

The Sandman: The Kindly Ones Study Guide

The Sandman: The Kindly Ones by Neil Gaiman

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Contents

The Sandman: The Kindly Ones Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Prologue, The Castle.....	4
Part One.....	6
Part Two.....	8
Part Three.....	10
Part Four.....	12
Part Five.....	14
Part Six.....	16
Part Seven.....	18
Part Eight.....	20
Part Nine.....	22
Part Ten.....	24
Part Eleven.....	26
Part Twelve.....	28
Part Thirteen.....	30
Characters.....	32
Objects/Places.....	38
Themes.....	40
Style.....	42
Quotes.....	45
Topics for Discussion.....	47



Plot Summary

THE KINDLY ONES follows Lord Morpheus, the master of dreaming, in his conflict with the Furies, who externalize his internal conflict over having killed his own son. Morpheus has told Lyta Hall that he will some day come for her son Daniel, and when Daniel disappears and she believes him dead, Lyta goes on a quest in the dream world to find her revenge. Daniel, however, is in the Dreaming, rescued by Morpheus's minions. Lyta no longer wants revenge, but the Furies are already set in motion. Morpheus, facing his own guilt, chooses to go with his sister Death, leaving young Daniel the heir to the Dreaming.

Lyta Hall is a former superhero called the Fury. For several years, she was pregnant with her dead sweetheart's child while held in the Dreaming, the realm of the Lord Morpheus, Dream. Morpheus has said he would one day come for her child, Daniel, and Lyta is afraid to leave him. However, while she's out one day, Daniel disappears. Two supernatural creatures, the Norse god Loki and the trickster Puck, disguised as policemen, tell Lyta that her son is dead. However, Puck and Loki have stolen her son, and they are holding him in a supernatural realm, where they are purging him with fire.

Lyta is certain Morpheus has stolen her boy. She separates from reality, retreating into the Dreaming, where she goes seeking the mythological Furies to take revenge on Morpheus. When Lyta finds the Furies, at first they refuse to help her, saying they can only punish someone who has killed his own blood. However, Morpheus has killed his son, Orpheus. The Furies and Lyta join and begin attacking the Dreaming, tearing it apart, as Morpheus sends two of his minions to recover Daniel.

Meanwhile, Nuala, a fairy and a gift to Morpheus, is called back to Faerie by her brother and the queen of Faerie. Nuala is secretly in love with Morpheus and is saddened that he lets her go easily. Morpheus gives her a pendant to call him when she needs him, and when Nuala learns, first from Puck and also from Delirium, Dream's sister, that Morpheus is in trouble, she calls on him to come to her, hoping to help him. However, Morpheus leaving the Dreaming allows the Fates to gain ascendancy.

When Morpheus returns to the Dreaming, his kingdom is being torn apart. The Furies will not back off, even though Lyta wants to stop when she sees that her son, who has been brought to the Dreaming, is not dead. Dream's only option is to go with his sister, Death. He passes on the role of Lord Morpheus to the child Daniel before choosing to go with Death, a fitting resolution for his tiredness with his responsibilities and his guilt over his son Orpheus's death.



Prologue, The Castle

Prologue, The Castle Summary

THE KINDLY ONES follows Lord Morpheus, the master of dreaming, in his conflict with the Furies, who externalize his internal conflict over having killed his own son. Morpheus has told Lyta Hall that he will someday come for her son Daniel, and when Daniel disappears and she believes him dead, Lyta goes on a quest in the dream world to find her revenge. Daniel, however, is in the Dreaming, rescued by Morpheus' minions. Lyta no longer wants revenge, but the Furies are already set in motion. Morpheus, facing his own guilt, chooses to go with his sister Death, leaving young Daniel the heir to the Dreaming.

In the Prologue, a man has a nightmare of brainless, faceless women gnawing on his entrails and legs. He wakes up in his hotel room and then returns to sleep. The man finds himself in the castle in the Dreaming, being given a tour by Lucien, the librarian. The library is full of books dreamed of but never written. The dreamer also meets Mervyn, a pumpkin-headed worker in charge of making alterations to the Dreaming. The dreamer learns that for 60 years, Lord Morpheus is held captive in a glass box. The dreamer also meets Nuala, a fairy who was given to Lord Morpheus as a present or bribe and works cleaning and caretaking in the castle. She claims not to miss her home in Faerie at all, where she was once more beautiful.

The dreamer then meets Matthew, the raven who lives in the Dreaming. Matthew was once a human and chose to become the raven. He lives in a cave with Lady Eve and calls Lord Morpheus "the Boss." He's concerned about the fates of the ravens who came before him. The dreamer also meets Abel, a stuttering, sweating man, with a pet gargoyle named Goldie. Abel says that his house is made of secrets, and his brother Cain's house is made of mysteries. Cain comes up behind Abel and pushes him off the balcony. Lord Morpheus appears and tells Lucien that the dreamer is not the expected guest for whom Lucien mistook him. The dreamer knows Morpheus can explain his dreams and reveal great secrets, but he is woken by his wake-up call at the hotel, and his dream fades.

Prologue, The Castle Analysis

The story of THE KINDLY ONES is a story of wronged women. The opening nightmare of the unnamed dreamer sets up this main thematic thread. The women of the dream are eating the man—the theme of woman taking revenge on man. The horror the man feels is in the mindless nature of the women. They have lost all their humanity, their sense of self, in the quest for vengeance and retribution. The dreamer never knows the meaning of the dream, and the graphic novel will take the reader on a long and winding road to explore it.

The Prologue establishes Morpheus' castle in the Dreaming and its inhabitants. The castle and the land of the Dreaming are essential because they are at stake in the story. The reader is not only seeing a preview of characters and settings. The Dreaming is at risk, and the reader is learning what may be lost.



Part One

Part One Summary

The Three Fates roll a ball of yarn and begin to weave a new life. The young maiden winds the yarn, and the motherly one begins to knit. The old hag brews tea. Each life they make is unique, and the hag expounds on how everyone complains, no matter what their life is like. She brings the maiden a ginger snap. The mother has a fortune cookie, and the hag eats a dead mouse. The fortune cookie foretells of a king leaving his kingdom and a great war approaching. The hag cuts the thread, ending the life.

In the human world, Lyta Hall yells at her son Daniel for getting sand all over the bed while napping, and her friend Carla calms her down. Carla, Lyta, and Daniel go out for ice cream; on the way they pass a crazy homeless man who offers Daniel a flower. Lyta gets angry and overprotective, making the homeless man cry. At the ice cream shop, Carla encourages Lyta to take the job she's been offered by Eric Needham, but Lyta is afraid to leave Daniel alone. Lyta says she'd kill anyone who hurt Daniel.

Meanwhile, the raven Matthew goes to visit Morpheus in his castle. On his way, he speaks with the three mythological creatures who guard the castle, a Gryphon, a Wyvern, and a Hippogriff. He learns they have always been as they are. Then, the raven talks to Mervyn, who complains about his job but has no helpful information about the previous ravens. Matthew talks to Nuala, who doesn't know when Morpheus will return. Nuala says Morpheus has never asked her to do anything, but she has given herself the task of cleaning the throne room for him.

Matthew talks to Lucien, who doesn't remember his past, though he remembers every book in the vast library. Lucien tells Matthew that Morpheus is making nightmares. Matthew finds Morpheus re-constructing the Corinthian, a dark reflection of mankind. He had to destroy the previous incarnation, which had tried to kill Morpheus. Matthew asks about the other ravens before him, but Morpheus sends Matthew away, back to Lady Eve's cave.

Back in the human world, Lyta meets with Eric Needham at the Lux restaurant. They talk about Lyta's history. Her mother is a superhero called the Fury who abandoned Lyta. Lyta was adopted by a couple in Virginia and went off to college with her childhood sweetheart, Hector Hall. They both were superheroes, and Lyta called herself the Fury. Hector died in 1987 but married Lyta a year later. Lyta vanished while pregnant and reappears years later, still pregnant but without Hector. Now she is a single mother of Daniel. Eric wants to hire her on any terms. A man at the restaurant asks the piano player to play "Memories" from Cats for his companion's birthday, but the pianist refuses, hinting at a dark ending to their evening and singing "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat" instead. Suddenly, Lyta becomes alarmed that something's wrong at home and insists on leaving. Eric rushes her home, and they find Daniel missing.



Part One Analysis

Groups of three women will appear throughout *THE KINDLY ONES*. Gaiman portrays them as all aspects of the same mythological archetypes. The group of three women—a whore, a hag, and a mother, are the three aspects of woman, so although they are three, they are also one. The Fate who winds the yarn is woman as she appears in youth, attractive to men. The Fate who weaves the life is woman as she appears in middle age, mothering and caring for men. The Fate who cuts the thread is woman in old age, bringing man to the grave. All these aspects of woman reflect, not so much what women are, but what men see. They are womanhood reflected through the vision of man. The Fates in the opening scene refer to "this aspect" of themselves, confirming that they have other aspects, such as the Furies.

While the Fates are the archetype of womanhood, Lyta Hall is their counterpart in human life: a widow and mother trying to get by. Her protectiveness of Daniel and her anger when wronged are her tragic flaws, the flaws that will be taken advantage of by supernatural forces. Everyone in the story is being manipulated to bring circumstances into being that will cause the death of Dream, Lord Morpheus.

Just as the Fates are aspects of woman, Matthew is one aspect or incarnation of the Dreaming's raven. His search for information on the other ravens is a search for knowledge about himself. To what extent is Matthew the ravens that have come before him, and what do their fates have to say about his fate? Matthew is not the only character in this predicament. The archetype of woman is reflected in women throughout the world and in myriad stories. Each is an aspect of woman. The Corinthian is also resurrected, a new incarnation of his old self.



