

# **Timebound Study Guide**

**Timebound by Rysa Walker**

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# Plot Summary

Timebound opens with the protagonist, Kate, going with her mother, Deborah, to meet her grandmother, Katherine. Kate's mother has a very strained relationship with Katherine because she feels like Katherine wasn't there for her when she lost her father and her twin sister, Prudence. When they arrive, Katherine tells Kate and Deborah that she's dying and only has a year left to live. With the help of Kate's father, Harry, Katherine was able to find a nearby place to live. She wants Kate and one of her parents to move in so they can spend time together. While they are talking, Kate notices a strange blue glowing medallion in Katherine's possession, but nobody else seems to notice it. When Deborah goes to the bathroom, Katherine talks to Kate about panic attacks she was having earlier in the year and how they're normal.

Kate and her father agree to move in with Katherine and her assistant, Connor. Katherine gets a moment alone with Kate and explains that the medallion is actually a CHORNOS device which allows people with a specific gene to travel through time. Kate has inherited that gene. She gives Kate a diary to read and says that it will explain things further, and they'll speak more about it later. Kate is overwhelmed and tells her best friend, Charlayne about what happened. The two read through the diary together, which turns out to be a very advanced computer. The diary details Katherine's journeys in the past.

The next day Kate is attacked on the train by someone named Simon. She's rescued by a man named Kiernan; someone that Kate saw in what she thought was a hallucination earlier when she touched the CHORNOS medallion. Simon gets away with Kate's bag, which contains the diary. Kiernan makes it clear that he and Kate knew each other in a different life and loved one another. He tells Kate that she's in danger and she needs to get to Katherine immediately.

Kate manages to get to Katherine who explains more about the medallion. Katherine used to be married to a man named Saul. Like her, Saul was a historian, someone who travelled in time to personally witness and record what happened. Katherine noticed that Saul was going against regulations. He started to take advanced technology with him on their jumps, and Katherine later learned that he was preaching under the name of Brother Cyrus, using his knowledge of the future to make prophecies.

When Katherine discovered that Saul was actively preaching and changing history she decided she had to say something. The same day that she was going to report him, Saul attacked and destroyed the CHORNOS headquarters. Katherine was able to escape, but whenever she tried to use the medallion it didn't work for her. Anyone who inherited the CHORNOS gene was able to use the medallion. Katherine found this out because Prudence was able to use the medallion. Prudence snuck the medallion out and used it to jump, which is what caused the accident that killed Deborah's father. Katherine believes that Prudence is now working with Saul.



Kate wants to tell her father everything that Katherine just told her. Katherine hesitantly agrees. Kate goes to see him, but he isn't in his office. On her way there, she has another panic attack, which Katherine explained is a result of the timeline changing. Kate finds a strange teacher in her father's classroom, and there's no record of him working in the school. A student Kate has never seen before, Trey, is ordered to take her to the nurse. Kate is distressed and tells Trey everything. She shows Trey a picture of her mother, which vanishes the moment she puts it on the table because it isn't protected by the CHRONOS. This convinces Trey she's telling the truth. They try to find her father, but he's in a relationship with someone else and has no idea who Kate is.

Katherine tells Kate that Saul must have killed her in the past. Because of that, the timeline was changed. Deborah was never born, so Harry never got married and had Kate. Kate and Katherine were protected because they have CHRONOS devices, but if they lose the device they'll disappear. Kate and Trey develop a relationship while Katherine teaches Kate how to use the device. Katherine and Connor also explain to Kate how Saul created the Cyrist religion. In Kate's timeline they were a minor religion, but after the time change they've become a huge organization with a huge amount of influence in the world. Even the president is a Cyrist. Katherine also warns Kate that if she fixes the timeline and gets her parents back, she'll lose Trey.

Kate sneaks out one morning to go to the Cyrist church because she saw that Charlayne was a member. While there, she gets discovered but manages to steal the book of prophecy, a holy Cyrist book that only elite members are allowed to read from. Later, Kate is attacked by Simon again. Katherine comes out to save her, but in exchange she has to give up her medallion, so she vanishes from the timeline. Kate jumps back in time to Chicago, to the day that Katherine died.

Kate meets a young Kiernan who helps her track down Saul and Katherine. She also runs into Prudence, who reveals that she's trying to save Katherine. She's protected by her CHRONOS device, but since Katherine died it means Prudence doesn't exist either. She doesn't enjoy Saul having that much power over her. She truly believes in the Cyrist way, but she wants to lead them instead of Saul. An older Kiernan travels back to help his younger self and Kate to save Katherine.

Kiernan reveals that he and Kate used to be part of a resistance movement against the Cyrist church. Kate disappeared one day when the timelines changed. He has feelings for this version of Kate, but he knows she isn't the same person, and she has Trey. Kate returns to the present and both Katherine and her parents are restored. Saul is still out there, but Kate is determined to help Katherine stop him from ruling the world through the Cyrist religion. Kate tells her father everything, and at the end of the book she gives Trey a DVD that he made which contained all of their videos together. She tells him to get in touch with her after watching the DVD, confident that they'll be able to get back together.



# Chapters 1-2

## Summary

### Chapter 1

The protagonist, Kate, is walking with her mother, Deborah, to meet her grandmother, Katherine. Deborah and Katherine don't get along well so it had been difficult to set up the meeting. Katherine had responded to the invitation by saying she was sick, so Deborah agrees to the meeting at Katherine's place. When they arrive, Kate notices a strange medallion that Katherine has. It emits a bright blue glow, but everyone else around her seems to be ignoring it. Katherine explains how she's moved into the area with a work associate, Connor. She's been talking with Kate's father, Harry. Harry and Deborah were separated, and Kate split her time between the two. Deborah is upset that Katherine and Harry are talking. Katherine explains that she has an inoperable brain tumor. She only has roughly a year left, but she wants to spend that year with her family. Katherine wants one of Kate's parents to move in with her so she can spend more time with Kate. Deborah doesn't want to do it, but says Kate can work it out with Harry.

Deborah goes to the bathroom and Katherine explains to Kate that only Kate can see the amulet. She also explains that the panic attacks Kate had been having earlier in the year are completely normal. Kate doesn't get a chance to question her further, but she's intrigued by the idea of living with Katherine. She also advises her mother to try and fix things with her before it's too late, but Deborah just says there's a lot of hostility. Deborah lost her father and her twin, Prudence, in a car accident when she was younger, and she tells Kate that she she has always felt like Katherine was never really there for her as a mother.

### Chapter 2

Kate explains everything that happened at her meeting to her father. He agrees to spend some of the week living with Katherine so Kate can stay there, too. The next morning they go down to the house together. Kate gets a moment to touch the amulet. She feels like she's having a vivid hallucination where she's about to kiss a man she's never seen before. She's brought back to reality when her grandmother takes the medallion away. Kate briefly meets Connor when he comes by to visit. While Kate is exploring her room, Katherine takes a moment to talk to her and explain about the medallion. She says that Kate's earlier panic attacks were the result of a temporal aberration. She warns Kate not to touch the medallion again without training because she could get lost. She also tells Kate that she wants to train her how to use it because she believes Kate will soon need it to save the world. She gives Kate a book to read and promises they will talk more.



Kate is unsure of exactly what happened and wonders if it was a result of Katherine's brain tumor. She starts to read the book on the train after school. She's amazed that it's made out of some sort of special paper that seems to repel any sort of damage. She starts to read it and it looks to be some sort of diary. At her stop, she feels like two people are watching her. She takes a closer look at them, and realizes that one of them is the boy from her earlier hallucination. She looks away for a second and then he's gone.

## Analysis

### Chapter 1

Many of the main characters and their relationships are established in the first chapter. Kate explains the relationship between her parents as well as Katherine. Although she doesn't know it yet, Katherine and Deborah have a strained relationship because of everything that happened with Prudence. Deborah also warns Kate that Katherine isn't quite what she appears, something that Kate discovers much later in the book when she discovers how manipulative Katherine was.

The CHRONOS device is brought up, although Kate doesn't quite know what it does yet. Kate's panic attacks are brought up, with Katherine hinting there's something more to them. Even Kate knows they aren't normal, as she has no history of anxiety. Kate later learns that these panic attacks are a result of Saul changing the timelines, which sets up the main plot of the book. Katherine's offer for Kate to live with her is what sets that plot in motion.

### Chapter 2

The CHRONOS device is explained to Kate for the first time, setting up the time travel plot of the book. Kate is introduced to Connor, who later becomes one of the main supporting characters after the timeline becomes altered. Kate also has a brief encounter with Kiernan when she touches the medallion. Kiernan later becomes a major character, although he makes another brief appearance at the end of the chapter as well. Kate is given Katherine's old diary which later helps her learn more about time travel and future technology. At the end of the chapter, Kate runs into Simon, who proves to be an antagonist in later chapters.

