

Timeline Study Guide

Timeline by Michael Crichton

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Plot Summary

Timeline is a novel by Michael Crichton. In this novel, a doctor is found wandering in the desert with unexplained injuries miles from civilization. A company tries to hide the truth. An archeologist discovers that his sponsors know more about his site than he does. A group of researchers find themselves transported to a time six hundred years before their own. Timeline is an interesting look at time travel and the benefits and dangers it could represent to modern man.

While looking for a remote antiques store, the couple comes across an old man wandering alone in the desert. They take the man to the hospital where questions are raised about the man's condition and how he got to the desert. The man is identified and the company he worked for informed. However, the company seems intent on hiding the truth as they rush to pick up the body and destroy it.

An archeological site in France is in the beginning stages of research. The plan is for scientists to restore the sites to their former glory, but they must first study it and figure out exactly how it looked. When they receive a visit from their sponsor's representative, they are suspicious that the executive seems to know more about the way the site looked in its glory than the researchers do. For this reason, the head of the project, Dr. Edward Johnston, decides to go back to New Mexico and ask a few questions. A short time later, the researchers who were left behind find a note that was apparently written by Johnston in a previously undiscovered room. Then they get a call to return to New Mexico.

Dr. Johnston's four best researchers travel to the sponsor's headquarters. They are given information that stuns them. The company has perfected a way to transport human beings into different dimensions, in essence allowing them to travel in time. Not only this, but Dr. Johnston took this trip and is now missing. The company wants the four researchers to go back in time to find Dr. Johnston.

Three of the researchers, Anton Marek, Chris Hughes, and Kate Erickson travel to the past while computer expert David Stern remains behind. As soon as they arrive, the group is attacked by a group of knights, leaving their escorts dead. Chris then accidentally becomes separated from the group. Marek and Kate decide to go in search of the professor, but they find him just as he is arrested and taken to the castle keep.

The professor is interviewed by Oliver, the warlord, who is preparing for an attack by a warrior monk known as Arnaut. Oliver wants the professor to help in his defense and believes that he can do so. The professor is placed in a dungeon cell while Chris finds himself challenged to a jousting competition with the jealous lover of his new acquaintance, Lady Claire. Chris manages to survive the joust, thanks in part to Marek's brave attempt to take Chris's place in the joust.

Chris and Marek are arrested after the joust because they embarrassed Sir Guy. Kate helps them escape, but they are not targets. They find themselves having to avoid the



city and Sir Guy's men, particularly Robert de Kere who seems to be particularly interested in arresting them. At one point, Marek, Chris, and Kate are captured again and taken to a tower room. Kate manages to get out of the room and climb down the side of the building. But, before she can get back to help Marek and Chris out, she is nearly caught by de Kere's men. Chris and Marek manage to fight their way out of the room.

By this point, the invasion of Arnaut's army has begun. Oliver moves his people, including the professor. Marek leads Chris and Kate through the woods in an attempt to get to the monastery and find a back way to the higher castle. As they run from de Kere's men, they become aware that someone else has one of the ear pieces they were given so they can communicate with one another. This suggests that someone else has come from the future to hunt them.

Chris, Marek, and Kate make it to the monastery, but they cannot find what they need. Instead, they make their way to the mill in hopes of finding it there. Marek finds the key to finding the secret passage, but he is separated from Chris and Kate as they are again attacked by de Kere's men. Arnaut's men save them, but Arnaut threatens to kill them for spying. Lady Claire argues their case and allows them to go free. However, unbeknown to them, Marek is still alive and also a prisoner of Arnaut's. Marek is forced to follow behind Chris and Kate with Arnaut's men to find the secret passage into the high castle.

Marek escapes Arnaut's men during an ambush and gets into the castle keep. He is arrested and taken to the armory where the professor who is teaching Oliver's men how to make automatic fire. Marek and the professor are kept together and threatened with imprisonment if things go wrong. At the same time, Kate and Chris find the secret tunnel into the castle. Before they can save the professor and Marek, Arnaut's army finds the tunnel and invades the castle. There is a fight between Oliver and Arnaut that ends with Oliver in a pool of water from which he cannot escape.

Marek, Chris, Kate, and the professor rush to find a safe place to use the machines that will take them home before the batteries begin to fail. Marek goes into the guard tower to lower the gate. When he realizes time is running out, he makes the choice to remain behind. Marek, Chris, and Kate return home safely where the CEO of the company controlling the machines is sent to his death in the past.



Part 1: Corazon

Summary

Part 1: Corazon

A couple is driving in the desert of Arizona when they come across an old man who is wandering in the heat. Even though it is hot outside, the man is very cold to the touch and disoriented. The couple cannot find a car or any explanation of how the man got into the desert. They drive him to a hospital in Gallup where he is treated by a doctor from Albuquerque. The doctor is confused by the man's condition, especially a lack of circulation in his fingers that mimics frostbite. They find nothing on the man except for a printout that is identified as an architectural diagram of a church. The doctor asks a cop friend of hers to find the man's name. Just as the cop comes back with a name, the man goes into cardiac arrest and dies. Sometime later, the doctor learns that the MRI reveals the man's veins and arteries did not match up for unknown reasons, possibly causing his death.

The cop contacts ITC Research, with whom the man worked as a researcher, to inform them of their employee's death. The company quickly arranges to pick up the body from the hospital. The CEO, Robert Doniger, also arranges for someone to take the man's car to the desert near where he was found so that there will be no investigation. The cop, however, is curious about the printout and the condition the body was in when the man was found. This causes him to continue investigating despite the fact that his boss tells him to back off.

Analysis

This first section of the novel introduces, in part, the conflict that will propel the plot. A strange man is found wandering in the desert with no explanation of how he got there. His skin is cold to the touch despite the heat of the desert. This catches the attention of a doctor and cop at the local hospital. The cop is determined to find out how the man got into the desert. However, the CEO of ITC Research, the company the man worked for, arranges for evidence to be planted to throw off the investigation. This suggests to the reader that the company has something to hide.

The old man, it turns out, had some fundamental problems with his body that killed him. These defects would have killed him in infancy if he had been born with them, causing the doctor some puzzlement when she sees his MRI scans. At first, even the doctor does not believe the scan results. The reader, however, begins to wonder if perhaps the man somehow got these defects later in life. He is a researcher for a mysterious company, after all, and the CEO makes a comment about transcription errors and the man's erroneous choice to get into the machine again. The reader can only imagine what this doctor is talking about.



