

# **Virals Study Guide**

**Virals by Kathy Reichs**

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## Plot Summary

*Virals* by Kathy Reichs is a fictional account of a group of adolescents who stumble onto the decades old murder of Katherine Heaton. Katherine was a young student who was attempting to create a project that centered on endangered species. As luck would have it, she discovers a colony of eagles living on Cole Island, but her discovery is not welcomed by all. The owners of Cole Island register her presence there and before she is able to tell anyone her amazing discovery, she is killed and her body buried on Loggerhead Island - a research facility. As Tory Brennan unravels the mystery, she takes herself and her friends deeper and deeper down the rabbit hole.

It all begins when Tory and her friends Ben, Shelton and Hiram go to Loggerhead Island to see if they can find a group of wolf-dogs who have made the island their home. They had seen them before, and Tory had even rescued the youngest pup from a shaft he'd fallen into, and named him Coop. Lately however, the young pup had vanished and late at night the other three had taken to circling the research facility and howling. Tory wants to find the pack, and Coop if possible. Caught on the island by the head researcher, Dr. Karsten, they are warned away from the restricted areas after he makes it clear that he would rather they found somewhere else to amuse themselves. Knowing they have permission to be there takes some of the venom from Karsten's warning. They carry on, following a new trail that leads them right into a restricted region. Tory sits under a tree and suffers an aerial attack from a particularly agitated primate. The tattoo on her chest indicates she is a research subject, and she is displaying unusually aggressive behavior. She throws something shiny at Tory, and Shelton recognizes it as a dog tag immediately. Tory decides to try to trace the owner, which is where everything begins. After trying to clean the tag at home without success, she talks the boys into breaking into Karsten's lab to use the sonicator to clean it. Shelton picks the locks successfully and they manage to get into the correct lab. The tag is cleaned and they are almost ready to leave when Ben returns and asks them to come upstairs with him. He leads them to a newly installed security door behind which they can clearly hear a dog barking. The keyless entry is one that Shelton can't pick, but by entering the default code, they are able to get in. To their surprise, they find the young wolf-dog pup who has been missing for over a week. He is in a plexiglass cage, hooked up to intravenous lines and wearing a collar to prevent him from removing them. Tory looks over the clipboard attached to the cage and sees that Coop has Parvovirus and is scheduled to be destroyed immediately. Tory won't let that happen. She makes a snap decision to save the young cub. They free him, taking along bags of intravenous fluids and several vials of antibiotic, and then take him to an abandoned bunker that they use as a clubhouse. There, they nurse the pup slowly back to health, but in the process become ill themselves. While Parvovirus is generally species specific, this particular strain had been created by Dr. Karsten, and blended a human strain with a wolf strain. The results were a new and highly contagious virus that infects all four of them, mixing their DNA with that of the wolf pack and making them all relatives at the most basic level. Meanwhile, Tory tracks the dog tag to Katherine Heaton, who had gone missing and never been found. In the process of solving her disappearance, they find her body;



uncover the murderer; learn about the endangered eagle population; and tie the murder to one of the more prominent citizens in their small town. To correct the situation, they call on new found abilities that are more wolf-like than human, and learn that they will never be the same. It is a secret they agree to keep between them - the Virals.



# Part One: Islands: Chapters 1 - 5

## Part One: Islands: Chapters 1 - 5 Summary

Virals by Kathy Reichs is a fictional account of a group of adolescents who stumble onto the decades old murder of Katherine Heaton. Katherine was a young student who was attempting to create a project that centered on endangered species. As luck would have it, she discovers a colony of eagles living on Cole Island, but her discovery is not welcomed by all. The owners of Cole Island register her presence there and before she is able to tell anyone her amazing discovery, she is killed and her body buried on Loggerhead Island - a research facility. As Tory Brennan unravels the mystery, she takes herself and her friends deeper and deeper down the rabbit hole.

Tory carefully cleans the shells she picked up earlier, waiting for her ride to Folly Beach who appeared to be a no show. When she finishes with the last shell, she decides to go running and while changing upstairs, happens to glance outside. She sees Hiram, running as fast as he can. She goes down to wait for him to arrive and when he does, Tory can tell there is trouble. Hi tells her that Ben ran his new boat aground and slashed his leg badly. Tory gets a medical kit and they bike back to find Ben on a bench in the bunker, his leg propped up on a chair. The gash in his shin is ugly but doesn't need stitches, and Tory bandages it neatly. Shelton arrives and he and Ben work on the boat until they manage to get it to fire up. They decide to test their repair job by going to Loggerhead Island to search for the wolf-dog pack that lives there. Tory agrees immediately, as does Shelton who also expresses an interest in monkeys. Loggerhead Island comes into sight - wild, untamed and primal. They scrape to a stop along the pier, and disembark on the southern end of the island. The island is mostly marsh at its northern end, and at the southern end is the conical peak called Tern Point. To the west is Chile Beach - a long, skinny stretch of beach called Dead Cat by the old timers in the area. The best part of the island is to the east however - Turtle Beach - a short, wide piece of paradise. The interior of the island is forested, with creeks that crisscross the area. While Hi tries to regain his stomach after a bout of seasickness, the others walk towards the research center, keeping an eye out for the wolf-dogs.

## Part One: Islands: Chapters 1 - 5 Analysis

Tory cleans shells while she waits for the ride that is supposed to take her to Folly Beach. Once she has them all cleaned to her satisfaction, and her tools are put away, she faces the reality that her ride isn't just late. It isn't coming. Stranded, and with few options, she decides to go for a run. She sees Hiram from an upstairs window, and goes downstairs to intercept him, knowing that Hiram doesn't run in the heat unless something is wrong. When he tells her that Ben is hurt, and has damaged his boat, she immediately gets a first aid kit and together she and Hiram bike down to the bunker where Ben is.



Ben immediately grouses because he asked Hiram to bring Shelton back, but Hi defends himself, reminding Ben that there is no telling Tory anything once she's made up her mind about something. Tory teases Ben about showboating in the tidal bay and he denies it, claiming to have just misread the depth. After spending some time trying to repair Ben's boat, Ben begins to get frustrated, fearing that they will do more harm than good but they finally track the problem to a loose wire, and are moments from a trial run. They decide to take the boat to Loggerhead Island to see the wolf-dogs and the monkeys. Ben's docking is still a little rough and he scrapes along the pier as they arrive, looking sheepish. Hi gets off and as usual looks for a private place to deal with a bout of seasickness. The others continue on to look for the wolf-dogs. Months had passed since Tory had saved the newest arrival from the fall it had taken down a ten foot shaft, and she wondered if they would remember her now. They walk down towards the research center, and right into trouble.



# Part One: Islands: Chapters 6 - 10

## Part One: Islands: Chapters 6 - 10 Summary

As they crest the top of the rise, they can see Hiram standing down by the main gate of the LIRI facility with Dr. Karsten. He waves them down and they approach reluctantly. The others are mostly quiet while Karsten focuses his attention on Tory. She stares him down, telling him she is there to see her father - a request he cannot deny. He reminds them again of the places they are not allowed to go - Tern Point in particular, and then tells Tory that her father is busy with an emergency. Relieved, they return to their search for the pack. A man watches from the window as Karsten returns and berates him for allowing the kids on the island, but Karsten explains that they have permission. The man insists that he wants all outsiders kept off the island. He reminds Karsten of the agreement they made, and of his obligations. Karsten whines about needing more time.

Tory sees a flash, surprised when a monkey throws something at her. They still haven't found any trace of the pack which had lately begun circling the fence at night and howling, making the guards uncomfortable. The worst part for Tory is that the guards report only three of the animals each night. Coop is missing. Tory looks up and sees the primate, Y-7, that's been bombing her. She throws a thin, flat piece of metal and Shelton knows immediately it is a dog tag. Tory decides to try to return it to its owner, and puts it in her pocket - a small action that changes everything. Once home, Whitney starts in on Tory, asking if she's thought about her offer to help introduce her to high society as a debutante. Tory tries to gently decline, and Kit tries to smooth over the obvious tension growing in the room, telling Tory what an opportunity Whitney is offering her. Tory changes the subject, asking Kit about the turtle, revealing that they'd been on Loggerhead that day. The conversation turns to Tory's concern for Coop, and Whitney is appalled - first by the fact that Tory is out with boys unchaperoned, and secondly because her activity is unbecoming. Tory goes upstairs, promising herself that she won't allow Whitney to turn her into her personal show pony. Jason calls her, and when she doesn't pick up fast enough to catch the call, he texts her and asks if she wants to join them at a boat party at Charleston Harbor Marina. The party of the year is being held on Chance Claybourne's boat and Tory tries to figure out a way to get there unsuccessfully. She texts him back that she can't make it. She puts the dog tag into a sink of soapy water, but an hour later, it is no more legible than it started. Now she has to know and after learning the LIRI lab has everything she needs, she texts the guys for a stealth mission. All three agree in minutes and they promise to meet the next morning.

## Part One: Islands: Chapters 6 - 10 Analysis

When they come over the rise, they see Hiram being held by Karsten at the main gate. He waves them over and Hiram is immediately cocky. Karsten's response is anything but warm. Tory tells him that she is there to see her father, and Karsten backs down somewhat, but not before muttering that she is nothing like Kit, but certainly bears a



resemblance to her Aunt Tempe whom he'd known professionally. Tory wasn't supposed to hear that comment, but did, and quietly enjoys the idea that she resembles the woman she so admires. When Karsten adds that her father is busy with an injured turtle, Tory breathes a sigh of relief and turns away to find all eyes on her. None of the others can believe how she'd mouthed off at Dr. Karsten. Karsten returns to his office, unaware that he isn't alone until the smell of tobacco smoke finds him. The man is sitting at his desk, and instantly sets into Karsten for allowing the kids to be anywhere on the island at all. Karsten tries to defend himself, but the man insists that as the head of the facility, he should try to exercise his position. In fact, the man insists that he wants no one on the island. He reminds Karsten of the deal they have, and Karsten is reduced to whining as he asks for more time. Assured that the pecking order has been reestablished, the man warns Karsten that his time is running out, and leaves without looking back.

Tory is sitting with her back to a tree, trying to figure out what the flash is that she has seen several times now. They had followed an older path and rather than end up at Dead Cat as usual, they found themselves off road and out of bounds. Still no sign of the pack, and Tory was worried. Lately, the wolf-dogs had taken to howling at the facility's fence at night. It not only gave the guards at night the creeps, but no one seemed to know why the animals were so agitated. Tory worried that they would make so much noise that someone would realize that they weren't even supposed to be on the island, and move them. The female primate is displaying more and more aggression, behaving as though a baby were close by. She comes down closer and closer, pegging them with anything she can get her hands on. She shakes the branches and shrieks at them as she leaps towards them, much too close for Tory's comfort, who tucks herself into a ball to make a smaller and harder target of herself. Monkey bites were painful. The female throws the metal object at Tory and goes back up into the higher branches while Tory and Shelton look at the metal disk that she lobbed at them. It takes Shelton only a moment to figure out that it is an old dog tag and Tory decides that she'll try to clean it up and get it back to the soldier who lost it. It is the decision that starts everything, and starts them on the road to monsterdom. When she gets home, Tory finds Whitney waiting to ambush her with yet another conversation about 'coming out' to high society in the area. Whitney wants nothing more than to be the one who helps her with her first debutante party. Tory is horrified, wanting little to nothing to do with the snobs and elitists with whom she goes to school. Whitney insists that this is exactly the kind of thing that a coming out party would fix. When Kit joins in, supporting Whitney, Tory knows she is outnumbered and changes the subject. Unfortunately, when she asks Kit about the injured turtle, she gives away the fact that she and the boys were on Loggerhead that afternoon. Kit questions her, and asks whether or not he'll have to deal with Karsten about it the next day, but Tory insists they were just trying to find Coop. While Kit's attitude softens, knowing how much Tory cares about the wolf-dog pack, Whitney is mortified. First, Tory went to Loggerhead with boys and no chaperone, and the reason she went was to cavort with 'diseased mongrels'. Tory, having had enough, heads upstairs citing homework as the reason for her escape. On her own in her room, Tory can't help but admit there were probably worse things than being subjected to nice clothes and a debutante ball. As she sits there considering the idea from all angles, she gets a call from Jason who invites her to the party of the year on





Chance Claybourne's boat. It is so far away that she has no choice but to decline. Instead, she begins the process of trying to clean the dog tag, but simple soap and water aren't going to be enough. Rather than risk damaging it with her power tools, she looks up the research facility on line to determine that they have what she needs before calling the group for a morning stealth mission.

## Part Two: Infection: Chapters 11 - 15

### Part Two: Infection: Chapters 11 - 15 Summary

The next morning, the four of them head for Loggerhead Island again, docking at a platform off Tern Point. They were headed for Lab Six - a building that Karsten had closed a few weeks earlier without explanation. Shelton picks the lock to the gate while Tory stands guard. They are exposed for a five second dash to the building and Shelton works on the deadbolt getting it open minutes later. Hi directs them to Lab Six, having been there once with his father, and then to the ultrasonic cleaner. When Hi has it set up, Tory gives him the tag. Fifteen minutes later, most of the grime is gone and they can read the nine digit social insurance number that tells them the tag came from the Vietnam war and the name F. Heaton. As they are finishing, Ben returns from exploring and insists that they come with him to an upstairs lab where he heard barking.