The theme of Sacrifice is hinted at in this chapter as Katherine seems to be aware of why her daughter and she are estranged, alluding to the fact that what happened in the past was not changeable and that it was a very difficult thing to have let happen. Since Deborah doesn't have the gene that will allow her to see the amulet, she can't understand how changing timelines would have been disastrous. When her daughter and husband were killed, Katherine could have changed that outcome, but didn't because she abides by the rules set forth by the group of time travelers to which she belongs. Thus, she had to sacrifice her own happiness for the greater good.



## **Discussion Question 1**

What does Kate think about everything her grandmother has told her?

## **Discussion Question 2**

Discuss the theme of Sacrifice as exemplified in Chapter 2.

## **Discussion Question 3**

What are the pros and cons to manipulating timelines?

## **Vocabulary**

melodramatic, logistics, petite, finagle, enunciating, gastronomic, fragrantly, tousled, aberration, continuity



# Chapters 3-4

## Summary

### Chapter 3

Kate explains everything to her best friend, Charlayne. Charlayne is doubtful at first, but the two start to explore the diary. They discover that it's actually a complex computer system that only responds to Kate. The entries are from the late 1800's in Chicago, written by Katherine. There's a series of code in each entry, which they figure out refers to a date in the past and one in the future. They conclude Katherine was somehow able to travel into the past and disguised the computer as a diary to make notes.

The next morning Kate sees one of the men again on the train. She tries to get off, but he robs her and takes the backpack which contains the computer. He disappears once he has the bag. The other man shows up, identifying himself as Kiernan Dunne. He explains that Kate is in danger. He was trying to stop the man who robbed her, whose name was Simon, but was too late. He has a medallion just like Katherine's. He kisses Kate and tells her to run. Kate gets to her grandmother's and explains everything that happened. Connor reveals that Kiernan is his great grandfather, but he's surprised that he would want to help Kate. Kate wants to tell her parents what happened, but Katherine stops her and says she needs to explain everything to Kate.

### Chapter 4

Katherine reveals she was born in the year 2282. In the future, everyone is given one special ability at birth. Her ability was to use the CHRONOS key, which was the medallion, to travel back in time and record historical events. Katherine's husband, Saul, sabotaged the system and all the time travelers were stranded in different parts of the past. Katherine tried to use the key again, but all she saw was a dark void. Katherine lived a normal life and eventually married Jim and had Prudence and Deborah. She also acquired another key from another historian who died years ago. Prudence was able to activate the key, but Katherine didn't want to tell her about it. One day, Prudence left with the key, which was the same day that she and Jim got into a fatal car accident. Katherine believes that Prudence used the key to travel. Like Prudence, Kate has the ability to use the key as well.

Connor explains that Saul was doing something to change the timeline. He shows Kate two pictures that were supposedly taken at the same time, but had different people in them, including Kiernan. Connor wasn't actually sure what his relation was to Kiernan because of how the timeline had been changed at some point. He bitterly remarks that Saul has been building temples in their present timeline.





## Analysis

### Chapter 3

Charlayne is introduced and her relationship with Kate is established. This is important since it serves as a motivating factor for Kate to investigate the Cyst church much later on after Saul alters the timeline. The 1800's timeline is mentioned as well, which is where Kate later spends the end of the book rescuing Katherine and meeting Kiernan. Simon officially sets the plot in motion when he ambushes Kate on the train and steals her bag. This gives Saul the information he needs to go after Katherine and change the timeline. The author has set up Saul to be the foil to Katherine, as polar opposites. Both are time travelers but have differing philosophies. That they used to be married also indicates that they are two sides of one coin, so to speak. Kate is saved by Kiernan, who hints at the relationship that he used to have with Kate before the timeline changes. Part of Connor's backstory is also revealed when Kate tells him and Katherine about everything that happened with Kiernan.

### Chapter 4

Katherine reveals that in the future people's fates are essentially determined at birth when they're given their special talent. They're allowed to follow other interests, but that special gift ultimately determines the direction of their future. Kate believes this is blatant manipulation and is strongly against it because in her mind it takes away free will. This is one of the major themes of the book that comes up several times in the future, especially once Kate discovers Saul and his Cyst religion.

Kate also learns the truth about what really happened to Prudence. She didn't die in the crash, but instead made a jump somewhere and eventually joined up with Saul. Kate later learns that it's a little more complicated than that and Prudence isn't exactly willingly working with Saul, but instead, being manipulated herself. This is part of why things are so tense between Katherine and Deborah. Katherine couldn't mourn because she knew that Prudence wasn't really gone and all these years, Katherine has been trying to get her back.

A little more of Kiernan's past is revealed when Kate sees the two different pictures. This also touches on Connor's fate, and Kate later learns that Connor is so gruff because during one of the time shifts he ended up losing his children and his wife.

## Discussion Question 1

What does the author seem to be saying about fate and free will?

## Discussion Question 2

What is part of the problem between Katherine and Deborah?



## Discussion Question 3

What does it tell the reader about Kate's personality in light of her reaction to Katherine's disclosure about how children in 2282 are given one gift at birth?

## Vocabulary

unmitigated, witticism, avocations, archaic, mundane, preliminary, assimilate



# Chapter 5-6

## Summary

### Chapter 5

After losing Prudence, Katherine tells Kate that she started to gather other keys from the descendants of other stranded historians. She and Connor created a temporal field around the house using two of the medallions. Anything in the field would be protected from time changing. Over the years Katherine noticed that a name, Prudence Rand, started to appear on documents. Rand is Saul's last name. Katherine was unsure what sort of message Prudence might be trying to send. Katherine reveals to Kate that Harry's parents were also historians. She secretly arranged it so Harry and Deborah would meet, hoping they would have a child that was capable of using the medallion.

Kate is upset when she finds out Katherine manipulated both her parents. She thinks they were never supposed to get together, hence why they got divorced. Katherine admits what she did might have been selfish. Kate accuses her of doing it just for a chance to get Prudence back, but Katherine says she's worried about Saul. Saul belonged to a group that felt the time travel technology would be better used to rewrite history.

Over the last twenty years history has been changing more and more, which Katherine believes to be the result of Saul and his extremist group. Kate is overwhelmed and wants to tell her father everything. Katherine eventually agrees. She gives Kate one of the medallions, insisting that she keep it on her at all times.

### Chapter 6

Kate comes up with an excuse to get into school late. She's going to see her father who is teaching a math class. Before she goes into the room, she has another panic attack and everything changes around her. Her father vanishes and is replaced with another teacher. Kate collapses and the teacher goes to investigate. She sends one of the new students, Trey, to take Kate to the nurse. Trey asks Kate what's going on. Kate is so upset about seeing her father vanish before her eyes that she explains everything Katherine told her. Trey is very accepting about it and decides to go with her as she checks her father's house, hoping he will be there. They get to the cabin, but it belongs to someone else. Kate and Trey try to go to Kate's mother's home, but she also isn't there.

## Analysis

### Chapter 5



The theme of manipulation is demonstrated through Katherine conspiring to get Deborah and Harry together. Kate believes that Katherine only did it because she wanted to get someone who had a strong chance of inheriting the CHRONOS gene to try and find Prudence. Katherine says it wasn't just that, but that she wants to stop Saul. Saul's plans are explored for the first time, although Katherine doesn't go into too much detail about the specifics, which don't come up until later on in the book.

Prudence is established as a potential villain when Katherine says she started to use the Rand surname, which belonged to Saul. Katherine knows Prudence is trying to send some sort of message, but she doesn't know what kind. She's worried that Prudence is working with Saul, but also explores the possibility that she's being held hostage. Kate later encounters Prudence herself and finds out that both of Katherine's theories were true. Prudence is working for Saul, but he also has power over her, which she doesn't like. This again touches on the theme of manipulation since Prudence makes it clear Saul is using his power over her to make her compliant.

Katherine also touches upon another theme of Advancement through Adversity. She makes it clear to Kate that she was doing the wrong thing by protecting Saul for as long as she did. She's learned from the adversity and is trying to do everything she can to correct the mistakes she's made.

## Chapter 6

Kate's strong relationship with her father is brought up again. This is important because Kate is about to lose both her father and her mother. They don't appear again until the very end of the book. Kate restoring them is one of her driving motivators, so it helps readers to see early on exactly how much Kate cares about them and helps explain why she's willing to risk losing Trey.

Kate experiences her first timeline alteration. Katherine had told her about them, but up until now Kate didn't understand how serious they could be. Now Kate knows exactly why Katherine is trying to make everything right. The timeline changing allows Kate to meet Trey, who becomes a major part of Kate's life. Kate and Trey's relationship is established almost immediately and it's obvious that the two have very strong feelings for one another.

## Discussion Question 1

Discuss the theme of manipulation in Chapters 5-6.

## Discussion Question 2

What does Katherine hope has happened to Prudence?



