

# **Wool Omnibus Edition (Books 1-5 of the Silo Series) Study Guide**

**Wool Omnibus Edition (Books 1-5 of the Silo Series)  
by Hugh Howey**

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# Plot Summary

In Wool Omnibus Edition (Silo Saga 1) by Hugh Howey, new sheriff Juliette Nelson stumbles into a tangle of deceit, manipulation, and murder when she agrees to accept the top law enforcement spot in her apocalyptic underground world. Her mechanical mindset allows her to survive her own intended death, and she discovers another silo identical to her own. With the help of Solo, whom she believes is the silo's only resident, Juliette puts into action a plan to save the man she loves and rescue her people from an evil leader.

Juliette's story begins with the description of a cleaning. Her research had led her to believe that outside was not as bad as the silo leaders had told those inside it was. A cleaning was a punishment for those who committed grave crimes against the silo. Those sent out knew they would die because of the toxins in the outside air. As part of their punishment, those sent out for cleaning were expected to clean the lenses of the cameras, then send images of the outside world to the upper levels of the silo. These scenes are the only connection that those inside have with the outside world. It is not until later in the novel that it is learned that when the cleaners go outside, they are getting a fake scene of what is outside. They clean because they believe the outside has become livable and feel pity for those inside.

Bernard, the head of IT hopes to be able to take charge of the entire silo. When Mayor Jahns gets in Bernard's way by asking Juliette to become sheriff instead of Bernard's choice, Peter Billings, he arranges to have the mayor killed. Bernard then goes about getting rid of Juliette by first banishing her back to mechanical, then sending her out to cleaning. Juliette is lucky because a friend in mechanical arranges for her cleaning suit to be made out of good materials instead of the inferior materials intended to break down quickly, like the other suits were made. Juliette also knows that the images she's seeing in her helmet visor are faked, so she isn't swayed by them.

Juliette explores her surroundings and learns that there are other silos in the area. She makes her way into one of them and sets up housekeeping with the one man who survived the fighting in the silo. He teaches her how to communicate with the other silos and she begins talking with Lukas, a man whom she'd known before she was sent out for cleaning. Lukas is being trained as Bernard's backup. Juliette hopes to find a way to return to the silo so she can take revenge against Bernard.

Meanwhile, the people of supply and mechanical have launched an uprising against Bernard and IT. Lukas is locked in the secret compartments of IT in an attempt to keep him safe. As Bernard becomes more and more unhappy with Lukas, he arranges a way for Lukas to be sent out to cleaning. As Billings is taking Lukas upstairs to be sent out, Juliette has made contact with Bernard on the silo system's radio. Billings listens as the two argue. Believing that Lukas is about to be killed, Juliette makes herself a suit and a heat blanket to try to save him. The man in the argon chamber, however, is not Lukas but Bernard. After listening to Juliette and Bernard argue, Billings has decided that it was Bernard who had committed crimes against the silo. Juliette is invited to be mayor

of the silo. She suggests a fresh start for the people, with a community where the people are told the truth and empowered instead of being manipulated.



# Part 1: Holston, 1 - 7

## Summary

### Part 1: Holston, 1 - 7

New sheriff Juliette Nelson stumbles into a tangle of deceit, manipulation and murder when she agrees to accept the top law enforcement spot in her apocalyptic underground world. Her mechanical mindset allows her to survive her own intended death and she discovers another silo identical to her own. With the help of Solo, whom she believes is the silo's only resident, Juliette puts into action a plan to save the man she loves and rescue her people from an evil leader.

In Chapter 1, as Holston climbs to his death, he examines the spiraling staircase and concentrates on its age and wear. He has decided that he wants to go outside the buried silo in which he and his people live. He climbs to the cafeteria where he looks at a view of the outside world, projected onto the cafeteria wall. As a child bumps into Holston in the cafeteria, he thinks that he and Allison had won the lottery, allowing them a year to have a child. Allison had died before that year was even complete. He believes he can see Allison's form on one of the hills outside the silo. He remembers her madness. In his office, Holston motions for his deputy, and then locks himself in the holding cell. He orders his deputy to get the mayor because he wants to go outside.

In Chapter 2, in his cell, Holston looks at a projected view of the dead world. The mayor joins him. She tells him that his death and Allison's death were not what she wanted but that she must enforce the rules. Holston acknowledges her quandary but insists the rules are nonsense. Jahns tells Holston that she has been the mayor who has sent the most people out to cleaning. Jahns asks if he plans to clean and Holston does not give a straight answer. Inside, he agonizes over why those who are sent outside actually clean the lenses as they are supposed to do.

In Chapter 3, Allison is searching old files, looking for information about uprisings. She believes that information on the silo's computers might not have been cleaned off by those revolting, as they had been told, but instead by those in charge at the silos. As she explains to her husband more of what she is doing, Holston warns her not to go too far as what she is questioning can be grounds for being sent out for cleaning.

In Chapter 4, Holston is prepared to go outside for his own cleaning. He remembers being the only one who watched while Allison went out to clean. She had waved to him when she finished cleaning and had walked toward the hill where she fallen, grasping her helmet.

In Chapter 5, Holston remembers being called to the cafeteria where his wife was screaming her desire to go out. After she is put in the holding cell, Allison calms, but refuses to talk. It is not until everyone but her husband is gone that Allison whispers he



feeling that what they see outside isn't real. She tells him that she has found a program that IT uses to make what she thinks is a false view of the outside look so real. She promises to come back for him. Allison also tells Holston that she has learned that the uprisings were caused by people who felt the outside wasn't as bad as they were told. He asks why she isn't handling her knowledge differently. She will tell him only that she doesn't want to be the cause of the next uprising. She says that she will come back for him.

In Chapter 6, for a year after she was sent out to clean, Holston waits in hope that Allison will return even though he can see her body on the hillside. He spends the next year looking through what she had pieced together and coming to agree with her feeling that nothing they knew of the outside was true. In the third year, he has made up his mind to follow his wife but is still too scared to make his wishes known.

Outside the airlock Holston is surprised that he has to walk up a ramp to get to the outside. At the top, he sees blue skies with white clouds and green grass. Holston cleans out of pity for those on the inside to whom he believes the powers that be are lying. As he starts up the hill, he notices the lump he believed was his wife's body is gone.

In Chapter 7, Holston has the first stomach cramp as he tries to make his way up the hill. His vision becomes distorted, then goes dark. Holston realizes the problem is in his visor, not his actual vision. He finds a rock that he uses to crack the latches on his helmet. The air he breathes is not revitalizing as he had hoped that it would be. The grass and sky is brown. He realizes the helmet visor is a screen. He realizes that he has reached the spot where his wife's body had lain. He sinks down next to her and dies.

## Analysis

This tragic story of Allison and Holston is set in a time much different from ours. It can be assumed they live hundreds, if not thousands of years in the future. The Earth's atmosphere has degraded to the point that it is no longer safe to live outside. Blue sky, grass and the ability to go where one wishes is material of children's books and tall tales. The people live in a large silo underground. Children are limited to those who win a "lottery" giving them a one-year window to try to get pregnant.

In her research of records from the history of the silo, Allison begins to wonder if there isn't something sinister to the "safe" environment in which they are living. She comes to the conclusion that the images projected on the walls inside the silo have been doctored by the people in IT to make it appear that the outside is still unlivable even though it really isn't. She becomes so convinced that the outside isn't as bad as they have been told that she decides that she wants to go outside and explore for herself.

It is not until Holston works up the courage to follow his wife outside that he, and the reader, discovers the truth about the outside. Holston learns that it is not the images being projected inside the silo that have been doctored, but instead those that the



cleaner sees when he first steps outside. Instead of a clear visor, the helmet of the cleaner's outfit is equipped with a computer or video screen that makes the cleaner believe they are seeing a perfect world. When Holston realizes that he is dying because of his own carbon dioxide, he cracks off his helmet. Once he sees with his own eyes, he realizes the world outside the silo is just as bad as they'd always been told.

One question that continues to surface in this section of the novel is the question that asks why the people who are banished from the silo clean the camera lenses, giving the people inside a clear view of outside for a short while, instead of not doing their duty out of anger or retaliation. Holston realizes that it is because of the initial view that he gets of the outside world, the one that has been doctored by IT, that makes him decide to clean. He feels initial pity for those inside because they think that the outside is still dangerous and ugly. It is not until Holston realizes that the screen on his helmet was engineered to show a favorable view of outside that he knows that IT has manipulated the cleaners to make them do their job.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Why does Allison decide that she wants to go outside?

## **Discussion Question 2**

What makes Holston decide to allow himself to be sent to cleaning?

## **Discussion Question 3**

What does Holston learn about the cleaning process? What lies are told to him?

## **Vocabulary**

Methodical, ponderous, ablation, incongruous, hydroponic, purification, labyrinth, venomously, redundancies, concerted, sabotage, belligerent, ablating, disheveled, machinations, sporadically, broaching, incinerated, perplexed, untainted.



## Part 2: Proper Gauge, 8 - 12

### Summary

#### Part 2: Proper Gauge, 8

In Chapter 8, Mayor Jahns knits as watches the sun rise the day after Holston's cleaning. Deputy Marnes brings three folders holding paperwork telling about three possible choices for the next sheriff. He suggests Juliette as she helped him and Holston work a murder a few years ago. Jahns decides they need to make a trip to the lower depths of the silo to interview Juliette and to see the people.

In Chapter 9, Jahns and Marnes move downward in the silo while others are moving up, going to see the clear views because of the recent cleaning. Jahns and Marnes have known each other for many years. There seems to be some connection between them still. They plan to trek down half the length of the silo on their first day. Jahns plans to stop at the nursery to visit Juliette's father. She wants to know why the two of them haven't visited in twenty years.

In the nursery where Peter works, he tells them that Juliette had a brother who was born prematurely and died. Juliette blamed the run down condition of the equipment and set her sights on doing what she could to improve conditions. Peter also tells Jahns and Marnes that his wife killed herself a few days after her son died. He says it was this that drove Juliette away. Before they leave, Peter tells Jahns and Marnes that his daughter won't accept the position.