The metal door has a keyless entry that Ben insists is beyond him, but he suggests they try the default code of 3333, and miraculously, the door opens. In the far corner in a cage Coop is confined, and Tory is livid. When she sees the label on the cage announcing Subject A - Parvovirus XPB-19, her heart clenches. Parvo is deadly for a puppy. He whimpers and Tory sees the clipboard that notes the 'subject' isn't responding and is due for termination. Tory makes up her mind to rescue Coop. Slowly, the others agree. They take three vials of antibiotics, intravenous fluid and an animal carrier, and Tory frees Coop, careful not to disturb the lines attached. Just as they are ready to go, the alarm sounds. They barely make it out the gate before Carl opens the door and looks in their direction. Seeing no one, he goes back inside, unwilling to walk to the gate in the downpour. Relieved, they take Coop back to the bunker. They rehang intravenous bags, and work out shifts to come and change the bags and feed Coop. Swearing secrecy, Tory prays Coop will get better. When Karsten arrives, responding to the call the guards made to him regarding the alarm, he discovers the wolf-dog pup is gone. Karsten calls the number with shaking fingers and tells the voice that answers they have a problem.

### Part Two: Infection: Chapters 11 - 15 Analysis

Knowing that the security cameras were inoperative for the next few days, there would be no tape to give away their clandestine visit to Lab Six, and though Hi waffles and asks to be left behind to guard the boat, he is the only one who can operate the ultrasonic cleaner, and as such, has to come along. The rain is beating down on them, increasing their discomfort levels as they wait for Shelton to finish picking the lock on the gate. The storm is the perfect cover for the operation they had in mind. Hi has endured the rough ride, making good use of the barf bag he'd brought. Nervous, Hi tries to back out, but he is the only one who knows how to work the equipment they need. Shelton manages to get them through the deadbolt on the building as well, and in short order, they have the tag soaking in the Sonicator. When it is done, they are gratified to



see that not only can they make out the name, but the social security number as well. Just as they are about to leave, Ben returns having been gone for some time, and tells them he's heard barking coming from one of the labs upstairs.

Ben isn't able to get them into the keyless entry, but suggests they try the default code, and the door opens. A quick examination reveals Coop in a plexiglass cage. Tory is livid when she sees the pup looking out at her, and his pitiful whimpers are more than she can take. Forcing herself to calm down, she takes in the situation, noting the intravenous lines, and reading the tag that reveals Coop has been infected with a Parvo virus. When she sees the notation that cites Coop will be terminated, she decides right then to rescue him, and in just a few minutes, the others reluctantly agree. They steal I.V. bags full of fluid and three vials of antibiotics, and are ready to leave when the alarm goes off. They hide in the stairwell, waiting for Carl the guard to pass by, and then hurry out the back. Barely escaping, they take Coop back to the bunker, and settle him in, working out a schedule to look after him. Tory's heart goes out to the pup. They make a pact to tell no one. When Karsten is called because of the alarm, he isn't worried. All the way to the island, he quietly curses the fool who triggered the alarm, vowing that whoever did would get the worst of his mood when he arrived. Carl waits for him on the steps, and tells him the issue with the video that prevented him from investigating the break in. Carl tells him the gates were locked, and he checked all but the upstairs labs. Karsten assures him that no one could get in there, and blanches when Carl tells him that is where the alarm originated. Dismissing the guard, he hurries upstairs and discovers the subject of his experiment gone. Having always suspected that there were those who would steal his work, knowing it is worth millions, Karsten feels sick when he realizes the magnitude of the issue at hand. The virus was experimental, and Karsten had some terrible suspicions about it. He picks up the phone, and dialing a number he never calls, tells the man on the other end that they have a problem.



## Part Two: Infection: Chapters 16 - 20

### Part Two: Infection: Chapters 16 - 20 Summary

The next day at school, Tory spends her lunch hour researching parvovirus, learning it often kills the host in days. Hi joins her, and they go over the symptoms and stages of the virus. The more they learn, the more angry they become. The real question is how Coop contracted the virus to begin with. Tory explains the cleaning and decontamination they will have to go through. As Tory is looking at picture of wolf cubs on line, Jason comes up behind her and teases her about her lack of attendance at the party he'd invited her to. The Tripod shows up, and shortly afterward, so do Chance and Hannah. They are all headed down to see Madison's new Beamer and Chance invites Tory to join them, but she declines. After school, Tory waits out front and when Shelton and Hi show up, they head to the library downtown. Mr. Brian Limestone introduces himself and shows Tory, Shelton and Hi where they will be most likely to find information about the person who owned the dog tag.

Two hours later, they finally find his name in the records for the orphanage. He is listed as having one daughter, Katherine, and a look through the old Gazette papers tells them that Katherine disappeared in 1969 and has never been found. Brian Limestone comes back to check on them, and Tory asks if he's ever heard of Katherine Heaton. His face changes, and suddenly he isn't so encouraging, telling them the library is closing and they'll have to leave. They manage to catch the last ferry and Tory dozes on the way back. She dreams of the place where they found the tag, and finds herself directing the dream. She gets rid of the fog, calls daylight to her and scans the ground from the air. Then she has the sensation she is falling, and Hi shakes her, telling her they are home. Hi goes to see Coop while the others head home. The dream keeps replaying in her mind, keeping her from sleep. She gets up and uses Google to have an aerial look at the site. Increasing the magnification, she finds an impression in the ground about six feet in length and it dawns on her. She goes into the chat room and calls the others, drumming her fingers impatiently. Five minutes later, she is telling them they have to return to Loggerhead.

### Part Two: Infection: Chapters 16 - 20 Analysis

When Tory learns that the virus Coop has generally kills its host in days, she vows that she won't let that happen. Though there was no known cure, Tory clung to the survival stats hopefully. She and Hi look over the symptoms, becoming angrier by the minute. As Coop lived in an isolated environment, it seemed logical to assume that someone had deliberately infected him. Jason comes up behind Tory, reminding her again not to sit with her back to the door, and asks her why she is looking at wolf-pups. She gives a lame excuse, closing the browser as Jason sits down beside her. Jason is a sophomore, but for some reason he likes Tory and as long as he is around, life at school was easier for her. Tory considers him to be a friend, despite his obvious interest in her,



but for Tory there is no spark there. His friend Chance however, was another story entirely. Tory is absorbed with the computer when Jason comes up behind her and she chastises herself for sitting with her back to the door. Before Tory can get comfortable with the lie she is telling Jason to cover up her interest in wolf-dogs, they are joined by the group Tory calls the Tripod of Skank. Named for their appearance as much as their behavior, the Tripod snipes at Tory's expense as usual after Chance gallantly invites her to join them. Tory declines and they finally leave. She can hardly wait for the bell to ring.

After two hours of hunting records, the last hope they have is to search the orphanage records and to their surprise, they find him listed there. The notations claim he'd been left on the doorstep on July 15, 1935. Another form in with the group announces the author's sadness that Frankie was killed in action. They discover he had a daughter, Katherine, and learn she disappeared without a trace. They spend some time looking through the information surrounding her disappearance, and find a statement made by an aunt who claimed Katherine wore her father's dog tags. The librarian returns, smiling his encouragement at their diligence until Tory asks him if he knew about Katherine Heaton. His sudden change in demeanor is unnerving and Tory wonders if fear is what she sees in his expression. Suddenly, he can't get rid of them quickly enough. They ride the last ferry home, and in a dream the answers come to Tory. It will be hours before she realizes it, but they will have to return to Loggerhead. She sends the group a message, telling them she will explain tomorrow at school. Reliable as always, they agree to return with her.



## Part Two: Infection: Chapters 21 - 25

### Part Two: Infection: Chapters 21 - 25 Summary

Fifteen years passed since Fenton Dawkins told Brian Limestone about the benefactor who gave a thousand dollars a year to the research librarian. Only two requirements came with it. He was never to tell, and if anyone came in asking for Katherine Heaton, Limestone was to contact the number enclosed. He tears open the envelope and tells the voice who answers what happened. Without a word, the line disconnects and Brian goes home. The next day at school Tory is unable to concentrate in class. Hannah, Tory and Jason plan to work on the weekend, exchanging numbers. At lunch, Jason asks Tory to join his iFollow group on line. The GPS app has a locator tab showing where all the registered members are. Tory immediately thinks of the benefits her group will get from such an app. After last class, they race home to change and go to Loggerhead. Tory wades ashore with her excavation tools, feeling as though the guys are merely humoring her. At the site, she stakes out a grid and hands out shovels while she screens the dirt searching for items that don't belong. After a time, Tory trades places with Hi, and then notices a change in color. Using a trowel, she continues until she hits something solid. Then she switches to a brush and uncovers the bones of a human hand.

Hi immediately wants to involve police. Tory talks them into continuing, and documenting, until they find conclusive proof the body belongs to Katherine Heaton. When they uncover her skull, they clearly see the bullet hole in the center of the forehead. The pelvic bones confirm female gender. The boys watch and document. Pulling her trowel out, she hears a clink and discovers the second dog tag, the name clearly legible. She vows quietly to get justice for Katherine, but her promise is interrupted. Shelton hears the monkeys begin to hoot in alarm. People are approaching, and they realize they should leave. The gunmen hear them and Tory hisses at them to run for the boat. She heads for the treeline in the now dark forest, and sees three figures dressed in black emerge from the trees and seeing the gun, her flight responses go into overdrive. Shelton, Ben and Tory all crouch by the boat, waiting for Hi. They pull the anchor and Tory thinks about the archaeology kit left behind. Just as they are losing hope, Hi arrives thanking them profusely for not leaving him. They gun the motor and speed out of the area.

### Part Two: Infection: Chapters 21 - 25 Analysis

Brian Limestone really believes he has a shot at being head librarian one day - when old lady Wilkerson finally kicks it. It has been fifteen years since Fenton Dawkins reluctantly passes the torch to him, and so much time has passed that Brian began to believe the thousand dollars a year he'd been paid since the beginning was free money. Now that Tory Brennan and her friends had asked about Heaton, he had to call the number he was given so long ago. The voice on the other end listens as he explains the



events, and then hangs up. Now Brian's part is over. The next day, Tory is distracted in class, so knowing that they will likely have to work on the weekend to finish it, Jason asks Tory to download a locator app called iFollow. Chance comes up behind them, moaning that Tory is now just another information junkie, and complaining that all everyone does these days is type. After school, they change and head straight to Loggerhead. Tory explains her theory to them, and while they agreed to come, she can't help feeling that they are humoring her. She holds the excavation tools that were a gift from Aunt Tempe out of the water as she wades to shore, and they make their way quickly back to the clearing. Tory gets to work immediately, staking out a grid and clearing the top layer of debris. They work for some time, and when they have gone down three feet with nothing to show for their digging, the boys are ready to quit. Tory tells herself they'll go one more foot before she'll admit that maybe she was wrong. She trades places with Hi in the hole, and soon after begins to find evidence of decomposition. Carefully, she uncovers a human hand.

The guys have mixed reactions. Ben seems to be the only one who keeps his head. Tory convinces them to continue until they have something conclusive, and they reluctantly agree. By the time she is finished, the boys have documented her uncovering the skull, complete with bullet hole in the forehead; enough of the pelvis to assure her it was a female; and a cursory examination of teeth pegging the skeleton as being about twenty years of age. By then it is dark, and they are getting ready to go home when Shelton hears a noise and the monkeys begin to hoot in alarm. Voices in the forest set off alarm bells in Tory's head and she tells them to run for the boat. Leaving everything behind, she follows her own advice, managing to reach the edge of the clearing as three men dressed in black and carrying guns emerge from the other side. One look confirms that they are not part of the scientists on Loggerhead. She manages to find her way back to the boat, but Hi is still missing. They pull the anchor, and wait, praying he shows up. When he bursts out onto the beach, the relief in his voice is obvious as he thanks them for not leaving him behind. As quickly as possible, they leave the area, expecting a hail of gunfire in their wake, but getting away clean. Tory thinks about the excavation kit she left behind, but nothing in it that she can think of will tie it to her.



## Part Two: Infection: Chapters 26 - 31

### Part Two: Infection: Chapters 26 - 31 Summary

Coop is showing signs of improvement. Tory realizes she left the dog tags in her bag on Loggerhead as well. They get their stories straight for the following day. Tory ambushes Kit at seven in the morning and he brings the other parents up to speed before going to the Folly Beach Police Department. Kit's demeanor only worsens when the Sergeant tells him they have no resources or police to investigate on Morris or Loggerhead Islands. Livid, Ruth assures the Sergeant his continuing employment is tied to his willingness to investigate. When they reach Loggerhead, Karsten is standing on the dock with all three of the other fathers. Angry, he doesn't believe a word of their story. Tory searches her bag for the tags but can't find them. Kit gets carefully into the hole, and announces they've made a mistake. The bones are those of a primate. In desperation, they search the area for evidence of bullets, but even that has been carefully removed or covered up. Corcoran leaves and Karsten adds that a break in has occurred in his lab. He planned to investigate.