Part Two

Part Two Summary

Lyta's friend Carla talks to the police on the phone, trying to get someone to come investigate Daniel's kidnapping, while the radio announces that the man who requested the song has drowned, after standing up in a rowboat while drunk, to toast his companion's birthday. Two policemen, Luke Pinkerton and Gordy Fellowes, take their statements. When Lyta returns home, the babysitter is asleep on the floor with no memory of what's happened. Lyta doesn't know how the kidnappers got in. The doors were locked, but a bedroom window was open. The detectives discover that in her frustration getting into the apartment, Lyta bent and destroyed the locks on the door. The detectives say they will take a statement from the babysitter, who lives downstairs. The detectives give Carla a card and tell her they'll be in touch.

Cluracan, Nuala's brother, comes to visit Nuala in the Dreaming. As he walks through Morpheus's castle, he strays from the path and accidentally releases his nemesis, a wild hart. Nuala yells at him for straying from the path but still greets him fondly. Cluracan says the Queen of the Faeries has said it's time for Nuala to come home, but Nuala seems reluctant. Still, Cluracan takes Nuala to ask Morpheus for her release.

Back at Lyta's apartment, Carla is woken in the night when Lyta screams. Lyta retells her dream of being a little girl and going downstairs where three witches, much like the Three Fates, who call her "granddaughter" are working over a cauldron. They tell Lyta she's met the ones who have Daniel and that the kidnappers will put him in a fire. The witches say they'll meet Lyta twice more and then dunk her in the cauldron. She screams and wakes.

Back in the Dreaming, Nuala and Cluracan look for Morpheus. They go into the throne room, and Cluracan calls to Morpheus, who appears. Morpheus mentions that Cluracan stepped off the path on his way into the castle, and Cluracan apologizes and asks Morpheus to destroy the wild hart he created. Morpheus says he cannot, and Cluracan asks Morpheus to free Nuala to return to Faerie. Morpheus asks Nuala whether she wants to leave, and Nuala says she wants whatever Morpheus wishes. Morpheus asks what the Queen of Faerie, Titania, wishes, and Cluracan says that she wants Nuala's return. Morpheus agrees for Nuala to return to Faerie. Morpheus imbues Nuala's necklace, so she can use it to call him and ask one favor. As they leave, Nuala is crying because Morpheus did not want her to stay.

Part Two Analysis

Luke Pinkerton and Gordy Fellowes' names are clues to their true identities. Luke is the Norse god of trickery Loki, and Gordy Fellowes is Robin Goodfellow, also known as Puck, a trickster. These two supernatural creatures are both aspects of the same



archetype: a fool and a trickster. Their partnership in the story underscores the nature of mythology: the same themes of humanity, over and over, in different forms, much like the three women who are found in the Furies and in the Fates.

Nuala, servant to Morpheus, is a wronged woman, like many of the women in the graphic novel. She loves Morpheus, and he hurts her, without meaning to, by not loving her in return. Nuala, like many of the women in the story, is controlled by men. She is given to Morpheus, and she gives herself to Morpheus. She is taken away by her brother. Her life is not lived for herself; it is lived for men. Even when Morpheus asks her what she wishes, to leave or to stay, she cannot make her own decision. She couches her answer in servitude to Morpheus. She wishes whatever Morpheus wishes. Her fate is wrapped up in what the men in her life choose for her.



Part Three

Part Three Summary

Norse god Loki and mischievous Faerie creature Puck are building a fire in which to put Daniel. Loki tells a story: Disguised as a doctor, he convinces Thor that Thor's impotence is caused by pregnancy. He gets Thor to lie on his stomach, gives him castor oil, and puts a cork in his ass. Then, he sleeps with Thor's wife. After a week, a squirrel comes and pulls on the cork. All of Thor's pent-up excrement explodes out, covering the squirrel, and Thor mistakes the squirrel for his baby. As Loki concludes the story, Puck pulls on a silver string to retrieve Daniel, who is holding a phoenix feather. The two creatures put Daniel onto the fire.

Hob Gadling, Bobby to his departed love, is at his dead wife Audrey's grave. She was run over crossing the street. Now that she's dead, Bobby can tell her that he's over six hundred years old. He mourns the different women he's loved over the years. Outside the cemetery, Morpheus is waiting for him. He's come to talk with Hob, and they go to a pub together.

At the same time, Destiny, one of Dream's brothers, sees himself across his garden. Desire closes off his kingdom, and Despair whimpers at the knowledge. Delirium realizes she's changed into a school of tiny, colorful fish. She realizes also that she's lost her dog and goes to find it. Meanwhile, at the pub, Hob asks if Morpheus could bring his wife back or stop her from dying. Morpheus says he will not. Hob wants the man driving the van to know who Audrey was, and Morpheus agrees to do that. Morpheus begins to leave, but Hob presses him about what's wrong. He says the smell of death is on Morpheus and tells him to take care of himself.

Meanwhile, Lyta is trying to hold herself together and be strong for Daniel. Eric comes to her house to see her. He says the job is still available, and he makes a pass at her. Lyta is distant, inside her own head, as if she's seeing everything that happens from another place. She reacts almost automatically to Eric touching her, breaking his arm. He goes off in an ambulance. Carla has a fight with her and leaves. Lyta cannot sleep and wanders through the apartment all night.

The doorbell rings, and Lyta lets in the two detectives. They tell her a body was found in the desert, burned. The footprints match Daniel's. They show her a photograph of the burned baby. Lyta tells them to leave. She is losing her mind, but she remembers Morpheus telling her that one day he will come for her child. She knows she must get revenge.

Part Three Analysis

Loki's bawdy story about tricking Thor into thinking he's pregnant sets up his character as lewd, crude, and cruel, as well as being a clever trickster. Loki and Puck are the



kidnappers of Daniel, fulfilling the three women's prophecy that Lyta has already met the ones who have Daniel (in the guise of Pinkerton and Fellowes). Daniel is held by a silver string, and he has a phoenix feather. The phoenix is a bird that is destroyed in flame and then rises up from its ashes. The phoenix feather in Daniel's hand foreshadows the fact that for Daniel, being burned in this fire is not the end.

Morpheus goes to Hob Gadling because he needs a friend to talk to. Dream keeps his problems and feelings to himself. He makes decisions, exercises power, and deals with the problems of others, but he has no one that he goes to for support in his own problems. Morpheus takes everything upon himself. Even when he goes to see Hob, he cannot open up to his friend. He finds himself taking on his friend's troubles instead of unburdening himself. Hob Gadling smells death on Morpheus, and this foreshadows the end of the graphic novel.

At the same time as Gaiman foreshadows the ending, he also creates a sense of uncertainty about it. Destiny sees himself across his garden. He is split into two, indicating two potential futures in the horizon. The results of the coming troubles are not yet set in stone.

The scenes of Lyta after Daniel's death are narrated by her, in her mind. The reader doesn't hear what the characters are saying. Lyta is already one step removed from reality by her son's death, and the narration shows how disconnected she is from everything that's going on. The contrasts between her descriptions of events and what the images show confirms Lyta's disconnect from reality. She says she discussed things with Carla, when clearly Carla is screaming at her. She says she pushed Eric's arm away, when clearly she has broken it with a powerful force. Lyta is moving further away from reality and into her own mind. The photograph of Daniel is the last straw, pushing her out of the human world.



Part Four

Part Four Summary

The Lux restaurant is closed, but Remiel comes looking for the owner, the pianist. The owner is Lucifer, who has abandoned Hell, and Remiel is now in charge, along with a second angel, Duma, who doesn't speak. The angels are trying to make Hell a place of redemption. Lucifer implies that Remiel wants him to come back to Hell, so Remiel can return to heaven, and Lucifer laughs at Remiel's suggestion that he might return. Lucifer neither likes nor respects Remiel and accuses him of cowardice for not supporting the rebellion against God. When Lucifer continues to insult Remiel, Remiel spits in his face. Lucifer wipes the spit away, saying that, though he chooses not to, he could destroy Remiel. Remiel leaves without ever broaching the topic he came to discuss, Morpheus.

Meanwhile, Lyta wanders the Dreaming. She asks a girl where to find revenge. She's seeking the Furies. Lyta asks the girl to come with her, but the girl's on her own quest to free her love from imprisonment. The girl gives Lyta a coin for luck, and in the real world, a woman on the street is walking away as Lyta looks at the coin in her hand. Lyta also asks the way to the Furies of a cyclops and a cat-woman. The creatures she meets warn her that the Furies do not like that name and to call them the nice ladies or the kind ladies. The cyclops cannot come with her because it is waiting to be freed from an enchantment, and the cat is on its way to trick an ogre to turning into a mouse to eat.

Rose Walker, Lyta's youthful-seeming babysitter, dreams she is having sex and a creepy creature is watching, when she is woken by the door. Carla asks if Rose knows where Lyta is. Carla came back the day after their argument and found Lyta missing. Rose feels responsible for falling asleep. When Carla asks what the cops told Rose, she learns that the two policemen never came to see Rose. She also learns that Rose is actually 25, though she looks young. Rose is in town to be with a dying friend. She's a writer, but she lives off her family's money. Carla also lives off a trust fund from her grandmother, who made a living playing black maids in films between 1925 and 1950. Carla pulls out the detectives' card to call them, and she finds that it's blank.

In the Dreaming, Lyta comes across the house of two sisters dressed in wedding gowns, Stheno and Euryale. Their third sister is dead, beheaded. The house is filled with stone statues. The sisters offer Lyta water and tell her where to find an apple tree. At the tree, Lyta finds a three-headed snake named Geryon. He tells her she can have the apples and warns her against the two sisters. If she stays in their house, eats food, and drinks water, she may become their missing sister.

Storms are coming to the Dreaming. Merv tells Matthew he's shorthanded because Nuala's gone home. Matthew and Lucien say they'll miss her. They discuss the coming storm, and Merv starts criticizing Morpheus, not realizing that Morpheus is appearing behind him. Morpheus brings Lucien and Matthew to see his completed Corinthian as



Morpheus adds the final touch, toothed skulls in the eye sockets, and brings the Corinthian to life.