In Chapter 10, the two stop on the IT floor to get Bernard Holland's approval on Jahns' nomination. They find, however, that Bernard has already contacted another man, Peter Billings about the position. He indicates that he remembered Juliette's name from the trouble they'd had from her. He accuses her of stealing supplies although a report was never filed. Bernard tries to get his way but Jahns stands up for herself, saying that her choice for sheriff will be final if Juliette accepts.

In Chapter 11, Jahns and Marnes stop on the level of the gardens where they are to stay the night.

In Chapter 12, the two reach the depths of the silo where Juliette works. Juliette is busy when they go to talk to her, but stops to join them in the control room where they can talk. Juliette tells that mayor that she can't shut the aged generator down to do needed repairs because Jahns had signed a full power mandate. Juliette says she's not interested in the sheriff job, but she will talk to them more later about a power holiday.





## Analysis

One of the most important things to notice in this section of the novel is the power struggle that seems to be developing between Bernard, the head of IT, and the mayor. While Jahns sees it as her job to choose and install the next sheriff, Bernard seems to think that he should be the one to name the next sheriff. In fact, Bernard has already offered the job to a person, not of Jahns' choosing, and has gotten the man to accept the job. Although her decision seems to anger Bernard, Jahns stands up for her decision and insists on finding out if Juliette is interested in the job before giving in to Bernard.

In his attempt to sway Jahns to his way of thinking, Bernard even accuses Juliette of having stolen from him. He didn't report the crimes, and still won't do so, but feels that it should have some influence on Jahns' decision. Juliette has complaints about IT as well. She tells the mayor how that one section of the silo is a major drain on the power that she and her workers try to keep going. Although Juliette at first tells Jahns that she has no interest in the sheriff job, Jahns seems to have a bargaining chip in declaring a power holiday for her people to be able to repair the generator so that it will perform properly for years to come.

Notice also the romantic tension between Jahns and Marnes. It appears that the two might have had some sort of relationship when they were younger. Since then, Jahns had married another man. Even though they are older, the two still have feelings for one another. Jahns, at several times, has fantasies of Marnes making romantic passes at her. She seems to hope that their trip together will leave them inconvenienced to the point they have to spend the night together. As Bernard watches them fill up their canteens, he seems to pick up on their feelings toward one another. As Bernard is angry with Jahns for not agreeing with him on his choice for sheriff, one must wonder what he is considering he might be able to do with the information.

### Discussion Question 1

Describe the architecture of the silo.

### Discussion Question 2

What is the relationship between Juliette and her father? Why have they not seen each other in so long?

### Discussion Question 3

Discuss the relationship between Jahns and Bernard. How is the strain in their relationship similar to that between the other departments and IT?



## Vocabulary

Innocuous, zephyr, caromed, pilgrimage, honorific, conspicuous, impacted, metronome, feign, perturbed, submerge, inexorable, ransacked, decrepit, rote, preclude, shoddily, deterrent, assuaged, tacit, expedite, fixated, arduous, serenely, demarcation, hypothetical, pungent, preponderance.



## Part 2: Proper Gauge, 13 – 17

### Summary

#### Part 2: Proper Gauge, 13 – 17

In Chapter 13, Marck tells Jahns and Marnes that he had expected Juliette, whom he calls Jules, not to last long in the down deep. They give her the job of carrying pumps up four flights of stairs to Walker's office to respool them. Juliette gets one pump upstairs, which she trades out at Walker's shop making him think she's brought new ones up. In reality, she learned to respool the things herself so she wouldn't have to carry them all upstairs.

In Chapter 14, Juliette comes to talk about the power holiday. Jahns takes the opportunity of convincing her to take the sheriff's job. It is not until she mentions that she doesn't really trust the next candidate that she seems to get a reaction from Juliette. They ask about the issues with the heat tape and IT. Juliette says she had some intercepted that she needed to fix machines because all of the good tape was going to IT. Juliette finally agrees that if Jahns will arrange the power holiday for her and give her a week to fix the generator, she will agree to become sheriff.

In Chapter 15, Jahns and Marnes begin the trek back upstairs. They spend the night at the mid-level deputy station. Marnes spends the night with Jahns on her convertible couch. On their fourth day of climbing, they reach IT. Bernard is waiting for them with a sour look on his face. He calls the mayor by her first name and accuses her of agreeing to the power holiday to get back at him. He orders Lukas to sign the employment papers for Juliette and Simms to fill Jahns and Marnes canteens before they leave.

In Chapter 16, the two have been drinking from each others' canteens on the way back up. By the time they reach Juliette's father's nursery, Jahns needs a bathroom break. In the dark bathroom her stomach burns and her legs shake. Back with Marnes, he asks her what happened as he looks at the ground. Jahns tries to hush him, but he cries for the nurse. The staff says something about blood as they stretch her out on a bench. Marnes is crying. Jahns takes his wrist and tells him that she loves him. Marnes suddenly looks at his canteen, and they realize the water was poisoned.

In Chapter 17, Juliette and her crew has finished the work on the generator. She turns the machine on and is about to flip the switch off when she doesn't hear it start up. Instead, the generator is running quietly, as it was meant to do. She is so happy with what has been accomplished that she doesn't notice the porter run into the room bearing the bad news that the mayor has died.



## Analysis

The power struggle in the silo turns deadly as the mayor is poisoned. It is known that Jahns and Marnes had their canteens filled during their stop at IT. It must be assumed that this is when the poison went into the water. Although Marnes believes that the poison was meant for him, it is important to remember that Bernard had taken note that Jahns had been drinking from Marnes' canteen. Because Bernard was so angry with Jahns for approving the power holiday, along with her decision to go with Juliette as her choice for sheriff, a choice of which Bernard does not approve, it is easy to think that Bernard might have ordered the poison put in the water with the intention of getting rid of this woman who defied to go against what he wanted.

Jahns seems to be a leader of high moral standards. She remembers the time when she first took office when a light bulb in her office was going out. Because of supply limits, she couldn't get it deemed bad enough to be replaced and had instead put up with it. A friend in supply had finally sneaked her up a new bulb, asking why she didn't just break the bulb so she could get a new one. She realizes now that the woman was not making fun of her, but she was showing respect for her by getting her a new bulb because she did follow the rules. Jahns seems to still be the type of leader who wants to follow the rules.

After her visit to the down deep, Jahns has a new respect for the people who keep the silo running. She has also been made aware of the struggle between the mechanics and IT for supplies and power. The people in IT seem not to appreciate the work those on the mechanical floors do. In the past, the higher powers have listened to the complaints of those from IT but have never taken into consideration the side of those from mechanics. It is when Jahns tells Juliette that she is concerned that the person next in line will not give mechanical the kind of consideration that Juliette will.

## Discussion Question 1

How are Jahns and Marnes able to convince Juliette to take the job as sheriff?

## Discussion Question 2

Who do you believe is responsible for Jahns death? Give specific reasons for your answer.

## Discussion Question 3

Compare and contrast Juliette and her father's reasons that they have not seen each other more often. What do you think is the real reason they choose not to see one another?

## Vocabulary

Umbrage, demure, undulating, requisitions, retroactive, stratified, peripheral, feigned, allocation, sporadically, devoid, inordinate, ashen.



## Part 3: Casting Off, 18 – 24

### Summary

Part 3: Casting Off, 18 – 24

In Chapter 18, it appears that Juliette has been sent out to clean.

In Chapter 19, as Juliette tries to teach herself how to be sheriff, she looks at the views of the outside and wonders what the fuss is about. She has not yet pinned the star on her overalls. She looks over the evidence from the mayor's death. Marnes will not give up the folder of notes on the murder. She also looks at the notes that Holston made about her in his investigation of her lover's death. Juliette additionally reads the folder telling about Holston and his last days. She wonders why Holston and his wife wanted to leave.

She is surprised when Bernard Holland knocks on the bars and introduces himself as acting mayor. He suggests to her that Jahns died because of fatigue even though Jules suggests that Bernard was responsible for the mayor's death. After Holland leaves, Jules sends a request to Mechanical, seeking answers to the questions she has regarding Holston's decision to be sent out cleaning.

In Chapter 20, Jules leaves her office late and lets herself into the closed kitchen for supper. There is a man in the cafeteria. The man shows her what he is doing, charting the stars. The man's name is Lukas.

In Chapter 21, Jules has a package from Scottie in IT the following morning. The box holds cookies and a data drive. Scottie warns her not to get caught with the drive. She searches through the information on the disc until she realizes that Marnes is late to work. When she gets to his apartment, she discovers that he has killed himself.

In Chapter 22, Juliette tells Lukas during their visit that evening that she plans to lay Marnes to rest next to the mayor. She even shares with him her suspicion that they were lovers in secret.

In Chapter 23, Juliette attends Marnes' funeral the following day. Back in her office, Jules is surprised to see a strange man sitting in Marnes' place. Bernard steps out of the holding cell, with Holston's file in his hand. He says he planning on refilling it since it is closed but Juliette takes it away from him. After Juliette prompts him, the man at Marnes' desk introduces himself as Peter Billings. Marnes tells her that Peter has been up for Juliette's job. As Juliette tries to get back to her work, Marnes suggests there should be forgiveness of all recent crimes, an act that she feels is convenient since he is the prime suspect in Jahns' murder. He tells her it will be his election motto. He plans to run IT and handle the job as mayor at the same time. As Juliette searches through the information on the drive, she gets a message from Scottie asking her to come to him.



In Chapter 24, Juliette is not able to get into IT with her badge. She threatens the man at the gate and he lets her through. Once in Scottie's office, Scottie asks Juliette if anyone saw her come in. He hands her a scroll of paper on which he's printed off the information that Knox sent him. He tells her he could get sent to cleaning even for having it. She finally convinces him to tell her that it is a program that can make things, like the wall screen upstairs, look real. Scottie tells her that he wants to go back to Mechanical.

## Analysis

The author starts Juliette's time as sheriff out at what must be the end of her story. She is being sent out to cleaning. She isn't sure what she had done to deserve this ending to her life. After the brief introductory chapter to this part of the novel, the author goes back in time several days to tell the story that has led up to Juliette's banishment. As she tries to deal with Marnes' mourning and her own feeling of being overwhelmed by her new job, Juliette becomes interested in learning what happened to Holston. She knew Holston because he had come down to investigate the death of her lover several years prior.