Hi and Shelton are grilled on the way home, deflecting their parents with a story of nerves, darkness and chaos. Kit stays on Loggerhead and Tory sits with Ben on the ride home. They question the timing of the gunmen's arrival - the 'coincidence' nags Tory. She texts the others to download iFollow for real time conferencing, agreeing to meet online later. She deflects Kit's questions at dinner and later tells Ben, Hi and Shelton her theories about the library. Limestone is too young to be the murderer so the conversation turns to Karsten, now their prime suspect. Tory intends find out who killed Katherine and the others agree. At one in the morning, they discover an open window at the library and slip inside. Tory checks the microfilm reader for finger prints and finding none, they check the Gazette film where a single print shows. They transfer it to tape using powder. Hi looks outside and sees police. They hurry downstairs and climb out the window just as the police are coming in the door. Back at the boat, all but Hiram see the funny side of their escape. Tory sits next to him and asks him if he's okay. He slumps forward unconscious. When he opens his eyes, Tory is stunned by their golden color, but when Shelton and Ben look, they've returned to normal. He insists he feels great, and Tory sits back drained, but aware that something has changed. All of a sudden, she feels a power and strength she never had before, and looking over at Hi, she sees he feels the same way. The name Whisper comes to mind, for reasons she can't explain.

### Part Two: Infection: Chapters 26 - 31 Analysis

Hi insists they should go to the police but having lost his phone containing all the photographic evidence, they had no proof. The intravenous bags are all empty, so Tory removes the needle from Coops paw, and taking the collar off, lets Coop chew on it. They are all tired, and in no mood for the barrage of questions they know will follow so





an agreement to wait until morning is reached. Hi relents but reluctantly. He has a hard time understanding how easily the others seem to accept the fact that someone was shooting at them. Kit is incredulous as he listens to Tory's tale of gunmen and a dead body the next morning. Afterward, they relate their story once more to Sergeant Carmine Corcoran of the FBPD who is convinced that they are prone to exaggeration. Hi's mother Ruth makes sure that Corcoran realizes his job is directly tied to his willingness to investigate this case. When they arrive with Corcoran on Loggerhead, and get to the site, things look much the same as they left them. Tory checks her bag for the dog tags, but they are gone. Then things go from bad to worse as Kit hops into the grave carefully and announces that the bones they found are primate bones. No evidence of the gunmen remains either, beyond the marks where they cut branches away to hide where bullets had struck. Astonished, they insist that something is wrong, but Corcoran and Karsten are clearly in their element now as they berate the increasingly frantic kids. Karsten comments on the break in as well, insinuating the kids were responsible for that as well. The kids know they are in for an earful when they get home.

The ride home is filled with questions, and suddenly missing the comfort a mother would bring, tears of frustration spring to Tory's eyes. She gives herself a shake, not wanting to fall apart in front of her friends. At dinner, Kit probes and questions, but Tory just tells him that she must have made a mistake which he clearly doesn't believe. Later, in a conference call on line, Hi is ready to give up, having already gotten into enough trouble as it is, but Tory had known that was coming. She quietly tells them that she has no intention of giving up, and that she felt obligated to find out who really killed Katherine. Ben is the first to agree and lend himself to the effort and Shelton quickly follows. Hi doesn't like being the only one to refuse, and though the idea gives him distress, he tells them he is in also. They ask Tory what next and she asks what they have planned for the night. Amid groans, she outlines her plan. Just before one in the morning, they are gathered outside the library. They go in through a window and manage to find a single fingerprint on the Gazette film. Tory carefully takes it, and as they are getting ready to leave, feeling almost optimistic, the police arrive. They manage to get out of the building without being seen, but only just barely. When they get back to the boat, the adrenaline surge catches up with them and Shelton jokes about their abilities as criminals. That gets them laughing. Tory turns to see Hi isn't laughing with them, and when she goes over to him, his eyes roll into the back of his head and he falls over. Ben cuts the engine and they crowd around Hi, calling his name. Slowly he comes back around, and opening his eyes, he looks at Tory. For a moment, all she can see is yellow eyes - golden and primordial, split by black pupils. He blinks as Tory stumbles backward, and then they return to normal before Ben or Shelton notice. Her reaction scares Hi, who insists he feels fine now, and she slumps back into her seat, suddenly exhausted. In only moments, she begins to feel better, energy coursing through her. Strong and feeling reborn, she tries to understand what has happened, but just feels light and has a strength that is visceral. The almost full moon pulls at her, entrancing her. Whisper comes to her mind unbidden and looking over at Hi, she knows that he feels the same way she does.



## Part Three: Incubation: Chapters 32 - 36

### Part Three: Incubation: Chapters 32 - 36 Summary

During lunch at school the next day, Tory takes all of their fingerprints to rule them out. She had hoped Jason would help her get the print run, but he calls on Chance instead who strolls over and theatrically agrees to help. Coop is improving daily and summer vacation is barely two weeks away. Karsten calls them in for an interview and they meet ahead of time to discuss strategy. Hi preps them, making sure they include details that will make the lie they are telling believable.

Karsten calls Hiram in first. He asks about Saturday morning, and Hi gives him a story, adding enough details to make it sound legitimate. Karsten asks him how he's been feeling, and Hi is surprised, but tells him he feels fine. Shelton is next and Karsten tries unsuccessfully to trip him up. Ben is next, and also has no trouble fielding the interview. Finally, Tory is called in and Karsten immediately says he knows her friends are lying. He sends Carl out of the room, ignoring his insistence that he is supposed to remain throughout the interrogation. Instead of confirming the same information with Tory, he tells her how he and her Aunt Tempe had worked together in Sudan for five years. He asks her how she is feeling, and then asks her point blank where the dog is. She insists she has no idea what he is talking about. He asks her how she knew where to dig, insisting she tell him who she is working with. Kit shows up at an opportune moment, angry that Tory is being questioned alone and when they leave, he asks if she is okay. Tory insists they were just chatting, and tries to make the lie sound real. Karsten learned nothing from the interviews. He realizes that trying to bully Tory was a mistake. All Karsten knows is that he has to get the dog back immediately. The kids meet back at the bunker after dinner. They compare notes and an alarm bell rings in Tory's mind when Ben and Hi both comment on Karsten's questions about their health. Shelton admits to having briefly lost consciousness in the shower the day before, but then feeling normal afterward, and Hi says that is exactly what happened to him. Ben claims to have noticed no differences, so Tory doesn't mention her spell. Instead, she talks about Coop and finding him a new home.

### Part Three: Incubation: Chapters 32 - 36 Analysis

Tory studies fingerprint analysis, learning about whorls, loops and arches. She studies the cards of their prints and tells Shelton and Hi that they both have loops. The print they had taken from the library had arches. Having ruled themselves out, Tory takes a picture of the print and asks Jason if he can get the print run for her. Jason defers to Chance who with a little push from Hannah agrees to have someone run the print for Tory. It is the first time that Ben has met Jason and Chance, and their chemistry is fire and water. After school, they meet at the bunker to discuss Karsten's summons. Hi insists they need to get their story's straight, but the others are convinced they'll be just fine, so Hiram begins interrogating them. One at a time, he picks them off, tossing



questions at them that they can't answer. Convinced, they submit to his 'orchestration' of events. They create and learn an alibi complete with intricate details that will make it believable.

Karsten works on Hi first, but Hi is a master, claiming that living in his home has given him the edge on alibis and story telling. Hiram has no trouble deflecting Karsten, providing such clarity to his lie that Karsten even stops taking notes. The only surprise question is when Karsten asks him how he is feeling these days. One at a time, he tries to trip them up, but they are well rehearsed. Lastly, he takes Tory in. By this time, Karsten is losing his objectivity and his cool. He tells Carl to leave the room, and begins to browbeat Tory on his own, telling her that he knows they are all lying, and demanding the return of his subject. When Karsten leans in to try to intimidate Tory, she never flinches. Instead, she thinks about Coop and what he did to the wolf-dog pup and is livid. It shows in her eyes when she leans forward, into Karsten's face, and tells him to bring it on. At that moment, Kit enters and sees that Tory is being interrogated without another adult present, and he is ready to make serious waves, but Tory diffuses him, telling him everything is fine. The lies almost stick in her throat as she adds her opinion that Karsten isn't such a bad guy all in all. Kit searches her face, but doesn't know her well enough yet to spot the deception. Later, they meet at the bunker and compare notes. When Hi and Ben both admit Karsten asked them how they were feeling, and Shelton admits to having lost consciousness like Hi had the day before, Tory keeps her incident to herself. Deflecting the conversation, she initiates one about Coop's future, sadly admitting they will have to find a new home for him, far enough away that Karsten will never find him.



## Part Three: Incubation: Chapters 37 - 41

### Part Three: Incubation: Chapters 37 - 41 Summary

Hiram is supposed to help Tory disinfect the bunker, but hasn't shown up. She starts by bleaching all surfaces and all sites where Coop relieved himself. She is just finishing the floor when the first attack of vertigo hits. Aware she is lying on the ground, some part of her understands she'd fainted. Coop licks her face, and she gets up to feed him, dimly aware that he'd asked her for the food. The second attack hits and again Tory goes down. This time, consciousness feels great. In fact, she feels energized. Tory realizes that she and Coop somehow shared communication. Coop eats, goes back to sleep, and Tory heads for Hiram's to see if he is okay. Ruth opens the door telling her Hiram is still in bed. She tells Hi about her episode, and then heads for Shelton's. There is no answer at his place, but she sees Ben at the dock. He claims he is fine, backing away from her. Kit is ready to make trouble for Karsten for interviewing her without another adult present. He insists that she tell him everything, so she gives him the agreed on version. At dinner, Whitney tells Tory she's managed to get her accepted as a junior debutante and without her consent, approached the committee with her application for the next season's cotillion. Tory feels herself fall over. Kit and Whitney want to take her to a doctor, but she insists she's fine. Taking her by the hand, Whitney asks her to attend a dance that Wednesday. Tory isn't able to fight back and simply agrees, going up to lie down.

Tory has a dream, and wakes up remembering she was howling. Feeling like death warmed over, she realizes she's slept through the night and morning. Without warning, her head explodes with light, her knees buckle and there is an onslaught of scents from the bathroom. She shifts and her senses are sharper, her eyesight and hearing amplified and then everything changes again. She goes on line and talks to the others, but they are fine. She is supposed to study with Jason and Hannah but sends them her apologies, telling them she is too sick and sleeps again. Just before three she wakes, ravenous. On the way downstairs she hears and sees a fly in great detail. She goes to the fridge, and begins stuffing herself with raw hamburger. The first moment is like ecstasy, and then the mouthful becomes raw meat to her again. She spits it out. For a brief moment, she sees her reflection in the faucet - her eyes golden. Tory is confused, and scared. Monday morning in school she apologizes to Hannah and Jason for her lack of data and participation. Their project is to observe how two different scents affect a gerbil. The first is lavender, making the gerbil go to sleep. The second is grapefruit, which has the opposite effect. The change begins to come over Tory, and she tries to stop it but to no avail. All she is aware of is the gerbil. It hides in its nest just as Tory's hand shoots out with a will of its own to grab it, almost knocking the cage over. Hannah helps her to the washroom where she is violently ill. From there, she goes straight to the nurse's office. Hi and Shelton are having problems too. They agree to meet after school at the bunker. When Ben shows up for the ferry, he tells Tory that he feels like crap and that makes ignoring the obvious impossible. They'd obviously contracted something. He tells her how he caught a falling engine - a feat normally impossible.



## Part Three: Incubation: Chapters 37 - 41 Analysis

Tory gets up and heads to the bunker to disinfect and spend some time with Coop. He is out of the bunker and at first she thinks Hiram is there already there, but he isn't. She starts without him, and is almost finished when the first attack comes. She faints, waking to Coop's tongue. He tells her he wants food and somehow, his communication with her seems perfectly natural at first. It takes her a few moments to pull herself together, and just as she is beginning to, another attack overcomes her. This time, when she wakes again, she feels much better - energized and sharp. She feeds Coop and in doing so, remembers his 'request'. She tries to repeat the phenomenon, but without success. When Coop is asleep, she leaves to check on the others, beginning with Hi. Ruth greets her at the door and tells her that Hiram is still in bed. She goes up and finds him pale and breathless. He delicately admits he is unable to go more than a few steps from a bathroom. She tells him about her episodes, leaving out the mental contact with Coop. She tells him to stay on line, and leaves to check on the others. Shelton isn't home but Ben insists he is fine, giving Tory slim hope that their episodes and illnesses are unrelated to Coop. She promises to keep her distance. She goes home and finds Kit waiting for her, wanting to talk to her about Karsten's behavior and willing to act in her defense. Tory lies, assuring him no harm was done. Kit is obviously relieved, but still wants explanations. She gives him the standard line the group was sticking to, and can tell that he doesn't believe her. She goes up for a nap before Whitney arrives for dinner, feeling increasingly sick. Later, Tory goes down for dinner feeling even worse, and waits for the onslaught she knows is coming. Instead, this time Whitney is excited. Whitney and Kit have taken it upon themselves to sign her up for the rest of the year as a junior debutante. It's the final assault on her system that tips the scales and Tory. She falls to the floor unconscious. Like before, she is conscious again in short order, and insists she is fine. She just needs to lie down. Oblivious to Tory's distress, Whitney is intent only on getting her agreement and participation as a debutante. To facilitate her escape, Tony just agrees.