Discussion Question 1

What does the doctor find in the pocket of the old man found wandering in the desert? What does it appear to be?

Discussion Question 2

Why does the CEO of ITC Research arrange to plant evidence in the desert? What might he be trying to hide?

Discussion Question 3

What was wrong with the MRI images of the old man found in the desert? How do these images suggest the old man died? Why can the doctor not verify the MRI images with an autopsy?

Vocabulary

Expecting, monastery, university, remembered, unanswered, impress, diagram, ceramic, registration, anniversary, depressed, hesitated, assistant, mystery, exposure, dehydration, unavailable, effects, cremated, relatives, desolate, judiciously, rectilinear, notorious, draconian, transect, enamored, effusiveness, constitutes, coalesced, methodical, propensity, commensurate, befuddled.



Part 2: Dordogne

Summary

Part 2: Dordogne

Diane Kramer is given a tour of the archeological site in the Dordogne River valley in France. Kramer is frustrated with the lack of progress at the site because Doniger had hoped that they would be further along so he could use it to get more investors for the company. At the same time, the head of the site, Dr. Edward Johnston, is ambushed by a reporter at the site of the old flour mill. Johnston is not happy to talk to reporters, especially one who seems suspicious of the motives of ITC Research. This reporter seems to think the company is planning some sort of buyout in the area because she has information that they are quietly buying up the land around the archeological site. Johnston finds this assumption ridiculous and dismisses the reporter.

Kramer and Johnston talk for a brief time. As they talk, Kramer suggests that they speed up the project by at least rebuilding the town outside Castelgard's walls and rebuilding the tower at the end of the wall. She also suggests rebuilding the monastery, telling him where she thinks the refractory should go. All this confuses Johnston as they have not yet found a tower on the end of the Castelgard wall nor do they know where the refractory sat in the monastery. Later, when they are sent a copy of the architectural plan of the monastery that the old man in the desert had, they become even more confused. Over lunch, Johnston accuses Kramer of knowing something she is not telling them. She denies it, but Johnston insists on returning to New Mexico with her to speak directly with Doniger.

Andre Marek, a former student of Johnston's, takes informal control of the site in Johnston's absence. Marek is not only a student of medieval history, but he has become an enthusiast as well. Marek has learned to joust, to shoot a longbow, and to fight with a sword. Marek has even taken to teaching the other researchers and students to do some of these things. Kate Erickson, an architecture expert, finds it amusing, but likes working with the longbow. Chris Hughes, another student who is studying the flour mill site, has taken up horseback riding and jousting, but more in an effort to impress a pretty girl than to learn about history.

Marek speaks with Johnston the day after he has left. Johnston promises to be in touch every twelve hours. In the meantime, some of the work proceeds as usual, including Marek's excavation of the catacombs at the monastery site with another researcher. The following day, Marek and the researcher break through into a room in the catacombs. Marek is concerned about the effect of air on the long sealed chamber and decides that he and Kate should be lowered inside without waiting to excavate the bones they have revealed at the entrance. Inside, they find a table and carvings on the walls, but little of value. Kate finds a packet of documents that they decide to take out. As they prepare to leave, Kate finds a lens from a pair of glasses. Marek becomes aggravated because the



lens is modern and he thinks it is modern contamination, something that can cast doubt on everything they find.

Marek has the lens and the documents analyzed. David Stern, the computer expert, determines that the lens is of modern creation, but that it has a small amount of mold on it that indicates it has been buried for several centuries. That night, while everyone is at dinner, the documents expert, Elsie, calls Marek to come see something she has found. Elsie shows Marek a document that was among those from the catacombs that appears to have been written by the professor. The document says simply, help me. Marek insists that it could not be written by the professor, but Elsie is just as convinced it is. Marek orders the document tested to verify its age. At the same time, Marek becomes concerned because he has not heard from Johnston in more than twelve hours and Johnston is not responding to calls to his cell phone.

David Stern takes the document to be tested. It is determined that the ink on the document is more than six hundred years old. As Marek receives that information, he takes a phone call from Doniger asking him and three of his best researchers to prepare to be flown to New Mexico. Marek chooses to take Chris Hughes, Kate Erickson, and David Stern with him. They drive to a small airport where they are met by John Gordon, vice-president of ITC Research.

As they fly to New Mexico, Gordon explains to Marek and his crew that ITC has perfected a type of time travel. Gordon explains that scientists established many years ago through quantum mechanics that there are many universes, known as multiverses, that exist simultaneously. ITC has perfected a way to reduce the human body to its most basic form and transmit them to these other universes as though they were a fax. By doing this, they have made it possible for their researchers to visit other universes that exist simultaneously with ours, but at different times, essentially sending people to the past. Gordon then informs them that they sent Johnston to medieval times and he somehow got lost. They need to send these researchers back so that they might find Johnston and bring him home. To prepare them, Gordon has each member of the team sleep while listening to tapes of people speaking in the languages of the time, Old English and Middle French.

Analysis

Dr. Johnston is running an archeological site where the researchers are trying to use recorded history and the evidence at the site to figure out what the sites looked like in their heyday and how they might reconstruct them to that former glory. The research is very slow, however. They have only recently uncovered small parts of each site, which include two castles, the towns outside the castles, a mill that most likely produced flour, and a monastery that burned to the ground hundreds of years before.

The company that is sponsoring this dig, ironically the same one that the old man in the desert worked for, is ITC Research. The CEO, Doniger, sends his lawyer, Diane Kramer, to the site to see if they are far enough along that he can use pictures of the site to



convince three potential investors into investing in his company. Kramer is disappointed by the apparent lack of progress and pushes Johnston to do more. However, in her conversation with Johnston, she accidentally reveals that she knows more about the way the site once looked that Johnston and his researchers. That combined with a copy of the architectural design the old man in the desert had makes Johnston think something strange is up.

As Johnston runs off to find out what ITC is up to, his research assistant, Andre Marek, continues digging at the monastery site. Marek and Kate, an architectural student, find a packet of documents that contain a note from the professor that they date back six hundred years. The group is blown away by this note and cannot begin to guess how it ended up where it did. It is a very confusing situation that only becomes more baffling when they are told by Gordon, Doniger's vice president, that ITC has perfected a way to travel in time, or between universes.