Part Four Analysis

One of the themes that plagues Morpheus is responsibility. Lucifer acts as a foil to Morpheus in many ways. He has escaped responsibility by walking out on Hell. He has defied rules and order and exercised total freedom. Lucifer drives Remiel away; as an angel, Remiel submits completely to a higher authority. Lucifer submits to no authority or responsibility. Lucifer can be contrasted with the women in the novel, who (more like Morpheus) live for and through others. Lyta lives for her son Daniel. Even the demon waitress at the Lux lives for Lucifer. Lucifer, however, lives for no one but himself.

Lyta's journey through the Dreaming again underscores the repetitive and eternal nature of stories. The story of the imprisoned lover to be freed is told over and over in different forms, as is the story of the woman waiting to be freed from an enchantment. Lyta even mentions to the cat, who is planning to trick a shape-shifting ogre into changing into a mouse so the cat can eat him, that the same story repeats. The ogre never learns. In a way, the stories are fated to unwind into the same tales.

The gorgons, Stheno and Euryale, are another aspect of the three women. They are missing their third sister, Medusa, and they seek to fill her absence. The statues that Lyta comments on in the gorgons' house are a clue to the third sister's identity. They have been turned to stone by looking at Medusa.



Part Five

Part Five Summary

The two sisters look over Lyta as she sleeps, wondering if Lyta will be their sister and speaking of the power of being three. Lyta wakes from a dream of her husband and son, and the sisters give her water. Lyta realizes that snakes are growing in her hair. She's turning into the third sister, Medusa. Lyta is intent on revenge. She rejects the gorgons who want her as their sister and goes looking for the Furies.

Rose Walker goes to see her friend Zelda, who is dying of AIDS. Zelda's lover Chantal is already dead, and Rose is the only person Zelda has. Zelda finds herself horny all the time, but Rose reminds her that they'll never be more than friends. Zelda asks why Rose is taking care of her, and Rose says that it's because she can. Zelda falls asleep, and when she wakes, she says she has a message for Rose. She says Rose's dead grandmother wants Rose to go back to where she used to live.

In the Dreaming, the new-born Corinthian asks his name. He realizes he's not the first Corinthian and Morpheus says he uncreated the first one. Morpheus sends the Corinthian and Matthew to find Daniel. Matthew doesn't want to go because he's afraid of the Corinthian. The Corinthian smiles at Matthew and says he will keep the bird from harm. In Faerie, the fairy queen welcomes Nuala back. Titania asks if Morpheus ever spoke of her, and Nuala says she rarely spoke with Morpheus. He sent no message to the queen. Titania comments that Nuala is not using so much glamour now as before she left Faerie. She also asks about Nuala's necklace, and Nuala admits that it's a gift.

Meanwhile, Carla goes to the police and learns they've never heard of Pinkerton and Fellowes, but the police don't seem to take Carla seriously. Carla runs into the old homeless man at the police station, and he tells her that Lyta has snakes in her hair and is no longer alone. Carla goes back to Lyta's apartment and finds the crumpled photo of the burned baby. As she looks at it, the charred body turns into Daniel, who says her name. Then the photo bursts into flames, burning her arm. Rose comes up when she hears Carla scream. Rose helps Carla bandage her arm. Carla wants to talk about what's going on, but Rose is headed for England for a few days.

In the Dreaming, Lyta has left the gorgons. She runs into images of herself and thinks how she's never controlled her life or made decisions. Now she's trying to do the impossible. Back at Lyta's apartment, as Carla leaves the building, she runs into Pinkerton. He pulls a gun and forces Carla into her car, but the gun is just an illusion. Pinkerton reveals that he is the Norse god Loki. He sets Carla's car afire and burns her up.



Part Five Analysis

Lyta dreams of her husband and son because she is living through and for the men in her life. Her identity is a reflection of them. Lyta has been a wife; she followed her sweetheart to Los Angeles and took on his trade in life. Now she is a mother. She has not left her child's side since his birth. Lyta's existence is wrapped up in others, and that is what drives her to revenge. She has nothing outside of her son. When she talks to herself in the mirror, Lyta realizes she has never made any decisions but only followed men in her life.

The Corinthian and Matthew are paired. They are both reincarnations of past versions of themselves. The Corinthian has memories of the former Corinthian. Matthew has no memories of the former ravens of the Dreaming, but he is tied to them, one in a line of ravens stretching back into the centuries. The Corinthian is a new aspect of himself, and Matthew is a new aspect of the raven.

Carla's role in the story is to reveal that the police detectives are not who they appeared to be. Their card was an illusion, as was the picture of Daniel. Lyta is on a quest for revenge, but it is a misguided quest. Carla reveals this to the reader, but she suffers death, so that she cannot reveal it to anyone else.



Part Six

Part Six Summary

Rose is on the plane to England. A smelly, creepy man is sitting near her. At customs, she sees him watching her and feels exposed. Jack Holdaway, one of her family's attorneys, meets Rose at the airport and brings her to the nursing home where her grandmother lived. Her grandmother fell into sleep and was asleep for years before she woke miraculously. Her name was Unity Kinkaid, and everyone called her Sleeping Beauty. A nurse takes Rose to her grandmother's room, which is empty. Rose runs into one of the residents, who tells Rose about her black American boyfriend during the war and the baby she had to give up. Rose meets two other residents. Amelia, Magda, and Helena remember Rose's grandmother. Magda tells an early version of Sleeping Beauty, where the heroine is impregnated with twins while sleeping, and she wakes when her offspring, trying to suckle, sucks the poison needle out of her finger.

Then, Magda tells the story of the children who flew away. A roving ladies' man sees a woman bathing in a stream and steals her clothes. She makes him promise to marry her before she'll sleep with him. He promises and says if he breaks his promise, worms will eat him and their children will fly away. After they have sex, though, he makes excuses to avoid every church. They travel on, and the man kills an old woman to steal her house. He establishes his lover in the house, still roving the countryside, but coming back to her. She has three daughters by him, though he never marries her. One day, the man comes back, and his children aren't there. He doesn't believe his wife's excuses. He kills her and his children, who have grown wings and flown away, and come back and discover the deaths. The daughters tear their father up, but he's conscious even after death. He tries to kill himself but can't. Then, a giant worm comes up from where he buried the old woman he killed and slowly eats him.

The old women discuss how horrifying the story is and the idea of revenge. After Rose leaves the old ladies, she sees a cat, and an owl flies up to the window. Paul McGuire, who represents one of the nursing home's owners, brings her downstairs to see his lover, Alex. He is eternally asleep, like Rose's grandmother, for the last five years. He was the son of a famous magician, but he was a poor magician himself. Alex fell asleep the same day Rose's grandmother woke. Jack Holdaway has come to pick Rose up, and Paul tells Rose to come by the house to visit. Rose gives Alex her grandmother's ring as she leaves.

Part Six Analysis

Rose, like Lyta, is on a quest. She is looking into her own history by going to where her grandmother lived, slept, and dreamed. Just as the Fates and the Furies are different iterations of the same idea; as the new Corinthian and his predecessor are; as Matthew and the former ravens are; as the Fury (Lyta) and her mother the Fury are; as Loki and



Puck are, so Rose is an iteration of her grandmother before her. Looking into the past is looking into a mirror of one's self.

The three women at the nursing home are another aspect of the three Furies and the three Fates. Amelia, Magda, and Helena embody the three aspects of woman, which they make clear when they say women are for "waking." They wake men into life as mothers (one of the three aspects). They wake men into adulthood through sexuality, as whores (or wives, perhaps). They wake men into the grave as old women (or hags).

The story of the children who flew away is a story of the Furies. The three winged daughters tearing the man apart for having killed his wife, his own blood, is an iteration of the Furies and perhaps the story of their origin. Like many stories throughout the graphic novel, the story of the children who flew away is a story of wronged women. The man refuses to marry the woman he seduces (wronging the whore aspect of woman). He kills the old lady who lives in the house (wronging the hag aspect). Finally, he kills his wife, wronging the mother aspect of woman. His wife has lived through him, and she is eternally wronged by him. The result is revenge and destruction, and the origin of the Furies.



Part Seven

Part Seven Summary

Larissa, a young woman, takes a taxi to an abandoned lot in Los Angeles, where she locates Lyta. In the Dreaming, Lyta sees her as a white bird. Larissa gets Lyta to come back with her in the taxi. Meanwhile, in the Dreaming, the Norse god Odin comes to the magical guardians of Morpheus's castle and demands that Morpheus come out and see him. He tells Morpheus that Loki was trapped captive under the earth, bound with Loki's son's entrails, with a snake's poison dripping on his face to prevent his escape. Odin frees him for a short time and is tricked into returning a dream-thing to Loki's prison.

Morpheus says Loki put someone else in his place, and Morpheus discovers it so frees the prisoner and places the dream-thing in the trap. Odin warns Morpheus of the danger of Loki. Odin has also learned that a host of ravens are coming to the Dreaming, a sign of war. Odin says he is disappointed in Morpheus, being fooled by Loki, and he leaves.

Meanwhile, Delirium tells her brother Destiny she is searching for her dog. Destiny tells her that if she looks for her dog, she will find it, but she will find other things, too. Destiny notices that the statue of Dream (Morpheus) in Destiny's garden is holding its face in its hands. She wants to cheer up Dream. Destiny splits in two, one side advising her not to see Dream and the other advising her to see him. Then, Destiny vanishes.

Larissa goes to her apartment with Lyta and puts Lyta on the bed. She puts a protective ointment on Lyta's face, then sacrifices a black lamb and draws a circle of blood around the bed where Lyta lays. In the Dreaming, Lyta is climbing down a steep cliff, inch by inch, being scratched and bloodied. At the bottom, Lyta finds a mirrored vanity and sits at it. She sees an image of herself as a girl, who tells Lyta she's crazy. Then Lyta sees herself as a superhero, who tells her she's probably being mind-controlled. Lyta says she has no choice in what she's doing and breaks the mirror. Finally, Lyta comes to a shack where she finds the Furies.