After an extended amount of sleep, Tory wakes having dreamed that she was running on all fours and howling with the moon. She snaps in and out of hyper sensitivity without warning, and tends to behave more instinctively than usual when in that hyper state. For example, ravenous when she woke, Tory heads downstairs and is suddenly aware of a fly across the room. She could see the patterns on its wings. Then Tory went to the fridge and bypassing her usual appetites, she fixates on a pound of raw hamburger, pulling it out of the fridge. Unable to restrain herself, she dips in and stuffs a handful in her mouth. It takes a minute or two to return to herself, and when she does, the raw burger in her mouth makes her gag. She spits it out, rinsing her mouth in the sink and catches sight of her reflection in the faucet. Horrified, she looks at the yellow eyes looking back at her. She sinks to the floor, trying to breathe and telling herself it isn't real. The next time she looks, they are green again, but she hasn't forgotten her encounter with Coop either. At school the next day, she has another issue during a gerbil experiment. Again, her instincts override her humanity and civilized nature, and she texts the others telling them that it is imperative they meet after school. Both Shelton and Hi are grim faced, and obviously ill. Tory's only hope is that Ben is still okay.

When they finally meet later, that hope is dashed as Ben confesses he is experiencing unusual changes and abilities as well. She lets him know that he doesn't know the half of it.



## Part Three: Incubation: Chapters 42 - 46

### Part Three: Incubation: Chapters 42 - 46 Summary

Shelton says during his attack, his vision is perfect without glasses and Ben describes strange cravings, his arms and legs feel like they are on fire and he is invincible for a brief time before it passes and he vomits. Hi is the most sick of all and the symptoms are too similar to ignore. The common denominator seems to be Coop, so Tory researches and confirms that Parvovirus doesn't infect humans. The next day they meet in the cafeteria. Tory watches as her friends devolve, attacking the chicken on their plates with abandon. Only pulling the fire alarm stops them from being noticed. The next day Tory pretends to get ready until after Kit leaves, and then goes back to bed. She sleeps the morning away before going to see Coop. The cotillion dance is that evening, and she has no clue what to wear. She gets a surprise when she opens her closet to find the dress Whitney left for her. That evening, Jason and Chance are in tuxes and tails. Tory admits it is her first event and Jason gallantly offers to be her guide. Tory's natural sense of rhythm helps and she manages to keep up with them both on the dance floor. Jason is taking her back onto the floor when she shifts and she pushes him hard into the wall. Mortified, she insists she has to leave as he struggles to his feet, still wondering what happened. Knowing that the Tripod is paying attention, she excuses herself and hurries out. A driver climbs out of a nearby limo and tells her that Mr. Claybourne asked him to take her wherever she needed to go. When she finally is sitting in her room, she has a chance to dissect what happened, and tries to ascertain what is triggering the attacks. The switches are coming with less provocation.

The next day dawns and for the first time in at least a week, Tory feels great. The others report similar improvements. It is time to make decisions. Describing the fit as a 'flare', Ben insists they must have a trigger. Tory and Ben decide to break into Karsten's office to search his files, while Hi and Shelton head to the CU medical library. Jason catches up with her and tells her that Chance has a hit for her on the fingerprint she gave him. He tells her not to worry about the girls and their gossip, and acting unconcerned, she presses him for details. Hearing her behavior described as pulling a 'Cinderella', she vows quietly that it is time to do something about the Tripod once and for all.

### Part Three: Incubation: Chapters 42 - 46 Analysis

Shelton is surprised when Tory finishes her confession, telling them everything she's gone through. They describe their symptoms and while all differ to a degree, they are too similar to consider random and unrelated. The consensus seems to be that the next step should be a doctor's visit, but Tory knows they can't do that. Tory is forced to admit that Karsten knows they have Coop, and tells them the truth about his interrogation. At first they are angry, but Tory reminds them that Karsten has no proof. They just need to ride out the storm. Once they recover, they can investigate what Karsten is really doing. The one thing Tory didn't mention is the golden eyes. The lunch program provided a





great selection of vegetables and cooked chicken and it is the latter that triggers the change in them again. The smell overwhelms them and suddenly all are overcome with the need to consume the chicken much like a wolf attacking its last meal. Gorging themselves with abandon, Tory can see it is only matter of seconds before someone notices. She pulls the fire alarm and seconds later, theirs is the only table occupied. Tory hustles them outside and finally collapses halfway across the yard. She makes an offhand comment about the chicken being a bit dry, and is gratified to hear the laughter around her. Still, Tory avoids school the next day. She sleeps until noon, goes to see Coop, and wonders what she is going to wear to the cotillion that evening. Dreading the event, she finally goes to her closet and is stunned to find the gown Whitney left for her. Pale pink with gold to accents, the strapless number is even in Tory's size and in a box below is a cable bracelet and a diamond solitaire necklace. The ensemble shouts for attention and Tory is mortified. Whitney and Kit coach her all the way to the dance. The dress, it turns out is borrowed, as is the jewelry, and Tory is the only one in pink. Jason and Chance are surprised to see her, and the Tripod begins to chatter as soon as she arrives. Despite her nervousness, Jason escorts her through the evening, and she is pleased to discover that a natural sense rhythm helps her on the dance floor. After a foxtrot with Chance, Jason takes hold of her arm to lead her out for a waltz as the change overcomes her and without warning she pushes him backward. He hits the wall hard and slumps to the floor. Horrified, she apologizes and excuses herself, insisting she has to leave, and refusing Jason's offer to see her home. When she gets outside, Chance's driver introduces himself and tells her that Chance has put him at her disposal. Grateful, she accepts the ride home, and avoids Kit and Whitney as she hurries upstairs where she can relax for the first time that day and dissect the evening.

She wakes the next morning feeling great, as do the others. They decide it is time to act and hash out a plan. That afternoon, Tory and Ben will break into Karsten's office to search for information that might help, and Hi and Shelton are to go to Charleston University's medical library to look up any information that might help them. They go to school and Tory spends the morning avoiding Jason, not sure how to handle the incident from the night before. At lunch, she hides and finishes the project that she, Jason and Hannah were doing, and emails it to them. Jason catches up with her in the hall, and apologizes for being a klutz. He also tells her that Jason has her fingerprint results.





## Part Three: Incubation: Chapters 47 - 50

### Part Three: Incubation: Chapters 47 - 50 Summary

Hi and Shelton head to the CU campus after school. After two hours of searching, they still haven't found anything conclusive beyond the fact that Parvoviruses are species specific. There is one type - erythroviruses - that involves a Parvo B19 bug which was the first to infect humans. The virus causes fever, fatigue, coughs, and sounds similar to what they are experiencing, but B19 is only supposed to infect humans. They copy the items and leave. Ben and Tory, meanwhile, break into Karsten's office. The only roadblock is his secretary, Cordelia Hoke. A chain smoker, it is only a matter of time before she goes for a smoke and they sneak past her desk and inside. Tory finds a key to the filing cabinet in the chimp skull on his desk, and soon discovers that Karsten is being paid privately by Candela Pharmaceuticals. They lock the cabinet up again, but Hoke has returned. She sits at her desk eating chocolate, and the smell triggers an episode in them both, enabling them to race past her when she is distracted.

Hi and Shelton head back to the marina, but get spooked on the dark streets. Two men are standing near the alley, and move towards them. Fear causes the change in them, and suddenly Hi can see fine in the darkness. He grabs Shelton and together they hide, eluding the men. They hear the click of a gun being cocked, and grabbing brooms that are against the wall, they arm themselves, dispatching the two men without problems. They hurry to the dock. When they connect with Ben and Tory, they recount their story, telling them how for once their flares seemed controllable, and usable. Tory and Ben report their similar experiences, and they compare notes and information gleaned by both parties. Something about the information from Shelton and Hi bothers Tory but she can't put a finger on what it is. Then suddenly it comes to her, just as someone arrives at the entrance to the bunker. Coop growls.

### Part Three: Incubation: Chapters 47 - 50 Analysis

Hi and Shelton talk about the flare each of them experienced that day. Hi's was visual, giving him a clear view of the teachers' answer key from the back row, and Shelton's was auditory. They spend two hours researching and then compare notes. Hi researches the Parvovirus, and sums up what he's discovered while Shelton is unable to find anything that matches their symptoms. They are there until closing, copying any information they think might be relevant to their situation. Tory and Ben make their way into Karsten's office, sneaking past his secretary while she is out for a cigarette break. By the time Tory finds something that is relevant, Hoke has returned to her desk. It takes a flare by both to get them past her without her knowledge, and then simply run past her like the wind the next time she bends down to get something under her desk. Aside from the movement of wind, she is unaware of their presence.



Hi and Shelton head back to the dock in the dark. Shelton is nervous and Hi teases him at first, but soon he is uncomfortable as well. They change directions, heading back a different way and find two men who are obviously waiting for something or someone. Hi suggests they go around, but the men are closing the distance quickly. They use their flares as well, Hi using his to hide them with his exceptional vision - good even in the dark - and Shelton sharing the understanding and thoughts that Hi has and reacting as one with him in their defense. They sprint to the dock and return to the bunker with the information they've gathered. Tory is still fired up with adrenaline when the others return, and they compare notes and experiences. It seems as though all four of them have begun accessing their extra abilities with a bit more intention. Something about the information Shelton and Hi return with bothers Tory. She sits in the bunker, reviewing everything and paying attention to Coop when it suddenly comes to her. She hollers out to the others just as someone shows up at the entrance to the bunker. Coop growls menacingly and Tory is surprised when the form emerges completely.



## Part Three: Incubation: Chapters 51 - 54

### Part Three: Incubation: Chapters 51 - 54 Summary

Karsten is livid and wants to know who they are working for. He demands an explanation as to how they got in, so Tory tells him the truth. When Karsten tries to bully them with the magnitude of their criminal behavior, Hi throws his own illegalities back at him, referring to his unauthorized experimentation. Karsten turns pale and then quietly admits that they are right. His project was not only secret, but illegal as well. He tells them that he'd only done it with the most altruistic of motives and had taken all precautions. When he learns they've been sick, he presses for details assuring them that he is the only one who can help them. He confirms Tory's suspicions, and they begin to tell him the rest of it. Karsten suggests that their flares are likely activated by stimulation of their limbic brains and believes that the virus probably altered their DNA. Tory asks if he can cure them, and he isn't sure, but promises he will never stop trying. Then Coop becomes agitated again and they hear voices outside.

Tory slips outside and sees a group of dark figures - one of them holding a gun. They quickly debate their options, and then make their escape into the back passage, despite the dangers of a cave in. Karsten stays behind to distract them and fills the passage entryway with rocks. They hear two cracks and a thud, and Tory knows Karsten is dead. The men discover the shaft and begin to remove rocks when fear has Tory flaring. Hypersensitive, she hears a noise and looks up to see the roof beginning to spider in cracks. She tells the others to run, and they immediately understand. A rumble turns into a roar, and the roof comes down as the tunnel goes black. When some of the airborne debris settles, Hi senses clean air coming from the right. Shelton chastises himself for going into the shaft, and somehow Tory hears what is in his mind. Next, she hears Coop agitated by a bad smell and the danger he perceives as imminent. She grabs him and hugs him close willing him to understand as she sends him thoughts of warmth, friends, mother and safety. She promises to keep him safe, and somehow, Ben hears her as well. Amazed, she sends out a generic message and everyone answers. In a few minutes, Ben discovers a ladder and they climb up to find themselves on one of the sand hills on the northern side of Morris Island.

### Part Three: Incubation: Chapters 51 - 54 Analysis

Karsten enters the bunker, and demands to know everything. Coop growls menacingly at him, and Tory reveals that they hadn't actually gone in for the dog, but when they'd seen him, they simply couldn't leave him behind. When they tell him about Katherine Heaton's body, his eyes take on a far away look and he appears to be genuinely saddened by the idea. He tries to bully them, but Tory and Hi are quick to stand up to him, insisting that they'd discovered the truth of his experiments that afternoon. It is a hybrid of two viruses - Parvovirus XPB - 19 and Parvovirus B19. Karsten doesn't argue - not even when Tory accuses him of turning them into Virals. Tory knows why Karsten



was so secretive. The virus he was using was experimental. He listens as they describe the symptoms they've had, and asks them if they are able to control the flares. He suspects that the flares are linked to their limbic brains and reveals that in all likelihood, their DNA has also been altered. Frightened, Tory asks if he can undo what has been done, but Karsten reluctantly admits it is unlikely, although he swears he will spend the rest of his life trying. Just then, Coop becomes agitated again, and they hear voices outside.