The reader is confused by what is going on, but it quickly becomes clear that ITC can travel in time and they have gone many times to the site at the Dordogne River Valley. This might also explain the old man wandering in the desert. However, if the old man in the desert was a part of this experiment, the reader must worry about the basic mistakes in his body that caused his death. It is possible these mistakes were made by the time travel and that it could affect anyone else who goes, including the professor.

Discussion Question 1

Where is Dordogne? What are the researchers trying to find there? What have they found thus far?

Discussion Question 2

Who is Kramer? What does she say to Johnston that makes him suspicious of ITC? What does he do about it?

Discussion Question 3

What do Marek and Kate find in the catacomb room under the monastery? Why is this of interest? What does it seem to suggest?

Vocabulary

Languages, pronunciation, cellophane, attendant, quantum mechanics, subatomic, fluctuations, impossible, universes, technology, interfering, interact, photons, detectors, sensitive, interference, imagine, dealing, eliminated, homogenous, inequity, visceral, askance, demarcation, interlopers, intermittently, contaminated



Part 3: Blackstone

Summary

Part 3: Blackstone

Marek and his group arrive at ITC's headquarters in Blackrock, Arizona. The group is taken for a tour through the facility while Gordon continues to describe the process of time travel to them. Doniger comes down to greet them and lectures them on the process of time travel. Doniger assures them that they cannot alter the past by their presence because the place where they are going is technically not their past.

The group is then taken to have scans of their bodies done in preparation for the trip. Then, Gordon takes Marek's group into the room where the transfers actually take place. As they watch, a woman is transported into the past to verify their destination and comes right back. They find it interesting to see her shrink and then reappear. They also learn that her return shows up on the computer before she even makes the conscious decision to return.

Gordon and Kramer explain to Marek's group that they are to go back with two escorts, ex-military persons, a woman named Gomez, and a man named Baretto. Marek's group is given authentic costumes to change into. Stern finds the outfit uncomfortable and the whole idea of going odd. For this reason, he elects to remain behind and stay in the computer room. At the same time, Baretto argues with Kramer over whether or not he can take a gun. Baretto feels they need a gun for protection, but Kramer insists they not take anything that is not authentic. In fact, they are taking a first aid kit, but there is no plastic in it. They are also taking specially made ear pieces, one that translates the language for them and another that allows them to speak to one another even when they are separated.

Marek, Kate, Chris, Gomez, and Baretto load up into their machines. Marek's group climb into machines connected to Gomez's, while Baretto's is free standing. Gomez places the ceramic with the coded information for where they want to go into a slot in the floor of her machine. Slowly, the process begins. Chris begins to panic. Stern watches, still trying to grasp how the process works.

Analysis

Marek and his group arrive at ITC headquarters and prepare for their trip to the past. The process is complicated and requires quite a bit of preparation. Marek faces the challenge with excitement. Marek has always felt he should have lived in medieval times, so this seems quite natural for him. Stern does not feel the same way and eventually elects to remain at ITC.



The process is difficult for the layman to really understand, but it is essentially like sending a fax. However, the person is physically rebuilt, which means there could be problems with the new product. This leaves Stern convinced that there is more to the process than Gordon is telling him. He is concerned for his friends. It also leaves the reader wondering what will happen to these characters. Even Doniger, the head of ITC, seems to think this group will not return safely.

Discussion Question 1

Why is the group given new clothes to wear? Why can they not wear their own clothes? Why can they not take plastic or guns?

Discussion Question 2

Why are Marek and his group going back in time? What is their mission? How long should it take?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Stern elect to remain behind? How might this be helpful to Marek's team?

Vocabulary

Turret, circular, foliage, distance, thatched, blinding, intense, electric, destroyed, identical, reconstitute, understand, calculations, electron, technically, glib, characteristics, distrusted, immediately, transmission, rebuilt, vex, indifference, portcullis, oblivious, stamina, ornate, accoutrements, petulance, conundrum, noncommittal, ungainly, subtlety, morose, perfunctory, pandemonium.



Part 4: Castelgard, 37:00:00-28:57:32

Summary

Part 4: Castelgard, 37:00:00-28:57:32

The groups step out of their machines and begin looking around. Gomez shows them how the machines disappear. However, they can easily be called back. Kate wonders off and is surprised by a child running passed her, telling her to hide. Then Kate hears horses coming her way. Kate hides just in time. Chris and Marek, who were a few paces behind Kate, also manage to jump out of the way just in time. Gomez, however, is surprised by the riders and is beheaded by one of the knights. Baretto pulls out a grenade that he had concealed on his body. However, Baretto is hit with a sword before he can release the grenade. Baretto calls back his machine and sends himself home with the grenade in his hand. When Baretto arrives back at ITC, the grenade blows and destroys the remaining machines and the water filled shields around them.

Chris and Marek make their way back to where Gomez and Baretto were. They find Gomez's body. Gomez's body has been trampled by one of the horses and the ceramic destroyed. This means that they have no way home. Chris begins to panic. Marek goes in search of Kate. While Chris is alone, the boy who warned them about the horses the first time comes back and warns him to run. Chris feels he has no choice but to follow the boy. Marek finds Kate and they begin searching for a second ceramic. Kate finds it eventually in Gomez's wig. At the same time, Chris runs from the knights on horseback. He manages to escape, thanks to the wits of the boy who is running with him.

Marek and Kate make their way to the monastery, hoping to find the professor. They find him, but the professor is immediately arrested by knights from Oliver, the knight warlord living in Castelgard. Marek and Kate follow him into the castle. At the same time, Chris goes with his new companion to the castle where he is surprised to find out that she is a girl in disguise. The girl, Lady Claire, tells Chris that she was running from Sir Guy de Malegant, Sir Oliver's chosen husband for her. Lady Claire has recently been widowed, and Sir Oliver wants the money Sir Guy is willing to pay for Lady Claire's hand in marriage.

While Oliver interviews the professor in an attempt to learn what he can do to help him win his impending battle with the warrior monk Arnaut, Chris cleans up and is given clean clothes from Lady Claire's uncle, Sir Daniel. Just as Oliver is finishing his conversation with the professor, in which the professor declares he can make Greek fire, Chris and Lady Claire enter the great hall. Sir Guy is unhappy to see Lady Claire with another man and immediately challenges Chris to a joust. Chris, unaware of what is happening, immediately picks up the challenge. Marek tries to come to Chris's aid by agreeing to stand in his place, but Sir Guy refuses. Instead, Sir Guy suggests that Marek joust his second, Sir Charles de Gaune



Chris is overwhelmed by the reality of jousting in a way he was not with Marek's practice gear in modern times. Chris can barely move with his armor on and mounting the horse is nearly impossible. When Chris jousts, he can barely hold the lance. However, Chris somehow survives the first round without major injury or death. The second round knocks Chris from his saddle. Marek's match begins immediately and he successfully knocks his opponent to the ground. As Marek surveys the field to assess the situation, he sees Sir Guy move toward Chris in an effort to trample him. Marek charges Sir Guy and fights him with his sword. The fight is tougher than Marek thought it would be, but he manages to save Chris and get the better of Sir Guy. Given the option of killing Sir Guy or showing compassion, Marek chooses compassion. Unfortunately, this leads to embarrassment to Sir Guy and he has both Chris and Marek arrested.