Morpheus is visiting Fiddler's Green in the Dreaming, while the Furies invite Lyta in. They give her a fortune cookie, which says it's better to be lucky than wise. In Fiddler's Green, Morpheus talks to Gilbert, who mentions Morpheus' son's death. Morpheus ends the conversation, saying that he has responsibilities. Ravens gather around the Furies' house; ravens are disappearing from Earth. In the human world, Matthew and the Corinthian arrive at Lyta's apartment to find it empty. In the Dreaming, Lyta tells the Furies she wants to destroy Morpheus for killing her son. At first they balk, saying they can only hound to suicide those who have killed their own blood. Lyta is about to leave when one of the Furies says that Morpheus did kill his own son.



Part Seven Analysis

The entrance of Larissa into the story underscores that Lyta is a pawn in the drama that's unfolding, not an instigator. Lyta has been pushed into seeking revenge against Morpheus, through the plot to kidnap Daniel. Now, she is protected in the quest for that revenge by Larissa, another outside agent arranging the design. Central to the plot against Morpheus is Loki, and Morpheus is partially responsible for him being free on Earth. In this way, Morpheus is, at least in part, responsible for the plot against him. Odin warns that Loki is dangerous and would want revenge against Morpheus for being in debt to him.

When Destiny splits in two, giving Delirium opposing advice, it's clear Delirium's decision whether or not to visit her brother is critical. Delirium could tilt the ending of the story. Destiny is torn, perhaps between what he wants to happen, as Morpheus's brother, and what must happen.

The heart of Morpheus's story is his guilt over his son's death. Morpheus keeps what he's thinking to himself. However, when he shuts up Gilbert as soon as Gilbert mentions Morpheus' son, it's clear that Morpheus is covering strong guilt feelings. His guilt feelings are personified in the Fates. They torture those who have killed their blood kin until their victims kill themselves or are killed. The Fates take the inner torture and guilt and make it external. Throughout the story, it's hinted that Morpheus in some ways orchestrates his own punishment. For example, he allows Loki to go free, when Loki will certainly want revenge. Morpheus's actions may be his own expression of guilt and desire for punishment.



Part Eight

Part Eight Summary

Monday, Morpheus attends to five children looking for their mother. He mitigates a dispute between two fantastical beings. He visits the dreams of a boy in Hong Kong and eats in a meal dreamed of by a chef in Sri Lanka. He makes a decision whether to give a premonition to a young girl that could unite South Africa. He gives a tortoise a dream of her long-dead love. On Tuesday, he hears a report from a nightmare and wanders the Dreaming, finally going into Nightmare.

On Wednesday, Morpheus goes to the castle. He tours the cellar and walks through the halls talking to the staff. Finally, he goes to his throne room. On Thursday, he wanders the human world, watching a singer, looking at graffiti, feeding pigeons, and watching a performance of *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*. He checks on his properties before returning to the Dreaming. On Friday, Morpheus reviews treaties with the Dreaming. He is visited by Delirium. She tries to get him to come with her to look for her dog, but he says he cannot leave the Dreaming. Morpheus gives his sister a small nightmare to help her, and she leaves.

In the human world, the day is Friday. Rose is writing in her journal. She slept with Jack the previous night and really likes him. Jack wakes up and has to run. Meanwhile, the Corinthian and Matthew are in the morgue where Carla's charred body is. The Corinthian takes her eyeballs and puts them in the toothed mouths that are his eyes. He sees what she saw, Pinkerton turning into Loki and setting her ablaze. On Fire's Day, Morpheus sees the arrival of the ravens in the Dreaming. On Saturday, the Furies come to the castle. The guardians will not let them pass, and they turn the Gryphon to dust. The Furies say they only wish to talk to Morpheus, and Morpheus allows them entry.

Lyta Hall and the three Furies are joined as one. They tell Morpheus that they will destroy the Dreaming and everything Morpheus loves, but while Lyta seeks revenge for her son, the Furies prey on him because Morpheus killed his own son. After the ladies, the Kindly Ones, have left, Morpheus speaks with the Corinthian and Matthew, urging them to find Daniel. After speaking to Morpheus, as the Corinthian and Matthew head toward Loki's lair, they are set upon by a wolf, which the Corinthian kills.

Saturday is ending. Lucifer plays his piano, finding himself bored by the music. Larissa has bought a camp-bed to keep her vigil by Lyta, and she is broke. She also knows that a visitor is coming. Nuala sits discontentedly in Faerie. Rose calls Jack to ask him to the hotel but learns he's not alone. He's married. On Son's Day, the first funeral is held in the Dreaming.



Part Eight Analysis

The chronicle of a week of Morpheus's duties shows the life that he is beginning to become weary of, a life of duties to others and quiet subsistence in himself. It also shows that Morpheus is preparing for something. He takes a tour of the Dreaming, a last look at everything in his kingdom. He speaks to all the staff at the castle, wrapping up loose ends and showing his gratitude for their work before he goes. When Delirium visits him, he is reviewing treaties, another part of putting his house in order. This foreshadows what is to come and shows that Morpheus may know his death is near.

The coming of the ravens to the Dreaming create tension and build suspense as the great conflict approaches. The Corinthian's simultaneous search for Daniel is a search for the solution to the problem. The reader does not know how, but Daniel is needed for the resolution of the conflict with the Furies.

Rose is another wronged woman in the story. She finally finds someone for whom she has feelings. She begins to fall in love with Jack, even in the short time they are together. Then, she discovers he has wronged her. Lyta is abandoned by her husband's death. Nuala is abandoned by Morpheus's disinterest. Now, Rose is abandoned by Jack's deception.



Part Nine

Part Nine Summary

On Sunday morning, Rose goes to visit Paul McGuire. He shows her the manor house, Alex's inherited home, called Fawney Rig. While touring the library of rare books, Rose mentions she's heading back to Los Angeles the next day. Paul tells her he was an under-gardener at the mansion when he met Alex. He shows her the conservatory, where roses are growing, and the huge kitchen. Paul needs to rest but tells Rose to continue to explore. She finds a secret passageway into a cellar.

In the cellar is an androgynous person who claims to be Rose's grandfather, who impregnated Rose's sleeping grandmother. Rose broods on how harsh love is, but before she can question her grandfather more, Paul comes in. Rose thinks she's fallen asleep, but her grandfather's heart-shaped lighter is on the floor.

In Loki's realm, the Corinthian and Matthew are at the castle door when Matthew begins to be magically pulled away to the Dreaming. He fights it. The two walk into Loki's palace and find what looks like Morpheus. He tells them it has been a test, but the Corinthian knows it's not Morpheus. The Corinthian chokes the specter, which changes form into a dragon, then into the Corinthian, and then into fire, and finally into Daniel. The Corinthian is not fooled. The creature changes into Loki and offers the Corinthian a bribe and threatens him with revenge. The Corinthian doesn't plan to kill Loki but only make him wish he were dead. Loki collapses, and the Corinthian takes his eyes.

Meanwhile, in the Dreaming, the Furies kill a bear and an eagle in Fiddler's Green. Gilbert greets them, and they kill him. Matthew has been pulled back to the Dreaming and reports to Morpheus that Loki is involved in kidnapping the child. Morpheus tells Matthew that Gilbert is dead, and then Morpheus disappears. He appears in Los Angeles at Larissa's apartment, where he wakes her from a nightmare. Larissa offers him tea, but Morpheus has come for Lyta to kill her. Larissa, though, has protected Lyta with the circle of blood. Larissa says she's bought herself some life by making a deal with the Furies to protect Lyta. Larissa also has a grudge against Morpheus from the past, which she has not forgiven, though he says he never meant to hurt her. Morpheus leaves, shattering the windows.

In the Dreaming, the ravens gather and pull out Gilbert's eyes, though Matthew refuses to partake of his friend's flesh. One raven was on Noah's ark. He tells Matthew that the war has already begun. Meanwhile, the Corinthian pulls at the silver string and at last retrieves Daniel.

Part Nine Analysis

Rose has been wronged by a man, and in some way, that allows her to reconnect with her past and even perhaps her identity as a woman. Her "grandfather" looks like a



woman and says that no semen was involved in Rose's mother's creation. His/her identity remains mysterious, but as an androgynous creature, he/she seems to break out of the role of "woman" in the search for identity. Rose has found love and been wronged by it, and in doing so, she has come under the control of a man. Now, her androgynous grandfather appears, perhaps urging her to find her own identity without dependence.

When Loki is discovered, he tries to use his trickery to escape, but the Corinthian is single-minded and is not fooled by guises. The Corinthian has fulfilled his task to find Daniel, but the murders are beginning in the Dreaming, starting in the most carefree of places, Fiddler's Green. The rescue of Daniel may be too late. Morpheus's only option to stop the furies is to kill Lyta, but Larissa protects her. Larissa reveals she's in the Furies' employ. Larissa, too, is a wronged woman, hurt by Morpheus long ago.



Part Ten

Part Ten Summary

The Corinthian tells Daniel he's taking him to the Dreaming. Then, he calls out to Puck, who he hears hiding in the shadows. Puck refuses to tell why he kidnapped the boy or for whom he's working. Puck says most of the boy's mortality is gone, but not all of it. Refusing to fight the Corinthian, Puck heads back to Faerie. Meanwhile, Loki has regained consciousness and begs for death or for his eyes back. The Corinthian denies him both.