Karsten helps them to hide in the back passage, closing it off from the other side and asks Tory to forgive him. Tory holds Coop, trying to keep him quiet, but almost screams herself when she hears the sounds of Karsten being shot and hears him fall. She can hear the men removing the rocks in an effort to get to them, and she tells the others to run. Looking up, Tory sees the roof beginning to spider with cracks. They barely clear the area before the whole ceiling comes down. Flaring, they somehow manage to communicate silently, surprising them all. Tory sends calming thoughts to Coop who only wants to save his new pack. They finally find an exit and climb out onto one of the sand dunes.



## Part Four: Insight: Chapters 55 - 58

### Part Four: Insight: Chapters 55 - 58 Summary

Tory's presentation in school is a disaster but all she can think about is Karsten being dead, and the fact that they are stuck as Viral freaks now. To compound the issue, someone wants them dead. Only one thing makes sense - they have to solve Katherine's murder. She waits for Chance after school and he sits her down, looking serious. He tells her the print belonged to a local thug named James Newman who is very bad news. He advises her to back away from whatever she is doing, gently stroking her hand and she promises, bringing a smile to his face. Before she can say or do anything, he leans in and kisses her cheek before getting up and walking away. Looking around, she sees Hi and tries to convince him that there is nothing between herself and Chance. Hi doesn't believe her, but asks about the print instead. She repeats what Chance told her. From there, Tory checks the DOE Network where she finds Katherine listed, and also finds the name of the person who reported her missing. Sylvia Briggerman is listed in Charleston and the James Island number is to a retirement home.

They manage to talk their way into the home by claiming to be relatives, and Sylvia greets them thinking that Tory is actually Katherine. After the nurse leaves, they learn that Katherine's best friend was Abby Quimby, and that they did everything together, including the science project they were working on when Katherine disappeared. Sylvia hands them a sweater and asks them to give it to Katherine when they see her. Tory's emotions rage and she flares without warning. Hi steps up to block Sylvia's view, and Tory holds the sweater to her face, inhaling Katherine's scent, filing the information for later. On the bus going home, Tory looks up Abby Quimby's number in the phone book and calls her. Abby tells her about the project they were working on, remembering that Katherine had gone to the Morris Lighthouse on the day she disappeared. Katherine had found a species that interested her and Abby wishes someone had found her notebook - the journal she'd written everything in. Their next move is to go to the lighthouse. Shelton thinks they should go to the police, but Hi suggests they go to the lighthouse first. It is in dilapidated shape and the upper levels are covered in bird waste. The water level had come up since its construction, and it now stood in it. They climb to the watch room but the room is empty and that seems to be the end of the road. Frustrated, Tory flares and catches the slightest whiff of Katherine. Frantic, she follows the smell, digging beneath the bird excrement and finding the metal grate beyond which is Katherine's backpack.

### Part Four: Insight: Chapters 55 - 58 Analysis

Tory has difficulty concentrating in class. It all seems so trivial when compared with the death of Karsten and the likelihood that they will now be Viral freaks forever. It is easy to figure out that it is Katherine's killer who wants them dead, but since they'd been



discredited, it is hard for Tory to understand why he would be continuing to hunt them. The death of four people from Morris Island in the same week would do more than just attract a little attention in such a little town. It seemed logical that they were getting close. Tory hadn't told Kit a word, and she can't help feeling as though time is running out. Tory gets a name from Chance - James Newman - and it comes with a warning. Chance begs her to back away, to leave it alone. He touches her hand, impressing on her the importance of what he is saying. When he strokes the back of her hand, she turns to jello inside, and can hardly be blamed for promising him that she won't pursue it any further. He smiles, and leans in to kiss her cheek before leaving. She sits there, stunned, and when she looks up, Hi is trying to get out of the area unnoticed. Tory stops him, and asks him why he looks embarrassed and he teases her about 'canoodling' with Chance, but then he promises to put it away and she thanks him. He asks about the print, and Tory tells him about the connection to organized crime. Tory thinks they should focus on Katherine's disappearance, and uses the DOE network to uncover the name of the person who reported Katherine missing. Then they track Sylvia Briggerman to her retirement home.

Feeling the pressure of time, Tory and Hi go to the home and talk to Sylvia, who suffers from dementia, and glean two bits of valuable information. They learn who Katherine's best friend is (Abby Quimby) and that Katherine had gone to the Morris Lighthouse on the day she disappeared. A brief flare gives Tory Katherine's scent as well. Locating Quimby is another font of information. From her, they learn that she and Katherine had hoped to study an endangered species and Katherine had been seeking possibilities. She had gone to the Morris lighthouse to seek endangered birds and had told Abby that she'd found something, but hadn't had the chance to tell her what. Sadly, her notebook had never been found, Quimby told them. Their next stop has to be the lighthouse. Shelton is ready to give in, but Hi and Ben join Tory's thinking that one more stop wouldn't hurt. They take the boat to the lighthouse and take a good look around, but find nothing. Discouraged, they are about to leave when frustration flares in Tory and she catches a scent of Katherine. Only minutes later, she has Katherine's backpack in hand.



## Part Four: Insight: Chapters 59 - 62

### Part Four: Insight: Chapters 59 - 62 Summary

They take the back pack to Shelton's house, but not before Tory showers on the way. The first thing that Shelton carefully tweezers from the back pack is Katherine's crumbling notebook. At the very back of the notebook, the last two pages are in better condition. There is a picture drawn of an eagle and on the back of the page, he can read one passage. It describes the eagle colony that Katherine discovered on Cole Island and her excitement. It also provides motive for her death. She describes how some guy was showing up at all the places she had. Tory reads the short entry that would be Katherine's last, reading how Katherine had heard her killer enter the lighthouse, and how she had hidden her notebook, just in case. By morning, Tory knows how to proceed. She meets with the others after going to see Coop and suggests that they research who owned Cole Island when Katherine saw the eagles. They research the Property Information System site and discovers the owner of the property now is Candela Pharmaceuticals. They purchased Cole Island from Hollis Claybourne, Chance's father, and the day after the sale, he was given a job in upper management. The logic is inescapable.

Despite the evidence, Tory believes Chance is innocent of his father's affairs. There are still a lot of questions that Tory believes she can answer with a quick look inside the Claybourne mansion. She decides to go in alone so that if caught, she might bluff her way out saying she'd come to see Chance. She intends to go straight to Hollis's study but hearing a noise down the hallway, she ducks into the next door - Chance's bedroom. On his desk are the fingerprint results from SLED. Curious, she opens it and the face that stares back at her is Tony Baravetto - not some crime family hoodlum named James Newman. Chance lied to her. Thinking it all the way through, she realizes that Chance may be trying to kill her.

### Part Four: Insight: Chapters 59 - 62 Analysis

The guys are true to their word and no one so much as looks into Katherine's pack before she gets to Shelton's, having had serious need of a shower first. Tory yields to Shelton's skill and he pulls Katherine's notebook carefully out of the pack. The pages are disintegrating and beyond reading, but for the last two. On them is a hand drawn representation of an eagle, and her excited note that she'd found a colony of the endangered birds living on Cole Island. On the very last page, she mentions having been followed, and hearing a noise beneath her in the lighthouse, she had hidden her journal and hoped to hide. Tears stream down Tory's face and she is unable to speak after reading the last passage, simply stepping back and allowing them to read it for themselves. All Tory can think about is making the killer pay. A little bit of research reveals that Cole Island was sold to Candela Pharmaceuticals by Hollis Claybourne who then took a healthy position in the company as an added bonus.



Tory defends Chance, believing that there is no way that he could be involved in such a thing, but that changes once she gets inside the mansion. She walks past the front gate disinterested, and at the end of the concrete wall, turns to find the service gate. Letting herself in, she heads upstairs to find Hollis's study. She needs to find proof that Hollis knew about the eagles, but before she can find the study, she is scared by noises coming from down the hall. Fearing capture, she ducks into the next door she sees and finds herself in Chance's bedroom. She takes in the ambiance, noting that Chance is quite a slob, and then sees the brown envelope on the desk. The findings are quite different from the ones he gave her. Inside the envelope is a picture of Chance's driver, Tony Baravetto. Her mind ran through all the details from the cotillion ride home to his begging her to let it go. She can't escape the conclusion that Chance might be trying to kill her.





## Part Four: Insight: Chapters 63 - 67

### Part Four: Insight: Chapters 63 - 67 Summary

Tory puts the fingerprint report into her bag. She thinks about it all, allowing the anger to blossom until she flares. Then Hollis's cigar smoke leads her straight to the study. The study is cavernous. She finds nothing in the desk, and forces herself to think, knowing she'll never have this chance again. She closes her eyes and breathes, her heightened sense of smell picking up the cleaning solutions she'd used on the dog tag. She follows the scent, finding a small cabinet built into the wall. Breaking the lock, her flare ends and her senses normalize. There are three items in the cabinet. A photo of a younger Hollis pointing to a pair of eagles on Cole Island; legal documents confirming the sale of Cole Island and a small velvet box with two dog tags inside bearing the name Francis P. Heaton. The door opens and a voice asks her what she is doing. Chance can't believe he is seeing Tory. She tells him that she knows the whole truth and he can stop playing games. He insists all he did is try to help her, but Tory confronts him about the fingerprint results and he knows the gig is up. He locks the door behind him, and his tone changes. She tells him all that she knows and at last he simply tells her she is right. He admits that his father killed Katherine, claiming his father had told him it was an accident, but when she confronts him about the current issues - Karsten's murder, her and her friends being shot at and that someone chased them - Chance truly looks clueless. Chance asks for her bag, and Tory wills another flare to come without success. Without another option, she hands him the bag and to her surprise, he dismisses her, telling her to keep her mouth shut.

Hollis watches Tory walk by, and realizes that she was in his house. He realizes that he will need an alibi, and decides to let Chance handle it, telling his driver to take him back to the capitol. He calls a number on speed dial and tells the person who answers that Tory and her friends are to be dealt with immediately. Back on Morris Island, Tory and the guys discuss this latest development. Now she'd given Chance the evidence, they had no proof. What doesn't make sense is how the killer found the bunker. Tory knows the only chance they have is to go in and get the evidence back. This time, they'll all go, and Tory tells them this time they'll go in hot.

### Part Four: Insight: Chapters 63 - 67 Analysis

Chance had used her feelings for him, and played her like a violin. She realizes now that his only interest was in making sure that his father's secret wasn't revealed. Her anger causes her to flare, and she uses her heightened senses to find the study and keep herself out of trouble. The study is huge and under normal conditions, she might not have found it, but flaring, she could smell the ingredients she used to clean the dog tags. The smell takes her straight to a small, recessed cabinet and breaking the lock, she finds all the evidence she needs. Unfortunately, her flare ends then, just as Chance enters the room. He questions her presence there, and the broken cabinet, still trying to



be nonchalant, but Tory has had enough of the lies. She confronts him head on. Finally, realizing she knows it all anyway, he admits to his father killing Katherine, the eagles, the land sale, and his part in the confrontation they'd had with masked men on the island who switched Katherine's bones for monkey bones. Chance actually seems proud of that one, but when she accuses him of murdering Karsten, and chasing Hi and Shelton from the library, Chance seems genuinely confused, insisting all he had done was try to protect his inheritance from a stupid mistake his father made before he was born. All he wants to do now is pile all the evidence up and burn it, putting an end to all of it. He takes her bag from her and tells her to leave. She does so quickly, before he changes his mind.

Hollis can't believe it when Tory walks right by the Bentley. He is livid, realizing she had been in his house. He tells his driver - Baravetto's nephew - to take him back to the capitol. He regrets having hired the boy, but knew he needed to have people he could either buy or trust around him now. He calls a number on speed dial and tells whoever answers to deal with Tory and her friends while he is in Columbia. Meanwhile, Tory and the guys sit on Sewee and try to unravel it all and make sense of it. There are a few inconsistencies that still confuse them like how did they find the bunker? The only way they can fix this now is to retrieve the evidence. Shelton knows what she is going to say. Tory tells him to cheer up. This time, the Virals are going in hot.



# Part Four: Insight: Chapters 68 - 71 and Epilogue

## Part Four: Insight: Chapters 68 - 71 and Epilogue Summary

They find the gate locked, helping each other to flare so they can go over the wall. Tory takes them to the study where they grab the evidence, and tells them they need to find Katherine's bones to prove her murder. They head to the most logical place - the cellar. They search until Hi calls them over to a large cask containing Katherine's remains. The light comes on and Chance stands at the bottom of the stairs with a pistol. Hannah calls to him and Tory calls her downstairs. Feigning innocence, she lets them tell her that Chance has a gun, and insists he give it to her. Then she turns it on the others, pure evil in her eyes and tells Chance to get two shovels so they can bury the bodies. Even Chance is frozen in disbelief but Tory realizes the truth of it all and accuses her of shooting Karsten. She corrects Tory, telling her it was Baravetto. She had watched. Using iFollow against them, Hannah insists she is not about to allow a group of kids to ruin her future. Chance listens and learns how heartless his father really is - planning to produce a cure for Parvovirus, or create a designer virus that only they could cure. He tells Hannah they are finished and she laughs revealing she and Hollis have an understanding. His father promised her a place in the Claybourne family, and she meant to take it. Tory closes her eyes and Coop comes to her mind, leading her back to her baser self. She flares. Inside her head, she screams at the Virals to flare. She can see the response as it comes over them and Hannah notices their eyes. Communicating mentally, Hi runs to distract Hannah. She fires wildly in his direction and he goes down, a red stain spreading under him. Chance argues with Hannah, trying to get the gun and shots ring out. Chance goes down with Hannah sobbing over him. Then she goes after the Virals with a vengeance. Tory manages to knock her unconscious before she shoots Hi, and they regroup. Tory goes upstairs to call police and ambulance, walking right into Baravetto. She elbows and kicks her way out of his clutches, knocking him out with a convenient rolling pin. Then she calls 911 and tells them terrorists are attacking Claybourne Manor. She falls unconscious and wakes to Hi shaking her. They had feared the worst when they saw Baravetto on the floor. Chance is alive, but catatonic, and Hannah is hysterical, admitting everything. They tell the police almost everything but agree to keep the part about them being Virals, and the lab work that led to their condition a secret just between them. Kit arrives, and Tory promises to tell him everything, beginning by letting him know that Dr. Karsten is dead. Giving him just the highlights, she begs for rest before going through it all with him in detail, and Kit agrees, taking her home.