During her investigation of Holston's death and his computer records before the time of his death, Jules finds information that scares her friend in IT so badly that he wants to go back to Mechanical. He tells Jules that she has to get rid of the information as it could get them put to cleaning. From the information he has found, Jules decides, as Allison had, that the images that are being shown on the upstairs walls of the outside have been falsified. Juliette, however, cannot come to a reason why IT would want to falsify these scenes.

Note the way that the unusual set up of the upstairs levels of the silo is described. While deputy stations are centrally located in the middle and lower sections of the silo, the sheriff's office is at the very top of the silo. It is as far away from IT as it can possibly be. It is interesting that even with her sheriff's badge, Juliette is not allowed entrance into IT. It is only after threatening the boy at the gate does he use his badge to let her into the office. At this point it can be assumed that it is for whatever Jules has dug up about Holston that is what has condemned her to be put out to cleaning.

## Discussion Question 1

Why does Juliette become so obsessed with Holston's death?

## Discussion Question 2

Why does Marnes kill himself? Why does he tell Juliette that Jahn's death will never really be avenged?



## Discussion Question 3

Why is Scottie so scared by what he finds on Holston's computer? What does he believe will happen to him?

## Vocabulary

Metallurgy, relinquish, ferocity, analogous, asphyxiate, insignia, surreal, axiom, taboos, commiserate, abutted, illicit, genial, barrage, meticulous, emanating, frivolous, surmised, affront, imperceptibly, sonorous, raucous, moratorium, algorithms.





## Part 3: Casting Off, 25 – 30

### Summary

#### Part 3: Casting Off, 25 – 30

In Chapter 25, Juliette and Peter get another suicide warning. Juliette recognizes the office and floor number. The scroll Scottie had given her falls into her trash can. As she hurries out of the office, Peter answers another alert, then tells her that he has to arrest her. She is a suspect in Scottie's death.

In Chapter 26, Bernard tells her she is not being held in conjunction with Scottie's death but instead for unlawful entry into IT and tampering with IT property. Juliette is intelligent enough to know that Bernard has manufactured the charges in order to get her out of the way. She also refers to the Pact, which states Bernard can't be head of IT and mayor at the same time. He allows Juliette to go free asking only that she go back the Mechanical, where she belongs. Juliette wants to hit him in the face.

As Jules heads back down, she contemplates Scottie's death. After arriving at her old apartment and sleeping some, she wakes and reads the notes she'd been sent. Among them is a note from Scottie saying the program they'd found was for a small screen, not a big one. Reading the note, she is sure more than ever that Scottie had been killed.

In Chapter 27, Jules visits Walker the following morning. When she tells him that she doesn't think Scottie killed himself, he cries in agreement. She tells Walker that she believes that IT has been engineering things, like the heat tape sent to her that she joked had been made to fail, so that the cleaners sent out will never have any more time. She believes those with mechanical sense are sent to the bottom of the silo to be as far away from IT as possible as they have the most chance of figuring out what is happening there. When Walker suggests it was IT who killed Scottie, Jules says she believes IT kills everybody.

In Chapter 28, during her first day back on her job, Juliette thinks about the stories she's always been told about a loving God creating the silo. The rotting city is said to be what happens if people go beyond their boundaries. She feels the animals in children's books really did exist at some time. Her theory is that the silo was created by IT. As she thinks she formulates a plan to pull the wool from the eyes of those in the silo. She feels it will be easy to awake others to her realizations about IT and the evilness of the power there. When she gets off work, she sees Hank, the deputy, talking to Knox. She knows they are talking about her. Hank tells her that he has to arrest her for crimes against the silo. Knox is angry. Hank cries as he reads Juliette the required statement.

In Chapter 29, Lukas comes to visit Juliette during her stay at the deputy station in the mid level. He tells her he had planned to ask her out. She asks him to let her go. He cries as he walks away. Back in the sheriff's station the next day, Peter Billings charges



her with conspiracy. They had retrieved the computer drive from the incinerator as well as the scroll that Scottie gave her. Among her notes, Juliette receives an unusual one from Walker that she believes has a hidden message. She wakes in the night believing that her father is there but he walks away when she calls to him. The following morning, Juliette is determined to not clean. She still thinks about Walker's note. As the doors slide open to let her out, she realizes the visor of the helmet is an 8 X 2 inch screen.

In Chapter 30, Bernard watches the cleaning. He enjoys the fact that the false environment created inside the visor of the screen ensures that all of them will clean, even those who say they won't. He turns away for a moment to see if Peter has decided to join him. When he turns back, Juliette is already working her way up the hill. She did not clean. He watches as she walks up the hill, she disappears out of sight. Bernard chases his IT techs down the stairs and throws his paper cup at them. In a secret compartment of the server room he plugs into a radio system and calls another silo, telling them he has a problem.

## Analysis

Juliette's condition becomes dire as the research she has been doing into Holston's death is found by IT. Her friend, Scottie, who helped her unearth the information kills himself, though Juliette, along with Walker, believes the boy was killed. Juliette begins to believe more and more strongly that IT is actually working against the silo. A note from Scottie indicates that a joke Juliette had made about IT sending them heat tape engineered to fail was not a joke at all. Juliette realizes that IT is putting out two sets of products, one of substandard materials and one of good materials. She puts together that these engineers are making cleaning suits that are engineered to fail so that the cleaners will always have time to clean, but never more time. Walker's note to her refers to this joke telling her it is her time to laugh as he has gotten her suit made with good materials.

As the story follows Bernard's thought processes during the cleaning, it becomes obvious what an evil person he actually is. He enjoys watching the cleaners as they are awed by the false scene they see before them when they first step out of the silo. He knows it is this optimism they feel that makes them clean the lenses even if they have said they wouldn't. Juliette, however, realizes what she is seeing is false. It is for this reason that she carries through with her promise not to clean. Bernard is overwhelmed by his anger when he sees Juliette walking over the hill. He knows that he is in trouble because he has let her get out of his sight. Bernard curses his system's tie to mechanical, thinking the cooling vents for the servers in IT should have been separated from that department along with everything else. He thinks about the one time that he went to mechanical, that he went there to kill someone. This person to whom he refers is probably Juliette's lover whose death was termed an accident. Bernard exposes the biggest secret of all to the reader when he contacts another silo on his radio.

The author continues with his analogy of the power in the silo being out of line as Juliette considers what it will take to fix the problems with political power in the silo.



Juliette seems to think that fixing this power will not be as easy as it was to fix the generator. She also believes the actions in will take to get the government of the silo running smoothly against will not be fixed by anything that could be referred to as a holiday. Also note the way the title of the novel is derived from Juliette's thoughts that the wool needs to be pulled from the eyes of those living in the silo.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Why would it be dangerous for a leader to be head of IT and mayor at the same time?

## **Discussion Question 2**

What parts of Bernard's thought processes indicate that Juliette was right in her paranoid thoughts about IT?

## **Discussion Question 3**

Why is it significant that there is more than one silo? Why is this truth hidden from the people?

## **Vocabulary**

Banished, reclusive, chastising, paranoid, collaboration, demeanor, prodigal, protocols, amok, incinerator, caustic, impotent, elicited, deduce, mirage, succumb, obstinacy, acropolis, impeccable.



## Part 4: The Unraveling, 31 – 38

### Summary

Part 4: The Unraveling, 31 – 38

In Chapter 31, Juliette's parents take her to see a play when she is a young child. The leading actress' name in the play is Juliette. She gives the child, Juliette, a copy of the play as a keepsake.

In Chapter 32, as Lukas struggles to get himself going despite his loss of Juliette. He is pulled by his desire to go upstairs to see her, but knows that she will be dead. He considers jumping from the stairway, killing himself. A porter passes and the look on his face lets Lukas know something newsworthy had taken place. He hears the squawk of deputy Marshall's radio. Marshall tells Lukas that Juliette went out but didn't clean. He has been sent to bring Juliette's things to IT. Lukas says he is going anyway and offers to take the box.

In Chapter 33, Walker pays a porter enough to get the news that Juliette didn't clean but instead walked over the hills out of sight. With the news in mind, Walker is pulled out of his room by his need to share what he knows of the event with others.

In Chapter 34, even though she knows it is all a product of IT's special visor screen, Juliette is still stunned enough by the first glimpse of outside that she whirls in place to take it all in. She pulls one of the scrub pads off her suit and rubs the arm with it. The tape does not flake as she expected it to. She realizes that the suit was made with good materials. She knows she will die, but wants it to be out of sight of the silo.

As she climbs the hill, the bottoms of the buildings tweaked by IT's program are distorted and broken as normal, proof of IT's deceit. As she looks around, she notices there are more depressions in the earth, similar to the one that the entrance to her silo is located in. In the next depression, she notices a tower of sensors, just like the one on her silo. She thinks at first she might have gotten turned around and headed back to her silo but realizes that the dead cleaners are in different places, a fact that makes her believe that the mounds of dirt are keeping the inhabitants of the silo from knowing there are others out there.

In Chapter 35, Lukas goes through Juliette's things, taking her ID badge, ring and watch and trading her multi tool for his before taking what is left in the box to IT.

In Chapter 36, Juliette finds there are perhaps thousands of bodies around the new silo she has found. A crush of them at the airlock door appears they were trying to get back into the silo. The doors are partially open and she wiggles between. She uses part of a broken pipe to loosen the wheel on the inside airlock.



In Chapter 37, Walker finally makes his way to the mess hall in Mechanical. The workers are angry, discussing Juliette's death, their own poor conditions and the upcoming election. Walker tells them Jules had come to him a few days ago. He shares her theory that the suits were made to deteriorate. Walker called in favors with Supply and had them replace the things for Jules' suit with good stuff. As the people around him grow angry and curse IT, Walker tells them that this is the way uprisings begin.

In Chapter 38, Bernard meets Lukas with Juliette's box. He orders Lukas to come with him, saying he is one of the few he trusts. He is angry, which Lukas does not understand. As Bernard asks how Juliette was able to make it over the hill, Sims suggests that maybe she just got lucky to which Bernard orders him out of the room. He tells Lukas that he want him to be his shadow.

