the case why on earth did Seldon mention it in his plan. Homir says it was a scarecrow and has served its purpose. For example, the people of Kalgan fully believed a Second Foundation existed and as such had no confidence they would win the war. In such a negative environment, Kalgan had



no chance whatsoever. Anthon stares at Homir and tells him he is lying. Homir does not realize he is lying, but it is obvious to Anthon that the Second Foundation has tampered with Homir's mind. Seimic tells Anthon to calm down, but he refuses. Instead, Anthon tells the group that Munn left for Kalgan a nervous and quiet librarian with a stutter and has come back a completely different man. If the others do not believe him, then he insists they all have another brain scan.

The results prove the Second Foundation has tampered with Munn's mind. Munn cannot believe it is true and screams that it is a conspiracy and they are planning to kill him. With that, Anthon lunges at him, holds him down and shouts at the others to fetch some rope. With Munn tied up, Turbor asks how Anthon knew the Second Foundation had conditioned Munn's mind. He says he knew because he knows where the Second Foundation really is. The Second Foundation is on Kalgan. Anthon tells them to think about it. Arcadia goes to Kalgan and flees in terror, not to her home planet, but Trantor, and both Munn and Dirige's minds are tampered with after staying there. Turbor disagrees and Anthon calls him a fat fool. The Foundation, he laughs, have destroyed a few of the Kalgan ships and now they think they have won a great battle. They have hardly hurt Kalgan. Equally, Kalgan is now the last place anyone would look for the Second Foundation. Seimic interrupts and asks Anthon how Kalgan can be the Second Foundation when Seldon said it was at the other end of the universe. Anthon tell him that is a minor point. Munn asks, even if the Second Foundation is on Kalgan, how are you going to find them, and if you do find them how are you going to tackle them. Dr. Darell says this is a question he would like to answer. For the past year, he and Seimic have been developing a device to detect Second Foundationers. He calls it a Mental Static Device, and it has the power to block the Second Foundation's brainwaves. Using the device, Darell has found out the exact location of the Foundation and it is not Kalgan.

Anthon asks to see the device and Dr. Darell hands him a small control from his pocket. Anthon turns it on, but nothing seems to happen, and he says they will just have to take Dr. Darell's word that it works. Darell laughs and tells Anthon that he has given him a dummy device and pulls out the real one. When he turns it on Anthon falls to the floor in agony, screaming for Darell to turn off the machine. Darrell turns it off and tells the group Anthon is from the Second Foundation, which is located here in Terminus. He first thought of the idea that it was in Terminus by Arcadia's message. She said a circle has no end. Terminus, he says, is on the edge of the galaxy, and if you follow it around you come to the Galaxy's end. That is where Seldon said the Second Foundation was in his plan. Anthon admits he is right. There are 50 Foundation members on Terminus and 5 or 6 spread around the planet.

## 19-22 Analysis

In the final section, Asimov presents a number of twists before finally revealing the identity of the Second Foundation. First, Homir Munn claims he has discovered it does not exist. However, Anthon proves the Second Foundation has tampered with Homir's mind and then states the Second Foundation is in Kalgan. Dr. Darell proves Anthon is a Second Foundationer and claims the Second Foundation is located on Terminus, the

same planet as the first Foundation. Everyone accepts this view until the last chapter when the reader finds out it is located on Trantor, and the First Speaker is Preem Palver. All four twists make sense, but the reader may think they are more clever than exciting.

Arguably, this shows a problem with the book's structure. Asimov began the book with the more dramatic *Search By the Mule*, a story where the Mule was a powerful enough presence to defeat the Second Foundation. In the second part, *Search by the Foundation*, the reader never believes Dr. Darell has a chance, and though the twists are surprising, they cannot hide the fact the Second Foundation's victory never feels less than inevitable.

# Characters

## Arcadia Darell

Arcadia is the main character of the second part of the novel. She is a 14-year-old schoolgirl and daughter of Dr. Darrell. Arcadia is from a renowned family, her grandmother being the legendary Bayta Darrell.

When Arcadia overhears a conversation between her father and the five conspirators, asking Homir Munn to visit Kalgan, she stows away on Munn's spaceship. Her father quickly finds out, but it says a lot about her maturity that he thinks it wiser for Munn to continue on his journey and use Arcadia to deflect any suspicions Kalgan authorities may have of his visit. When they arrive in Kalgan, Arcadia does little more than shop until Lord Stettin invites her and Munn to his palace. Here Arcadia meets Stettin's mistress Callia. Arcadia had imagined Callia would be a beautiful and manipulative ice princess and is disappointed to find she is plump and dimwitted. Her disappointment turns to resentment and she treats the Princess with not a little contempt.