After being grounded for two weeks, the Virals return to Loggerhead Island. Hollis was arrested on the State House steps; Hannah and Baravetto are charged with Karsten's murder and there were rumors that Hannah would testify against the others. Karsten's



body is not found, Hollis claiming he dumped it at sea. Chance is still catatonic and in a psychiatric hospital. Katherine's bones are buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery. They take Coop back with them, and he disappears into the bush right away. The bush erupts and four animals burst out. Whisper snarls, stepping in front of her cub. Coop nips at her and goes over to Tory, licking her cheek when she bends down to him. She nuzzles him, and Whisper seems to accept the situation. They slip back into the woods. Just as they are about to leave, the family returns. Coop goes to Tory and sits in front of her. She tries to return him to the pack, but he wades out to the boat instead. Coop chooses his human pack and Tory makes a decision - Kit would learn to live with it eventually. They howl together - Virals.... Family.

## **Part Four: Insight: Chapters 68 - 71 and Epilogue Analysis**

Chance has locked the gate, figuring out that Tory had come in that way, but doesn't lock the door to the house. Tory helps them to flare before they go in, beginning to understand the principles involved that allow them to change. They quickly locate all of the evidence save for Katherine's bones - necessary if they intend to make sure the killer pays for his crime. Believing her bones are probably in the cellar, they head down and search, finding them without too much trouble. Just as they find her, a light comes on and Chance is standing on the stairs with a gun in his hand. He can't believe Tory had come back after the last time. Despite the severity of the problem, he is still unable to kill four people. Hannah calls out to him and comes downstairs when Tory calls her name. She feigns surprise when they tell her Chance has a gun, insisting that Chance give her the weapon. When he does, she turns it on them, telling Chance she'll help him accomplish what he obviously can't do himself. Stunned, Tory keeps her talking, and learns that it was Baravetto and not Chance who murdered Karsten. She had used iFollow to track them to the bunker and more recently to the house. Now, all she had to do was get rid of the meddling kids so that she can take her rightful place in the Claybourne Manor. Chance, seeing who she really is, assures her that he will never marry her and she laughs at him, telling him that she and his father have a deal. Meanwhile, Tory is finding her way to flare, digging deep to find the wolf in herself. When she does, she manages to flare again, and sends a forceful message to the others to flare, pushing them in that direction. Once all four have flared, they have the advantage and soon manage to overcome Hannah who accidentally shoot Chance in her rampage. When they have her subdued, Tory goes up to call an ambulance and the police, running into Baravetto. Still flaring, she elbows and kicks until she is loose and then hits him over the head with a handy rolling pin. She stumbles outside, calls the police and falls unconscious to the ground. It takes the others a few minutes to find her lying on the lawn, and they are relieved that she is okay. The area is crawling with emergency vehicles, press, and noisy people. Hiram tells her that they've redacted some of the information they gave the police, leaving out the part about being Virals, and Karsten's research, agreeing to keep that secret. Kit and the other parents arrive, and he is increasingly incredulous as she tries to fill him in. She begs him to let her



sleep, promising to answer all of his questions afterward. Though he has a great many questions, he stays silent.

When they are allowed out again, the Virals take Coop home to Loggerhead Island where he has a happy reunion with his family. He races off into the bushes, returning briefly with his family and then disappearing again. As they are getting ready to leave, somewhat disappointed that Coop had just run off, he surprises them by coming back. He nuzzles Tory who says goodbye again and tells him to go with his family. As if understanding, he swims out to the boat. Tory tries to turn him back, but Coop has decided that his pack consisted of the four Virals and himself. Tory gives in, deciding that Kit will just have to get used to it. Meanwhile, Hollis, Baravetto, and Hannah are in jail. Katherine Heaton's remains are buried in the cemetery and Chance is in an asylum, still having said nothing. The Virals head home to Morris Island, howling together.



# Characters

## Victoria (Tory) Brennan

Tory is an intelligent fourteen year old. She has a slender, tall physique, already five foot five inches tall and hoping to add to it. She has hair that is a tangle of red curls and pale skin that burns easily. Heavy exposure to sunlight causes the freckles to come out in abundance. Tory has been living on Morris Island for the last six months. She joins her father, Christopher "Kit" Howard, whom she has only known for six months, their meeting forced by her mother's accidental death after being hit by a drunk driver.

Tory recently discovered that she is related to the world famous Dr. Temperance Brennan, whose specialty is bones and what we can learn from them. Tory, her niece, takes after her in a roundabout genetic way. She would always prefer to do something based in nature or science over an activity that involves shopping or trying on clothes. Her Aunt Tempe encourages her by giving her gifts that include an archaeology kit and a set of small power tools for cleaning old items.

The block that Tory and Kit live on is the most desolate portion of housing on Morris Island. The neighborhood consists of forty people who live in a total of ten townhouses and is surrounded by a 430 foot long reinforced concrete structure. The Islanders were an isolated group, separated by a ferry ride. Tory fits in easily with the others her age (Ben, Hiram, and Shelton), especially once they realize what a brainiac she is. Tory, like a lot of girls who go to Bolton Preparatory Academy, likes Chance Claybourne. Chance's friend Jason likes Tory, and is happy to help her in any way he can. He is openly supportive of her in front of the rest of the school and the attention he pays her generally deflects any issues from the Tripod girls.

Tory's persistence and sense of fairness prevails as she is instrumental in solving the murder of Katherine Heaton. Along the way, she helps to uncover a plot involving the cover up of a colony of eagles - a protected species, and rescues a wolf-dog cub named Coop from one of the scientists who is experimenting with the parvovirus and intends to destroy him. In the process of rescuing Coop, Tory and her friends contract an experimental virus which blends their DNA with that of a wolf. First they get intense flu like symptoms which level out after about a week after which each of them seems to inherit a different power or combination of powers. Tory's is superior hearing, eyesight, sense of smell and taste. Episodes of flare ups include these heightened senses along with wolf-like behavior and cravings.

## Ben Blue

Though Ben sometimes stays with his mother, Myra Blue, in Mount Pleasant, he lives in the same complex as Tory and Hiram. Ben has nice dark lashes that most girls would kill for, including Tory. Ben is sixteen years old and is the oldest of the group. He is



finishing his time as a sophomore while the others in the group are just getting through a tough freshman year. Recently, Ben took all of his savings and purchased a Boston Whaler runabout. It is sixteen feet long, and he names her Sewee after his Sewee heritage. The Sewee Indians merged or were absorbed by the Catawba tribe more than a hundred years previously. Ben is a bit obsessive about his boat, although his inexperience with it has him running it aground on one occasion, and still trying to get the hang of docking it without scraping along the edge of the dock in the process.

Ben is known to have a bit of a temper but is also a steadfast friend. He has black hair that is long enough to tuck behind his ears, is of medium height and is well muscled. He has skin that ranges from the color of copper to the color of bronze depending on the time of year. Ben is a loyal and honest person. His father, Tom Blue is the ferry operator for the service that connects Morris and Loggerhead Island, and the service that goes between Morris and Charleston. As such, he is a bit of a stickler where boat safety is concerned.

When the group is infected, Ben is one of the last to show symptoms. He is a man of few words but when he discovers what sounds like the sound of a dog barking behind a locked door in Lab Six in the LIRI facility, he makes sure that Tory and the others understand he isn't leaving until they check it out. Tory feels the same way, despite the fact that the door they have to penetrate is a new keyless security door. Shelton remembers what the initial delivery code is, and surprisingly, it hasn't been changed. Had Ben not heard what he had, they might never have found Coop.

## Hiram Moshe Stollowitski

Hiram Moshe Stollowitski lives just three units over from Tory. He is a master of sarcasm. Hi has just turned fifteen, and has a defiant streak that is surprising when the character of his mother is taken into consideration. Like the others on Morris Island, Hi attends Bolton Prep, but in defiance of the rules, he wears his uniform jacket inside out, telling his teachers that the rules require him to wear it, but don't insist how. Hiram likes to think of himself as the Fresh Prince of Bolton Prep. He is more than just slightly overweight and out of shape.

Linus Stollowitski, Hiram's father, is a lab technician on Loggerhead, and his mother, Ruth, runs the community watch program. If she worries about Hiram, she takes him to temple.

Hiram is the one who gets hit the hardest by the combination Parvovirus that Dr. Karsten created. His insides revolt and for the better part of two days, he is unable to venture from the general vicinity of the bathroom. After that, he enjoys a heightened variety of senses like the others. He is able to move faster, see better in the dark, sense and hear better, and generally enjoys the same traits as a wolf would. Though fearful a great deal of the time, and supportive of calling in authorities from the very outset, Hiram is dependable and stands by his friends. He is loyal and brave in the face of overwhelming odds, using and showing good judgement where it counts. Hi is the one





who knows how to work the sonicator, helping Tory to clean the dog tag that leads them to Katherine Heaton.

## Shelton Devers

Shelton is short and thin and wears glasses that are thick and round. He has chocolate colored skin which favors his father who is African-American. He has cheekbones and eyelids that come from his Japanese mother. Shelton is not what anyone could call physical. Both of his parents work on Loggerhead Island.

Shelton is an expert in anything that involves pieces, pixels or parts. He is a fan of puzzles and ciphers of any kind, enjoying computers and anything to do with numbers as well. Shelton is affectionately known as the techno guru among his friends. His parents both work on Loggerhead Island. His father Nelson is an IT specialist and his mother Lorelei is a veterinarian technician. Shelton is fifteen years of age. His only weakness is his fear of all things that crawl, and as a result, bug spray is a standard item in the bunker.

Shelton is their resident lock pick. He'd purchased a pick set from eBay months earlier, and practices regularly. He has bragged that he could open any lock in under half a minute.

## Dr. Marcus E. Karsten

Dr. Karsten is a Professor, and Department Chair for Charleston University College of Veterinary Medicine. Karsten is also the Head Administrator for LIRI. His reputation is impeccable and he is best known for his work on the Ebola virus. Karsten is in his late fifties. He wears glasses and has dark hair that is thinning on top. He combs it over to hide the fact. He is of slim build and isn't well liked by the children. The feeling is mutual as he would prefer that they stay off Loggerhead Island, but the kids have permission to be there so there is little he can do.

Dr Karsten supervises all research done on Loggerhead. He accepts a research assignment to create a cure for the parvovirus, and failing that, create a new virus that only they would have the cure for. Candela Pharmaceuticals financed his efforts, and pushed for his progress. To that end, he confined the youngest wolf-dog resident on Loggerhead Island (the pup that Tory named Coop) and used him as a subject for his viral experimentation. Karsten combined the Parvovirus, commonly caught by dogs, wolves and coyotes with a similar virus called Parvovirus B19 which can infect humans. As a result, he created a virus that could infect both species and involved a sharing of genetic code between the two.

When Karsten first realizes that his subject is gone, he is livid and destroys all documentation related to his experiments. When he realizes that Tory and her friends have been infected, he vows to help them in any way that he can. Sadly, his help extends for only a very short time. By staying behind in the bunker to distract the armed





men who were approaching, he gave Tory and the others a chance to escape, but is shot and killed for his gallantry.

## Christopher (Kit) Brennan

Kit is a thirty-one year-old marine biologist and research professor who is employed by the Charleston University. He works at the marine biology station at the institute on Loggerhead Island where he studies turtles and dolphins and can accurately be described as a workaholic.

Kit recently discovered that he has a fourteen year-old daughter - Tory (Victoria) a fact that he is still trying to adjust to. As a parent, he is mostly clueless, and waffles between trying to be Tory's friend to treating her like a child. Kit would never have known he had a daughter, but her mother was hit and killed by a drunk driver and the authorities sought the next closest relative to take Tory. Kit accepts the challenge head-on and tries hard to provide the things that Tory needs. His girlfriend Whitney is also willing to put in her two cents. Whitney Rose Dubois is society woman, and believes that it is critical that Tory be accepted in social circles as soon as possible. She dedicates herself to Tory's society introduction.