Kate sees Marek and Chris being arrested, so she follows. Kate manages to help them escape. They slip upstairs in the castle and into a secret passage that Kate remembers surveying in the ruins. They find themselves in a space in the walls built to spy on the guest chambers. They hear voices and stop to listen to Lady Claire and Sir Guy talking. It turns out they are really lovers who are plotting to extort money from Sir Oliver. As they listen, they are shocked to be caught by Sir Guy. They are taken to Sir Oliver. Sir Oliver, on the advice of his friend Sir Robert de Kere, imprisons Marek, Kate, and Chris in a tower room while deciding to follow the professor's advice and move to La Roque. La Roque is a nearby castle that is higher up in the hills and better defended. There is news that Arnaut is approaching.

Kate crawls out of a window and uses her rock climbing skills to climb down the side of the tower. Her plan is to find a tool to open the door and rescue Chris and Marek. Unfortunately, Kate is spotted before she can reach the room. Kate leads de Kere and his men on a chase through the kitchen and into the chapel. Kate climbs up to the rafters of the chapel, hoping to hide, but de Kere somehow becomes aware of her presence. De Kere sends his soldiers up after her. Kate remembers studying the architecture of the roof and knows exactly where its weak points are. She leads the soldiers to that point and watches two of them fall to their deaths. Kate falls as well, but manages to catch herself. Just as she thinks that she will be caught, something happens in the city that distracts the soldiers.

As Kate runs from de Kere's men, a few of his men come into the tower to kill Chris and Marek. Marek searches the room until he finds a weapon he can use. When the soldiers charge into the room, Marek manages to kill them all. As Marek and Chris leave the room, they realize that Arnaut is beginning his attack on Castलगard. At the same time, Oliver announces the evacuation of the castle. Marek and Chris reunite with Kate. They carefully make their way to the main gates, trying to escape into the city. However, de Kere's men are close behind them and somehow manage to find them even as they hide in a tannery that masks both their presence and their scent. Marek and Chris knock over a barrel of lye in order to make their escape. Marek leads them to the castle wall where they find a place to climb over.



Analysis

Marek and his group make it to the past. They find themselves in the Dordogne River Valley more than six hundred years in the past. Unfortunately, the reality of the time period greets them within minutes of their arrival in the shape of a group of knights chasing a young boy. The knights behead Gomez, one of their escorts, and fatally wounds the other. Marek, Chris, and Kate find themselves stuck in the past with no escorts, no help. Unbeknownst to them, the lab back at ITC has been damaged to such an extent that they will not be able to return until repairs can be made.

Marek is a student of this time period, therefore he knows how to behave and how to speak. Unfortunately, Chris is not as avid a student and he immediately gets himself into trouble by claiming to be of noble blood and hooking up with a pretty lady who has a jealous paramour. This leads to a joust that Marek easily wins. Chris is nearly killed both in the joust and in the aftermath, but he is saved by Marek. It is clear to the reader that Marek's sense that he should have been born in this time is not out of character. Chris, however, is definitely a modern man.

Where Marek proves himself to be a strong, capable man in this time period, Kate proves herself to be very brave as well. Kate faces down several guards in order to break Marek, Chris, and the professor out of jail cells. Kate also climbs down the side of the castle to again rescue them from imprisonment. Kate knows a great deal about architecture, and her hobby of rock climbing proves to be a great asset.

Marek and his group have arrived in the past at a volatile time. Sir Oliver, the knight warlord who has control of Castelgard castle is about to be invaded by an Archpriest and his army. This leaves Oliver desperate to find a way to win. To this end, he wants the professor to show him how to make all the best weapons. At the same time, Oliver feels that he needs to be ruthless and aware of possible spies. To some extent, this is why Marek and his group find themselves running for their lives. According to history, Oliver will lose this battle. The only question is what role Marek and his group might play in this loss and whether they will even survive it.

Discussion Question 1

How is the lab where the machines leave and return from different universes get damaged? What does this damage mean for Marek and his group?

Discussion Question 2

How does Marek win his jousting match? Why does Chris fall off his horse? Why does Marek tell him to stay on the ground? Does this ploy work?



Discussion Question 3

How does Kate get out of the tower room? Why do de Kere and his soldiers chase her? What do they want?

Vocabulary

Breathlessly, pandemonium, escape, warning, chapel, armored, revelers, panicked, drawbridge, managed, surcoats, merchants, quickly, disappointed, relieved, murdered, between, courtyard, narrower, odd, pride, stench, lye, nitrogen, material, scraped, tannery, formalist, objectivist, derivationist, interminably, pantomimed, methodically, obsequiously, ubiquitous, venerated, impromptu, retinues, omnipresent.



Part 4: Castelgard, 28:12:39-00:01:44 and Epilogue

Summary

Part 4: Castelgard, 28:12:39-00:01:44 and Epilogue

Kramer updates Doniger on the damage in the lab. Kramer tells Doniger that Stern wants to use an older version of the machine to go back and help his friends. After some thought, Doniger decides it is too dangerous.

Marek, Kate, and Chris make their way through the forest outside Castelgard in an attempt to get to the monastery. Each time they move, however, they seem to catch the attention of de Kere's soldiers. Eventually Marek tells them to turn off their ear pieces that allow them to speak to one another. Later they discuss it and decide that someone has Gomez's ear piece. This implies that someone attached to Oliver came from their universe. Marek thinks it is Sir Guy, but Kate and Chris think it is Robert de Kere. After turning off their ear pieces, they are able to make it close to the monastery. They decide to spend the night in a half burned house since they cannot enter the monastery in the middle of the night. Chris is sore and bruised the next morning, but he does not complain like he might have before. Marek brings him some herbs to help with the pain.