## Analysis

In this section of the novel, three differing views of the situation develop. Juliette's point of view tells how she discovers the suit is made of good materials and makes her way over the hill. She is almost too shocked to realize she is still alive to be too overwhelmed at the idea there had been other people living so close to her. It is Juliette's mechanical way of thinking that has allowed her to think through the problems she has encountered from one silo to another, overcome them and survive.

Another point of view that is expressed in this portion of the novel is that of the people in Mechanical. They are angry at the way that Juliette has been treated. Walker's announcement that all these years IT had been building suits they knew would fail only increases their anger. As Walker feels the anger growing around him, he tells his friends that he believes that the feelings and thoughts they are having at the moment are the way that uprisings begin.

A third point of view is Lukas' point of view. He is perhaps the one most grieved by what has happened to Juliette because he was beginning to love her. Things turn strange for Lukas as Bernard asks him to become his shadow, telling Lukas that he is the only tech in IT that he trusts. All the while Lukas has been with Bernard since Juliette's death, Lukas has not understood why Bernard is so angry that Juliette disappeared during the cleaning. He is almost frightened of the man and agrees to his proposal because he seems to have no other choice. All the while, Lukas has mementos of Juliette, the woman who has made Bernard so angry, tucked away in his overalls.

## Discussion Question 1

Why is it significant that Bernard ask Lukas to be head of IT?



## Discussion Question 2

Why is it such a huge discovery for Juliette to have found a second silo? How might you have felt if you had been in Juliette's place?

## Discussion Question 3

How does Juliette's knowledge that the scene she sees outside the silo is fake alter her willingness to clean?

## Vocabulary

Meticulous, bulbous, untrammled, intrepid, fabrication, devious, euphoria, sporadic, monoliths, turbulence, caustic, inscrutable, repose, leverage, anonymity, fixated, stipulate, contraband, collusion, hubris, chrysalis, tepid.



## Part 4: The Unraveling, 39 – 45

### Summary

Part 4: The Unraveling, 39 – 45

In Chapter 39, Juliette makes her way into the new silo and into the cafeteria. With no water, she opens cans of soup and covers the suit in these, hoping to wash off any toxins she might have carried in with her, and then pries off the helmet. Although the odor from dead bodies is overpowering, the air is breathable.

In Chapter 40, Knox realizes as he assigns jobs in the upheaval that he is planning that having the Supply department on their side is key. He, Marck, Shirly, and Courtnee head up to Supply to convince them to join, while the others are ordered to stockpile food, water and guns. McLain, head of Supply, is angry with Knox for making her department part of Juliette's escape plan and has to be convinced to join Mechanical but Knox is successful.

In Chapter 41, Bernard tells Lukas he needs someone who can take charge of things if something were ever to happen to him. He pulls out a set of keys on a string around his neck telling Lukas these are the keys to the true heart of the silo. He unlocks a false server face and raises a grate, exposing a ladder. Bernard grins manically as he tells Lukas he is about to give him a great gift.

In Chapter 42, after Juliette goes down several levels in the strange silo, she uses her knife to cut off the suit. On level thirteen, the one similar to the one she had lived as a child, she stops briefly. On the next floor, she finds a tablecloth to wrap herself in. On level fifteen, she is overtaken by fatigue and curls up on the stairway grate for a nap.

In Chapter 43, Knox and McLain discuss what they are trying to accomplish. He claims it is not an uprising, but a setting of things to right. McLain reasons that they will have more trouble with those who live in the mid sections of the silo than those at the top. She suggests they create a diversion to get the middle people up top so they won't have as much trouble on the way to IT. They decide on a power outage which will get the middle people moving. The people from mechanical will have to move through the silo.

In Chapter 44, Juliette discovers the hydroponic farms near the top of the silo have rotted away but that the pipes are full of water. She breaks off a pipe to use as a canteen and fills this with water. In the dirt farms the next level down, she finds tomato plants. She is frightened by a noise and the door, which she had propped with her knife, slams shut behind her. Back in the stairway, she hears someone running down the stairs.

In Chapter 45, Knox, along with the workers in Supply and Mechanical, manufacture guns for their proposed act of setting things right. They arm themselves and begin their march to IT.



## Analysis

As Juliette explores the strange silo, she finds signs of life. She calculates the people have been gone for several years, but probably not as long as hundreds when she sees the condition of the hydroponic farms. At the dirt farms, she finds growing tomatoes, making her think the timetable of that silo's demise might have been even shorter than what she had thought at first. A door that she propped open slams shut, scaring her. She thinks it might have just been chance, but then hears footsteps, a sign that she is not alone.

Lukas fears that he will have to take charge of cleanings if he shadows Bernard seems to be just the tip of the iceberg as the man shows him a hidden compartment in the server room. Bernard's attitude has changed from one of anger to almost a maniacal joy as he prepares to share his secret with Lukas.

Meanwhile, Supply and Mechanical have teamed up to revolt against IT. They have made guns and have a plan in force. They tell themselves they are not starting an uprising but, instead, are setting things right.

## Discussion Question 1

What do you think Lukas is about to be told by Bernard about the silo? Will Bernard tell him they are not alone?

## Discussion Question 2

Do you think Supply and Mechanical are justified in their war against IT? Do you believe this is how other uprisings have begun?

## Discussion Question 3

What does it mean for Juliette if there are other people living in the silo?

## Vocabulary

Amicable, wan, fetid, stagnant, desecrated, tenuousness, wizened, fabrication, filaments, defiant, pungency, loamy, brackish, converging.





## Part 4: The Unraveling, 46 – 52

### Summary

Part 4: The Unraveling, 46 – 52

In Chapter 46, Juliette calls for the person to stop. She is afraid the person might not have good intentions but follows anyway. She follows the person's footsteps into a lit office. Juliette isn't sure where she is but walks into an office where a person on the inside has pulled a cabinet across it from the inside. She finally locates the man as he tries to disappear down a metal grate. When she calms him down, Juliette gets the man to tell her that he is alone. Juliette tells Solo, as she refers to him, that she has come from another silo. Solo doesn't seem surprised.

In Chapter 47, in a similar room in Juliette's old silo, Bernard is showing Lukas a chart of the silo layout. He describes it as their legacy. Bernard tells Lukas he is sorry how quickly he has to tell him about the silo's secrets but that their world is changing and that it won't be pleasant. Bernard says he is afraid people will die. He shows Lukas a book that contains the entire history which he says that Lukas should read when he has the chance. The book tells what should be done in all sorts of emergencies. Lukas asks what the book says about the day they've just experienced. Bernard gives him a page number. The book advises that in the case of a failed cleaning to prepare for war.

Meanwhile in Chapter 48, Solo leads Juliette into a similar room in the silo they are in. This is where he lives. He tells Juliette that as far as he knows, he had been alone for 34 years. He explains the people there had one bad day and went crazy. He stayed alive because his father, who was shadowing the head of IT, pushed him inside the hidden rooms and gave him the keys when the fighting started.

In Chapter 49, as his men move their way upward, Knox hopes that the overtaking will be smooth. He wonders if he is now considered one of the bad men he had always read about in history.

In Chapter 50, Juliette looks at books from a set of encyclopedias from Solo's room. Juliette has not even imagined many of the things in the books. Solo tells her they tell everything that ever was. He shows her a map of land and water where the group of silos is just a line of squiggles. He points out a larger map of the silos showing her they are in silo seventeen. He suggests she is probably from sixteen or eighteen. He mentions he hasn't heard from the other silos in awhile. Juliette questions him about the radio. She tells Solo that she wants to go home so she can tell them about the other silos. He tells her that someone in her silo already knows. Juliette suddenly realizes this person is Bernard. She asks how to go about making a call.

In Chapter 51, Lukas and the others in IT wait for the armed men from Mechanical and Supply. Suddenly the doors burst open. Lukas watches as Knox is shot, the shoots



McLain before she can throw a grenade at him. Lukas cries as he continues to shoot into the invaders.

In Chapter 52, Bernard is woken by Peter. Peter tells him the invaders are on the run back down the stairway. Bernard tells Lukas they have to report the trouble. On their way into the hidden room, Lukas hears a buzzing. Bernard wonders if silo one has already heard about the revolt. He realizes the call is coming from silo seventeen, believed to be a dead silo. Bernard recognizes Juliette's voice but tries to pretend that he doesn't. Juliette tells Bernard that she is coming for him.

## Analysis

The narrator of the novel continues to divide his focus between the insurgents in Mechanical and Supply, the powers of IT and Juliette's adventures in Silo 17. In this section the workers from Mechanical and Supply make their planned attack and find that those in IT are armed with better weapons than they. The IT men suffer only minor losses, while Mechanical and Supply are badly beaten, losing both Knox and McLain, their leaders.

While war is raging in Silo 18, Juliette learns a bit of the history of Silo 17. Only one man, who is called Solo, remains. He survived because his father, who worked in IT pushed him into the protective walls of the secret compartments of that floor when fighting started. Solo spent his time hiding there until everyone else in the silo had either died when they tried to go outside or killed one another in their fighting.

Juliette is afraid that she will shock Solo when she tells him that there is more than one silo in the universe. She is one surprised when Solo is able to tell her things about the silos that she never knew. In fact, he knows how to contact the other silos, an ability that Juliette takes advantage of to contact Bernard. She is more angry than ever now that she knows that Bernard has kept secrets about the silos hidden from the people. She warns Bernard that she is coming for him.

Also interesting in this section of the novel are Solo's thoughts on the connection between the farming silos of the past and the silos in which they live. Solo thinks of both of these structures as storage devices. The farming silos were used to store excess grain while the underground silos are used as storage for people. Just like grain stored in a silo can go bad after being kept for too long, the people stored in a silo also go "bad" in a way after they've been kept cooped up for too long.

## Discussion Question 1

How are Lukas and Juliette's trips through their different silos similar? How are they different? How do they wind up in the same secret compartment in IT in the different silos?



## Discussion Question 2

How are Knox and McLain possibly similar to those who have led uprisings in the past? How are they different? Are they the bad guys?

## Discussion Question 3

What is the significance of the snippets of the play that are included in introductions to each chapter in this section of the novel?

## Vocabulary

Leverage, enunciated, tome, sabotage, perpetual, petulantly, banter, vindicate, incursion, cloistered, cryptic, schematic, interminable, acrid, jargon, stanchions, asunder.