Despite his parental shortcomings, Kit is ready to defend Tory; to come to her rescue on any issue; and simply give her space when she needs it. He understands her love of the wolf-dogs - especially Coop - and makes an honest effort to know the daughter he only just discovered existed.

## Chance Claybourne

With a southern drawl, and a darkly handsome appearance, Chance is the captain of the lacrosse team and is built like a racehorse. Coming from a blue blood family, Chase is part of old money aristocracy. He has black hair and deep brown eyes. His father is a state senator and his mother, Sally Claybourne died in childbirth. Chance is seventeen years old, the sole heir to the Claybourne fortune, and on every girl's wish list, including Tory's. Chance is dating Hannah Wythe, and they are Bolton's king and queen.

Chance is a first class flirt and uses how girls feel about him to his advantage. He flirts with Tory, distracting her from the finger print analysis he had done for her, and convincing her to leave any further investigation alone. What he doesn't confess is that the print belongs to his personal driver. Chance only recently learned from his father that before he was born, his father had 'accidentally' killed Katherine Heaton in order to protect the family fortune. Now, with the discovery of Katherine's bones, Hollis Claybourne wants his son to step up and earn his place in the family. As the sole heir, much is expected of him. Chance tries to accommodate his father, going to Loggerhead Island and replacing Katherine Heaton's bones with those of a primate, but when his father instructs him to kill Tory, Ben, Shelton and Hiram, Chance can't do it. He isn't a killer. He is stunned to discover his debutante girlfriend Hannah is. When Chance realizes he is unable to kill Tory, Hannah takes the gun from him and tells him to get the



shovels. When he waffles, she opens his eyes to who she really is, and he tells her they are over, but Hannah has other ideas. Hannah and Claybourne Senior have a deal, she says, and she's been promised a place in the Claybourne family tree. He no longer has a say in the matter.

When Hannah accidentally shoots Chance, he retreats into himself, becoming catatonic.

## Hannah Wythe

Hannah has long auburn hair accented by bright green eyes. She is classically stunning, and part of her beauty is the fact that she seems to have no idea that she is stunning. Hannah is easily the most popular girl at Bolton Prep, and has been Chance's girlfriend for the last three years. Hannah is what could be classified as Southern sweet, and has never been heard to have bad mouthed anyone.

When Tory has a flare in the earlier stages, before she has some semblance of control over them, Hannah helps her to get out of the classroom and into the bathroom before Tory throws up. Hannah helps her until she is able to get up and out of the bathroom on her own. That's one of the reasons that it is so hard for Tory to wrap her head around the new Hannah who stood on the basement stairs with a gun in her hand and told Chance how little his feelings mattered. She tells Chance that he is weak and if he doesn't believe her, he should ask his father. After approaching Hollis herself, Hannah had been given full authority to order around his men if it helps her to guard the family fortune. She tells Chance that she is more a Claybourne than he is and that his father has promised that they would be married just like they'd always dreamed. While she is distracted, the rest flare and manage to orchestrate a coup. Hannah is so angry when she regains consciousness that she can't help but rant and rave to the police who are arresting her.

## Whitney Rose Dubois

With manicured hands, and lashes laden with mascara, Whitney Rose Dubois is Kit's girlfriend. Her bleached hair and altered breasts complete the package that makes Tory wonder what her father sees in her. Whitney is working hard to try to convince Tory that she should allow her to orchestrate her introduction to high society. With only six months left in the season, she assures Tory that they have no time to waste. Claiming to have considerable influence with the committee in charge of selections, she is convinced that Tory will be a shoe in.

Whitney means well, but is a bit too much 'girly' for Tory's tastes. Though pretty when she makes the effort, Tory is just as happy excavating bones or searching for shells on the beach.



## Whisper

Whisper is a female wolf that was brought to Loggerhead Island as a pup by a graduate student on rotation there. When he left, he'd lost track of the pup who continued to live on the Island alone. About a year after her arrival, a male shepherd arrived mysteriously on the island. The first wolfdog puppy was born just a few months later. A second cub joined it two months after Tory arrived, and she was the first to notice it. She had rescued it from an abandoned shaft where it was stuck ten feet below the surface. Naming it Cooper, she brought it to the surface.

## Colleen Brennan

Tory's mother, Colleen, grew up in the town of Westborough in New England. She meets Kit on Cape Cod at a sailing camp when they are both just 16 years of age. Colleen is gorgeous, and Tory thinks that Kit likely noticed her because they had the same last name. Having determined that they aren't related, they spend a single night together - Tory is the product of that encounter. She never sees Kit again after that night, and never reveals the fact that he has a daughter.

Colleen is hit by a drunk driver who runs a red light and kills her instantly.

## Dr. Temperance Brennan

World's foremost forensic anthropologist, Dr. Brennan only recently (much like Kit) had discovered that she had a 14 year-old niece. She has the intense job of identifying bodies for a living and helping the police determine how they died. Her specialty is bones and what can be learned from them.

Tempe has a sister, Harry, whose granddaughter is Tory. In the river of genetics that passes down through the generations, Tempe seems to share a great deal with Tory.

## Tom Blue

Ben's father, Tom Blue is the operator of the ferry that runs between Morris and Charleston proper, and the boat service that connects Morris to Loggerhead Island. A stickler for boat safety, Tom Blue would have likely taken his son's new boat away had he found out about the accident he recently had in it.

## Katherine Anne Heaton

Katherine disappeared in 1969 in Charleston. She left home on August 24th, 1969, heading for the dock at Ripley Point. She grew up in West Ashley, attended St. Andrew's Parish High School and won awards for her efforts in science. When Katherine



discovered the endangered eagle colony on Cole Island, she put in motion the events that would end her life. By revealing the eagles, Katherine would have interfered with the sale of Cole Island to Candela Pharmaceuticals. The money involved was substantial, and represented the resurrection of the blue blooded Claybourne family who were drowning in debt. When Katherine realized that someone had followed her to the isolated lighthouse, she hid her back pack under a grate in the floor where Tory found it many years later and was finally instrumental in bringing Katherine's killers to justice.

## **Alvie Turnbauer**

Alvie Turnbauer is a mechanic who, after drinking Coronas at Sully's Bar and Grill all afternoon, leaves in his vehicle and running a red light, t-bones Tory's mother. The impact kills her instantly. Alvie goes to jail, and Tory's mother goes to Resthaven Memorial Garden.

## **Coop**

Coop is a wolf-dog pup and latest addition to the pack on Loggerhead Island that Tory rescues from a shaft after it falls in. Coop is captured by Dr. Karsten, and becomes part of a secret experiment being conducted.

## **Jason Taylor**

Jason Taylor is the only real friend that Tory has at Bolton Prep who does not live on Morris Island. They share two classes. Jason has blue eyes and blond hair and reminds Tory of the Norse God, Thor. A sophomore, Jason is a starting attacker on the lacrosse team and is one of the last genuinely nice guys.

## **Tony Baravetto**

Tony Baravetto is Chance Claybourne's personal driver, Tony is a man who can easily walk on either side of the law. His loyalty to Hollis Claybourne is unquestioned, and he is willing to do anything necessary to assure his position and gain leverage against the wealthy blue blood family he is employed by. He kills Karsten without reservation for no reason beyond the fact that he is there. Tony shows up and grabs Tory when she comes up from the basement to call the police and ambulance. Tony elbows, kicks, and uses a rolling pin to render him unconscious until the police arrive.

## **Tripod of Skank**

Tripod of Skank is the nickname that Tory gives Ashley Bodford, Madison Dunkle and Courtney Holt at Bolton Prep.



## **Courtney Holt**

Courtney Holt is a typical blond, in every sense of the word. She can easily be categorized as a bimbo. She is skinny and dumb as a post. She likes to wear her cheerleading uniform even on days when there is no game being played.

## **Ashley Bodford**

Ashley has black hair and like the two girls with whom she is always seen, she is perfectly manicured and coiffed.

## **Madison Dunkle**

Madison Dunkle is blond, but only because of the bottle and time invested. She gets a new car almost every semester, and enjoys showing off her newest Beamer. She comes from a family of money, like most of the students at Bolton Prep. Tory estimates that her earrings alone would cost more than the townhouse where Tory and her father live.

## **Sylvia Briggerman**

Sylvia Briggerman is the woman who filed a police report when Katherine Heaton went missing. She lives in a retirement community on James Island, and suffers from dementia. Sylvia is about five feet tall and is around the age of 80.

## **Brian Limestone**

Librarian of the Charleston Public Library, Brian Limestone is about thirty-five years old, slim built, has oily, black, razor parted hair. Brian has pinched features giving his face a rat like appearance.

## **Sergeant Carmine Corcoran**

Sergeant Carmine Corcoran is a large man somewhere in his mid forties. He has mutton chop sideburns and matching black mustache. He is the police officer to whom Tory and the others report Katherine's remains.

## **Abby Quimby**

Abby Quimby is Katherine Heaton's best friend.



# Objects/Places

## Morris Island

An almost deserted island located off the coast of Southern Carolina, Morris Island is only four square miles in size. On the northern side, there are sand hills that are up to 40 feet in height. The western side is mostly dense marshland bordered by tidal bays and east of them is nothing but the Atlantic. There are only two man-made structures - the road (a one lane strip of pavement that crosses Lighthouse Creek to Rat Island and then finally meets the Folly Beach highway, passing Goat Island before going into the city) and the living complex (which consists of a 430 foot reinforced concrete structure containing ten town homes). Forty people in total live on the island, all employees or relatives of employees of Charleston University who had converted the Fort Wagner barracks to offer it as their offshore research facility.

Morris Island is converted from the the days when it was known as Fort Wagner to the nature preserve it is now, held in trust by the University of Charleston.

## Bunker

Discovered by Tory and her friends when they were searching for a frisbee, the bunker is so well hidden that a person would have to know where it is to find it. As hideouts go, this one is superb. The main room is about fifteen by thirty with walls of wooden beams rising to the ceiling ten feet high. A slit of a window gives a view of the Charleston Harbor and runs the entire length of the wall opposite the entrance. From outside, a wooden overhang keeps it from being seen. The second room which is to the left of the first one and can only be accessed through a passageway that is quite low. Beyond that is a shaft, partially collapsed, that runs deeper into the hill, but is not used.

## Lighthouse Creek

Lighthouse Creek is the creek that separates Morris Island from Rat Island.

## Pennsylvania

Tory lived in Pennsylvania before coming to live with Kit on Morris Island.

## Sewee

Sewee is the name Ben gave to his 16-foot Boston Whaler runabout and also the name of an Indian tribe that was absorbed into the Catawba tribe over 100 years earlier.



## **Townhouses**

Each townhouse on the island is the same as any other. They are four stories high and vary only in decor and allocation of space.

## **Resthaven Memorial Garden**

Tory's mom was buried at Resthaven Memorial Garden after being hit by a drunk driver.

## **Bolton Preparatory Academy**

Located in downtown Charleston, Bolton Preparatory Academy is where Tory and the rest of the children from Morris Island attend school. Most of the students come from wealthy families, can be described as trust fund babies and most are elitist snobs.

## **Loggerhead Island Research Facility (LIRI)**

Loggerhead Island Research Institute, or LIRI as it is known, gets its name from the nesting sea turtles that inhabit it.

## **Chile Beach (Dead Cat)**

Chile Beach (Dead Cat) is a long, narrow, western stretch of beach on Loggerhead Island that is second only to Turtle Beach for white sands. It is the favorite beach of Tory and her friends.

## **Ultrasonic Cleaner (Sonicator)**

The sonicator is an ultrasonic machine used by Tory and her group to clean the dog tag so that they can read the number and name on it. The sonicator produces ultrasonic waves in a cleaning solution, creating cavitation bubbles that help to remove debris. It is used most often for cleaning glasses, metal coins, watches, and jewelry.

## **Charleston Public Library**

Manned by Brian Limestone, the Charleston Public Library is where Tory, Shelton and Hi go to try to find information about the owner of the dog tag.



## **Turtle Beach**

Turtle Beach is the nicest of the two white sand beaches on Loggerhead Island. It is the one beach that Dr. Karsten warns Tory and her friends to stay away from because there is an ecological survey in progress.

## **Wolf-Dogs**

Wolf-Dogs are the product of a wolf that mates with a dog, producing a puppy that is part of both. Coop is a wolf-dog.

## **Y-7**

Y-7 is the name given to the female monkey who threw the dog tag at Tory, beginning their search for Katherine Heaton.

## **Folly Beach**

Folly Beach is a small town that is responsible for policing Morris and Loggerhead islands. Folly Beach is a six mile stretch along barrier island and is just fifteen minutes from Charleston. It has one main road running through the community.

## **S.L.E.D.**

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (S.L.E.D.) is South Carolina's version of the FBI.

## **Candela Pharmaceuticals**

Candela Pharmaceuticals is the company sending Dr. Karsten regular payments of fifty thousand dollars - the first deposit made six months previously.

## **DOE Network**

DOE Network is the name of an organization that devotes its time and resources to investigating missing person cases.

## **Shady Gardens Retirement Community**

Shady Gardens Retirement Community is where Sylvia Briggerman lives.





## **Virtus Vincit Invidiam**

Virtus Vincit Invidiam is the Claybourne family crest whose translation, Virtue Overcometh Envy, is arced above the crest.