However, Asimov turns everything on its head when Stettin finds out Munn's real reasons for visiting the Mule's palace and takes him prisoner. He wants to keep Arcadia as his mistress, but with the help of Callia, she flees to the Kalgan spaceport. As she goes, she scolds herself for being stupid, both for taking the trip and underestimating Callia. She now understands Callia was most likely an agent of the Second Foundation and her dullness was just an act.

Kalgan authorities close down the spaceport and search for Arcadia. Fortunately, she runs into Mr. and Mrs. Palver and they help her to escape to Trantor. Here she stays with the couple while a war rages between Kalgan and the Foundation. However, she again shows her innovative side when she persuades Preen Palver to visit her father and deliver an important message.

At the end of the war, Arcadia goes back to Foundation and her father. Dr. Darrell worries that the Second Foundation altered her mind and insists he scan her brain. The results come out negative, but the ending of the book suggests something quite different. The second Foundation had been in control of Arcadia's mind since her birth in Trantor.

## Dr. Darell

Dr. Darrell is the father of Arcadia and a member of the five conspirators. He was brought up in Trantor and eventually settled on Terminus with his daughter. Here he becomes a leading electroneurologist and develops various devices to cope with the growing influence of the Second Foundation.



At the beginning of the book, he meets Anthor Pelleas, a student of his old friend Dr. Kleise. Pelleas reignites Darell's desire to find the Second Foundation and put an end to their mind control. Together they end librarian and Mule expert, Homir Munn, to Kalgan in order to uncover the Second Foundation's whereabouts. However, Darell's daughter stows away on Munn's ship and he is left with a dilemma—either abort the mission or let Munn continue with Arcadia in tow. Darell eventually decides his daughter has enough maturity to not only stay with Munn but to also provide some help. Nevertheless it does not stop Dr. Darell from worrying. Pelleas becomes so concerned for Darell's state of mind that he suggests Darell heads to Trantor and reunite with his daughter.

However, Darell has reasons for staying. Together with fellow conspirator Semic, he constructs the Mental Static device, which acts not only to block the Second Foundation's mind control, but can also inflict great pain on any Second Foundation agent. He uses it to identify Anthor Pelleas as a member of the Second Foundation and then to extract information from him on the Second Foundation's location.

In fact, Dr. Darrell already thinks he has a good idea of the Second Foundation's whereabouts. Earlier, his daughter had sent him a message via Preem Palver, saying a circle has no end. This signified that the Second and First Foundation were both on Terminus, a theory Pelleas confirms. With his theory confirmed, Darell rids Terminus of its 50 Foundation member, thinking he has defeated the Second Foundation. In reality, however, the Second Foundation lead him to believe this and their real location is on Trantor.

## **Anthor Pelleas**

Anthor Pelleas introduces himself to Dr. Darell as a student of Dr. Kleise, and together they form a group of conspirators to help find and destroy the Second Foundation. When the Foundation defeats Kalgan in a war, Pelleas almost succeeds in convincing the conspirators that Kalgan is home to the Second Foundation. What he does not know is that all along, Dr. Darell has suspected him to be a member of the Second Foundation and proves it by disabling his mind with his Mental Static device. Under its influence, Pelleas admits the Second Foundation is located on Terminus. However, this also proves false, pointing to the idea the Second Foundation conditioned his mind to withhold information, even under extreme pressure.

## **Bail Channis**

Bail Channis is a member of the Second Foundation. His sense of humor and good looks make him a popular figure on the planet of Kalgan, and he is one of the few people who not only dares make jokes about the Mule, but also gets away with it. The Mule, realizing Channis is a Second Foundation member sends him and Han Pritcher on a quest to find the planet home of Second Foundation. He hopes Channis will lead him straight there, but instead he leads the Mule into a trap.