## Discussion Question 3

What is Kate's reaction when Katherine tells her the circumstances surrounding her birth?

## Vocabulary

retrospect, scruple, tentative, diplomats, tentative



# Chapter 7-8

## Summary

### Chapter 7

Kate and Trey decide to try and find Kate's parents. They search around online, hoping to find some trace of them. Kate is unable to find anything about her mother, but she is able to find something about her father. He married someone named Emily and had two sons. When Kate shows a picture of her mother to Trey, it disappears the moment she stops touching it. She concludes her medallion was protecting it from the temporal shift. She attaches herself to Trey because she's afraid he'll forget about her since she doesn't know if she exists in this timeline. Fortunately for her, Trey shows no sign of forgetting which they decide must be because he was in close proximity with the medallion when everything changed. Trey takes Kate to Delaware to meet her father. She explains everything that happened. He believes her, but says he can't help her. He says if the timelines have really changed then they aren't father and daughter, and he has his own family to look out for. He wishes her the best, but says if it means losing his sons and his wife, he hopes that Kate's mission fails.

### Chapter 8

Kate is devastated by the loss of her mother and what her father has said to her. She and Trey drive to Katherine's. While they drive, Kate wonders if she even has any right to change the timeline, pointing out that's exactly what Saul did and he was in the wrong. Trey argues that because she actually cares and is thinking to ask questions she's different compared to Saul, who is just doing it for his own selfish reasons. Kate explains everything that happened to her grandmother. Katherine hints that it might be better if Trey leaves. He agrees, but promises Kate he'll come looking for her later. Kate is upset because he's the only friend that she has left in the world. Kate and Katherine talk about what happened. Katherine believes she was killed by Saul at some point in history, which is why Deborah no longer exists. Kate promises she will do whatever it takes to fix it, but she first needs to rest because she's too exhausted to do anything currently.

## Analysis

### Chapter 7

Kate officially finds out what happened to her parents in the altered timeline. When she shows Trey a picture of her mother to help convince him, it vanishes. This brings Trey on-board and officially secures his spot as a supporting character for Kate. Their relationship continues to grow since Kate physically latches onto Trey. She's afraid to let go of him since she doesn't want him to forget about her. Trey doesn't think that would actually happen, but he doesn't say anything because he enjoys being with her.



Kate tries to talk to Harry and convince him to help her. Harry doesn't want to see the timeline changed because it would mean losing the family that he has and loves now. This foreshadows Kate's own hard decision to change the timeline when she finds out that she'll have to lose Trey in order to set things right. Towards the end of the book this meeting is referenced again when Harry reveals that he's changed his mind and he still considers himself Kate's father, even if he doesn't remember the life that they used to have.

## Chapter 8

Kate inadvertently brings up one of the themes that become very important later on in the book, and that's the conflict between morality and ethics that can occur. Kate knows that it isn't right to change the timeline, but it's ultimately the ethical thing to do because she'll be saving lives and making the world a better place. Trey sets the groundwork for the argument that Katherine later uses to help convince Kate that what they're doing is ethical, even if it doesn't seem like the moral choice.

Katherine tries to get Trey to leave, foreshadowing the conversation she later has with Kate about her losing Trey. She's trying to protect her, but Kate convinces her that she needs a friend if she's going to get through her training. This also touches upon the theme of manipulation again, since Katherine is keeping Trey around to help Kate accomplish her training.

Katherine explains to Kate how she believes Saul killed her in the past, setting up the main conflict of the book. The rest of the story revolves around Kate's journey to save Katherine in the past to restore the damage that was done to the timeline. This is also later revealed to be Prudence's motivation, since without Katherine she doesn't exist either.

## Discussion Question 1

Discuss the difference between morality and ethics. Why would they come into conflict?

## Discussion Question 2

What has become the initiating conflict in the novel?

## Discussion Question 3

Why does Kate wonder if she's like Saul?

## Vocabulary

improbable, adamantly, emphatically, baritone, resolutely, plush



# Chapters 9-10

## Summary

### Chapter 9

Kate wakes up and has breakfast, having a conversation with a very gruff Connor. Afterwards, Katherine explains that he's so gruff because he lost his family to the temporal shifts. Katherine explains more about Saul to Kate. He used to study religious movements because he was interested in creating his own religion. During the temporal shifts he did just that and called them the Cyrists. Kate has heard of them before, but they were a small religion. Katherine reveals that after the latest shift the Cyrists have nearly doubled in size. Thanks to his knowledge from the future, Saul was able to advise his followers so they were also a wealthy group with expansive political ties. In this new timeline, the president is a Cyst. Katherine gives Kate her own personal journal to go through, asking that Kate try not to look down upon her since she was younger and didn't know then what she knows now.

### Chapter 10

Kate starts to go through the journal. Katherine was happy with Saul at first, but she started to gradually realize he was changing history. He brought advanced medicine with him on his trips, and she was reading about prophetic warnings from Brother Cyrus, someone who never existed in history before. She quickly figured out it was Saul. She tried to confront Saul, but he got angry and violent with her. She kept the pregnancy hidden from him given his extreme outburst. Katherine wanted to tell their CHRONOS superior, Angelo, but Saul got to him first and killed him. Saul destroyed the CHRONOS headquarters, which is why Katherine isn't able to use the medallion. Both Saul and Katherine figured out that the CHRONOS gene could be passed down. Saul started to breed his Cyst followers to pass the gene down, while Katherine arranged for Deborah and Harry to meet and give birth to Kate and Prudence.

## Analysis

### Chapter 9

Connor's character is explored in more detail. He clashes with Kate initially, but Katherine explains that Connor is having such a hard time because he lost his children and his wife during one of the time shifts. As time goes on it's clear that Connor is reminded of his own daughters by having Kate around. Once Kate finds this out she becomes much softer towards Connor.

Kate learns about the Cyst movement from Connor and Katherine. This plays into the main plot of the book since it's one of the reasons why Saul is altering the timeline. Once Kate is able to leave the house she finds out exactly how much power the Cyrists





have amassed. This again explores the theme of manipulation, since Saul is clearly just using his religious followers to reshape the world.

## Chapter 10

Katherine's diary shows the theme of Advancement through Adversity. Katherine knew she should turn Saul in, but she kept delaying it. As a result, he was able to go through with his plans and destroy the CHRONOS headquarters, and nearly destroying Katherine in the process. The journal is also an excellent representation of Katherine's trust for Kate. She never let anyone else see the contents of the journal, not even Connor whom she shared so much else with.

More of Saul's plan is revealed. After he destroyed the CHRONOS headquarters he lost the ability to travel, just like Katherine. He learned that it was still possible to pass the gene down, so he began to breed select Cyrists to act as his agents. This explores the theme of manipulation once again, since Saul specifically creates agents that he knows will be obedient, using his religion to control their actions.

### **Discussion Question 1**

What is Saul's reason for wanting to create his own religion?

### **Discussion Question 2**

What can you already tell about the Cyrist movement?

### **Discussion Question 3**

When Saul destroyed the CHRONOS headquarters what unintended repercussions were there?

### **Vocabulary**

palatable, gruff, abolition, conspicuous, impetuous, exasperated, embossed, introspection, impromptu, reproachful, negligence, abrasion



# Chapters 11-12

## Summary

### Chapter 11

Kate spends the next few weeks practicing how to use the CHRONOS device, getting ready to do test jumps. She also reads through more of Katherine's journals, trying to figure out at what point Katherine might have been killed. Trey has been visiting her during the evenings. Kate and Trey have gotten much closer and even share a kiss during his first visit. She's happy with him, but consistently afraid another time shift will occur and he'll forget about her. Kate still misses her family and friends, too. She looks up Charlayne and finds a picture of her at a Cyrist church. Kate notes that she looks unhappy and subdued compared to the energetic person that Kate knew in the original timeline.

### Chapter 12

Kate starts to practice doing small jumps. Katherine is impressed with how well she handles them. They keep doing research and eventually determine that Katherine was killed by Saul at the Chicago Expo in 1893. Kate does a few more practice jumps to prepare for her trip into the past to warn Katherine and hopefully stop Saul from killing her. She and Katherine also go about getting a proper outfit for the trip, something that Kate isn't happy about since the clothing is uncomfortable. During one of her jumps, she gets the chance to speak with Trey alone. They make a plan for him and Kate to sneak out together so she can visit one of the Cyrist churches. She wants to see Charlayne, but she also hopes that she'll be able to investigate the church and get a better idea of what they're up to. She knows that Saul is up to no good, but she wants to know exactly what his plans are beyond simply amassing power and wealth.

## Analysis

### Chapter 11

Kate's relationship with Trey continues to grow stronger. She's the only friend that she has in this timeline. Kate looks into the new life of her other friend, Charlayne. Kate finds out that Charlayne has become a member of the Cyrist church. This sets the groundwork for Kate eventually going and exploring the Cyrist church to find out more about what Charlayne is like in the altered timeline. Thinking about Charlayne reminds Kate about her family, which is one of the main motivating factors for Kate to restore the timeline.