Odin and Thor appear. Loki tries to explain away his situation, saying Morpheus has been torturing him, but Odin does not believe him. Then, Loki taunts Thor, saying he slept with Thor's wife, in order to get Thor to kill him. Odin calms Thor, saying that Loki is a liar. Thor and Odin take Loki back beneath the Earth and bind him in his prison by his son's entrails. The snake begins dripping its poison into Loki's empty eye sockets, and Loki curses his wife, who is trapped in the prison, waiting for him. Tears roll down her cheek, and she welcomes Loki back.

In the Dreaming, the Furies kill Abel. Meanwhile, in Faerie, Cluracan is expounding that Faerie is a land ruled by custom. The other Faerie creatures object, citing the anarchy of their celebration, but Cluracan is bored. Puck returns, but Cluracan is still unamused. Then, Nuala enters in her true form with no glamour because she feels more comfortable that way. The queen is insulted, and Cluracan throws glamour on his sister, telling the queen that he made a bet that his sister couldn't cause outrage at the celebration, no matter what she did. While Cluracan ingratiates himself to the queen, Nuala goes off with Puck, who tells her that Morpheus is endangered.

Back in the Dreaming, Merv runs off the gathering crows and gets his crew ready for a battle to defend the Dreaming. Armed with a sub-machine gun, he confronts the Furies. His bullets seem to shoot back upon him, and he is destroyed. Lucien is furious with Morpheus for letting Mervyn die. Morpheus says that he'd hoped to stop the Furies by killing Lyta, but it was not possible. Now, he must think of other plans.

Nuala runs off to the forest, leaving Faerie and meets a Boggart who has bugged her before with his poetry; she runs him off. Then, in the woods, she meets Delirium, who is still looking for her doggie. Nuala asks Delirium if it's true that Morpheus is in trouble, and Delirium confirms Nuala's fears, telling Nuala that she tried to get Morpheus to leave the Dreaming but he wouldn't. Nuala advises Delirium to look for her doggie where she left him.

While in the human world, Rose heads back to Los Angeles ruminating on her journey to the motherly woman next to her. Nuala takes her pendant and calls to Morpheus. Morpheus appears as he's promised but begs Nuala to wait until another time. Nuala



asks him if he is in trouble, and Morpheus acknowledges that he is. That's why he needed to stay in the Dreaming.

Part Ten Analysis

The Corinthian is without feeling or pity. Because of this, he is effective against Loki, who preys on emotions to manipulate others. The Corinthian is a punisher. He calmly, happily marches into battle and eats the eyes of his victims. Loki cannot find mercy from the Corinthian, and likely, Morpheus recreated the Corinthian for this reason.

Loki's wife is another wronged woman. She is hurt again by Loki as he is bound into his eternal prison. He swears at her and abuses her until she is crying. In abusing her, Loki makes his own prison. He is a prisoner of being loved and of wronging those he's loved. Loki's wife says she's glad Loki has returned to her, and her welcome is eerie, carrying in it the echo of the Furies' anger against those who have wronged their loved ones.

Nuala has changed through being bound in servitude to Morpheus. She loves Morpheus and now lives for him, not for the customs of the Faerie. Morpheus prefers Nuala in her natural form, and now Nuala seeks to be in the form that pleases Morpheus even when he is absent. She does perhaps the only thing that will shock and offend the Seelie Court. Nuala's brother again controls her. He steps in to help, but by doing this, he is forcing Nuala to conform to his wishes. Against her will, he garbs her in glamour, taking away her choice.

Puck tells Nuala that Morpheus is in danger, manipulating her into ultimately harming Morpheus. Delirium confirms the story. Her visit to Morpheus, which Destiny both advised for and against, is critical at this point. If she hadn't visited Morpheus, she would not give Nuala the impression that Morpheus must leave the Dreaming. Nuala is an unwitting pawn of both Puck and of circumstance. Her love for Morpheus is turned into a weapon against him, as is Morpheus's sense of responsibility in adhering to his promise. They are manipulated to call Morpheus away from the Dreaming.



Part Eleven

Part Eleven Summary

As the Corinthian approaches Morpheus' castle with Daniel, he encounters Cain. The journey to the castle has become treacherous. Cain travels with the Corinthian. At the castle, the guardians let them in, but there is nothing to do except wait for Morpheus's return. Morpheus is outside Faerie, where Nuala has called him. Nuala thought she was helping Morpheus by taking him out of the Dreaming, not hurting him. Morpheus tells Nuala that he killed his son Orpheus twice. Although Orpheus wanted to die, Morpheus feels guilt for first abandoning him and then killing him. Nuala suggests that Morpheus could flee from the Furies, but Morpheus says he must return to the Dreaming. Nuala is sorry she's called him away. Morpheus asks if she is ready for her favor, and Nuala asks Morpheus to love her as she loves him. It's not a favor he can grant.

When Rose returns to Los Angeles, she finds that Zelda has died. Rose has to settle Zelda's bill at the hospice, putting her friend's last days on a credit card. Zelda's death seems more real than any of the strange things that have happened to Rose. She was expecting a miracle, but instead, she just finds death. As Rose walks away from the hospice, she passes the old homeless man on the street. She gives him the grapes, chocolates, and flowers, she brought for Zelda. After Rose leaves, the dog sitting next to the homeless man begins to talk to him.

In the Dreaming, Lucien, Cain, the Corinthian, and Daniel wait for Morpheus. Cain has Goldie, Able's pet gargoyle, with him, and Daniel plays with it. They worry, remembering the last time that Morpheus was missing for sixty years. They give Daniel a crystal ball to play with, but then the Corinthian sees Daniel staring into it and takes it away. In the garden of Destiny, dozens of destinies float by, seeing different paths. They all fade, but one.

In a carriage pulled by two black horses, Morpheus travels back to the dreaming. The carriage becomes a train, and it pulls into the castle. He greets Lucien, Cain, and the Corinthian, apologizing for his absence. Cain wants to talk about Abel's death, but Morpheus will not. He greets Daniel. Then, Morpheus confronts the Furies. They have taken over the castle in his absence and will not leave. They sting Morpheus with a scorpion whip. Within the Furies, Lyta recognizes Daniel. Her fury fades. Lyta wants to rescue Daniel, but the Furies will not be moved from their path. They hated Orpheus, they reveal.

Meanwhile, the angels in charge of Hell wonder why Heaven is allowing Morpheus to be harmed. A customer peeks under the mask of a waitress at Lux and goes insane. Larissa suddenly misses Morpheus, remembering their time together three years ago. In the Dreaming, the Furies have backed off for the moment, and Lucien asks what Morpheus will do. Morpheus says he will do whatever he must do. He takes up a helmet



and says that he must see Daniel. He also asks Lucien to bring him an emerald Eagle Stone.

Part Eleven Analysis

Morpheus reveals more of his guilt and sorrow for his treatment of Orpheus. The origin of the Furies' attack and the conflict in the Dreaming is within Morpheus himself. The Dreaming is a reflection of Morpheus, dependent on him for its existence. It is possible that it could not be destroyed at all if Morpheus weren't destroying himself with his guilt.

Nuala and Morpheus hurt each other. Nuala is wronged because she love, which is not returned. Morpheus has no control over this; it is like a force of nature. However, Nuala still gives herself over to Morpheus. Instead of calling on him when she needs a favor for herself, she calls on him when she thinks he needs help. She hurts him through her devotion, just as he hurts her through his lack of love.

Morpheus leaving the Dreaming is the turning point in the story, and after it, only one resolution is possible. The many Destinies walking through Destiny's garden, each with his own book, resolve into one Destiny. Morpheus heads back to the Dreaming, but his fate is settled.

Lyta has never truly been in control, as a pawn in the game played against the Dream King. Her lack of control is never shown more clearly than in this section. Lyta sees her son, Daniel. He may not be mortal, but he is not dead. Lyta's desire for revenge slips away from her. All she truly wants is Daniel. However, the Furies are on their own path, and Lyta is not in control. None of the wronged women in the graphic novel truly want revenge. They want their love. Lyta wants Daniel back. Rose wants Jack. Larissa wants Morpheus. Revenge is a poor substitute for what they truly want and cannot have.



Part Twelve

Part Twelve Summary

Matthew returns to the castle. Morpheus has spoken with Daniel and is examining the emerald he asked for. Morpheus says that he will confront the Furies and also that the Corinthian has promised to destroy Matthew for leaving him. Morpheus promises to tell the Corinthian that Matthew was pulled away against his will. The emerald is a Dreamstone, the last of twelve. It was a gift to the eagles, who used it for a while and returned it. Morpheus remarks at how each facet seems to be the whole jewel as it catches the light. Morpheus gives the stone to Daniel.

Morpheus sends Matthew away, but Matthew does not want to go. Morpheus puts on his helmet. Though there's little chance of returning, Matthew wants to go with Morpheus. Meanwhile, Delirium goes to the Lux. She is stopped by the mute demon waitress at the door, but Lucifer says to let her in. Elsewhere in Los Angeles, controversial comic drag queen Vixen LaBitch is giving an interview on a talk show. Lesbian groups are picketing her new show. After the interview, Vixen, whose real name is Hal, finds Rose in his dressing room. Rose tells him that Zelda is dead. She invites him to the funeral, since she doesn't want to be the only one there. Hal and Zelda were former friends, separated by a falling-out. Hal refuses to come.

Morpheus goes with Matthew to confront the Furies, and Matthew says it was good being Morpheus' friend. Morpheus calls the Furies; meanwhile, Delirium talks with Lucifer. He tells her that he's not evil anymore, that he's simply a night-club owner and piano player. He asks her if she has a request, and she says she wants her doggie back. Lucifer tells Delirium that Morpheus has the freedom to leave. Lucifer told him so, years ago, when Lucifer left Hell. Lucifer also swore to destroy Morpheus. Now, he feels sorry for the Lord Dream. He tells Delirium to go find her dog.