Marek, Kate, and Chris go to the monastery where they are granted access. They ask after Brother Marcel whom the professor told them had the key. However, they are disappointed to discover that Brother Marcel has died. They learn from the abbot that Marcel had a room at the mill, giving them hope they might find the key there. The monastery is attacked while Marek and the abbot talk. The abbot is killed. Marek and his friends escape the monastery by way of an orchard.

David Stern wants to find a way to verify that Marek and the others are still alive. Marek decides to send back a tape recorder that is attached to an earpiece so that it can transmit a message to his friends. The tape comes back within minutes of leaving. On it they hear Kate speak to both Marek and Chris, affirming they are still alive. At the same time, Doniger and Kramer discuss one of their researchers who transported himself to this particular universe over a year ago and never came back.

Marek leads Kate and Chris to the mill. The mill is held by Oliver's men and they are still looking for them. For this reason, Marek needs to find a way to get in without being seen. They decide to go into the water and ride the wheels into the building. Marek and Kate both easily navigate the water and the wheel, but Chris cannot get a grip on the wheel and floats downstream. Kate and Marek continue on, slipping through the mill despite the heavy presence of Oliver's men. They find Brother Marcel's room, and Marek sees a drawing on the wall that suddenly makes everything he has seen in regards to the secret passage into La Roque make sense. As he and Kate make their



way out of the mill, they are surrounded by soldiers. Kate is able to start a fire that blows the entire mill, allowing her to escape. However, she is unsure if Marek escaped.

Chris sees Kate floating down stream and decides to risk being seen so that he might fish her from the water. Someone does see him, however, and pulls him and Kate both from the water. They are brought to Arnaut, who has taken over the monastery. He decides to execute them for being Oliver's spies. However, Lady Claire steps forward and vouches for them. Kate and Chris are allowed to leave. Unbeknown to them, Marek is still alive. Arnaut makes him follow Kate and Chris with a handful of his men in order to find the secret passage into La Roque.

As they pass the gates of La Roque, Kate and Chris, as well as Marek's group, are ambushed by some of Oliver's men. Chris and Kate are separated while Marek manages to get inside La Roque's gates. Kate continues on toward the Green Chapel, the entrance to the secret passage. When Kate is attacked by a couple of rogue fighters, Chris saves her. Together they continue to the chapel, but they are separated again when Chris slips on the muddy path. Kate slips as well and goes over a waterfall. Kate sees the chapel and approaches it, but is stopped by a knight who keeps watch there. Kate fights with the knight and loses. The knight prepares to behead Kate, but Chris comes out of the woods. Kate and Chris manage to kill the knight.

Marek is captured inside the gates of La Roque and taken to the armory where the professor is making gunpowder and automatic fire. When the professor demonstrates these things for Oliver, Oliver orders him to make more. Oliver then threatens to place the professor and Marek in a cage over a dirty pool of water if they cause him any trouble.

Kate and Chris find the entrance to the secret passage with only a modicum of trouble. They find themselves in an underground cavern with a river. They use a boat to travel the river and nearly get lost when their light goes out. However, they make it to the castle without too much more trouble. Once in the castle, however, Kate is almost immediately spotted in the great hall by Sir Guy. Kate climbs a hidden staircase to the rafters above the room. Sir Guy follows her. Kate tricks Sir Guy into stabbing himself in the hand and then she causes him to fall to his death.

Stern and Gordon are working hard trying to prepare the lab for Marek, Kate, Chris, and the professor's return. However, when they set up the glass walls that hold water as a buffer, the glass is slightly damaged by the grenade. Gordon runs a test that tells him the glass might break. Doniger tells them that they cannot allow the others to come back. Gordon shows Stern what happens to animals who came back before they had the buffers. However, Stern comes up with the idea of filling the glass walls with weather balloons to make them stronger.

Oliver has taken Marek and the professor to the pool to cage them after Kate's performance in the great hall. However, Arnaut and his men have found the secret passage and are overrunning the castle. Arnaut comes into the basement room to fight Oliver just as Kate and Chris find Marek and the professor. As Arnaut and Oliver fight,



Kate and Chris try to free the professor from the cage he has been placed in, but they cannot find the key. Marek goes to Arnaut and tells him Oliver has the key. Arnaut promises not to kill Oliver if he gives Marek the key. Oliver hands over the key and Arnaut pushes Oliver into the pool without means to get out.

Marek, the professor, Kate, and Chris rush to find a place where they can call the machines and leave. However, the courtyards are overflowing with both Oliver and Arnaut's men. They decide they must leave the castle keep and go to the fields beyond. Before they can make it to the gate, Chris is ambushed by de Kere. As they battle, de Kere admits to being the modern person who has been following them. Chris throws automatic fire at de Kere and ignites it with his spit. When Chris rejoins the others, Marek volunteers to go up to the guard tower to open the gate. When the gate is open, Marek makes the choice to stay behind. Kate, the professor, and Chris escape in the machines just as time is up. They return without any trouble.

After the professor, Kate, and Chris arrive back at ITC, they overhear Doniger discuss his plan to use the machines to make money off of tourism. No one likes that idea. With Gordon's help, they send Doniger back to a time when the black plague was ravaging the countryside.

Epilogue. It is several months later. Kate is pregnant. Kate, the professor, and Chris drive out to the ruins of a chapel in England where they find the grave of their good friend, Andre Marek, or Andrew d'Eltham. A search of history has told them that Marek escorted Lady Claire back to Eltham and then married her. They had five sons together. He died in 1382.

Analysis

Kate, Chris, and Marek manage to find the secret passage into La Roque that Arnaut is said to have found during this battle in order to win his fight against Sir Oliver. They had a hard time, and had to battle someone who has come from their world. This person is unidentified until the end, but is clearly someone who is very dangerous to them. The writer hints at the identity of this person by showing conversations between Kramer and Doniger, but does not reveal him until the end. The modern person is Robert de Kere. The many trips through the machines has caused a change in de Kere's personality, making him very violent and dangerous. This makes him even more of a danger to Marek and his team because of his instant dislike of the infiltration of modern man in his new world. In the end, it is Chris who takes de Kere out. This is a surprise because Chris has proven himself to be something of a weakling at the beginning of the novel, but has grown in the short time he has spent in this other universe. Chris has become brave.

The professor makes gunpowder and automatic fire for Oliver in an attempt to protect himself from Oliver's wrath, but does not succeed. Oliver is in the middle of placing the professor in a watery cage when Chris and Kate come to his rescue. Oliver, ironically enough, ends up falling into that watery prison instead when his castle is overrun by



Arnaut and his army. History plays out just like it was supposed to, but with a lot of help from Marek, the professor, Chris, and Kate.