### Chapter 12



Kate discovers where Katherine was killed. This foreshadows her eventual jump to Chicago where the end of the book takes place. It also helps to show Kate's ingenuity as a character since she is the one who finds out when Katherine must have been killed.

Kate uses her practice jumps as a chance to get a moment alone with Trey. Their close relationship is once again shown to the reader. While they are alone together, Kate gets the opportunity to plan with Trey. She wants to explore the Cyrst church because it will give her a chance to get close to Charlayne. It will also give her the opportunity to explore more about the Cyrst church and find out exactly what Saul is trying to accomplish, since all she knows is that he wants power and money.

## **Discussion Question 1**

How has Charlayne changed in the new timeline?

## **Discussion Question 2**

What is one of the strongest motivations for Kate to correct the timeline?

## **Discussion Question 3**

Why would Saul have targeted and killed Katherine in an alternate timeline?

## **Vocabulary**

insatiable, scrutiny, ordained, gnawing, scathingly, exuberant, reconcile, lurid, disdainfully, eccentric, brusque, furlough



# Chapters 13-14

## Summary

### Chapter 13

Kate sneaks out using the CHRONOS device and meets Trey at midnight. Trey surprises her with breakfast at his house since he knows it is her birthday. Kate is nervous because she isn't ready to meet his family. Thankfully for her the breakfast goes well and Trey's father takes a liking to Kate. He knows they're going to the Cyrist temple because Kate is worried about Charlayne. He tells them he doesn't trust the Cyrists and has noticed a lot of irregularities with their finances. He promises to send Kate the information, assuming that Connor and Katherine would find it interesting. Trey and Kate head to the church. Kate is surprised to see the whole block has been converted around the Cyrist temple, much larger than the simple church from her timeline. Kate and Trey manage to pass themselves off as newcomers, with Kate going by the name of Kelly. They are introduced to a welcoming group for newcomers, which includes Charlayne.

### Chapter 14

Kate and Trey attend the service hosted by Father Conwell. He talks mostly about self-improvement and how important it is to give to the church, which in turn provides for all of them. During the service Kate notes that some of the stained glass bears images of not only Saul, but also Prudence. After the meeting Charlayne and another girl, Eve, take Trey and Kate to a newcomer meeting. Trey asks Charlayne a few questions about the religion, since she's taken a liking to him. She explains that Saul and Prudence are still alive and want to save the chosen Cyrists from the end of the world. They don't believe in an afterlife, but instead want to make the most out of the one life they are given. Not everyone can be saved, only those that have been chosen. The chosen are usually those that have been blessed and have amazing talents. Even the chosen are only given snippets of the book of prophecies that the elder members have.

Eve brings Kate to get a welcome kit. Once they are alone, she reveals that she knows Kate isn't really Kelly. Kate lies and says she only came because she had given up on Katherine and wants to see what the other side has to offer. She continues to trick Eve and manages to quickly surprise and overwhelm her. She takes one of the books and runs away to find Trey. The two try to escape, but Eve wakes up and chases them down with a pair of her attack dogs. Kate makes Trey split up, using her CHRONOS to jump away from the church.

## Analysis

### Chapter 13



Trey shows how serious his relationship is with Kate by bringing her to meet his family. Kate is nervous at first, but she accepts Trey's invitation. This is her way of saying she's happy with the way that their relationship has moved forward. Trey's father gives Kate a bit more information about the Cyrists, telling her that their finances are very suspicious, and that the Cyrists have a long political reach.

Kate gets to experience firsthand how much the Cyrists have expanded in the new timeline. What used to be a small church has become a giant lot. She and Trey are able to infiltrate the temple. She believes that they were able to sneak in, but she soon discovers that the Cyrists found out who she was when she entered with a CHRONOS device.

#### Chapter 14

Trey and Kate are able to learn a little more about the Cyrist religion. Kate finds out that both Prudence and Saul are believed to be alive by their followers. She also learns that Saul is able to recruit followers by promising them that he's saving them from the end of the world. Saul manipulates his followers by convincing them there isn't an afterlife. He makes them believe in reshaping the present, which ultimately means following his orders. Kate finds out that Saul limits the information that he gives to his followers which makes it easier to keep his followers under control.

### Discussion Question 1

Why does Trey introduce Kate to his family?

### Discussion Question 2

How is Saul able to control his followers?

### Discussion Question 3

In Chapter 13 what shocks Kate about the Cyrist church's size?

### Vocabulary

scuffed, echelon, proficient, behemoth, atrium, stifled, emphasis, guise, adroitly, doctrine, ostentatious



# Chapters 15-16

## Summary

### Chapter 15

Kate manages to safely jump back to Katherine's house, shortly after she had originally left. Connor finds her and she explains everything that happened, and shows him the book she got. She wants to warn her past self or Trey, but Connor recommends against it. He helps Kate come up with a cover story for how they found the information, since he doesn't want to tell Katherine the truth either. After Kate gets some sleep they pour through the book of prophecy, but Kate doesn't find anything useful. She sends a message to Trey, warning him to run when she tells him to. Connor later reveals he sent a similar message, which is why Trey was so close when Kate was running. Trey calls and tells her that he was able to escape.

Katherine throws a birthday party for Kate. She gives Kate an old bracelet that used to belong to her. She says it's a family gift, but also practical since Kate can show it to Katherine in the past to help convince her. Katherine talks to Kate about Trey. She warns Kate that their relationship can't last. Kate is offended, but Katherine quickly explains it's because once they fix the damage to the timeline Trey won't exist. Kate argues that Trey can stay in the house so he'll be protected, but Katherine counters by pointing out how damaging it can be even for someone with training to be around during a time shift. If they try to keep him in the house there's the very real possibility that his brain won't be able to handle the drastic change in reality.

### Chapter 16

Despite what Katherine said, Kate continues to spend time with Trey while she prepares for her trip to Chicago. One evening, Trey leaves his book behind. Kate goes out to return it, but when she leaves the protective field she's ambushed by Simon. Simon makes her call out for Katherine. Katherine is forced to leave the protective field and hand over her CHRONOS medallion, causing her to instantly vanish as she no longer exists in the timeline. Kate tries to fight Simon, but he overpowers her and knocks her to the ground. Fortunately, Trey arrives and hits him in the back of the head. Kate panics because Simon managed to get her medallion off before getting hit so she thinks she'll vanish just like Katherine.

## Analysis

### Chapter 15

Connor reveals his protective nature and shows that he cares about both Kate and Trey. He goes out of his way to protect Kate from getting in trouble with Katherine, and he also makes sure that Trey gets a message warning him to run away at the right time.



This explores the theme that sometimes morality and ethics aren't always the same. It's morally wrong to lie, but he believes that it's the ethical choice to make because it will spare Katherine and Kate's feelings. It also helps Trey, who would likely get in trouble if Katherine knew his level of involvement.

Katherine shows her feelings for Kate too by throwing her a birthday party. Katherine gives Kate her birthday present, a bracelet passed down throughout Kate's family. This is very important since Kate later uses the bracelet to convince the past version of Katherine that she's legitimate.

Katherine brings up the theme of having to make sacrifices for the greater good when she talks about what will happen with Trey. Kate argues that they can try and protect Trey inside the house, but Katherine points out that it could do serious damage to him. Kate knows that she has to do the right thing, even when it means that she will have to lose the relationship she's formed with Trey.

## Chapter 16

The stakes are raised when Simon lures Katherine out of the house. Kate is forced to witness Katherine vanishing from the timeline right before her eyes. Kate nearly suffers the same fate herself, but she's saved at the last moment by Trey and, as she later learns, by Connor as well. Losing Katherine is a huge blow to Kate since she lost the only person who could teach her about the CHRONOS device. Katherine vanishing also causes the chapter to end on a cliffhanger, since the reader is given the impression that Kate is going to vanish as well without her medallion.

## Discussion Question 1

How does Katherine feel about Kate?

## Discussion Question 2

Discuss the theme of Sacrifice as it is presented in both Chapters 15-16.

## Discussion Question 3

Discuss the decision to do something morally wrong because, ethically, it is the right thing to do as it is exemplified in Chapter 15.

## Vocabulary

tentatively, ragged, furrows, traipsing, diabolical, decadent, obstinate, vested



# Chapters 17-18

## Summary

### Chapter 17

Kate doesn't disappear. She and Trey quickly go inside, where Connor is waiting for them. Connor looks distressed, having witnessed Katherine disappear. He goes upstairs to extend the protective field, which is why Kate didn't leave. Kate is more determined than ever to travel and warn Katherine, which they believe will save her in this timeline. Trey tells Kate he knows that if the timeline changes they won't be together. They express their love for one another and Kate even tries to take it one step further, but Trey declines. He doesn't want her to have to have the memories just in case something did happen. The next day, Trey tells her to find him after the timeline changes because he's convinced he'll still have feelings for her.