In the Dreaming, Morpheus explains that some of the past ravens have chosen to go to his sister Death; one returned to humanity, and one is Lucien, though he doesn't remember. In Faerie, the bothersome Boggart comes to Nuala again to conclude his poem, and Nuala knows it's Cluracan. Nuala is crying for Morpheus and asks Cluracan to give her back her true shape. Back in the Dreaming, Morpheus confronts the Furies. They will not stop destroying the Dreaming.

Morpheus's sister Death comes to the Dreaming. She meets the Corinthian, who warns her away from Daniel. Death is not there for Daniel, though. She asks for her brother. Morpheus finishes talking with the Furies, who refuse to back down. He gives Matthew his helmet and his bag of sand to bring back to the castle, asking Matthew to send his sister to him. He tells Matthew not to return, and Matthew says that he'll see Morpheus back at the castle. Morpheus, though, only says "goodbye." After Matthew flies off, Morpheus throws his cloak and gloves off the peak on which he's standing.



Part Twelve Analysis

The facets on the Dreamstone are like the aspects of archetypes appearing in myth. They are different sides of one whole. The exploration of the reiteration of types throughout the graphic novel foreshadows the new iteration of Morpheus which is coming. As Morpheus is reflecting on the gem, he is perhaps reflecting on the future aspect of himself that will come after him. Handing the stone to Daniel is handing on the responsibilities of Dream.

Lucifer reveals he swore to destroy Morpheus. This hints that Lucifer could be the driving force behind the plot, but there are other possibilities. The truth is not revealed in THE KINDLY ONES. The Furies hate Orpheus with a mixture of jealous desire and frustration, and they seem bent on revenge against Morpheus. They hire Larissa to protect Lyta. Loki wants revenge against Morpheus because Loki does not want to be indebted to anyone. Even Morpheus clearly plays his own role in his demise.

Death's arrival in the Dreaming, looking for her brother, solidifies the course of events. Morpheus must pay his dues for his own guilt. He cannot, or will not, escape his responsibility. When Morpheus gives up his helmet and bag of sand, and when he discards his cloak and gloves, he is giving up his role as Dream. Morpheus is stripping himself of his role and responsibilities in preparation for the next step.



Part Thirteen

Part Thirteen Summary

Death meets Morpheus on an empty peak. She has been worried about him. He reminds her that last time they talked about this, she threw bread at him and hands her a loaf of bread. It's too late for throwing bread. Morpheus is tired. Meanwhile, the Corinthian throws a knife toward Matthew, but he's really aiming at a giant spider, a former prisoner. The Furies freed the prisoners of the Dreaming.

Back on the peak, Death says Morpheus manufactures his own destinies, even when he doesn't admit it to himself. He wants to be in this trouble. Morpheus denies planning the situation. It got out of control when he was forced to leave the Dreaming. Death points out that he could have chosen not to honor his promise to Nuala. Morpheus admits the problem is with him. Death asks why he could not just leave, but she realizes that he can't. It's not who he is.

A quake occurs in the Dreaming, and Lyta screams. The nightmare Dream gave Delirium disappears. Nuala rides away from Faerie, and Loki writhes in pain, realizing with sudden clarity that he has been manipulated. The Furies tell Morpheus that they are destroying the Dreaming, but Death sends them away, saying that the issue is between her and her brother. When they are alone, Death takes Dream's hand, and they vanish in a burst of light.

On the edge of Faerie, the queen stops Nuala, who has no permission to leave. Nuala says she is leaving, whatever the consequences. At that moment, a flash of light rips through Faerie, and the queen says Cluracan's prophecy is true. She no longer cares what Nuala does and tells Nuala to leave if she wishes. Delirium, walking down a street in Los Angeles, finds her dog, who is with the homeless man. The old man will not take a reward for taking care of the dog. He only asks that Barnabas, the dog, might come visit him sometimes. Meanwhile, Lucifer is becoming bored with his life as a nightclub owner and plans on closing the Lux.

Hal shows up at Zelda's funeral. Rose tells him that Chantral, Zelda's lover, got AIDS from a kidney transplant, a random accident. Rose also thinks she's pregnant. One of her condoms broke. At the same time in Rose's grandmother's nursing home, the night nurse is woken by sleeping inmates moaning and howling. She also hears a voice; Alex, Paul's love, is awake. Lyta also awakes, and Larissa warns her that she should run. People will want to kill her. In the Dreaming, Daniel looks into the emerald. It transforms into a pendant, which he hangs on his neck. He is transformed into Dream. The Three Fates contemplate what they've made.

Part Thirteen Analysis

The events that force Morpheus to his own death start within him. He is overcome with a sense of guilt for his treatment of Orpheus. This guilt has manifested itself in the events that follow. The Furies are not truly something from outside, attacking. They come from within. That is why they don't attack directly. Their victims must condemn themselves, finally. Morpheus has a choice to abandon everything, as Lucifer has, but the pull of responsibility and rules is too great on Morpheus. His only other choice, to satisfy both the Furies and his own inner guilt, is death. His sister recognizes this. Morpheus chooses death.

However, Morpheus is a creature of stories. He is truly immortal. Dream cannot be destroyed. As with the Corinthian, the raven of the Dreaming, and the aspects of woman in stories through the ages, Morpheus lives on in a new iteration. Daniel takes on the new aspect of Dream.



Characters

Sandman/Lord Morpheus/Lord Shaper/Dream

Sandman, of the series title, is Lord Morpheus, the King of Dream, also known as Lord Shaper because he shapes things out of nothing. Morpheus rules the kingdom of the Dreaming, where dreams are created and live. Morpheus is overcome with guilt over having abandoned and killed his son, Orpheus. He is tiring of the responsibilities of his position as ruler over the Dreaming. Morpheus lives his life caretaking others but confides in no one about his own troubles. This life of responsibility has worn Morpheus down, but he cannot abandon it.

Death says Morpheus has been preparing to die for some time. He has had in his mind the seeds of discontent leading to his destruction. The Furies attack Morpheus in a complex plot, but it's possible Morpheus could have prevented this if he had the will to live. Instead, Morpheus prepares to pass the rulership of the Dreaming on to Daniel, a boy who is incubated inside the kingdom of dreams. The Furies, more than an outside force, are a reflection of Morpheus's inner turmoil, as the Dreaming itself is a reflection of Morpheus.

Morpheus is wrapped up in himself and sometimes cannot see others around him. He does not see that Nuala loves him. He does not see that Matthew considers him a friend. He sends Delirium away when she comes to see if she can help him, and perhaps if he had confided in her, she would not have caused Nuala to call him away from the Dreaming at a critical moment, crystallizing the path to his death.

Lyta Hall

Lyta Hall is the young mother of Daniel Hall. She is a superhero named The Fury and has incredible strength when she is angered. Her full name is Hippolyta, and her mother was also a superhero called The Fury. Lyta's high school sweetheart is named Hector Hall, and he died, leaving her pregnant with her son Daniel. Lyta was held in the Dreaming for years before giving birth after returning to the human world, and her husband died twice, once in human form, and once in the Dreaming.

Morpheus told Lyta that one day he would come for her son, and Lyta is passionately protective and afraid to leave Daniel's side. She lives for her son, as she lived for Hector before. When Lyta leaves her son for an evening, though, he disappears. Without him, Lyta slips further and further away from reality. She is manipulated into believing Daniel is dead and falls into the Dreaming and a quest for revenge against Morpheus. She does not realize she's being used by greater forces to destroy Morpheus.

Lyta finds the Furies and joins with them to destroy Morpheus, but once she's set the Furies into action, she finds out Daniel is well and in the Dreaming. Lyta wants to stop the destruction, but she has no power to do so. When Lyta awakes after Morpheus is



dead, Larissa warns Lyta that many powerful forces will want to kill her for what she's done.

The Three Women/Eumenides

The Eumenides are known as the Furies, although they prefer being spoken of as the nice ladies, the kind ladies, or the Kindly Ones of the title. They call themselves the Eumenides, a Greek name for the Furies. They are three women, one motherly, one young and attractive, and one old, who hound those who have killed their own blood. They will not stop until the guilty party is dead from suicide or killed. The story of the children who flew away may be an origin story explaining the Furies.

The Three Fates seem to be another aspect of the Eumenides in Gaiman's tale. The Fates weave the lives of the living. One sister winds the yarn, a second knits it, and the third cuts the string to end it. Like the Eumenidies, the Three Fates are represented as the three aspects of woman: whore, mother, and hag. Sets of three women are repeated throughout the graphic novel and are all aspects of each other. The three women also appear as the women in the nursing home, and even as Faith, Hope, and Charity on a pub sign. There is an echo of the three women in the gorgons, constantly seeking their third sister to complete them. When the three women speak, they refer to themselves as one and also as three. They are the archetypes of woman, representing all womankind.

Lucien

Lucien is the librarian at Morpheus's castle, presiding over a library of unwritten books. Though he does not remember, he was previously the resident raven of the Dreaming.

Mervyn

Merv is a pumpkin-headed, loud-spoken, chain-smoking worker in charge of making alterations and new construction in the Dreaming.

Nuala

Nuala is a fairy who is given to Lord Morpheus and cleans and tends his throne room. Secretly, she loves him, but he does not love her. The Queen of Faerie decides Nuala may come home, and Nuala's brother comes to the Dreaming to ask for Nuala's release. When Nuala gets back to Faerie, though, she misses the Dreaming and Morpheus. She wants to wear her true form, not her prettier fairy form with its artificial "glamour." When Nuala finds out Morpheus is in trouble, she uses the crystal necklace he's given her to call him. She believes that taking Morpheus away from the Dreaming will protect him, but actually it endangers the Dreaming, allowing the Furies to cause more harm.



Matthew

Matthew is the raven who lives in the Dreaming. He was once a human and chose to become the raven instead of going to his death. Morpheus sends Matthew along with the Corinthian to retrieve Daniel, but Matthew is pulled back to the Dreaming along with all the other ravens of the world, a sign of the coming battle.