## The Mule

The Mule is a mutant and his rise to power, not predicted in the Seldon Plan, almost leads to the Foundation's downfall. Through mind control, he takes over the Galaxy and begins to successfully build a new Empire. However, he knows he will not achieve complete success until he finds the Second Foundation and destroys it. He sends Bail Channis and Hans Pritcher out on a quest to find the planet, knowing Channis is an agent of the Foundation and thinking he will lead him straight there. However, his confidence proves his downfall and Channis leads the Mule into a trap. On the planet Rossem, the Second Foundation's First Speaker confronts the Mule and conditions his mind to believe the Second Foundation does not exist.

## Han Pritcher

The Foundation sent Pritcher to Kalgan to assassinate the Mule, but his attempt was foiled and the Mule conditioned his mind to serve him. As the Mule's General, he goes in search of the Second Foundation with Bail Channis.

## Ebling Mis

Mis discovers the location of the Second Foundation. However the Mule takes over his mind, forcing Bayta Darrell to kill him before he can give away the Second Foundation's whereabouts.

## Jole Turbor

One of the five members of the conspirators.

## Dr. Elvett Semic

One of the five members of the conspirators.

## Homir Munn

Munn is one of the five members of the conspirators and an expert on the Mule. The conspirators send him to Kalgan to find more information on the Second Foundation. However, Stettin quickly finds out his goal and holds him prisoner while a war rages between Kalgan and the Foundation. Eventually, Kalgan releases him and sends him back as a peace envoy. Back amongst the Conspirators, he claims the Second Foundation does not exist, but giving him a brain scan, Dr.Darrell discovers the Second Foundation has conditioned Munn's mind.

## **Bayta Darell**

Bayta Darrell is Dr. Darrell's mother and Arcadia's grandmother. She holds a important position in the history of the Foundation because she killed Ebling Mis moments before he was going to reveal the whereabouts of the Second Foundation to the Mule.

## **Lord Stettin**

Stettin is the leader of Kalgan. He declares war on the Foundation, but his army is soundly defeated.

## **Lady Callia**

Lady Callia is Stettin's mistress. Asimov presents her as dull witted, but this proves to be an act, and in reality she is an agent of the Second Foundation.

## **Lev Meirus**

Lev Meirus is Stettin's First Minister. He advises Stettin not to declare war on the Foundation and eventually signs a peace agreement between the two planets.

## **First Speaker**

The First Speaker is head of the Second Foundation. He pretends to be the trader Preem Palver and takes Arcadia back to Trantor.

## **Lieutenant Dirige**

Dirige is Lieutenant of the Kalganian space port police and a Foundation agent. When the Kalganian police find Arcadia at the spaceport, the Lieutenant says it is not the person they are looking for and lets her go. Dirige's mind is also controlled by the Second Foundation.

## **Captain Dixyl**

Dixyl is captain of the third fleet's flag ship in the war against Kalgan.

## **Mamma**

Mamma is wife of Preem Palver, the First Speaker.



# **Objects/Places**

## **The Second Foundation**

All the character's in the book are searching for the Second Foundation.

## **Mind Static Device**

A device invented by Dr. Darrell to block out mind waves.

## **Kalgon**

Home to the Mule and later Lord Stettin.

## **Terminus**

Home to the Foundation

## **Trantor**

Arcadia's birthplace. Arcadia runs away to Trantor when she is trying to get away from Lord Stettin.

## **Encephalographer**

The Encephalographer is a machine used to make brain scans.

## **Tazenda**

Bail Channis and Han Pritcher visit Tazenda in search for the Second Foundation.

## **Dr. Darrell's House**

Dr. Darrell shares a house with his daughter Arcadia. The five conspirators meet here.

## **The Sound Recorder**

Arcadia uses a sound recorder to record the five conspirators' conversation.

## **The Mule's Palace**

Homer Munn visits the Mule's place to search for information on the Second Foundation.

# Themes

## Mass Action and the Seldon Plan

Mass action is a social theory developed by people such as Karl Marx in an attempt to understand group behavior. In the Foundation, Asimov uses the idea to claim that it can help predict the future and, in this case, predict the downfall of the empire and then 30,000 years of poverty before the rise of the next one. However, that is only if things are left as they are. A man named Hari Seldon develops the Foundation and the Second Foundation to help steer the Galaxy in a different direction by using the ideas behind Mass action. For example, the Second Foundation speakers can predict the probability of the Mule finding their location and then act upon their findings a year before it happens. What they could not predict was the existence of the Mule as he is a mutant. This leads to problems because the Mule takes over the Foundation and tries to build a new empire. This is not according to the plan because they do not expect the next empire to rise for another 1000 years.