Connor gives Kate a letter from her father. It said that despite how crazy she sounded, he believed her and was willing to do whatever she needed. He even signed the letter as her father. Kate is touched, which is why Connor kept the letter secret. She knows that she has to save Katherine and restore the timeline. Kate says her final farewells to Trey and Connor, and then prepares for her trip to Chicago to save Katherine.

### Chapter 18

Kate travels back to Chicago. She spots Katherine and Saul but has trouble keeping up with them. A young worker, Mick, runs up to Kate, handing her the letter from her father she didn't realize she took with her. She thanks him and tries to get rid of him. Mick insists he would make a good guide, and Kate eventually decides to hire him on. With his help she's eventually able to catch up to Katherine and Saul at the Ferris wheel. She tries to get close to Katherine, but a mysterious woman stops them, claiming that Kate and Mick are thieves. Kate realizes that the woman is Prudence. Katherine spots the bracelet that Kate wears and decides to stick up for her. She and Kate are able to convince everyone else that Prudence is mistaken. Kate tells Katherine that she needs to talk to her, and warns her that Prudence isn't who she seems to be. At the end of the chapter, Mick is upset because he now realizes that Prudence is his other boss; he just didn't recognize her at first since she had changed her appearance.

## Analysis

### Chapter 17

Several different themes are explored in this chapter. Trey shows the theme of Sacrifices. He already knew that if Kate was able to fix the timelines it would mean the end of their relationship, since they never would have gotten together. He's willing to make that sacrifice because he knows that Kate has to save the timeline and restore





everything to normal. He declines Kate's offer to take their relationship further because he knows that she would just get hurt more, even though it's something that would make him happy.

Kate's father demonstrates the theme that People Never Change Completely. He might not have the same history with Kate as he did before, but deep down he still feels as if he is her father. He still has strong, protective feelings towards Kate. He offers to help her, and even signs the letter as her father. To Kate, he's still the same person that she remembers from the alternate timeline.

## Chapter 18

Kate runs into Mick, whom she later discovers is actually a younger version of Kiernan. This establishes their relationship which was foreshadowed much earlier in the book. Meeting the young Kiernan is what eventually saves both Katherine and Kate. Kate also runs into Prudence for the first time. Prudence makes it clear that she's working against Kate by trying to get her arrested. She later learns exactly what Prudence was doing there and how she wants to protect Katherine for her own twisted reasons.

### **Discussion Question 1**

Why didn't Kate disappear when Simon took her amulet?

### **Discussion Question 2**

What do Prudence's actions indicate about her alliances?

### **Discussion Question 3**

Discuss the theme of Sacrifice in Chapter 17.

### **Vocabulary**

dejection, interjected, mulligan, contraption, chignon, aroma, rustic, gallantry, vivacious, demarcating, vehemently



# Chapters 19-20

## Summary

### Chapter 19

Kate discovers that Mick is actually a young Kiernan. He was raised on a Cyryst farm after Prudence helped his family. His father got a job as a fire fighter, but passed away during a vicious fire. Kiernan believes Prudence knew about it and could have warned him. With his help, Kate is able to get a moment alone with Katherine. She warns Katherine to return to headquarters and not to make her next jump, and then to go and see a doctor. Katherine is convinced because of the bracelet that Kate has. Simon appears and tries to go after Katherine, but Kate causes a panic by saying he has a gun, which foils his attempt. An angry Prudence confronts Kate. She reveals that she was there to save Katherine as well. If Katherine dies, Saul has power over Prudence since just like Kate she'll cease to exist if she loses her medallion. Prudence makes it clear she believes in the Cyryst war, warning Kate that she can either join them as a 'chosen' or perish. She also warns Kate not to corrupt Kiernan and hints that the Kate and Kiernan have a relationship in the future.

### Chapter 20

Kate loses sight of Kiernan. She asks one of the workers, who says he saw him chasing after someone that matched Simon's appearance. Kate realizes that Simon still has an opportunity to kill Katherine since there was another version of her running around in Chicago. Kate tries to find Kiernan, but she is drugged and taken away. She wakes up and realizes that she has been taken by the serial killer, Dr. Holmes.

She guesses that Simon put him up to it since it was a very bold move to drug her in public. She plans on simply using the medallion to jump back, but she runs into Katherine, who was sent by Kiernan after seeing Kate get drugged. Kate is able to convince her once again thanks to the bracelet. She gives this version of Katherine another warning, ensuring that she'll be able to escape Saul when he destroys the CHRONOS headquarters. Kate has to stay in Chicago to ensure that this version of Katherine is able to make it back to a point where she can return to the headquarters.

## Analysis

### Chapter 19

Kate discovers the truth about who Mick is. Through him, she also learns a little bit more about how the Cyrists are operating. Kiernan shares that he was raised on a Cyryst farm along with Prudence. He believes that Prudence is responsible for killing his father after he got his family to leave the farm. An older Kiernan decides that might not be the truth



since he doesn't actually have any evidence, something that even his younger self seems to be thinking about. Kate seems convinced that Prudence is behind the murder.

Kate finally discovers what Prudence is up to. Prudence is trying to save Katherine because she needs Katherine alive. Without Katherine, Prudence will cease to exist if it weren't for the CHRONOS medallion she wore. Prudence doesn't like the idea of Saul having so much power over her. She makes it clear that she supports the Cyst belief, telling Kate that she can either join her or be against her.

Prudence makes it clear that Kate and Kiernan have a relationship in the future. Kate doesn't have much time to think about it then, but this is something that Kiernan brings up in later chapters.

## Chapter 20

Kiernan shows his loyalty to Kate. He runs off because he's trying to find Simon for her. When he sees that she's captured by Dr. Holmes he goes to get help in the form of the past version of Katherine. Kiernan's protective nature is what saves Kate earlier in the book. The reason he's so loyal to her is based on how kind she was to him when she first met him in the past.

Kate is able to use the bracelet that Katherine gave her on her birthday to convince the past version of Katherine to help her. Kate takes on the role of mentor for the past version of Katherine, using everything that she learned from Katherine's future self.

## Discussion Question 1

What was Prudence's ulterior motive where Katherine's safety was concerned?

## Discussion Question 2

What does Kate do to convince Katherine to believe her?

## Discussion Question 3

Discuss Kiernan's character.

## Vocabulary

miniscule, upheaval, anachronisms, demurely, gallant, brazen, compatriots, fetid, percolated, deviant, sabbatical



# Chapters 21-22

## Summary

### Chapter 21

Kate and Katherine try to escape, but run right into Holmes. Holmes has captured Kiernan, who tried to sneak in to rescue them. They're returned to their cell, but Kate is able to use her medallion to jump up to the third floor. She returns to the cell, but this time from the outside so she can unbolt it. Kate gives Kiernan instructions to take Katherine to the stable point where she can return to the headquarters. She also warns him in the future not to trust Prudence. The hotel is a maze and they struggle to escape. They hear gunshots coming from another part of the hotel. As they try to escape they start to smell smoke and it becomes clear the building is on fire.

### Chapter 22

The group struggle to get through the hotel. Eventually they discover a walled off section, which Kate is able to break through. It leads towards a window that has a ladder going down. Unfortunately, Holmes has caught up to them. Kate splits away so they can escape. She ambushes Holmes and manages to get the gun away from him momentarily. He throws acid at her, but she manages to avoid getting horribly burned. She gets away from Holmes, intending to use the medallion to return home. Before she can escape, she's ambushed by a second unknown figure.

## Analysis

### Chapter 21

Kiernan's loyalty towards Kate is shown once again when he goes into the hotel to try to rescue her. Even though they are captured again, Kate shows off her cleverness by using the medallion as a means of escaping to a different part of the hotel. She's able to free Kiernan and Katherine from the prison, and with Kiernan's guidance they start to navigate their way through the hotel. They end up getting lost in the labyrinth, with things becoming even more dangerous by the fire.

### Chapter 22

Although Kate doesn't realize it at the time, she's actually rescued from Holmes by Kiernan when she's ambushed at the end of the chapter. Because of the strong bond that Kate made with the younger Kiernan, the older version of Kiernan has been waiting at the hotel for the chance to save Kate. He never knew what happened to her after the hotel, which made him think that Kate was in danger. He used his CHRONOS to return to the hotel, waiting day after day and trying multiple times to rescue her. Kate learns



that the only reason she got away from Holmes at all was from Kiernan's earlier intervention back when Holmes was still shooting at her.

## **Discussion Question 1**

What has Kiernan done to insure Kate's safety?

## **Discussion Question 2**

How does Kate get out of the cell?

## **Discussion Question 3**

How has the older version of Kiernan deduced where Kate gets into trouble in this past timeline?