The novel ends with Gordon sending the CEO of ITC to the past where he is doomed to die from the plague. This leaves the reader wondering about the future of ITC. One would assume it will not be used for commercial purposes, but who will this leave in charge and how will they run it? It is a question that will never be answered.

Marek, who has shown great interest in medieval times, decides to remain in the past. The reader learns that Marek lived a good life, dying at an age that is quite advanced for the time period in which he lived. Marek also found love. This is a nice ending for the novel, as is the implication that Kate and Chris get together and are expecting a happy future together.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Marek think that Sir Guy is the man from their world who is following them? What does he use as proof? Who do Kate and Chris think it might be?

Discussion Question 2

Why do Marek, Chris, and Kate go to the monastery? What are they looking for? How does their hunt take them to the mill?

Discussion Question 3

What is automatic fire? Why does the professor make it for Oliver? What is his intention?

Vocabulary

Remained, chapel, previous, demurely, unmistakably, documents, escorted, including, merely, surprisingly, rebuilt, lessened, indicate, antiquities, encased, reassuringly, mileage, conditioner, snicked, scattered, terror, plague, numbness, superimposed, arcane, carousing, infinite, artifice, undulating, mechanism, treacherous, dispassionate.



Characters

Andre Marek

Andre Marek is a researcher who works with Professor Johnston in Dordogne. Marek has always had a fascination with medieval times that is so intense that he has taught himself to joust, to fight with a sword, and to shoot a longbow. Therefore, when Marek gets the change to go to that time period through ITC's invention, he jumps at it.

Marek proves himself very brave in the medieval world. Marek fights multiple soldiers, not hesitating to take their lives. Marek bravely stands up to medieval warlords and Archpriests. When it is all said and done, Marek realizes that he was meant to live in this time period. For this reason, he makes the choice to remain behind. When Professor Johnston, Kate, and Chris return to their own world, they find Marek's grave and discover that he lived a long, happy life in that alternate universe.

Kate Erikson

Kate Erickson began her college career as an architecture student, but she found it boring. For this reason, Kate switched to a major in history. Kate now works the Dordogne site from the perspective of architecture, examining the ruins to see how they were built and to make recommendations of restoration.

Kate is part of Marek's team that travels to another universe in order to save Professor Johnston. Kate proves herself brave over and over again by using her climbing skills to outwit the soldiers of the time period. Kate is also something of a romantic, falling in love with Chris during the adventure.

Chris Hughes

Chris Hughes is a student of Professor Johnston. Chris's specialty at the archeological site at Dordogne is the mill. Chris is trying to figure out if the mill was fortified or not, something that was fairly new at the time. When Johnston disappears and Marek asks Chris to be part of the team that rescues him, Chris jumps at the chance.

Chris is something of a weakling who often finds himself getting in difficult situations, usually over women. When he goes to the past, he finds himself lying to a pretty girl to impress her, a lie that causes him to end up having to joust with her potential husband. As time passes, however, Chris proves himself to be much braver than he appears. In fact, Chris single handedly kills de Kere, the one man crazy enough to kill them all.



Professor Edward Johnston

Professor Edward Johnston is a college professor who is in charge of the archeological site at Dordogne in France. Johnston is a great inspiration to his students and for this reason they greatly admire him. When Johnston goes missing after traveling to New Mexico to confront the CEO of ITC, his team quickly rallies to find a way to save him.

Johnston has traveled to the past through a separate universe. Johnston has been found by the local people and for this reason has created a new persona for himself as a Magister who has come to help the Abbot of the local monastery look for important information in their archives. In this capacity, Johnston quickly becomes something of a fable among the people of the area and this causes Sir Oliver to ask for his help in defeating Arnaut. Johnston plays along until the moment comes when he can return home.

David Stern

David Stern is a computer geek who takes a job with the Dordogne River Valley archeological site just to be close to where his girlfriend is going to school. When Doniger calls Marek and asks him to pick his three best people to return to New Mexico, Marek chooses Stern to be part of the team. When the science behind the ability to transmit people to other universes is discussed, Stern probably understands it better than anyone else. Stern is also the only one who recognizes that it is dangerous and chooses not to go. However, by not going, Stern becomes a key part of the team by assuring their survival in his innovations to rebuild the water walls that provide buffer for the re-building team. Stern saves their lives.

John Gordon

John Gordon is a vice president at ITC. Gordon is the one who goes to get Marek and his team after Johnston goes missing and teaches them the basic science behind their ability to transmit people to other universes. Gordon works with Stern in the aftermath of the grenade blast in the lab that makes it nearly impossible for Marek, the professor, Kate, and Chris to come home. In the end, Gordon appears to understand better than anyone else how important this new technology is and he takes an important role in protecting it from the company CEO, Doniger.

Robert de Kere

Robert de Kere is really a modern man named Rob Dekard. Rob worked for ITC, but taking too many trips in the machine has left Rob with basic problems. Rob's has grown increasingly violent. He has a seam on his face that causes him near constant pain. Rob got into a bar fight a year before this novel begins and decided to run away by going through the machine one more time. Rob has become a part of Sir Oliver's army,



acting as an advisor to Sir Oliver. When the professor, Marek, Kate, and Chris come to Castelgard, Rob recognizes them as modern people and makes it his mission to kill them. Instead, Rob, as de Kere, is killed by Chris.

Sir Oliver

Sir Oliver is a knight warlord. Sir Oliver has captured Castelgard and La Roque. However, he is aware that Arnaut is on his way to fight him for these properties. Sir Oliver is desperate to find a way to save his lands without losing face. For this reason, Sir Oliver makes a prisoner of Professor Johnston. Johnston helps Oliver by making gunpowder and automatic fire for him, but these things do little to help Oliver when Arnaut finds the secret passageway into La Roque.

Sir Guy de Malegant

Sir Guy de Malegant is one of Sir Oliver's knights. Sir Guy is having a secret affair with Lady Claire. Together they are planning to return to her husband's lands and rule them with wealth that they want to con from Sir Oliver. However, Lady Claire is a woman who knows what she wants and how to get it, so the reader is left with the impression that she is only using Sir Guy to get what she wants. In the end, Sir Guy dies when he tries to capture Kate in the rafters of La Roque's great hall.