It is interesting at this point to find out whether the Second Foundation works out the fact that it is too soon for an empire and will lead to more problems—or if it just ruins their plan and means they will not be the ones in power. Whatever the reason, the fact they work from a plan puts them at a distinct advantage, and they use it to first defeat the Mule and then Dr. Darell and his conspirators.

## Mental Sciences

Whereas the foundation is strong in the physical sciences, the second Foundation is strong in the mental sciences. Initially, the Foundation's physical science worked and they controlled the galaxy, but when the powerful mind of the Mule took over, he took away the Foundation's strength, so the Second Foundation's mental abilities came to the forefront.

Members of the Second Foundation have the ability to read minds and even condition people to believe certain things that otherwise would not come naturally to them. These people are often referred to as tools of the Second Foundation; they rarely realize they are under the Second Foundation's influence. Such characters, include Arcadia, Homir Munn, and Lieutenant Dirige. They are used to try and stop people from discovering the home location of the Second Foundation. As psychologists, they can also be used in conjunction with Mass Action, which means they can develop the plan well in advance, putting them at a very distinct advantage with no risks. Besides conditioning the minds of normal people, they scatter Second Foundationers around the Galaxy. These Second Foundationers are so strong mentally they never drop the pretense they are someone else. Asimov gives characters such as Callias and Channis shallow roles in their society. For example, Callias is Stettin's mistress and Channis is a playboy. Their minds adapt to these roles and it seems they never even think about their real motives.

## Political Satire

Asimov satirizes the political situation of the late forties and early fifties between the USSR and USA. During this period, there were fears of nuclear attack and, with it, paranoia that your next-door neighbor could be the enemy. In this book, Asimov satirizes such an environment by showing the character's influenced by mind conditioning, many of them such as Arcadia and Lieutenant Dirige, not even aware that their minds have been tampered with. In this respect, Arcadia is inadvertently directing the Foundation towards the goals of the Second Foundation, much like a spy within a country's government. Furthermore, the planets in the book share the USSR and USA's penchant for fighting wars on other people's lands. For example, at the beginning, the Second Foundation entices the Mule to Rossem knowing he will destroy Tazender. The First Speaker claims this is an unfortunate side effect of defeating the Mule, but then the reader must wonder why if the Second Foundation is powerful and can predict so much, they do not achieve their goal another way, without so much loss of innocent lives. Furthermore, it carries irony in that the Second Foundation presents themselves as a mediator of peace, but has no problems encouraging destruction and war, as long as it benefits their overall plan. The reader could see their goal as becoming the center of the next empire and spreading their scientific ideology. However, the Mule also wants to create an empire centered on his planet. In the end, the reader may think it a struggle for a power, rather than a struggle between right and wrong.

# Style

## Style

### Point of View

Asimov writes from an omniscient point of view, entering the minds of all the main characters and some of the minor ones. Interestingly, the characters he does not represent in any depth are the Second Foundationers. Initially, the reader may see these characters as shallow, but as the book progresses and the reader discovers their identity it serves to highlight those characters as psychologically strong, suggesting they are defending themselves against the possibility of someone reading their mind. For example when Arcadia is walking downstairs for breakfast, she overhears Preem Palver telling his wife Kalgan has declared war on the Foundation. His wife tells him to shut up because she does not want Arcadia to know. At the end of the book, the reader finds out Preem Palver is the Second Foundation's First Speaker and therefore he probably planned for Arcadia to overhear in order for her to persuade him to take a message to her father. By using this method and never taking the risk of letting their real characters show through, they deflect all suspicion. When a Second Foundationer does let their identity slip, it is part of a plan. For example, Dr. Darell finds out Anthor is a Second Foundationer and forces Anthor to tell him his scientific group is based on Terminus and consists of only 50 members. Darell believes him because he has found the 50 members. However, at the end of the book, the reader discovers this is another bluff and the its real home is on Trantor. In general, the point of view serves to highlight the Second Foundation's psychological dominance over the other characters.