## **Vocabulary**

pungent, jagged, assortment, radial, menacingly, chromosomal



# Chapter 23-24

## Summary

### Chapter 23

Kate is pulled into another room, but it's not an attacker who has her, but a future, older, Kiernan. He saves her from the building and treats her wounds while she rests. When she wakes up, he reveals that he had been watching the building and kept traveling back in time to try and save Kate. He talks about the past that he had with a different Kate. The two of them were in love and actively fighting against the Cyrists. One day, Kate just stopped showing up and Kiernan knew that something had happened. He was eventually able to figure out about the altered timelines. Kiernan tells Kate that Saul's plan is to expand the religion and then release a worldwide virus that destroys anyone who hasn't taken an antidote. The surviving population will rebuild the world. Kiernan says he shows recruits specific points in the future where great atrocities were committed, convincing them that humanity is doomed if they don't follow his plan and change the future.

Kate ends up kissing Kiernan because of the strong feelings she has for him. She feels guilty because of Trey. Kiernan is accepting of the fact that this is a different Kate. He says he still cares for her and it's interesting to see her acting so differently from the Kate he knew and loved. He gives Kate a time and location in the early 1900's where Kate can get in touch with him, since he still wants to help her fight against the Cyrists. Their original plan was somehow to travel back in time and stop Saul and Prudence from getting access to all of the medallions, which Kiernan believes could still work.

### Chapter 24

Kate jumps back to Katherine's house. Connor is there to greet her, along with Katherine. Kate was able to alter the timeline and save her. Kate and Katherine talk, trying to figure out what to do in the new timeline. Kate's parents are restored in the timeline. Kate is going to jump back to the day she was robbed since otherwise she'd have to explain to her parents why she was gone for a month in this timeline. Connor gives Kate a DVD from Trey. He convinced Trey to record it for Kate before she left. It was filled with all their video conversations and other recordings they made together. Trey gave her instructions to show it to him in the altered timeline.

Kate jumps back a month to the day she was robbed on the train. She explains everything to the past versions of Katherine and Connor. She also tells her father about everything that happened. Several weeks later, Kate goes to find Trey. She kisses him and gives him the DVD, telling him to get in touch with her after he's seen it.



## Analysis

### Chapter 23

Kiernan's relationship with Kate is explored in more detail. Kate discovers that she and Kiernan were a couple in a different timeline. Kiernan became nervous because Kate just stopped appearing one day. Kiernan was in love with Kate, which is why he wanted to protect her from Simon on the train. Kiernan knows that this version of Kate is different from the one that he knew. Kiernan shows that he's willing to sacrifice for the greater good as well. He wants to help this Kate, even though he knows that she has a boyfriend in her timeline, and that she isn't the same person that he fell in love with.

Kate shows that people never change completely. Even though she's not the Kate that fell in love with Kiernan, she still feels an attraction towards him. She's willing to kiss him despite barely knowing anything about him.

Kiernan gives Kate a much clearer picture about what the Cyrists were up to. She discovers that Saul wants to remake the world in his own image, taking only a select portion of the population. He once again shows the theme of manipulation by the way he treats his followers. He uses the CHRONOS to show them great disasters in the future, convincing them that they have to follow his orders to reshape the world and make it into a better place.

### Chapter 24

The theme of people not changing is shown once more at the end of the chapter. This version of Trey has no idea who Kate is. Despite that, when they meet each other he's willing to trust her. She feels like he can trust him as well, even if he isn't the same Trey that she knew.

Kate is still willing to make sacrifices for the greater good. Katherine points out that Kate doesn't have to stay involved any longer if she doesn't want to, but Kate isn't willing to give up the fight. She wants to protect the timeline because she knows that the Cyrists are a danger. Even if they managed to save Katherine this time, there's no telling what Saul will try to do that can cause another time shift.

## Discussion Question 1

Discuss the dilemma that both Kate and Kiernan have in regards to the changed timeline.

## Discussion Question 2

What has Trey done to insure that he and Kate have a chance at rekindling their relationship?



## Discussion Question 3

Discuss the theme of Sacrifice in Chapter 24.

## Vocabulary

bodice, synopsis, cretin, petulant





# Characters

## Kate

Kate is the main character of the story. Kate is a very intuitive and intelligent character. At the very start of the book she shows that she understands the way the people in her life think. She notices a lot of small details, like her mom dressing up to impress Katherine. She notices the way that people look at her too, which is how she was able to determine that Trey liked her when they first met. Kate shows her cleverness several times throughout the book. She's able to think her way out of most of the trouble she gets into, and she even quickly adjusts to using the CHRONOS device despite having no past experience with it.

Kate is very caring about her social circle. When the timeline changes she looks into Charlayne and even risks going to the Cyrst church just to see her again. Kate's initial motivation for using the CHRONOS device is to save her parents, and when she loses Katherine as well she makes the jump almost immediately to protect her.

## Katherine

Katherine is Kate's grandmother, even though she was born much later than Kate. Katherine comes from the future where she was given the role of historian. Katherine travelled through the past to personally witness and record historical events. Katherine is a skilled manipulator. She arranged for Deborah and Harry to meet because she knew they both had a chance of having a child that would inherit the CHRONOS gene. Katherine can also be very blunt and straight forward when the situation calls for it, like when she's meeting with Deborah and Kate in the very beginning of the book. She serves as a mentor to Kate for the majority of the book. When Kate meets a younger version of Katherine the roles are switched and Kate is the one with all of the knowledge.

## Deborah

Deborah is Kate's mother. She only appears in a small portion of the book since for the majority of it she's erased from the timeline. Deborah had a hard time as a child because she lost her twin sister, Prudence. She felt like Katherine wasn't there for her as a mother so the two of them have a very strained relationship.

## Harry

Harry is Kate's father. Like her mother, he's only present in the book for a small section since he vanishes when Saul changes the timeline. Harry is very supportive of Kate. He's willing to move into Katherine's house just to give Kate a chance to spend more



time with her grandmother. His close relationship with Kate is what encourages her to tell him all about the CHRONOS device. In the alternate timeline he initially pushes Kate away. She later finds out that he wrote her a letter saying he was willing to support her and still considered her to be his daughter, even if they did come from different timelines.

## Connor Dunne

Connor works alongside Katherine and helps to maintain the protective CHRONOS field around the house. Connor initially comes off as very gruff to Kate. Katherine tells Kate that he's only gruff because he lost his family during one of the timeline changes. He used to be a happily married father. Despite his gruff demeanor, he's very protective of the people in his life, even an outsider like Trey. Connor's great grandfather is Kiernan, but he doesn't trust him and warns Kate about him.

## Charlayne

Charlayne is Kate's best friend. Before the timeline changes Charlayne was very into boys. Like Kate, she's very intuitive, especially when it comes to men. She's always pushing for Kate to get into relationships. Kate tells her about everything that Katherine said and Charlayne is very supportive. When the timeline changes, Charlayne seems much more subdued compared to her alternative self. Kate notices that she still has a liking for boys when she and Trey sneak into the Cyst church.

## Kiernan Dunne

Kiernan is Connor's great grandfather and a former love of an alternative version of Kate. Kiernan lost his father at a young age. He believes that Prudence knew he was going to die on the job as a firefighter. He doesn't like the Cysts and wants to help Kate fight against them. Kate initially meets Kiernan in the 1800's when she's trying to save Katherine. Back then, he was going by the name Mick. He knew all of the routes in Chicago as well as how to handle different people based upon their social class. Kiernan is dedicated to protecting Kate. He made countless attempts to save Kate from Dr. Holmes, staking out the hotel until the day Holmes attacked.

## Saul

Saul is Kate's grandfather, and formerly Katherine's husband. Saul was a historian that focused primarily on religious events. Saul was very charming and charismatic when Katherine first met him. As time went on she realized that Saul had a darker side to him, and he even got physically abusive with Katherine. Saul was convinced that religion could be used to manipulate the masses. He used that to create the church of Cyst because he believed that the CHRONOS technology could be used to reshape the world. He eventually destroyed the CHRONOS headquarters. He hunted down



Katherine because he was insulted by the fact that she escaped. Saul is very manipulative and knows exactly how to control his followers.

## **Simon**

Simon is one of Saul's associates. Simon mostly acts as muscle for Saul. He has a very sadistic streak, constantly taunting Kate whenever he runs into her.

## **Trey**

Trey is the student that takes Kate's place after the timeline changes. Trey and Kate hit it off almost instantly, sharing a mutual attraction for one another. Trey is constantly going out of his way to make Kate happy or to try and impress her. Trey knows that he will lose Kate if she changes the timeline, but he still encourages her. Trey shows that he's very clever under pressure when he lies on the spot when he and Kate infiltrate the Cyrist church. Trey has an excellent sense of humor and is usually making jokes whenever he's around Kate.