## Part 5: The Stranded, 53 – 60

### Summary

Part 5: The Stranded, 53 – 60

In Chapter 53, Marck is stunned by the violence and deafened by the bombs as he heads with the others back to the lower floors. He searches for his wife, needing to know she is safe as the fighting continues.

In Chapter 54, Marck finds Shirly and tells her what has happened upstairs. Those in Supply appear to be forcing those from Mechanical back down the stairs. When they finally reach their floor, there is a jam of people trying to get in. Those left behind in Mechanical have soldered steel plates across the doorway, leaving only a small opening for people to squeeze through. Marck runs up the stairs, shooting at the security people who are shooting downward at them. He creates enough distraction so that those waiting — including his wife — are able to get safely inside. Marck is hit by gunfire and dies.

In Chapter 55, there is still fighting in Silo 18 three weeks after the initial attack on IT. Jenkins, who has taken over as head of Mechanical after Knox's death, banters Walker to get an old radio fixed so he can eavesdrop on what is happening on the upper levels. As Walker begins to tinker with the radio again, he blames himself for being the start of all the violence. He decides that his favor to Juliette was not worth all of the grief that it has brought about. He considers killing himself, joining Scottie and Juliette in a better place.

In Chapter 56, Juliette and Solo have rigged up a pump to begin emptying the water from the mechanical portions of the silo. At the rate this pump is working, Juliette estimates it will be two years before the water will be gone and she can investigate what machinery might be available for her to tunnel through the Earth to her silo. Before they start, Juliette tells Solo she needs to make a call. Solo complains that she spends too much of her time making these strange calls. She believes, however, that this connection is the only thing that has kept her sane.

In Chapter 57, Bernard interrupts Lukas' reading of the encyclopedias by bringing him lunch. Lukas believes that Bernard is keeping him in the secret room in the server area to keep him safe from the fighting. As Bernard and Lukas are talking, a call comes in. He curses and tells Lukas he wants him to fix up a light code to tell who is calling. He warns Lukas never to answer any of the calls. As soon as Bernard leaves, Lukas returns the call to Silo 17, asking Juliette how things are going in her world.

In Chapter 58, Walker believes he is talking to Scottie as he discovers a hiss on the radio. When Shirly knocks, Scottie disappears. She is angry with Walker because he has not been eating. He promises to eat if she will help him. He has her turn the dial as



he eats. Suddenly there are the sounds of other voices. Shirly is happy, believing the radio is fixed but Walker notices the name of the deputy mentioned is not one with whom either of them is familiar.

In Chapter 59, Juliette has set up residence in the IT suit lab. She tells Solo that she's working on a way to breathe underwater so she can fix the main pump in Mechanical.

In Chapter 60, Lukas has lost all track of time being locked in the server room. Peter comes to bring him his dinner and Lukas meets him. Lukas feels Peter mocks him and looks down on him. Peter tells him men are planning on going down to blow up the wall keeping them out of Mechanical. While Peter is still talking, the lights flash, signaling a call coming in. Lukas runs to answer it. He listens and tries to believe as Juliette tells him that she is one of the good guys. She tries to convince him to help her and the people in Mechanical as they try to set things right.

## Analysis

Walker blames himself for all of the violence that he sees around him. He has lost sight of the injustice done to the people and believes that his favor to Juliette was not worth all of the uproar and pain that it has caused. He even considers suicide at his lowest point. He gains inspiration from a hallucination that Scottie, his young shadow, is working with him, helping him to repair a radio. With help from the dead Scottie and Shirly, Walker is able to get a signal on the radio but it is not from people who live in their silo.

Meanwhile, Juliette and Lukas have been using the radio to communicate with one another. They are both stir crazy from being more or less alone. Juliette tries to convince Lukas that he is in a position that he can bring about change in the silo. Lukas appears to still be on the fence about who the bad guys are and who the good guys are in their circumstances. He seems haunted by the vision of himself shooting McLain, one of the leaders of the people of whom Juliette is so supportive. Juliette is trying to find a way to get back to her own silo, but so far has not been successful.

## Discussion Question 1

Why is there stress in the relationship between Peter and Lukas?

## Discussion Question 2

Why does Juliette want to get back to her silo?



## Discussion Question 3

How have Juliette and Lukas learned that they can communicate with one another? Why is it significant that they have this kind of communication?

## Vocabulary

Ricochet, illicit, respite, maw, splice, cadence, modulated, diabolical, impassively, empathized, heft, vertigo, circuitous.



## Part 5: The Stranded, 61 – 68

### Summary

Part 5: The Stranded, 61 – 68

In Chapter 61, Shirly and Walker try to determine exactly what they are listening to. Jenkins runs in warning that the enemy is inside and they must go to the lower levels. Walker and Shirly scramble to gather radio parts.

In Chapter 62, Juliette puts on a cleaning suit she has fitted up to work underwater. She shows Solo how to work the air compressor and tend to things up top.

In Chapter 63, Lukas is trying to study the Order while Bernard is in the same room with him. Lukas finally asks Bernard why there is nothing in the Order about the people who created the silo and wrote the Order. Lukas finally comes to the conclusion that the people who created the silos had probably caused the problems that put them there.

In Chapter 64, Juliette reaches the pump and hooks up the power with little trouble except her air supply suddenly shuts off. She doesn't get an answer back but decides that Solo must be working on the compressor so she continues working until she realizes that the pressure in her suit has gone away.

In Chapter 65, as the mechanics make their way downstairs, Shirly guides Walker to the control room. They work to put the radio back together, hoping that Jenkins will be able to hear what they have heard. As they get the radio working, both are surprised to hear Juliette's voice, calling Solo.

In Chapter 66, in her panic that her air supply is gone, Juliette cuts the weights off her feet, causing her to bump the ceiling, breaking the flashlight. She uses the air hose to guide herself back to the stairwell.

In Chapter 67, Lukas is finally allowed a visit from his mother. After the visit, Bernard tells Lukas they need to make his position official by putting him on the radio with Silo 1. Lukas is allowed to ask a question and he chooses to ask about the silos' past. The man helps him to realize that the people in Operation Fifty have survived because they were the ones who caused the destruction that forced them underground.

In Chapter 68, Walker convinces Shirly that Juliette is alive. She wants to talk to her but Walker realizes they don't have a transmitter. Shirly runs for one before the main stairway is blasted.



## Analysis

In this section of the novel it appears that Lukas is losing more and more faith in Bernard. In fact, in Chapter 63 it is indicated that Lukas is pretending to shadow Bernard. He displeases both Bernard and the man on the radio by asking what happened to put people in the silos in the beginning. He is disturbed to learn that the people who first lived in the silos had probably planned the destruction of the other people and cultures.

It is interesting in this section of the novel that both Bernard and Juliette tell Lukas that he doesn't need to focus on the past. Both, however, have different reasons for telling him this. Bernard doesn't want Lukas to focus on the past because he doesn't want Lukas to be influenced by the things that have happened in the past. Juliette wants Lukas to remember what has happened in the past but remember that he has no power to change the past. The only power that he has is the power to change the future.

It is also in this section that Shirly and Walker learn that there are other silos in the world through the use of a radio. It is this radio through which Shirly and Walker learn that Juliette is still alive. They are even able to communicate with her after Shirly risks her life to retrieve a transmitter from the downstairs mechanical storage areas.

### Discussion Question 1

Do you think that Lukas is being influenced by Juliette? Why or why not?

### Discussion Question 2

How do Shirly and Walker use the radio to learn that Juliette is still alive?

### Discussion Question 3

How does Juliette use her common sense and mechanical knowledge to figure out how to drain the water from the silo faster so she can get back to her own people?

## Vocabulary

Lucid, ruminations, plummet, perused, schematics, tranquil, helical, recede, benign, cordoning, viscous, impede.





## Part 5: The Stranded, 69 – 75

### Summary

Part 5: The Stranded, 69 – 75

In Chapter 69, Juliette continues to use the air hose to guide herself back to the stairway. She survives the trip back up the stairwell by inhaling the air trapped on the bottoms of the stair treads. She finally reaches the top of the water level. Solo is lying with blood on his head. She doesn't realize at first how badly he is hurt. He tells her only that his name is not Solo but Jimmy, and that he doesn't believe that he was ever alone in the silo.

In Chapter 70 as Lukas makes tea, he wonders aloud to Bernard how people could willingly and intentionally kill other people. Bernard explains that it is for this reason that so much information has to be hidden from the people, so that they don't revolt. Bernard seems angry when he refers to the silos as cages the people are locked up in to bring about the vision that the people years ago had. After Bernard leaves the room, Lukas wonders what sort of people would treat their people as they had. He wonders why Bernard does not see himself as one of them.

In Chapter 71, Walker and Shirly try to talk to Juliette. The voice that comes from the radio is not hers, though. It says that their friend, whom the voice refers to as 'he,' has been killed.

In Chapter 72, Juliette cuts herself out of her suit and starts a fire so she can warm herself and tend to Solo. Solo tells Juliette he thinks there was one person who was responsible for the attack. He realizes now that he was not crazy, things were being moved and lights turned on and off by someone other than him.

In Chapter 73, Lukas listens as the fighting continues below him. He worries because he has not heard from Juliette. He looks over the script that Juliette has kept and made notes on through the years. He finds a note written to a man named George and wonders who George is. He researches and finds that George died three years prior. He had worked in Mechanical with Juliette. He learns that George's death had been investigated and decides to do more research.

In Chapter 74, Solo and Juliette climb to the lower farms. At the entrance to the farms, Solo waits while Juliette gets the lights on and looks for water and food. As she moves through the farm, she comes to a part that is better tended than the other parts. It is in the part of the farms that Juliette finds a group of teens and children, one of the boys is the one who hit Solo over the head. Juliette realizes that one of the teenage girls has a baby. After she directs the children to get their things together, Juliette hears Walker's voice on her radio calling her name.



In Chapter 75, Juliette responds on the radio, telling Shirly to tell everyone there to stop fighting.