### Setting

Asimov sets the novel among many imagined world within the space of one Galaxy and over a period of sixty years. The novel begins in the Mule's palace on a country called Kalgan. Asimov describes Kalgan as once being the entertainment capital of the Galaxy, but since the Mule took it over, it has lost its sense of fun, becoming the political center of the Union of the Worlds. During the Mule's reign, the Foundation does not exist. However, the Mule knows he cannot conquer the Galaxy until he has defeated the Second Foundation. He sends Bail Channis and Han Pritchard in search for the mysterious home planet of the Second Foundation. The distance between each planet is huge, measured in parsecs, but their spaceship has the ability to travel through hyperspace. They reach a planet called Rossem, which Channis claims is at the end of the Galaxy. Rossem is home to a community of farmers and ruled by the neighboring Tazender. They do not have the same standard of living as either Pritchard or Channis are used to and both regard the population as peasants. As befits such as a community, they give the impression they are family oriented and run by a group of elders. However, the reader soon finds out these people are not natives, but Second Foundationers, there as part of a plan to bluff the Mule.



The Second Part of the novel begins at Dr. Darell's house. Dr. Darell lives here with his 14-year-old daughter and conducts meetings here with his fellow conspirators. It is at one of the meetings that Anthon insists they all have a brain scan. Darell takes them to his laboratory where he has an electroencephalograph, a machine used to read brain patterns. Dr. Darell's house is located on Terminus, home to the Foundation.

Homir and Arcadia travel from the Foundation to Kalgan. It has lost its power since the Mule's era but under a succession of Lords, the planet is still maintains the illusion they are a great conqueror. However, the planet still possesses some of its glamor. While Homir tries to persuade Lord Stettin to let him into the Mule's palace, Arcadia frequents the many shops. The Mule's palace is now empty, and the Kalgan people claim it is cursed. When Homir does get inside, Stettin decides to declare war on the Foundation, forcing Homir to stay on the planet. Arcadia manages to escape. She catches an air-taxi to Kalgan spaceport and buys a ticket to Trantor. Just before she goes, a grid descends from the Spaceport roof, locking everyone in while the police search for Arcadia.

She manages to escape with the Trader Preem Palver and his wife to the planet Trantor. Trantor is the place of her birth and once the capital of the empire. Since then, it has become nothing but farmland. By the end of the book, Asimov reveals Trantor is the home of the Second Foundation. Consequently, the reader can presume that the scenes between the First Speaker and the Student take place here.

The scope of Asimov's futuristic world provides the novel with a melodramatic tone and a sense of isolation. This is the case when Darell and Arcadia are separated with no chance of getting a message across to each other. However, the Second Foundation, which has complete control of the Galaxy, acting as the first Foundation's protector, tempers this isolation.

## Language and Meaning

The Second Foundation has a formal tone, serving to get across Asimov's political and scientific ideas. His ideas can be complex, and readers may not completely grasp them. Fortunately, Asimov tends to explain them away from the plot and then simplify its main points within the story. At other times, it does not really matter unless you have a great interest in, for example, how an electroencephalography works; it is enough to know it makes brain scans. In fact, the reader can be forgiven for thinking Asimov writes the book in two languages, one for the scientifically curious and another for the lovers of a good yarn.

The language within the story is relatively easy to follow. It relies heavily on dialogue, which serves to move the plot forward and express the characters' ideas. Asimov also uses dialogue to heighten characterization; however, this often comes across as cliché, lessening the character's believability. For example, the character Homir stutters; the young Anthon refers to Dr. Darell as doc, and the teenager Arcadia says things like "Gosh" and "Men are so stupid." This is a problem in that the reader gets the impression such dialogue does not reflect the character's role within the book. For example Asimov portrays Arcadia as a strong, mature and independent 14 year old, who is at the point of

her life when she is determined to rebel. So determined that when she runs away to another planet and Lady Callia offers her a gift of pearls, she refuses because "father wouldn't like it."

## Structure

Asimov splits the Foundation into two parts, *Search By the Mule* and *Search By the Foundation*. As the titles suggest, both detail the search for the mysterious Second Foundation. However, in terms of structure, their similarities end there, and the reader could read them as two different stories.

The first section is so much shorter than the second part, it almost acts as an introduction. Here, Asimov introduces the concept of the Second Foundation, the reign of the Mule, and the theme of mind control—all ideas expanded upon in the second part. Unlike the second part, *Search By the Mule* has a frenetic pace driven entirely by plot. The plot involves a series of double crosses, each one increasing tension and reducing trust until the final confrontation between the Mule and the Second Foundation's First Speaker.