# Symbols and Symbolism

## The name Prudence

Kate's actual first name is Prudence. She prefers to go by Kate because she finds the name too old fashioned. She almost changed her name, but Kate's mother convinced her not to. To her, the name represents the love she has for her lost twin sister. Kate recognizes how important that is to Deborah, so she keeps the name, even if she doesn't use it.

## The name Rand

Prudence starts to go by the last name Rand after she makes a jump. She goes back in time and signs several documents with the name, knowing that Katherine will see it. To Prudence, it's her way of saying that she's joined sides with Katherine and no longer cares about her.

## Kate's hairband

When Kate first meets Kiernan on the train he takes her hairband and wears it on his arm, commenting that she looks better with her hair down. To Kiernan this is his way of making her like the Kate he used to know. To him, the armband represents the connection that he used to share with the alternate version of Kate, and his way of trying to hold onto the relationship that he used to have.

## Teenage clothing

When the timeline changes, Kate loses all of her possessions. Connor picks out a bunch of new clothing for her, which she finds fits perfectly and is actually the type of clothing that she would want to wear. This surprises her because of how gruff Connor was to her. Connor is only gruff because Kate reminds him of the children that he lost. Connor buying her the clothes is his way of showing that despite his rough disposition, he does care about her.

## Katherine's bracelet

For Kate's birthday, Katherine gives her a bracelet that she used to wear. Part of it is for practical reasons, but for Katherine it also represents how much she's come to care about Kate, and how proud she is of her.



## **Kate's leftover food**

Throughout the book, Connor has been shown as having a large appetite, rarely sharing food with Kate. At the end of the book, he saves some of the leftovers that Trey brought over. This is his way of saying that he knew Kate was going to return and represents the faith that he has in her.

## **Trey's disk**

At the end of the book, Trey leaves a disk for Kate that contains all of their video conversations. He believes that if Kate shows it to his alternate self he'll be able to fall in love with her again. The disk represents the strength of their relationship and all the love that they shared together.

## **Cyrist book of prophecy**

The Cyrist book of prophecy contains all of the future knowledge that Saul used to create his religion. Only a select chosen, those with the CHRONOS gene, are given a chance to look at the book. To them, it represents their superiority over everyone that isn't chosen.

## **Kate's family pictures**

After the timeline changes the only thing that Kate has are a few pictures of her family that were protected because of the proximity to her CHRONOS medallion. These are the last remnants of Kate's family and her connection to the old timeline, reminding her exactly what she's fighting for.

## **Katherine's diary**

Katherine gives Kate her personal diary to read because she wants her to learn more about Saul. For Katherine, this represents all of the trust that she has in Kate. Connor is surprised because he's never been allowed to see the diary before. Kate realizes that she's the only person that Katherine has ever shown the diary to.



# Settings

## Katherine's home

The majority of the book takes place in the home that Katherine purchased in Washington. Kate moves into the house early on in the book and she spends weeks there learning how to use the CHRONOS medallion. Katherine's home is protected by other CHRONOS medallions and contains the collected journals and knowledge that Katherine was able to get from the other surviving historians.

## Metro

Kate frequently travels on the metro at the start of the book. She first explores the diary when she's on the metro. Simon was watching her and the next day ambushes her and steals the journal from her.

## Briar Hill

Briar Hill is the school that Kate attends and also where her father works. They live in a small house located on the school grounds.

## Delaware

When the timeline changes, Kate goes to Delaware with Trey because they find out that's where her father now lives.

## Trey's House

Trey brings Kate to his house right before they plan to sneak away to the Cyrist church. Kate meets his family and has a birthday breakfast with them.



# Themes and Motifs

## Manipulation

One of the reoccurring themes revolves around manipulation. This theme is clearly demonstrated near the start of the book, when Katherine is first explaining everything to Kate. She talks about how in the future everyone is given one special trait at birth, with hers being the CHRONOS gene. This decision ultimately shapes the rest of their future, and it's a choice that they have no say in. Katherine tries to argue that they're allowed to have hobbies and interests outside of their chosen specialty, but as Kate points out their lives are still being decided for them. Katherine was destined to become a historian because they would never let the rarely given CHRONOS gene go to waste.

The theme is clearly shown a little later when Kate goes to meet her father in the new timeline. She tells him everything about the CHRONOS program and her hope to fix the timeline. Her father hopes that she fails because he doesn't know about his previous life. All he knows is that what she's saying would take him away from his two sons and the wife he loves in this timeline, and as a father he can't bear the thought of that happening. This leads Kate to wonder if she has any right to alter the timeline since she'll be altering his life, and the life of everyone else in the new timeline.

The theme is most prominently shown through Saul and to a lesser extent, Prudence. Kate ultimately decides to fix the timeline because she realizes that Saul is trying to control everyone's fate, which is why the timeline initially changed in the first place. Saul believes that history should be rewritten using technology from the future. In his mind, he can make the world a better place if he tries to control everyone's fate. Prudence has similar views, except when it comes to herself. She opposes Saul and helps Katherine because she doesn't want her fate in the hands of Saul, who could easily destroy her by taking away the CHRONOS medallion that protects her after Katherine dies.

## Ethics versus Morality

This theme is explicitly named later in the book by Katherine, but it's demonstrated earlier in the book as well. Katherine represents this theme when she reveals to Kate that she's the one who arranged for her parents to get married, which means that she manipulated events. Katherine has her own justification for what she did, but she even admits to Kate that she comes from a different time where things aren't perfect. This is her way of admitting that she knows what she did wasn't morally right, but it was the correct choice, ethically, because it was the only way to get someone with the CHRONOS gene to stop Saul from doing more damage.

Trey uses a similar justification when Kate feels like she has no right to change the timeline, since as previously mentioned it would result in altering the fates of everyone in the new timeline. Trey points out that it isn't exactly right to change fate like that, but



at the same time it's the correct thing to do because the timeline was never meant to be changed in the first place, so she's just correcting a mistake, even if it is fixed through questionable means.

The theme is shown again towards the end of the book. After Trey and Kate sneak into the Cyrst church Connor comes up with a lie to tell Katherine, hiding their involvement and explaining how the book of prophecy was found. Connor knows it is wrong, morally, to lie to Katherine and cover for the teenagers, but he feels it's the ethical thing to do because he doesn't want them to get in trouble, especially since if Katherine knew she likely wouldn't allow Trey to come over anymore, which would hurt Kate.

## **Advancement through Adversity**

This theme is first demonstrated very early on when Katherine is explaining about the CHRONOS institution to Kate. CHRONOS historians have to follow a very strict set of rules so they don't risk changing the timeline. They could only go back in time to act as observers to history. Saul disagreed with this and believed that the CHRONOS technology should be used to change history. Katherine and the rest of the CHRONOS headquarters knew this was wrong because all of the negative events in history were necessary to shape the timeline in the first place.

This theme is demonstrated subtly throughout the majority of the book through the events that happen to Kate help shape her into the person she needs to be. Kate is forced to learn how to use the CHRONOS device to save the timeline when she loses her parents and her friends. Katherine herself has to go through this as well with Prudence. Kate could go back in time and keep Prudence from jumping, which would save not only Prudence but also Katherine's husband. If that happened, Katherine wouldn't be the same person that she is today, and she wouldn't know that the CHRONOS gene could still be passed down, so nobody would be left to try and stop Saul.

Despite wanting to fix all the bad things in history, Saul still demonstrates this theme. Saul has a much more twisted view about it. Saul shows his devout followers terrible things from the future as a way to convince them to follow him. He also believes that the world needs to suffer in order for it to get better. He wants to wipe out the majority of the population so his chosen can reshape the world and make it a perfect place. Unlike everyone else, Saul believes in creating bad events to make people learn the way he wants, which also ties back into the central theme of free will.

## **Basic Personalities Never Change**

This theme is primarily demonstrated through Kate's father, Harry. At the start of the book Harry is shown to be a loving father towards Kate. He's willing to move into Katherine's house just so Kate has the opportunity to be with her. When the timeline changes, Harry starts a life with a new family, having absolutely no idea who Kate is, or that she used to be his daughter. When Kate meets with the new Harry he initially wants





nothing to do with her. At the end of the book, Kate finds out that he wrote her a letter shortly after their meeting. He promised that he would do anything to take care of her, and still thought of himself as her father.

The theme is shown with Trey as well. Towards the end of the book Trey admits that he knew when the timeline changed he and Kate would no longer be together. Trey believes that if his alternate self meets with Kate he'll fall in love with her again because deep down he'll still be the same person. The same thing happens between Kate and Kiernan. Kate has no idea who Kiernan is at first, but she still has strong feelings for him because of the bond that they shared.

The theme is also shown when Kate infiltrates the Cyrist church. She sees that Charlayne has changed and become more subdued, but she also recognizes a lot of the same traits that Charlayne showed in her timeline. Even with the timeline changing, parts of her best friend are still there, just like how parts of Kate were still visible to Kiernan.