Abel

Abel is one of the inhabitants of the Dreaming. He is a fat little sweating man with a pet gargoyle named Goldie, and his house is made of secrets. Abel is constantly killed by his brother Cain, replaying the biblical first murder.

Cain

Cain is one of the inhabitants of the Dreaming. He is a tall, thin man, and his house is made of mysteries. When his brother Abel is slain by the Furies, Cain is upset because he has a contract with Morpheus to be the only one to kill his brother, in their never-ending repetition of the biblical first murder. Cain takes Abel's pet gargoyle Goldie with him after his brother is killed by the Furies.

Daniel Hall

Daniel is Lyta Hall's young son, who is kidnapped by Loki and eventually taken by Morpheus to the Dreaming to take over as the new Lord Morpheus.

Carla

Carla is Lyta Hall's friend, who stays with her to help her when Lyta's son Daniel is kidnapped. Carla realizes that the two policemen who she and Lyta spoke to are fakes. The fake policemen, supernatural creatures in the guise of humans, burn Carla to death in her car.

Homeless Man

A crazy homeless man talks to Daniel in the street, and his mother overreacts, screaming and threatening the man. Later, the homeless man meets and recognizes Delirium. He has been taking care of Delirium's lost doggie.



Eric Needham

Eric offers Lyta Hall a job, an offer that lures her away from her son just long enough for him to be kidnapped. Eric is attracted to Lyta and tries to seduce her, but Lyta breaks his arm, almost unconscious of hurting him, in her distress over her son.

The Gryphon, the Wyvern, and the Hippogriff

A Gryphon, Wyvern, and Hippogriff, creations of Lord Morpheus, guard his castle. The Gryphon is destroyed by the Furies, but since they are creatures of dream, he can be restored by Dream in the future.

Cluracan of Faerie

Curacan is Nuala's silver-tongued and carefree brother, also a fairy. He speaks with Morpheus to get Nuala released from the Dreaming.

Loki

The Norse god Loki is the kidnapper of Daniel Hall. He cannot stand being in Morpheus's debt and wants revenge against him, but he is also likely the agent of another faction. Loki has escaped his imprisonment beneath the Earth, where he is bound by his son's entrails and guarded over by his wife, with poison dripping on his face to distract him so he cannot escape. Loki, in the guise of a human using the name Luke Pinkerton, pretends to be a police officer investigating Daniel Hall's kidnapping, and he convinces Lyta that her son is dead so she will seek vengeance.

Puck, or Robin Goodfellow

Puck is an inhabitant of Faerie and a trickster. He works with Loki to kidnap Daniel Hall, also impersonating a human police officer under the name of Gory Fellowes. Puck returns to Faerie after Daniel is rescued and tells Nuala that Morpheus is in trouble, prompting her to draw Morpheus out of the Dreaming at a critical time.

Hob Gadling

Hob Gadling has eternal life and has seen many loved ones die. Morpheus visits him to talk with him, but Hob is wrapped up in the death of his most recent wife. However, Hob can sense death surrounding Morpheus.



Delirium

Delirium is Morpheus's sister, one of the eternal ones. She goes on a quest to find her dog and ends up being instrumental in her brother's death. She tries to cheer him up and thinks he should leave the Dreaming. She tells this to Nuala, contributing to Nuala calling Morpheus out of the Dreaming at a critical time.

Lucifer

Lucifer has abandoned all his responsibilities by leaving Hell to become a piano player and nightclub owner at the Lux restaurant and nightclub in Los Angeles. Lucifer has sworn to destroy Morpheus, and he may or may not have a role in the plot to send the Furies after the Dream King.

Destiny

Destiny is one of Dream's brothers. Destiny carries a book that tells the future. In his garden, Destiny sees himself. He is split into multiple versions, as the future of the Dreaming is uncertain, and he only resolves into one when Morpheus's fate becomes settled.

Remiel

Remiel is an angel who has been tasked with running Hell now that Lucifer has abandoned his post.

Rose Walker

Rose Walker is Lyta Hall's downstairs neighbor. She is the babysitter who is taking care of Daniel when he is kidnapped. Lyta finds her in a deep sleep on the floor, a false clue framing Morpheus for the kidnapping. Rose is independently wealthy and is in Los Angeles caring for a friend who is dying of AIDS. Rose goes to England to connect with her dead grandmother and has her heart broken by Jack Holdaway. She also has a vision of her grandfather, an androgynous being who impregnated her mother while her mother was asleep for years on end. Rose returns to England to find her friend, Zelda, has died.

The Corinthian

The Corinthian is a nightmare created by Morpheus. He is the second incarnation of the Corinthian. Morpheus destroyed the previous Corinthian, who went on a murderous rampage while Morpheus was away. Morpheus sends the new incarnation of the Corinthian to retrieve Daniel.



Zelda

Zelda is Rose Walker's friend who is dying of AIDS. Zelda's lover is dead, having contracted AIDS during a kidney transplant. Their hobbies were related to death and horror, and Zelda's possessions included skulls and stuffed spiders.

Jack Holdaway

Jack Holdaway is one of Rose Walker's family attorneys. Rose falls for him while she is in England, and he sleeps with her. Later, Rose finds out Jack is married.

Larissa

Larissa is a practitioner of magic who protects Lyta from Morpheus in the waking world while Lyta is seeking revenge through the Furies in the Dreaming. Larissa has a past history with Morpheus.

Paul McGuire

Paul McGuire was once an under-gardener at a great mansion owned by a magician, Alex, the son of a magician who rivaled Alistair Crowley. Paul and Alex became lovers and make a life together. One day, Alex fell into a sleep from which he didn't wake. He finally wakes when Morpheus dies. Rose meets Paul in England, since Paul represents one of the owners of the nursing home where Rose's grandmother lived during her long sleep.

Gilbert

Gilbert is the guardian of Fiddler's Green, a place of complete happiness in the Dreaming. Gilbert is the first victim killed by the Furies in their quest to destroy Morpheus.

Death

Death is Morpheus's sister. She comes to take him when he finds that death is his only option to stop the Furies.



Objects/Places

The Dreaming

The Dreaming is the land of dreams and nightmares, ruled by Morpheus. Everything in the Dreaming is created by Morpheus and reflects him.

The Castle

Morpheus lives in a castle at the heart of the Dreaming. The castle is a dangerous place, filled with raw dreamstuff.

The Lux

Lucifer owns a restaurant and night club called the Lux, where he plays the piano. He has abandoned his position as master of Hell.

Faerie

Faerie is the land of the fairies. Its Seelie Court is presided over by the Queen of Faeries.

Fiddler's Green

Fiddler's Green is an area of the Dreaming that is a paradise, filled only with happiness. Ironically, it is the site of the first murder by the Furies.

Fawney Rig

Fawney Rig is the great mansion owned by Paul's lover Alex, where Rose has a vision of her androgynous grandfather.

The Nursing Home

Rose's grandmother slept away years of her life in a nursing home in England. Rose returns there when she gets a message from her grandmother.



Nuala's Pendant

When Nuala goes back to Faerie, Morpheus imbues her pendant so she can call him when she wishes and request a favor.

Swartalfheim

Swartalfheim is where Loki holds Daniel Hall hostage.

The Heart-Shaped Lighter

After Rose's supernatural encounter with her androgynous grandfather, she finds her grandfather's heart-shaped lighter on the floor, evidence that the encounter was not just a dream.

The Hospice

Rose's friend Zelda spends her last days in a hospice, where she is dying of AIDS.

The Eagle Stone

Morpheus gives Daniel an emerald dreamstone he originally made for the eagles. The eagle stone transforms into a pendant after Morpheus's death and transforms Daniel into the next Lord of the Dreaming.

The Silver Thread

Daniel is held in Swartalfheim by a silver thread.



Themes

Womanhood and Revenge

THE KINDLY ONES is a story of women's revenge for wrongs. Women in the story are wronged by men and marked by loss of loved ones. They spend their lives devoted to others and ultimately are hurt. Lyta, the central character, has already lost her husband. Her whole life is wrapped up in her son, Daniel. Because she lives outside herself, centered in her son, once she loses him, she has nothing. In the context of THE KINDLY ONES, this is a condition of womanhood. Lyta has taken on the aspect of mother, an aspect defined by others. When her reason for life is taken away from her, she seeks revenge.

The story of the children who flew away, an origin story for the Furies, is a story of women wronged. The man in the story wrongs the woman he sleeps with and won't marry. He wrongs the old woman who owns the house. Finally, he wrongs his children's mother by murdering her. These wrongs correspond to the three archetypal aspects of women, the whore, the hag, and the mother, and these three aspects are also represented by the Furies. The man's wrongs awakens a desire for revenge which finally destroys him.

The women who are wronged, however, want love more than they want revenge. Lyta wants her son back more than she wants to harm Morpheus. Larissa misses Morpheus and wants him, even as she is helping orchestrate his destruction. In love, these women give themselves to others. They lose themselves.

Responsibility

Morpheus feels responsibility, in his position as King of Dreams. He cares for all those who dwell in the Dreaming, and he presides over all the dreams of mankind in the human world. Morpheus's responsibility separates him from others. He deals with others' problems and disputes but turns to no one to help him with his own problems. Morpheus keeps his own counsel because he is the ultimate authority in his own realm. Morpheus could avoid his fate by breaking the rules of his position or bucking responsibility. He could have broken his word to Nuala, or destroyed Lyta against the rules of his position. He could have fled the Dreaming, as Nuala suggests. Morpheus can do none of those things. He is a creature of rules and responsibilities, and he must be true to them, even though it means his own death.

Lucifer discards responsibility and turns his back on rules and requirements. He abandons Hell, retiring from his position as ruler of that realm. Lucifer feels true freedom and even says he told Morpheus that Morpheus was free to abandon his responsibility. Lucifer is responsible only to himself, while Morpheus is responsible only to others. Lucifer is like men who wrong women, taking what they want and not caring for their



responsibility. Morpheus is more like the women who are wronged, caring only for others and sacrificing himself in the process.