Archpriest Arnaut de Cervole

Arnaut is referred to in this novel as an Archpriest. Arnaut is a religious figure who leads an army in conquering lands throughout France, to retake them from the English. Arnaut is a tough man who can be ruthless toward his enemies. However, he is a man who believes in integrity. For that reason, when Oliver asks Arnaut not to kill him, he keeps to his word. Instead, he traps Oliver in a dark pool he cannot escape.

Robert Doniger

Robert Doniger is the CEO of ITC Research. Doniger is a brilliant man who has owned three other successful companies and made himself exceedingly rich. This current company is working on a way to allow humans to travel to alternate universes. Doniger appears to be doing this research to further mankind, but it eventually comes out that he is doing it in order to make money off of the tourists who will visit historical landmarks he has helped rebuild to their former glory. For this reason, Gordon sends Doniger back in time to allow him to die of the plague.

Diane Kramer

Diane Kramer is a lawyer. Kramer works for ITC and is the CEO's former lover. Kramer is the voice of logic for Doniger. However, even Kramer is surprised by some of Doniger's callous behavior during the crisis of Professor Johnston's absence. At first, Kramer seems to be nothing more than Doniger's mouthpiece, but toward the end of the novel her choice to allow the recovery of Professor Johnston and his team shows she has a sense of morality that outweighs her loyalty to Doniger.



Symbols and Symbolism

Ceramic

The machines use a ceramic that fits in a slot at the foot of the machine to determine where the traveler wants to go. One of these ceramics is broken when Gomez is killed, but Kate manages to find another in order to ensure her team's ability to return home.

Machines

ITC has created tube-like machines that have the capacity to shrink down to its most basic elements and transfer themselves like a fax machine across universes. This is how researchers and Marek's team travel to an alternate universe that is essentially the past of their own world.

Water Walls

The complex at ITC has multiple walls filled with water that act as a buffer or shield to prevent outside information disrupting the transmission of researchers and other people who are traveling in the machines. These walls are destroyed with a grenade when an ex-military man refuses to listen to protocol and takes a grenade into the machine with him. When they are replaced, the replacements have minor nicks that cause some concern about Marek and his team coming back safely.

ITC Emergency Package

Each member of Marek's team is given an emergency package especially designed by ITC. It contains an aerosol can that sprays an anesthetic that knocks out the victim in seconds. It also includes several cubes that spark to light a fire, as well as bandages. This package contains no plastic to protect the integrity of the time period.

Authentic Clothing

Before traveling in ITC's machines, Marek and his team must dress in authentic clothing from the time period so that they do not stick out to the people.

Earpieces

Before leaving, each member of Marek's team is given custom made earpieces. One of these provides translation of the old languages. The other allows the team members to



speak to one another even when they are apart. One of these latter earpieces is found by de Kere who uses it to track and attempt to capture Marek and his team.

Key

Professor Johnston tells Marek that there is a key to the secret passage into La Roque. Marek and his team spend a significant amount of time trying to find this key, finally coming to the understanding that it is a figure of speech rather than a physical key.

Lance

Chris and Marek both are challenged to a joust a short time after arriving in Castelgard. Marek does well, but Chris finds it difficult to move in the armor or hold the long, wooden lance that is an essential part of the match.

Armor

Chris discovers how difficult it is to wear armor when he takes part in a joust. Marek finds it exhilarating to finally wear something he has studied for so long.

ITC Research

ITC Research is the research company that sponsors and pays for much of the archeological work being done by Johnston and his team.



Settings

Blackrock, New Mexico

Blackrock, New Mexico is a small community outside of Albuquerque. Blackrock is where ITC Research is headquartered. When Johnston goes to speak to ITC's CEO, this is where he goes. Later when Johnston is missing, Marek and his team travel here to save him from the alternate universe where he traveled to see the past.

Dordogne

Dordogne is a river in France. There is a section of the river valley where Professor Johnston and his team are researching some ruins found there. They consist of four separate sites that include Castलगard castle and town, La Roque castle, Monastery of Sainte-Mere, and a mill.

Castलगard in the Past

Johnston has traveled to the past to find himself lost in Castलगard. Marek and his team follow to find Johnston and end up having an amazing adventure in the year 1357. This setting is very different from the modern one, leaving Marek and his team fighting knights, knight warlords, and Archpriests.

Corazon, New Mexico

Corazon is the deep desert, a deserted area outside Gallup, that is very hot and very isolated. It is in this isolated place where a couple looking for an antique shop find a confused old man wondering alone. No one knows how he got there or why.

La Roque

Located on the cliffs on the north bank of the Dordogne River, La Roque is an incredibly powerful and strongly positioned castle and village. It is the second castle defended by Oliver, and is the destination of the secret passage that begins with the green chapel in the woods north of the castle. La Roque is ultimately taken by Arnaut.



Themes and Motifs

Time Travel

This novel is based on the idea of traveling to another time period. However, it is not about basic time travel. The author is quick to point out that the traditional idea of time travel is not possible. Instead, the author uses quantum mechanics to suggest that other universes exist at the same time as ours, each existing in another time and place.

ITC has created a machine that allows people to be reduced to their most basic elements and then transmitted to other universes almost like information being faxed over phone lines. This allows researchers to travel to places that are like moving back in time so that they can witness important moments in time or see how certain towns and cities were built.

This time travel is an important element of the novel because it is the conflict that propels much of the plot. In this novel, Johnston learns that ITC knows more about his archeological site than he and his researchers. For this reason, he goes to find out how this is possible. When he does, Johnston learns about the machines that allow a type of time travel and insists on experiencing it himself. When he does, Johnston gets pulled away from his machine and needs to be rescued. This causes Marek and his team to have to travel in time as well. For this reason, time travel is a very important theme of the novel.

Greed

Greed is a theme of the novel because it is a basic motivation for several of the characters. In the past, Marek and his team are thrust into a world that is one large battlefield between the French and the English. The French are not happy that the English are continuously attempting to conquer their lands. For this reason, there is a great deal of fighting between the two sides. Of particular interest in this novel is the greed of Sir Oliver in taking Castelgard and La Roque, and Arnaut's greed in wanting to take it back. This causes Marek and his team to be stuck in the middle of two battling hotheads.

In the modern world, the CEO of ITC has already made billions of dollars with his three previous companies. However, he continues to search for ways to make money. To do this, Doniger decides to use his time traveling machine to build historic sites as close to reality as possible. The reason for this is to buy up the land around these sites and build hotels, restaurants, and stores so that he can make more money from the tourists.