## Analysis

In these chapters, Lukas learns what Bernard knows about the reasons that the people now live in silos. He wonders what sort of cruel, inhumane person would think they were entitled to wipe out millions of people to create the sort of population that they wanted. Bernard seems to think that it was because of the desire for a homogeneous population that depended upon one another and did not fight among themselves. Even though Bernard does not think that he is like the people who originally wiped out whole populations and created the silos, Lukas does not see how he can see himself as any different from them.

Also significant in this section is Juliette's discovery of the teens who are hiding in silo 17. It is one of the boys who hit Solo over the head. Juliette has proof of this when she finds Solo's wrench, which is stained with blood, in their living quarters. She also finds her own clothes and supplies in the children's possession. Juliette is surprised to discover that one of the teens has a baby. Although she had never really understood the laws in the silo that required men and women to register to be married and the need for birth control implants at birth, she suddenly realizes what their life could be like if people were allowed to marry and procreate as they wished.

In this section of the novel, each chapter is labeled with a title telling in which silo the action is taking place. Chapters 53, 54, 55, 58, 60, 61, 63, 65, 67, 68, 70, 71, 73, 75, 76, 78, 81 and 82 take place in silo 18 while Chapters 57, 59, 62, 64, 66, 69, 72, 74, 77, 79, are set in silo 17.

## Discussion Question 1

Why does Juliette suddenly understand the importance of the birth control implants after seeing the teen girl with the baby?

## Discussion Question 2

What is known about the reason why the silos were built in the first place? What would you think if you were living in one of these silos and suddenly realized what had happened to put you there?

## Discussion Question 3

Why does Juliette want the people to stop fighting?



## Vocabulary

Intrepid, homogenous, foisted, culpable, leached, supine, demise, mantra, regressing, emanating, perpendicularly.



## Part 5: The Stranded, 76 – 82

### Summary

#### Part 5: The Stranded, 76 – 82

In Chapter 76, Lukas believes his rooms in IT have become smoky but Bernard does not seem to think so. Lukas has figured out how to get out of IT, and puts his plan into action. He asks for George Wilkins' file. Bernard indicates that George was a dangerous man. He basically admits that he killed him. Bernard realizes that Lukas isn't the man that he needs to take his place. Lukas indicates that he wants to go home, wants out of the server room. Bernard accepts Lukas' request to go out of the server room as a request to get out of the silo. He calls for Billings.

In Chapter 77, Juliette, Solo and the kids climb the stairs as Juliette tries to get a signal on her radio. Realizing the best way to get in touch with her silo will be by using the big radio, Juliette climbs up to IT by herself. When she gets on the radio, she is told by a voice that she is not allowed to transmit on that frequency and should be put out to cleaning. Bernard tells Juliette that Lukas will be put out to cleaning.

In Chapter 78, Peter leads Lukas up the stairs. When Peter's radio comes to life, he turns it up and the two hear Juliette's voice. As Peter and Lukas listen to Juliette and Bernard argue, both of them begin to change their minds. Peter begins to wonder if sending Lukas to cleaning is the right thing to do and Lukas about killing himself before he can be put to death.

In Chapter 79, Solo shakes Juliette awake. Once she is awake, she gets Silo working on making a blanket with the heat tape. She remakes one of the suits in preparation for going back to her own silo. She plans to be at her silo when the doors open to let Lukas out so she can save him and the two of them can get back in.

In Chapter 80, Juliette walks from silo 17 to her own silo. When the doors open, no one comes out. She sees Lukas in the argon chamber. She uses the blanket to cover them both as the flames begin to spew out. As the temperature rises, the man pushes away from her, out from under the blanket. When the flames die down, Juliette looks at the body in the room with her and realizes that it is not Lukas, it is Bernard.

In Chapter 81, recovering from her burns, Juliette spends days floating in and out of consciousness on painkillers. Lukas and Peter come to see her. She gets piles of notes from those in Mechanical. Lukas tells her that it was Peter who had taken the chance and listened to his story, then made the decision to change the cleaning orders.

In Chapter 82, Juliette learns that the people of the silo have voted her as the new mayor. Juliette agrees to do it, but says that she wants to do the work her way, to give the truth about the silo a chance. After deciding this, Juliette goes down to Mechanical as she had planned, stopping to see her father along the way.



## Analysis

Good finally overcomes evil in this final section of the novel. Juliette makes the daring attempt to save Lukas' life, only to discover it was Bernard who had been sent out to cleaning. Once inside, she learns that Peter Billings, the man hired to be sheriff because Bernard thought he would do as he wanted, has taken charge and condemned Bernard. Lukas, who was about to be put to death because he also turned out not to be a puppet for Bernard to manipulate, realizes he has nothing to lose by telling Peter his story. Peter has also heard Juliette and Bernard arguing over the radio, has put the pieces together and has decided who is really guilty of crimes against the silo.

With Juliette back in place in the silo, she is elected to serve as mayor. With her election, it appears that things are about to make a drastic change as Juliette plans to be honest with the people. She plans to tell them the truth about their lifestyles and their history. She believes the people can work better if they are empowered by the truth instead of living in fear for their lives.

## Discussion Question 1

What changes does Juliette propose for the silo when she is elected mayor?

## Discussion Question 2

At what point does Juliette realize that it is Bernard in the argon chamber and not Lukas?

## Discussion Question 3

What do you think prompts Juliette to go visit her father?

## Vocabulary

Lateral, inoculate, proactive, dictated, hovel, ambush, cauterize, inverted, proximity, disgorge, sporadic, viscous, immutable.



# Characters

## Juliette Nichols

Juliette Nichols is the heroine of this novel. She becomes sheriff of the silo after the original sheriff decides to be sent to cleaning so that he can join his wife. As sheriff, Juliette begins investigating why the prior sheriff decided to go out to cleaning. During her investigation, Juliette uncovers information that scares her friend Scottie badly enough that he wants to transfer back to mechanical. He says that he has seen information bad enough that he could be sent out to cleaning. When Juliette goes to visit Scottie, she has to force her way through IT to get to his office. Because she has entered IT without authorization, Bernard has Juliette removed from her job as sheriff. Later, he has her sentenced to cleaning because of the information that he finds on her computer. Juliette is smart enough to know that Bernard wanted her out of the way because she also figured out that he was responsible for the death of Mayor Jahns.

Juliette is lucky because she has a friend in Mechanical who calls in favors with Supply to get Juliette a cleaning suit made of high quality materials. This suit allows her to explore the outside enough to realize there are other silos. She breaks her way into one of them that appears to be deserted. She makes friends with the one person, Solo, who appears to have survived the fighting in the silo. He teaches her what he knows about the silo system and helps her with her plan to get back to her silo in order to get revenge on Bernard and save the people of her silo. As they are trying to drain the water from the lower floors of the silo, Solo and Juliette discover a group of teens and young people have also been living in the silo. Juliette leaves Solo in charge of these young people when she walks back to her silo in an attempt to save Lukas. It is only after Juliette has risked her life that she realizes that it is Bernard in the argon chamber with her instead of Lukas. She is brought into the silo where she is offered the job of mayor. She speaks of her desire to empower the people instead of manipulating them into doing as she wishes.

## Lukas Kyle

Lukas Kyle befriends Juliette during her short term as sheriff. The two begin to have feelings for one another during this time. Their relationship develops more as they begin to communicate with one another over the silos' radio system. Lukas has been chosen by Bernard to be the replacement for the head of the IT department should anything happen to him. For this reason, Lukas learns about all the silo secrets. He also has access to what Bernard refers to as the Legacy Books which seem to encyclopedias that date back to before the time of the silos. Knowing that he is not cut out for the job of IT manager, Lukas tells Bernard that he wants to go outside of the secret compartment. When Bernard tells the others that Lukas has asked to go outside the silo, Lukas does not argue. Lukas briefly considers breaking away from Peter Billings and killing himself by jumping down the staircase. When he and Peter both hear Bernard and Juliette



arguing over the phone, Lukas realizes that things may not be as hopeless as he once thought. Although he had been sentenced to cleaning, Peter realizes that Bernard is in the wrong. Instead of sending Lukas out, Bernard is sent out.

## **Bernard Holland**

Bernard Holland is the head of IT for silo 18. Bernard wants to take charge of the leadership of the silo even though what he is proposing doing goes against the rules of the silo. Bernard is responsible for killing George because he wanted to expand the silo downward. As sheriff, Juliette believes that Bernard is responsible for killing Jahns, the prior mayor. Bernard had wanted Peter Billings as sheriff because he felt he could easily manipulate the man. Because he did not want Juliette in that position, Bernard finds reasons to fire Juliette from her position and also to send her out to cleaning. Bernard does not count on Juliette making her way to another silo and learning the truth about the silo system. In the end, Peter, Bernard's choice for sheriff, sends Bernard out for cleaning because he hears Juliette and Bernard arguing about the way the silo is being run. Peter recognizes that Bernard is not doing what is in the best interests of the people and has set both Lukas and Juliette up to be killed. Because he is a good man, Peter does what is right and sends Bernard out to cleaning. Bernard dies in the fires in the argon chamber even though Juliette tries to save him, believing that he is Lukas.

## **Mayor Marie Jahns**

Mayor Marie Jahns is the leader of the silo at the beginning of the novel. She is a person of high morals who has thrown her life into her job. She loves her people. Her intentions in traveling down to the depths of the silo are not only to talk to Juliette in person about the job but also to see her people. She doesn't want to make speeches or campaign for re-election, she just wants to mingle with her people. After she talks to Juliette about her job in mechanical, Jahns realizes that she and Jules each see the silo in different ways. Although she'd always looked at the silo as being created for the use of the people, Juliette helps to show her that it could be the people who are created to maintain the silo. Jahns stands up to Bernard, the crooked leader of IT, to make sure that she gets her say in who becomes sheriff, a woman whom she believes will not allow herself to be manipulated by Bernard in IT. It is for her unwillingness to do as Bernard commands her that Jahns is murdered by Bernard.

## **Walker**

Walker is an elderly mechanic who works in Mechanical. He rarely leaves his room. When Juliette first returns to Mechanical from being fired from her job as sheriff, it is to Walker that she takes her concerns that Scottie was killed instead of having committed suicide as it was reported. Juliette also tells Walker her suspicions of IT getting prime materials from supplies while the cleaning suits are made with inferior materials. When Juliette is sent out to cleaning, Walker calls in favors from Supply and has Juliette's suit



made from high quality materials. Walker is also the one who tells the others in his department about what he had done and shares he and Juliette's suspicions about what IT has been doing all along. Because of this, Walker feels that he has been responsible for starting the uprising in his silo. Additionally, Walker is the one who fixes the radio allowing Juliette to speak to them, proof that she is, indeed alive.