Reiteration and Aspects of the Whole

Throughout the story, Gaiman draws attention to the enduring nature of archetypes and their iterations through multiple stories and multiple characters. Matthew is not just Matthew. He is a raven of the Dreaming, and so he is a continuation of the ravens that have gone before him. Similarly, the Corinthian is a reiteration of the previous Corinthian. He is part of a cycle, the same pattern repeating.

The Furies are aspects of woman. Each one represents one part of womanhood. The three are also reiterated in different stories, as new representations of the three aspects of womanhood. The Furies are one with the Fates. They are three witches. They are Faith, Hope, and Charity. They are three old women in a nursing home. They are even three children in a story told by one of the three old women in the nursing home. Because they are archetypes of woman, they are never ending and always repeating in new incarnations.

The theme of reiteration is fulfilled with the death of Morpheus. Morpheus is tired, and the weight of his guilt is dragging on him. He is ready to die; however, the King of Dream cannot die. The identity of Dream is an archetype. It is eternal not because Morpheus is powerful but because it is an eternal idea, existing in the fundamental nature of being. That identity is passed on to a new iteration, Daniel.



Style

Point of View

THE KINDLY ONES gives different points of view as it moves through the story. The Prologue is from the point of view of an unnamed dreamer. He represents the everyman but clearly a man, not a woman. His nightmare is of being eaten, punished by faceless women. The dreamer also represents the reader as a stranger being introduced to the world of the Dreaming.

Throughout THE KINDLY ONES, the reader sees inside the heads of characters, but these characters tend to be women. The reader experiences Lyta's separation from reality after she loses her son and drifts into the world of Dream. The reader sees inside Rose Walker's diary to glean her thoughts and her experience of death, love, and rejection. The experience of being a woman and of losing those you love is central to the story, and the reader experiences women's points of view to be taken inside the world of love and loss. Some parts of the story are also narrated by an unnamed omniscient narrator, telling the events, including the review of Morpheus's duties over a week during Part Eight.

The Corinthian eats eyes so he can experience points of view. He eats Loki's eyes to see what a god sees. He eats Carla's eyes to find where Daniel is. As a character, the Corinthian's role is to absorb point of view, but he can never truly do this because he lacks empathy. He sees what others see, but he is a being without the capacity to appreciate it. The one character the reader can never be privy to or see inside is Morpheus. He is a mystery. The reader can glimpse his knowledge or his feelings, but Morpheus separates himself from the world, and the reader can only guess at his thoughts. His distance makes him kingly and untouchable.

Setting

THE KINDLY ONES crosses between the human world and supernatural realms. Perhaps the most important setting of THE KINDLY ONES is the Dreaming, the kingdom of Lord Morpheus. It is the world of all dreams, and so it is created out of the stuff of the unconscious. However, the Dreaming is also an external representation of Morpheus. It is the ultimate objective correlative, an outside world that fully reflects the inner workings of the main character. When Morpheus is in trouble, the Dreaming turns troubled and stormy. When Morpheus is self-destructive, the Dreaming begins to be destroyed.

In the human world, much of the story is set in Los Angeles. It is a new place and a place of dreams and superficial appearances. Lucifer owns a night club, with a sleek and attractive exterior but whose internal workings are sinister. In Los Angeles, appearances are deceptive. The police officers turn out to be sinister beings, and the



old homeless man walks a tightrope between two worlds. When Rose goes to England, she is returning to an older place, a place of the past. This is apt, since Rose's journey is one into her ancestry.

The story is also set in other realms. The world of Faerie is one where appearance is everything, in many ways akin to Los Angeles. The Seelie Court is about ostentatious revelry. Although the people of Faerie claim they do not abide by custom, the custom is revelry and glamour. Without it, Nuala finds herself ostracized.

Language and Meaning

As a graphic novel, *THE KINDLY ONES* uses visual language as well as the language of the characters to convey meaning. The individual characters' speech is represented by specific styles. Morpheus' words are presented in black amorphous boxes, just as Morpheus himself is black and shadowy and pale. When the police come to question Lyta about her son's disappearance, her words are small, representing how far away, mentally, Lyta is drifting from the world. Different voices have their own visual character. Matthew, the raven, has jagged lines defining his cawing speech. The mythological guardians of Morpheus' castle speak in ethereal clouds.

Delirium is set apart from her brooding, black-and-white brother by her bright, colorful presentation. Her hair is red and multicolored. Her eyes are blue and green. Her words are wavy, moving from small to large and back again and encased in multicolored, irregularly shaped bubbles. She rambles on in a childlike way, showing her character of Delirium, in contrast to her always formal-sounding and remotely cold brother.

When the old ladies in the nursing home tell the story of the children who flew away, the character of the book changes. The dialogue is told as a story, an oral fairy tale, with black-and-white illustrations replacing the comic book format. This marks the story as something handed on from the past. Its identity as a story is emphasized.

Structure

THE KINDLY ONES follows many intertwining plots, among a wealth of characters, through several supernatural realms. It moves back and forth between plotlines, showing what is happening simultaneously in the human and supernatural worlds. The story begins with a Prologue, an introduction to the world of the Dreaming. From there, it follows two main stories. In the human world, Lyta Hall's child is kidnapped. In the Dreaming, Morpheus is preoccupied with his own thoughts, and Nuala is sought to return to Faerie. The two stories are joined because Lyta is being used as part of a plot to set the Furies on Morpheus to destroy him.

The story of Rose Walker is intertwined with the main storyline. She goes on a journey of self-discovery to the home of her ancestor, her grandmother. There, Rose finds both love and betrayal. She has a vision of her origins, in the guise of her androgynous grandfather. Rose returns to her life to find that she's lost another person she loves and

for whom she cares. In her absence, her friend has died. Rose finds her emotions and motherhood but also pain.

The story builds to a great storm in the Dreaming, but ultimately, the climax of the story is Morpheus alone with his sister on a high peak at the edge of Nightmare. All the fury and violence that has brought him to this point is only what the Dreaming is: a reflection of Morpheus's inner struggles. Morpheus is punishing himself with guilt and tired of his existence. The ultimate conflict and resolution is Morpheus' choice of death over his life of responsibility.



Quotes

"Imagine that you woke in the night and rose, and seemed to see before you another person whom slowly you perceived to be yourself. Someone had entered in the night and placed a mirror in your sleeping place, made from a black metal. You had been frightened only of your reflection. But then the reflection slowly raised one hand, while our own hand stayed still... A dark mirror..." —Morpheus, Part One, page 14

"I—you've been kind, sir. For the last three years I—sir. I am yours. What you wish is also what I wish." —Nuala, Part Two, page 22

"It was shortly after that destiny caught sight of himself, while wandering the garden that was his realm. This was no surprise to him; it was written in his book that he would see himself, but still, it gave him a chill to see him there." —Part Three, page 10

"This is me walking into the family room. This is me just standing here listening to the voices in my head. One of them's saying 'This is me just standing here...' And the other one's going 'EEEEEE...' in one long ceaseless scream. And the last one doesn't say anything at all. I close my eyes to try to escape from the image, telling myself that images can lie. But other pictures wait for me." —Lyta, Part Three, page 23

"It has always been the prerogative of children and half-wits to point out that the emperor has no clothes. But the half-wit remains a half-wit, and the emperor remains an emperor." —Morpheus, Part Four, page 23

"I am Loki, and I will be under an obligation to no one." —Loki, Part Five, page 24

"As mothers we wake them from nothingness to existence. As maidens we wake them to the joys and miseries of adulthood, wake them to the worlds of lust and responsibility. And when their time's up, it's always us has to wash them for the last time, and we lay them out for the wake." —Amelia, Helena, and Magda, Part Six, page 19

"Loki cannot help striking the hand that aids him, striking with malice and slow poison. That is what he is. That is what he does." —Odin, Part Seven, page 7

"He had been asked to permit the sending of a dream of warning to a teenaged girl in South Africa. With this dream to drive her, the girl would grow up to take charge of the country, to unite all divided factions; without it, she would become a nurse. He came to his own decision, and relayed it to the tribal gods from whom the request had come. His decision brooked no argument, had no appeal." —Part Eight, page 2

"You build up all these defenses. You build up this whole armor, for years, so nothing can hurt you, then one stupid person, no different from any other stupid person, wanders into your stupid life... You give them a piece of you. They don't ask for it. They do something dumb one day like kiss you, or smile at you, and then your life isn't your own anymore." —Rose, Part Nine, page 7



"Customs have power, and only the truly brave, or the truly dangerous, will defy them. One must not offend against the notions of one's neighbors." —Cluracan, Part Ten, page 9

"You... you want them to punish you, don't you? You want to be punished for Orpheus's death." —Nuala, Part Eleven, page 6

"Each facet catches the light in its own way. It glints and sparkles and flashes uniquely. It would almost be possible to believe that the facet was the jewel; not just a tiny part of it. But, then, as we move the jewel another facet catches the light..." —Morpheus, Part Twelve, page 3

"The only reason you've got yourself into this mess is because this is where you wanted to be. There's personal responsibility, too, y'know?" —Death, Part Thirteen, page 5



Topics for Discussion

What are the different characters' reactions to loss in THE KINDLY ONES?

Why does Death accuse Morpheus of wanting to be in trouble?

Why doesn't Morpheus ignore Nuala's call to leave the Dreaming and come to her?

Why does Morpheus value responsibility and rules? Does he over value them?

The Corinthian takes Loki's eyes. What knowledge might he gain from the eyes of a god?

What does Rose Walker learn from her experience in England?

When Lyta goes into the Dreaming to seek the Furies, why must she go through a long and arduous journey to find them?

Why can't Lyta stop the Furies, once she finds Daniel in the Dreaming?

Why does Larissa betray Morpheus, even though she is angered at his death?