If not for greed, there might not be the time traveling machine. Without greed, there might not have been the need of medieval man to fight for more territory. Therefore, without greed, there might not have been a motive for some of the characters of this novel.

Friendship

Marek and his team have worked together for months. Each of them deeply admires and respect Professor Johnston. They are quick to agree to an unorthodox way of saving Johnston when he becomes trapped in the past.

As Marek and his team search for Johnston in the past, they find themselves forced to rely deeply on one another for their basic safety. Marek proves to be quite brave, where Kate proves herself to be somewhat fearless. Chris takes longer to prove himself, but, eventually, he shows the reader that he is just as brave as Marek.

During this adventure, a great many friendships grow. Kate and Marek find themselves often thrown together. This shows trust. Kate and Chris also find themselves alone together. Not only does friendship grow out of this relationship, but love as well. Therefore, without friendship, this team might not have trusted enough in one another to survive, making friendship an important theme of the novel.



Styles

Point of View

The novel is written in the third person omniscient point of view. In this novel, the author uses many voices to tell his story, including main characters Marek, Kate, and Chris. The author uses the voices of minor characters as well, such as the couple who finds a confused man wandering in the desert, and a cop who cannot accept the story of an old man who simply wandered away from his own car in the desert.

The point of view in this novel works well with the plot. The plot is complicated by settings in two different time periods. For this reason, the use of the omniscient point of view allows the author to use many characters to tell his story. It can occasionally become confusing to have so many characters tell one story, but the author is careful about separation of each voice, indicating a change with a switch in scene and paragraph breaks. This point of view works well in this plot.

Language and Meaning

The novel is written in simple English. The main characters are all educated people, creating a language that is a little more sophisticated than a more adolescent type of novel. However, the language is not so sophisticated that the average reader cannot follow its meaning.

The language of this novel works well with the plot because it fits the education and background of the main characters and does not often speak down to the reader. The language includes some foreign words and phrases, but this is appropriate to the plot and most of the language is clearly defined in its use or in the text itself.

Structure

The novel is divided into four sections. Each section is headed by the name of the location in which most of the novel takes place. Each part varies in length, with some as short as a couple dozen pages, while one is several hundred pages long. There are no chapters, but there are clear scene breaks and in the last section there are markers of time on some of the scenes to help build the suspense of time running out.

The novel has one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows Marek and his team as they go to save Johnston in Castelgard. One subplot follows Stern as he struggles to find a way to repair the lab to bring Marek and his team back. Another subplot follows the mistakes the time machine often leaves with people. Another subplot follows the relationships between the main characters. All the plots come to a satisfactory conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

He should never have taken that shortcut.
-- Dan Baker (Part 1 paragraph 1)

Importance: This is the thought of the man who finds an old man wandering in the desert while searching for an antiques store.

Maybe he's a priest," Baker thought.
-- Narrator (Part 1, Section 2 paragraph 3)

Importance: This is Mr. Baker's response to seeing the old man walking in the desert. This also suggests that the man, whom the reader later learns was a researcher at ITC, was at the Monastery at Sainte Mere before ending up in the desert.

At moments like this, Gordon would take a deep breath, and remind himself that Doniger was no different from most other aggressive young entrepreneurs. He would remind himself that behind the sarcasm, Doniger was nearly always right. And he would remind himself that in any case, Doniger had behaved this way all his life.
-- Narrator (Part 1, Section 14 paragraph 1)

Importance: This quote shows the character of Doniger as well as the way in which the older, more experienced Gordon views him.

Kramer knew all about him: a graduate of Utrecht, Marek was one of the new breed of 'experimental' historians, who set out to re-create parts of the past, to experience it firsthand and understand it better.
-- Kramer (Part 2 paragraph 3)

Importance: This quote from Kramer is condescending, making Marek's work seem childish. However, it accurately sums up Marek's fascination with the past and his approach to archeology.

There were references in the literature to fortified mills, and certainly there were records of innumerable battles over mills and mills rights. But few fortified mills were actually known: one in Buerge and another recently discovered near Montauban, in the next valley. Most medieval historians believed such fortified mill buildings were rare.
-- Narrator (Part 2, Section 5 paragraph 7)

Importance: This is a touch of history on mills, Chris Hughes's specialty. Chris believes the mill at Castलगard was fortified. If he could prove this, it could be an exciting new find, and it could make Chris very famous in his field.

Some thought Marek carried his fascination with the past to the point of obsession.
-- Narrator (Part 2, Section 19 paragraph 1)



Importance: This quote accurately sums up Marek's feelings for the past and his desire to learn all he can about it.

Their advantage is unimaginably great power-so great that you can indeed describe and compress a three-dimensional living object into an electron stream. Exactly like a fax. You can then transmit the electron stream through a quantum foam wormhole and reconstruct it in another universe. And that's what we do.

-- Gordon (Part 3, Section 2 paragraph 1)

Importance: This is Gordon's explanation of how ITC moves people through time or other universes.

No one has ever developed a new technology for the benefit of historians-until now.

-- Doniger (Part 3, Section 4 paragraph 3)

Importance: This is Doniger's way of exciting the researchers about his technology while also explaining what it is, why it is, and how it works.

The machines were essentially open cylinders, with metal at the top and bottom.

-- Narrator (Part 3, Section 12 paragraph 2)

Importance: This describes the simple design of the machines that can transport researchers through time or between universes.

It upsets some people when they first arrive. There's no ambient noise here: no radio or TV, no airplanes, no machinery, no passing cars. In the twentieth century, we're so accustomed to hearing sound all the time, the silence feels creepy.

-- Gomez (Part 4, 37:00:00 paragraph 8)

Importance: Gomez tries to calm Chris when he first arrives in the 14th century. Chris is unnerved by his surroundings.

One of the first things Marek had studied was the technology of gunpowder, a substance that first became widely employed in Europe in the fourteenth century.

-- Narrator (Part 4, 06:40:22 paragraph 19)

Importance: This quote not only gives the reader some background history on the era, but it also explains what the professor is doing creating this technology for Oliver in the first hours of his battle with Arnaut.

But he was thinking that however much Marek loved it, it could never be his world. Not really. He must have always felt a foreigner there, a person separated from his surroundings, because he had come from somewhere else.

-- Professor Johnston (Epilogue paragraph 36)

Importance: This is how Johnston imagines Marek must have felt remaining in the 14th century.