## Scottie

Scottie was one of Juliette's shadows in Mechanical. He was transferred to IT because he was considered too smart for Mechanical. Scottie is the one who gets Juliette the information she requests from Holston's computer. When he tries to research the programs for Juliette, what he finds scares him so badly that he requests to be sent back to Mechanical. One of the things that he has learned is that the workers in IT have engineered the cleaning suits to fail, guaranteeing the cleaners will not get out sight of those in charge. It is reported that Scottie is found dead in his office, a suicide. Juliette, however, does not believe that Scottie killed himself. Later in the novel when Walker is trying to get an old radio to work, he imagines that Scottie is working with him, giving him advice on how to fix the machine.

## Solo aka Jimmy

Solo, whose real name turns out to be Jimmy, has thought he has been living alone in Silo 17 for thirty-five years. He did not die when the people in his silo revolted because his father had put him in the secret rooms in IT. During his time alone, Solo has done much research about his silo and has learned that he is not alone in the world. Solo helps Juliette to fix the pumps downstairs to drain the Mechanical part of the silo. During this repair, Solo is hit over the head by one of the teens living in secret in the silo. It is while he is injured that Solo tells Juliette that his name is actually Jimmy. After they have located the group of young people who have been living in the silo with him all along, he takes charge of their care.

## George Wilkins

George Wilkins was Juliette's lover in Mechanical. Holston is the officer who investigates George's death. He is impressed with Juliette's ability to notice details and help with the investigation. Although George's death is ruled an accident, Juliette had always thought it was a murder. Lukas investigates the death and learns that it was a murder when he talks to Bernard about it. Bernard tells Lukas that George had been a man of ideas who was capable of poisoning the people around him. In reality, George had just wanted to expand the silo further downward.





## Holston

Holston is the sheriff of the silo at the beginning of the novel. His wife is sent out for cleaning three years prior to the time in which the novel is set. Following her research, Holston decides that IT does have something that it is hiding from the residents of the silo. Because he misses his wife, he voluntarily goes out to cleaning to see what really happened to her. He discovers that it is not the images projected into the silo that are being changed by IT but instead the images that the person being sent out to cleaning sees when they first exit the silo.

## Peter Nichols

Peter Nichols is Juliette's father. He agrees to see Jahns and Marnes about Juliette but tells them that his daughter will not agree to be sheriff. He goes on to explain that Juliette went to work in Mechanical after her little brother died because of a malfunction with an incubator. He says that she was angry because of the bad condition of the silo and wanted to do what she could to correct the problem. When Jahns becomes sick because of the poison Bernard had put in Marnes' canteen, Nichols is one of the doctors who tries to tend to her.

## Deputy Marnes

Deputy Marnes is the deputy who served with Holston. After Holston's death, Marnes accompanies the mayor into the depths of the silo to interview Juliette for the job of sheriff. On the way back up to the top of the silo, poison is put into Marnes' canteen. Marnes believes the poison was intended for him. He never recovers from his grief after Jahns' death. He hangs himself in his room and leaves a note telling Juliette that it should have been him that died.

## Knox

Knox is the head of Mechanical at the time that Juliette is arrested and taken for cleaning. Although he wishes he had done something when she was taken, he decides to lead a revolt afterward, after he learns that Walker had arranged for Juliette to be given a high tech suit, one that would allow her to get out of sight where she could die in peace. Knox convinces McLain, the leader of Supply, to allow her people to join the revolt. Knox is killed in the original ambush on the silo's IT department.

## Allison

Allison is Holston's wife. She is sent out for cleaning after she "goes crazy" demanding to go outside. She believes that she has discovered evidence in old files indicating that IT is leading people to believe the outside is still poisoned and unlivable when, in reality,



it is not. She promises to come back for Holston. Instead, she dies in view of one of the silo's cameras.

## **Marck**

Marck is the husband of Shirly from Mechanical. During the retreat back to Mechanical, Marck sacrifices himself so that others can reach the safety of their department. Marck is also the worker in Mechanical who tells Jahns and Marnes about Juliette's first days in Mechanical. He says the young girl outsmarted even him to overcome the first challenge that she was given successfully.

## **Peter Billings**

Peter Billings is the man that Bernard wants to be sheriff of the silo. Peter serves as deputy under Juliette for the short time that she is in office. Peter's major contribution to the silo is his decision to send Bernard out to cleaning after he hears Bernard and Juliette arguing on the radio and realizes that Bernard is not operating by the rules of the Order.

## **Shirly**

Shirly is Marck's wife from Mechanical. She remembers when Juliette first came to that department and is one of the ones who talks to Jahns and Marnes about Juliette becoming sheriff. It is Shirly who helps Walker fix the radio that allows them to hear Juliette's voice. It is at this point that they realize that Juliette is still alive.

## **Jenkins**

Jenkins is the man in Mechanical whom Knox leaves in charge when he goes up to IT to lead a revolt. After Knox's death, Jenkins inherits the top spot in Mechanical. Jenkins is with Shirly and Walker when they dial in the radio and hear Juliette's voice come over the airwaves.

## **Hank**

Hank is the sheriff's deputy assigned to the deep down levels of the silo. It is Hank who is sent to arrest Juliette from crimes against the silo when information taken from Holston's computer is found in her possession.



# Symbols and Symbolism

## The Great Offense

The great offense in the life of the silo is to express one's desire to leave the silo.

## Implant

These implants are put in female infants at birth to prevent them from getting pregnant. The implants can only be removed when a woman is married and she and her husband have won a lottery, allowing them a year to try to have a baby.

## Juliette's Watch

Although few people have them, Juliette has an old-fashioned watch that still works. She had tinkers with the watch until she manages to get it working again. After she is sent out to clean, Lukas confiscates this watch from a box of Juliette's things.

## Heat Tape

Bernard tells Jahns that he will not support Juliette as sheriff because she stole heat tape from his department. Juliette, however, says that she had the tape rerouted because the tape they were sent was improperly designed.

## The Pact

The Pact is a list of rules and laws governing life in the silo.

## Power Holiday

In order to be able to fix her generator so it will work for years to come, Juliette asks the mayor to declare a power holiday so that she can turn the generator completely off. In exchange for granting this holiday, Juliette agrees to become silo sheriff.

## A Package Wrapped in Electrical Ties

It is in this package from Scottie that Juliette finds a disk drive containing files from Holston's computer that she has requested. It is information found on this disk that scares Scottie so badly that he asks for a transfer out of IT back to Mechanical.



## **Marnes' Note**

Marnes' suicide note indicates that he believes that it should have been him, not Jahns, who was killed.

## **Legacy Books**

The Legacy Books are a term given to what appears to be a set of encyclopedias stored in the secret rooms in IT. These encyclopedias tell of the times before people were forced to live in silos.

## **Operation Fifty**

Operation Fifty is the name of the project to house people in fifty different silos after the atmosphere of the Earth becomes unlivable.



# Settings

## Silo 18

Silo 18 is the silo from which Juliette is banished. It is the silo in which most of the action of the novel takes place.

## Silo 17

Silo 17 is believed to be a dead silo. It is to this silo that Juliette is able to walk after she is sent out to clean from her silo. Juliette discovers a man named Solo living in the silo, as well as a group of teenaged children.

## Upper Nursery

It is in the upper nursery of Silo 17 that Juliette's father works. It is at this nursery that Jahns and Marnes stop on their way up from interviewing Juliette. It is here that Marnes realizes Jahns is bleeding and that she has been poisoned.

## Cafeteria

It is in the cafeteria of Silo 18 that Lukas and Juliette meet. It is in this same cafeteria where Holston has to arrest his wife when she begins screaming that she wants to go outside.

## Outside

It is forbidden for the inhabitants of the silo to even talk about the outside. They have been led to believe that the outside air is poisoned with toxins and will not support life. Those who voice a desire to go outside or an interest in the outside and condemned to die there.

## Thirty-Fourth Floor

IT is located on the thirty-fourth floor of the silo. It is located as far as possible away from any of the deputy stations, making it difficult to get to if a need arises. The department is also self-sufficient from the rest of the silo with the exception of the exhaust, which is controlled by the Mechanical department.



# Themes and Motifs

## Curiosity About One's Past

Although it is only natural to be curious about one's past, it is because of this curiosity that people who live in the silos are condemned to die. When Allison begins to put together a program to repair damaged computer programs, she begins to unearth information indicating that there have been multiple uprisings instead of just the one uprising that she and others have been told about. As she delves more and more into the silo's past, she becomes convinced that the leaders of the silo are lying about the conditions outside. Holston and Juliette follow in Allison's footsteps, wanting to know why she decided to go outside. It is their research of Allison's background that gets Holston sent out to cleaning willingly while Juliette is sent out unwillingly.

As Lukas is exposed to the Legacy books, assumed to be a set of encyclopedias, he becomes more and more curious about the reasons why the silos came to be. When he questions the man to whom he speaks on the radio about the past, the man seems disappointed that Lukas is interested in this aspect of his life. The man does not tell Lukas directly what happened, but instead leads Lukas to understand that what happened to the other people happened because those in control made it happen and prepared places of retreat for the people they wanted to save.

## Humans Meant for a Different Type of Life

The idea that humans are not meant to live the way those in the silo are living is an idea that surfaces several times in this novel. At the beginning of the story, Holston thinks this to himself as he climbs the stairs one final time. His mindset, in which he feels buried and closed in, is compared to those of the children who laugh and play despite the cramped quarters. Holston reasons that the children are just not old enough yet to realize how unnatural their living quarters are.

As Jahns and Marnes begin their walk downstairs to meet Juliette for the first time, Jahns compares the going down to dreams that she had of drowning. Now she feels as if she is being pulled down and swallowed by the earth. She thinks, as she believes everyone else in the silo has occasional thoughts, that humans were not meant to live like this. It is these thoughts, however, that will get people sent out to cleaning.