The second part consists of 16 of the 22 chapters that make up the book. Consequently, it has a slower pace, taking time to examine characters. However, the book is still driven by plot, and, in fact, the reader may feel characterization is not Asimov's strength; his attempt at characterization reduces the drama he created in the first section. However, because of the slower pace and the more-fully-developed characters, the second section is a more complex story. It is here Asimov takes time to discuss the majority of his ideas such as electroencephalography and the science of the Second Foundation.

Arguably, the pace and dramatic effect of the novel suffers by having the shorter and more exciting first section at the beginning. Asimov tries to make the second section more exciting with a number of plot twists, but alongside so much scientific theory, it comes across as Asimov trying to be clever.

## Quotes

"The individual human being is unpredictable, but the reactions of human mobs, Seldon found, could be treated statistically. The larger the mob, the greater the accuracy that could be achieved. And the size of the human masses that Seldon worked with was no less than the population of the Galaxy, which in his time was numbered in the quintillions."

P.3

"Ebling Mis said it kept itself secret. Only secrecy can turn its weakness to strength."

P.21

"The point being made is that the minds assembled understood thoroughly the workings of each other, not only by general theory but by the specific application over a long period of these theories to particular individuals. Speech as known to us was unnecessary. A fragment of a sentence amounted almost to long-winded redundancy. A gesture, a grunt, the curve of a facial line—even a significantly timed pause yielded informational juice."

P.30

"For a moment he wondered again if the Mule were right—if Conversion had robbed him of the firm sharp edge of self-reliance. Or was it simply age and the fluctuations of these last years?"

P.67

"There are perhaps men in the Galaxy who can be confused for one another even by men at their peaceful leisure. Correspondingly, there may be conditions of mind when even unlikely pairs may be misrecognized. But the Mule rises above any combination of the two factors."

P.78

"Emotional contact such as you and I possess is not a very new development. Actually it is implicit in the human brain. Most humans can read emotion in a primitive manner by associating it pragmatically with facial expression, tone of voice and so on. A good many animals possess the faculty to a higher degree; they use the sense of smell to a good extent, and the emotions involved are, of course, less complex."

P.95

"Speech, originally, was the device whereby Man learned, imperfectly, to transmit the thoughts and emotions of his mind. By setting up arbitrary sounds and combinations of sounds to represent certain mental nuances, he developed a method of communication—but one which in its clumsiness and thick-thumbed inadequacy degenerated all the delicacy of the mind into gross and guttural signaling."

P.124



"You will notice that none of you have been invited with any attempt at secrecy. None of you have been asked to come here unseen. The windows are not adjusted to non insight. No screen of any sort is about the room. We have only to attract the attention of the enemy to be ruined; and the best way to attract that attention is to assume a false and theatrical secrecy."

p.138

"Kalgan! Nonsense! A merely physical enemy! Those had always been beaten!"

P.188

"He paused. The little signal light on the video set was flashing. On an independent circuit, it signified the presence of emergency news. Darell saw it, too, and with the mechanical movement of long habit turned on the video. They broke in upon the middle of a sentence but before its completion, they knew that the Hober Mallow, or the wreck thereof, had been found and that, for the first time in nearly half a century, the Foundation was again at war."

P.229

"The men and women of Kalgan and its subject worlds believe utterly and deeply in the Seldon Plan, as do all the inhabitants of this end of the Galaxy. Nearly four hundred years of history teach the fact that the Foundation cannot be beaten. Neither the kingdoms nor the warlords nor the old Galactic Empire itself could do it."

P. 253

"'Have your say, Homir,' said Darell, 'but let's all of us refrain from over-picturesqueness of language. It's a very good thing in its place, but at present, it bores me.'"

P.258

# Topics for Discussion

Do you think the structure of the novel works? Does placing the more exciting story at the beginning destroy the novel's overall drama?

Why do you think Dr. Darell wants to find the Second Foundation?

How much control do you think the Second Foundation exerts over the characters? Do you think that everything that happens is part of their plan?

The Mule states he would like to find the Second Foundation so he can use their Scientific knowledge to reduce the Seldon Plan to 300 years. Why do you think Asimov presents this as a bad idea?

For what reason do you think the Second Foundation hides itself? Do you think this causes unnecessary fear?

Asimov introduces a number of scientific theories such as mass theory and neurology. Do you think these theories confuse the reader or do they add to the plot?

Asimov's dialogue often contains cliches. Do you think this has a negative impact on character's plausibility?