## **Claybourne Estate**

The Claybourne estate consists of a house with forty rooms, sixty baths and two dozen fireplaces. The entrance hall is 50 feet long. The estate is surrounded by a ten foot wall with spikes on top, and iron gates guard access to the driveway, monitored by a guard. A service gate is on one side about fifteen feet from the front, and a brick under the gate hides the key - a fact Tory learns from listening to Jason's conversation.



# Themes

## Endangered Species vs Progress

In *Virals*, Tory Brennan and her friends Ben, Shelton and Hiram discover the skeletal remains of Katherine Heaton, a young student who had been missing for many years. Katherine was sixteen when she disappeared. The discovery of her body comes as a result of a projectile thrown at Tory by a primate on Loggerhead Island. The projectile turns out to be one of two dog tags that had been issued to Katherine's father, Frankie, and following his death, she wore always. Katherine was a champion of the environment, and dedicated herself to helping endangered species any time the opportunity presented itself. When she discovers an eagle colony on Cole Island, she is ecstatic. She draws them in her journal, and plans to report them, but is killed by Hollis before she can.

Hollis Claybourne kills Katherine Heaton in the lighthouse, and then takes her body to Loggerhead Island where he buries her. Cole Island is subsequently sold for a great deal of money, and the following day Claybourne accepts a job in their upper management. A factory is built on the island, and the trees that housed the eagles are cut down. Candela Pharmaceuticals continues to make money, and eventually engages Dr. Karsten to create a cure for Parvovirus. If he couldn't create a cure, his instructions were to create a new virus that only they could cure instead. This is just another example of greed, and the cost of progress vs the protection of endangered species.

## For The Love Of Money....

In the story *Virals*, the love of money is responsible for the relocation (best case scenario) or displacement of a colony of endangered bald eagles; the death of environmental student Katherine Heaton; and the death of scientist and head researcher of LIRI Institute, Dr. Karsten. In 1969, Katherine had first discovered the eagles. Knowing they were endangered, she planned to do a school project involving them, but the owner of Cole Island - Hollis Claybourne - has other ideas. He silences Katherine, killing her and burying her on Loggerhead Island. The next day he sells Cole Island to Candela Pharmaceuticals, which puts him on the board of directors the following day.

For the love of money, Cole Island loses its resident eagles, and Katherine Heaton loses her life. The Claybourne fortune is saved. Years go by. Chance Claybourne is born and is the sole heir to the Claybourne fortune. He and his girlfriend Hannah are the blue blood royalty of the future - at least that was the plan. Then Tory finds Katherine's bones. Hollis Claybourne knows that if he doesn't do something, he will lose everything. He sends his son Chance to recover the bones, which he does. Then Tory uncovers the whole truth and the only answer is to eliminate her and her friends. Hollis tasks his son with that job as well, but that is where Chance draws the line. Though the family fortune



will be lost, he is unable to kill for the love of money. His girlfriend Hannah is another story. She makes a side deal with Hollis, ensuring her place in the family, provided that she does what Chance cannot. Hannah has no problem with that arrangement, and tells Chance so - all for the love of money.

## **DNA - An Experiment To End Mankind**

In Virals, Dr. Karsten creates a blended virus using a human parvovirus and a canine parvovirus. The resulting virus carries a blended DNA from both species. As such, Coop likely has an advanced understanding of human beings and it is clear that Tory and her friends have been endowed with the heightened senses of a canine type species. Dr. Karsten has effectively created a new species, and by destroying his research after Coop is taken, he ensures that exact reproduction is unlikely. Tory, Ben, Shelton and Hi take their mixed DNA into the future with them. Dr. Karsten keeps his research a secret because he knows it is illegal. The risks of permanent damage to our species is too great.

By changing what we fundamentally are, we may increase or decrease one attribute or another, but there is always a balancing action as well. When Tory and the others flare at the school lunch, their heightened senses make them oblivious to the way their behavior would be perceived by anyone who sees it. Though they have a heightened sensitivity to the food in front of them, they are less sensitive in other areas. To keep their crossed DNA a secret, Tory is forced to cause a major distraction by pulling the fire alarm. If a virus of this kind were to get out, it could change who we are forever.

# Style

## Point of View

Virals by Kathy Reichs is written entirely from the first person perspective of the main character, Tory Brennan. Tory is a fifteen year old brainiac. She has recently lost her mother after she was hit by a drunk driver, and is subsequently sent to South Carolina to live with her father - a man she has never met, and who had had no knowledge of her. Her father, Christopher (Kit) Brennan is a scientist/marine biologist. He is thirty-one years old and is a research professor for the Charleston University, assigned to the biology station at the institute on Loggerhead Island. Tory takes after her aunt Tempe whose specialty is the examination of bones/forensic analysis. That is likely why she is compelled to uncover the identity of the dog tags' owner.

Tory's perspective is crucial to the tone and direction of the story. Her discovery of the dog tags leads her to uncovering the murder of Katherine Heaton. In the process, she finds out that illegal experiments are being conducted by the institute. She rescues the initial subject, Coop, who is scheduled to be destroyed, and they take him to the bunker hoping to nurse him back to health. Though they manage to do so, the consequences are deeper than first anticipated. Dr. Karsten had managed to create a hybrid Parvovirus that is equally comfortable with a canine or human host. Infected, at first Tory and her friends experience a variety of flu like symptoms, but when they recede, Tory and her friends are left additional DNA from the wolves blending with their own. Having occasional flares now, the kids are Virals - a new breed.

## Setting

Virals is set entirely in South Carolina. The story opens on Morris Island where Tory Brennan now lives with her father Kit. About forty people live in the small community on Morris Island - all employees of the LIRI Research Institute and their families. Tory spent most of her life in Pennsylvania, but when her mother is killed by a drunk driver, there is nowhere else to go. The LIRI Institute is located on Loggerhead Island, where it is the only existing structure. Tory and the other kids from Morris Island go to school at Bolton Preparatory Academy. When Tory and her friends go to Loggerhead Island to look for the resident wolf-dog family, they uncover the body of Katherine Heaton. In an effort to find the person who killed her, Tory and her friends investigate at the library, and talk to Katherine's best friend Abby, learning that Katherine kept a journal. Tory finds this journal in the floor of the old lighthouse, and in it she learns the reason that Katherine lost her life. In a battle of greed vs the environment, the environment had lost.

The central issue surrounding Katherine's death is the disposition of Cole Island. Katherine discovers eagles living in the trees on Cole Island, and is killed so that she doesn't reveal the truth. Cole Island is about to be sold and the new owners intend to cut down the trees and build a Pharmaceutical company.



## Language and Meaning

Virals by Kathy Reichs is a fictional account of a limited viral outbreak. Dr. Karsten illegally creates a parvovirus mixing human and canine parvoviruses in an effort to corner the market on the cure once the outbreak takes hold. It is as dangerous as a plan can get for so many reasons. Dr. Karsten tells himself that he's taken all the necessary precautions and there is no way that anything can go wrong. When Coop becomes extremely contagious, he decides to destroy him. It is this notation that prompts Tory to take him from the facility. Seeing the notation that Coop had Parvovirus, she is unconcerned for her safety, assuming it is regular parvovirus which is a species specific virus.

Dr. Karsten is lucky. First of all, Coop is taken by a Morris Islander - a community limited to forty people. Secondly, Tory and her friends keep Coop away from the public entirely. As such, the spread of infection is limited to Tory and her friends. Had they taken Coop to a shelter, or to the city where he would blend in, the spread of altered DNA would have been exponentially higher. The resulting alterations could have devastating consequences should they occur to someone with less than honorable intentions. The heightened awareness and strength can be used to work outside as well as inside the law, with considerable advantage either way.

## Structure

Virals by Kathy Reichs is a fictional novel of between 319 and 480 pages depending on the release date and medium. It is presented in four parts not including the epilogue which follows. Part One is ten chapters and forty-seven pages in length in the electronic version. Called "Islands," it gives the reader an introduction into the islands that make up the home and roaming regions of Tory Brennan and the other adolescents her age range on Morris Island. Part Two is twenty chapters in length and covers eighty-six pages. Titled "Infection," it deals with the circumstances that surround the infection of Coop and the subsequent infections of Tory, Ben, Shelton and Hi. Part Three is twenty-two chapters in length and is ninety-one pages in length. Titled "Incubation," this section deals with the illness that is the beginning of the infectious stages of this virus. Part Four is sixteen chapters in length, spanning eighty-six pages. Titled "Insight," it reveals their flares, and deals with the resolution of the mysteries surrounding Katherine's death and the events that follow. The Epilogue is a mere four pages in length, and has Coop choosing his pack. The seventy-one chapters are an average of four to five pages in length. Each chapter is a separate idea, thought or action tying the story together.



## Quotes

"Dog whisperer or not, you can't take a risk like that again."

Ch. 5, Pg. 34

Ben to Tory when they arrive at Loggerhead Island, referring to the last time they'd gone there, and Tory had rescued the youngest member of the wolf dog pack from a shaft it had fallen into. She subsequently had named the young cub Coop.

"Now, we only have six months left in this season, but I happen to have considerable influence on the committee."

Ch. 9, Pg. 50

Whitney to Tory as she tries to convince her to allow herself to be presented at the coming debutante's ball for high society.

"Due to its radical structure, Paravovirus strain XPB - 19 may be infectious to humans."

Ch. 15, Pg. 81

Dr. Karsten's notes to himself with reference to the virus he gave Coop.

"Are you, like, one of those hippy chicks who lives in the woods and doesn't shave?"

Ch. 17, Pg. 88

Courtney to Tory - just another of many taunts by the Tripods.

"Years back I was tasked with calling this number should a certain event ever transpire."

Ch. 21, Pg. 105

Brian Limestone to Hollis Claybourne after Tory and the gang ask about Katherine Heaton.

"You will move your tuchus and investigate, or so help me, I'll be down at the mayor's office faster than you can say Deputy Dawg."

Ch. 27, Pg. 128

Ruth Stolowitski to Sergeant Corcoran after he tries to tell them that he simply can't police Morris and Loggerhead Islands.

"I don't have plans for tomorrow, but I'd like a heads-up if we're going to rob a bank or something."

Ch. 36, Pg. 167

Shelton to Tory, a joking reference to their recent escapades.

"Even better, you can attend this year's functions as a junior debutante."

Ch. 38, Pg. 175

Whitney to Tory, announcing her acceptance into the debutante circles that make Tory's stomach churn with anxiety.

"It's like I was food-poisoned while suffering from malaria and poison ivy."

Ch. 42, Pg. 190

Hi to Tory, Shelton and Ben as they compare notes.



"Parvoviruses are specific to the life forms they infect, but this is a somewhat flexible characteristic."

Ch. 47, Pg. 212

Hi reading to Shelton from information he's gleaned so far.

"All my years on Loggerhead, she was there all the time."

Ch. 51, Pg. 226

Dr. Karsten's soft response to the bombshell that Katherine Heaton is dead and her bones have been uncovered on Loggerhead.

"According to SLED, Newman is a local thug with ties to crime syndicates throughout the southeast."

Ch. 55, Pg. 242

Chance to Tory as he lies to her about the fingerprint report he has gotten.

"A bald eagle colony! Three enormous nests, way up in a stand of longleaf pines, just off the Stono River."

Ch. 59, Pg. 263

One of the last entries made in Katherine's journal.

"Your father murdered a girl named Katherine Heaton to protect his precious land sale."

Ch. 64, Pg. 284

Tory to Chance after he catches her in Claybourne Manor trying to find evidence of the murder Hollis committed.

"Someone had to clean up your father's mess."

Ch. 69, Pg. 302

Hannah to Chance and Tory as she explains that she is going to do what Chance doesn't have the stomach to do.



## Topics for Discussion

Who is Katherine Heaton? What is the significance of this character to the story? What happens to this character and why? Who uncovers the truth about her, and what are the consequences?

Who is Temperence? What impact does she have on this story? What direction or facilitation do her gifts to her niece encourage? What two gifts are specifically used and for what purpose?

Who is Dr. Karsten? What dilemma does he face before Tory discovers his lab? Why is Karsten conflicted?

Why does Tory want to go to Loggerhead Island? What concerns does she have? What is the basis for this concern? What is missing and what is Tory's connection to it?

What deal did the research librarian Limestone inherit? What conditions, if any are attached? What events do these conditions set in motion?

What is wrong with Coop? What treatments are indicated? What do Tory and the others take to aid them in looking after him? How long is Coop ill?

What illnesses to Tory, Ben, Hi and Shelton suffer from after rescuing Coop? Who exhibits signs first and what are they? Who is hit the hardest? Who suffers the least? What are the most common similarities?

What is a cotillion? Why is Tory expected to attend? What is the significance of being a debutante? Why is Whitney so intent on getting Tory involved? How does Tory feel about it?

Who is Baravetto? What job does he have? What other tasks does he perform? Who stops him from harming Tory and how? How might the outcome have differed otherwise?

How many people are arrested at the conclusion of the story? What information do the Virals withhold from their statements? What might their reasons for keeping these facts secret be? Do they consider these things a benefit or detriment?