## Sacrifice

This theme is clearly shown towards the end of the book, when Kate is getting ready to fix the timeline. Kate's first experience with having to make sacrifices comes from her conversation with Katherine right before Simon shows up. Katherine warns Kate that if she's able to go back and stop Saul from killing her, the timeline will be restored and Trey will have no memories of Kate. Trey later admits that he already knew this. Despite that, Kate knows that she has to go forward with changing the timeline, even though it means risking never getting to be with the man she loves again.

Kiernan shows this theme as well at the end of the book when he reveals the details of the relationship that he shared with the alternate version of Kate. The two of them were madly in love, and it's clear that Kiernan still has feelings for her. That's why he spent so much time trying to save this version of Kate from Dr. Holmes. Kiernan knows that he can never be with Kate again in the same way, especially since this version of Kate is already in love with Trey. Despite that, he's still willing to help her against Saul, even though it will be painful for him to be around someone who reminds him so much of his lost love.

Kate represents the theme at the end of the book as well. Katherine offers her the chance to return to her normal life after the timeline has been restored. Kate now knows firsthand how difficult it can be to go against Saul and the Cyrist religion. Despite that, she's willing to stay with Katherine because she knows that the timeline is still in danger, and the right thing to do is stop Saul.



# Styles

## Point of View

Timebound is told from the first person perspective of the main character, Kate. Kate is a 17-year-old girl, so the language she uses reflects that. This is primarily shown when Kate encounters teenage boys. Kate's inexperience is very helpful to the readers because it mimics their own lack of knowledge concerning the CHRONOS device. Kate is able to ask the questions that readers have, and then explain the answers in an easy to understand fashion. Kate's first person perspective also gives the readers a stronger impression of exactly what she's feeling at the time.

## Language and Meaning

At the start of the book Kate uses a very modern and relatively simple vocabulary, reflecting her younger age. This makes sense since the book is targeted primarily at a young adult audience. Kate's vocabulary changes towards the end of the book when she makes the trip to 1893 Chicago. Kate has to change the way to speak to reflect the fact that she's in the past. Kate struggles with the language at first, and because the book is told from a first person perspective she can directly translate the slang for any confused readers.

## Structure

Despite being a book about time travel, the plot of Timebound is told in an easy to follow fashion. The author manages to clearly spell out when the timeline changes or the times where any of the characters travel to another point in history. This is important because throughout the book there are several versions of Katherine as well as Kiernan introduced. Small time skips occur during most of the chapters, but the author always identifies these right away, mentioning that it might have been one day since Kate got a journal, or that several weeks have passed while Kate was practicing with the CHRONOS medallion.



## Quotes

I do not require life to be neat and orderly. Anyone who doubts that should dig around in my backpack, where you will likely find a half-eaten candy bar that has been there since Iowa - a state we moved from nearly a year ago. I've changed school five times since kindergarten. I spend half of each week with my mom and half with my dad, where I sleep on the sofa and share a ridiculously tiny bathroom. I'm not high-maintenance. I can deal with chaos. Some things, however, should happen in the correct order. Shoes go on after socks. Peanut butter is applied after the bread comes out of the toaster, not before. And grandchildren are born after their grandparents.

-- Kate (Chapter 1 paragraph Page 1)

**Importance:** This quote not only sets up the time travel nature of the plot, but it also gives a little insight into the kind of person that Kate is, as well as the life that she lives.

He raised his hand and I flinched inactively. His eyes grew sad and his smile faded as he moved his hand, more slowly now, to brush the right side of my face with his fingertips. "I've never seen you this young." He reached and pulled the band loose from my hair so that it fell to my shoulders. "Now you look more like my Kate.

-- Kate (Chapter 3 paragraph Page 40)

**Importance:** This is the first time that Kate meets the older version of Kiernan. He clearly establishes that they are very close in the future and that he's willing to protect her from any sort of danger.

I was born in the year 2282," Katherine began. My face must have shown my doubt because she quickly added, "I'm not going to waste time trying to convince you of what you already know, Kate.

-- Katherine (Chapter 4 paragraph Page 47)

**Importance:** This is the first time that Katherine reveals that she's from the future. She makes it clear to Kate that time travel is possible, which is what drives the major conflict in the book.

Katherine paused, phrasing her words carefully. "Saul had fallen in with some bad elements in our society, and I'm quite sure he planned to follow me. He was always a black-and-white sort of person. Either you were friend or you were foe, with no gray area in between.

-- Katherine (Chapter 4 paragraph Page 51)

**Importance:** Katherine sets up Saul as the major antagonist throughout the book and explains why she had to run away from him.

I shook off Katherine's hands. I couldn't help but feel that Mom had been right to warn me. She's manipulative and selfish. "Don't you think they had a right to decide for themselves - to let fate take its course? My parents clearly weren't meant to be together



or they still would be. Maybe they'd be happier if you hadn't interfered. They weren't chess pieces or puppets!

-- Kate (Chapter 5 paragraph Page 68)

**Importance:** Kate discovers exactly how duplicitous Katherine can be, which supports the theme of ethics versus morality.

I don't know, Kate. But someone - apparently your grandfather - is going to a lot of trouble to change things, and he sounds like he doesn't much care who ceases to exist in the process. You, on the other hand, are actually bothering to ask that question, even though you didn't create this problem.

-- Trey (Chapter 8 paragraph Page 101)

**Importance:** Trey addresses not only the theme of manipulation, but also the theme that sometimes doing the correct thing and the right thing aren't always the same. This also highlights Kate's initial struggle with what she has to do to correct the timeline.

So...I walked back to the church where Saul was supposed to be attending an annual meeting of Congregationalist ministers. He should have been observing - blending, for God's sake - but no. He's at the front, leading a discussion about prophecy and miracles. Several of the more practical ministers in the audience were looking at him as though he were mad - and maybe he is. The others were hanging on his every word, like sheep, so I think maybe he did something - something against CHRONOS rules, no doubt - to get their attention.

-- Saul (Chapter 10 paragraph Page 125)

**Importance:** This is the first hint as to how Saul hoped to accomplish his plans, and foreshadows the eventual creation and rise of the Cyrist church.

Katherine and I have debated this over and over, Kate. I'm not sure there is a correct timeline here. I'm in this to get my kids back and hopefully to give them a nice, Cyrist-free future. I don't know exactly what the Cyrists are planning, but based on what Katherine has told me, I don't think a future with Saul in control is one that is good for anyone. It's tougher for Katherine because she lost friends, but it's pretty simple for me. I couldn't care less which timeline is correct, but I know which one is right.

-- Connor (Chapter 10 paragraph Page 139)

**Importance:** Connor makes it clear that his motivation is saving the children he lost from the timeline changing. He also directly brings up the theme that sometimes doing what's right and correct aren't always the same thing.

To my surprise, the move actually worked - but it was a moment too late. Just as I bent forward, tugging on Simon's arm, I saw the medallion leave Katherine's hand and fall into Simon's. Out of the corner of my eye, as we fell, I saw Katherine blink out of existence.

-- Kate (Chapter 16 paragraph Page 226)



**Importance:** Losing Katherine is a huge blow to both Kate and Connor. It also puts Prudence in a great deal of danger since she no longer exists in the timeline, serving as motivation for her to protect Katherine in the past.

The thing that's really killing me, Kate, is that I'm not going to know whether you fail or succeed. Tomorrow, when you make the jump, this... us... we're over, right?" He gave a bitter laugh. "Whether you save Katherine or you're both killed in the process, I'll just return to some version of my life before. At Briar Hill or someplace else, but either way, I won't remember you - I won't remember that I love you.

-- Trey (Chapter 17 paragraph Page 233)

**Importance:** This passage highlights the strong feelings that Trey and Kate have for one another. It also establishes one of the themes, that sometimes serving the greater good requires making sacrifices.

I'm not fighting the Cyrists," she said. "I am the Cyrists. There would be no Cyrist International without me. I was willing to share power with my father, but if he thinks he can push me aside without consequences, he is sadly mistaken. This ends here.

-- Prudence (Chapter 19 paragraph Page 289)

**Importance:** Kate finally learns exactly what Prudence's motivation is for helping Saul, and the fact that Prudence is far from loyal to him.

They refer to it as the Culling, necessary to save humanity and the planet. It will be pitched as an environmental accident of some sort. They've floated the idea of both airborne and waterborne, so I'm not sure. There's no specific date, as far as I know - the general plan is to wait till they have about one-quarter of the population under their thumb and they'll do whatever tweaking of the timeline they need to in order to make that happen.

-- Kiernan (Chapter 23 paragraph Page 340)

**Importance:** Kiernan finally lays out exactly what the Cyrists and Saul are up to. Up until now, Kate has known they had sinister intents, but she didn't actually know any of the specifics.