Juliette is another character who believes that things in the silo should be different. Instead of just trying to keep the status quo Juliette has a better lifestyle in mind. She knows some things are worth the sacrifice. For instance, she knows the main generator in mechanical must be shut off and reworked even though it will cause a temporary inconvenience for those living in the upper levels. Even though those upstairs never really appreciate the repairs done to the generator, they have suffered only a minor



shutdown instead of the major power outage that might have taken place if the repair had not been done.

Knowing that the people need repair on the generator whether they realize it or not, Juliette agrees to become sheriff in exchange for the opportunity to keep the generator going for years to come. Similarly, as sheriff, she does not bow down to a power hungry man who wants to carry out his own plans for the silo. She wants better than that for her people. Instead, she fights for the rights of those who don't know how bad life could be under Bernard's control. In the end, Juliette and those like her who have the people's best interests in mind overcome the evil Bernard and put him out of power.

## **Mind Control/Manipulation**

The people who live in the silo are largely controlled by manipulation. Fear of the outside is one lesson that is drilled into them from birth. They are taught not to think of living outside the silo or dream of living outside the silo by fear of death. The people are also not taught the truth about their history. Juliette remembers being taught about a loving god who created the silos for them to live in because the outside was unlivable. Still, the people have no information about the crumbling cities that they see in the horizons of the images brought to them by the outside cameras.

After having been brought up in this culture of fear and mind control, it is Juliette who suggests that the people try a different way. As is usual for her when she takes on a new project, Juliette wants to do it her way. She suggests that instead of lying to the people about the existence of other silos and keeping them as separated as possible, they should try to empower the people with knowledge. She believes that being honest with her people from the beginning is the answer to the revolts that come about because people suddenly realize they've been lied to all along.

# Styles

## Point of View

This novel is told by a narrator from the third person point of view. The narrator has no part in the action of the novel but oversees what is happening. The narrator is omniscient to a degree but his focus seems to center the viewpoints of particular characters during different parts of the novel.

In the first part of the novel, the viewpoint is focused on Holston as he decides to be put out for cleaning, then goes through with his punishment. If it were not for this emphasis on Holston's thoughts, the reader would not know what a person sent out for cleaning is really seeing and really feeling. It is from Holston that it is learned why people clean, even those who say they won't.

Until her death at the conclusion of the second part of the novel, the narration is focused on Jahns and her thoughts about hiring a new sheriff. It is important to get this view of her thoughts and emotions as she is the leader who has held the silo together for so long. The people admire her for her leadership and her willingness to follow the rules. In this way, she makes a sharp contrast to Bernard who uses the rules to his benefit and stretches his power to do as he likes.

After Jahns' death, the focus of the novel switches to Juliette where it stays until she is sent out for cleaning. After she is banished, the point of view begins to switch between Juliette, Lukas and sometimes Bernard as the three put into place their plans for the future. These points of view, particularly those of Juliette and Lukas are important because the reader must know what is happening to each in order to understand how the novel culminates as it does. The story would not be complete without a record of Juliette's experiences in the abandoned silo just as it would not be complete without a record of what Lukas is learning about the history of the silo system from Bernard.

## Language and Meaning

The language of the novel flows well and is easily readable. More than half of the novel is exposition with the narrator recording each character's thoughts and emotions about what is going on around him. It is in these portions of the novel that information about each character's individual experience in the silo is recorded. There are also areas of dialogue where the characters discuss their situations and talk about day-to-day life. While the novel is set in a time after the destruction of the earth several hundred years in the future, the people who live in the silos are not much more technically advanced that we are. In fact, these people may know even less than we do as Solo has to explain to Juliette the original use of silos in farm settings. The term lottery is another word that takes on a different meaning in this novel as it is the term used to describe how it is decided who gets the chance to have children and who doesn't.





## Structure

This novel is divided into five different parts each of which is subdivided into chapters. The first part of the novel describes Holston's desire to join his wife outside where she was sent three years prior. It is written in such a way that it could be a stand-alone story. The second part of the novel covers the time period that Jahns and Marnes travel down to the bottom of the silo to offer Juliette the job as sheriff. The third part of the novel covers Juliette's brief time as sheriff until the time that she is sent out to cleaning. The fourth part describes her time in the abandoned silo with Solo as well as Lukas time shadowing under Bernard and the secrets that he learns about the history of the silo. Part five of the novel continues the story of the revolt in silo 18 as well as Lukas' time shadowing Bernard. Also in the part of the novel, Juliette returns to Silo 18 and is elected sheriff after Bernard is sent out to cleaning by Peter Billings.

## Quotes

This was the laughter of youth, of souls who had not yet come to grips with where they lived, who did not yet feel the press of the earth on all sides, who in their minds were not buried at all, but alive.

-- Narrator (Part 1, Chapter 1 paragraph 5)

**Importance:** Holston listens to the laughter of children as he climbs the stairs of the silo his final time. Although the children do not realize there is an alternative to their lifestyle, Holston has learned this truth. It has taken away his joy at being alive. His years in the silo have also led Holston to the conclusion that people were not meant to live underground.

Holston imagined a day when half of the pixels were stark white, and then generations later when only a few gray and brown ones remained, then a mere dozen, the world having flipped to a new state, the people of the silo thinking the outside world was on fire, the only true pixels now mistaken for malfunctioning ones.

-- Narrator (Part 1, Chapter 2 paragraph 5)

**Importance:** As Holston considers the way that the dying pixels in the projected scenes from outside change the view, he wonders if there will be a day when people believe that the dead pixels show what the outside is really like. He also wonders if the people inside the silo already have a damaged perception of reality.

She half turned and smiled grimly. 'Who says we are the good guys?'

-- Allison (Part 1, Chapter 3 paragraph 17)

**Importance:** This half joke by Allison reveals much of the intent of the entire novel. Who is good and who is bad? What is really the truth?

It was the perfect family, Jahns thought. Replacing what they took. Two for two. Just what the lottery aimed for and sometimes provided.

-- Narrator (Part 2, Chapter 9 paragraph 25)

**Importance:** The lottery is the system by which it is decided which couples can try to have children. It is a form of population control. Women are given an implant at birth. This implant is removed only if the couple wins this lottery. At that time, the implant is left out only a year. If the couple has not had a child by then, the implant is put back in and the couple loses the chance to have a child unless they win another lottery.

It wasn't until her mother died that she took to blaming the incubator that had failed. Well, not the incubator, but the poor condition it was in. The general state of rot all things become.

-- Peter Nichols (Part 2, Chapter 9 paragraph 92)



**Importance:** These simple words from Juliette's father explain to Marnes and Jahns why Juliette has been so dedicated to working in the deep down areas of the silo.

The woman has practically stolen goods, has had items rerouted from my department. It's not clear if these are even for silo use.

-- Bernard (Part 2, Chapter 10 paragraph 56)

**Importance:** Bernard argues against hiring Juliette as sheriff, claiming that she stole things from his department. He is in favor of hiring Peter Billings.

The point of the silo was for the people to keep the machines running, when Jahns had always, her entire long life, seen it the other way around.

-- Narrator (Part 2, Chapter 15 paragraph 4)

**Importance:** After Jahns visits Juliette, she looks at the silo and the people that it houses in a different way than she ever has before. Instead of seeing the silo as working for the people, she sees the people as workers for the silo.

The water, she realized, the poison meant for him.

-- Narrator (Part 2, Chapter 16 paragraph 38)

**Importance:** When Jahns realizes that the water she has been drinking contained poison, she at first believes that Bernard had meant for Marnes to get sick. Bernard, however, realized the two were drinking out of the same canteen, so his intent was to kill the mayor all along, making it look like Marnes was the intended object of the poison.

The forbidden dreams of the outside world, she saw, were sad and empty. They were dead dreams. The people of the up top who worshipped this view had it all backward — the future was below.

-- Narrator (Part 3, Chapter 19 paragraph 4)

**Importance:** In her first few days up top, Juliette realizes those that have sacrificed their lives for their desire to go outside have their priorities up side down. She believes that the real important work of the silo is in the down deep.

Being sheriff, like being a mechanic, was as much the fine art of preventive maintenance as it was the cleaning up after a breakdown.

-- Narrator (Part 3, Chapter 19 paragraph 8)

**Importance:** As Jahns has told her, Juliette is realizing that being sheriff is much like being a mechanic, she has to try to prevent problems as well as taking care of the fallout after these problems come.

She wondered how this man had gotten past Marnes's desk without some sort of violence. Here was their prime suspect in Jahns's death—only he was on the wrong side of the bars.



-- Narrator (Part 3, Chapter 19 paragraph 28)

**Importance:** Juliette is surprised when Bernard Holland, the chief suspect in the mayor's death, comes to her office to personally introduce himself. She is also surprised that Marnes, who blames Bernard for Jahn's death, let Bernard get past his desk without making some sort of uproar.

And it occurred to her that one of the folders he was suggesting could be forgiven was the one wherein he was the prime suspect.

-- Narrator (Part 3, Chapter 22 paragraph 36)

**Importance:** Juliette quickly realizes that if Bernard pardons all crimes as he is indicating to her that he plans to, he will also grant himself a pardon if he is found to have been involved in Jahns' death.

Scottie was more than frightened—he was terrified. For his life.

-- Narrator (Part 3, Chapter 24 paragraph 61)

**Importance:** Scottie's fear as he talks to Juliette about what he has found on Holston's computer should give Juliette an idea how dangerous the information is.

It had never occurred to her that the view could be fabricated.

-- Narrator (Part 3, Chapter 24 paragraph 78)

**Importance:** Like Allison, Juliette assumes that it is the images of the earth that are projected onto the upstairs walls of the silo are the ones that IT is fabricating. She cannot imagine what IT is trying to achieve by falsifying these images.

No, what if it's to make conversing with each other more difficult? Or at least costly. You know, separate us, make us keep our thoughts to ourselves.

-- Juliette (Part 3, Chapter 25 paragraph 27)

**Importance:** Considering the costs to send messages to people in other parts of the silo, Juliette wonders aloud to her deputy if the silo is not set up in a way to keep people from talking and sharing what they know with one another.

And so you want me out of the way." Juliette stepped closer to the bars so she could see Peter Billings, and have him see her. "I suppose you were to have this job all along? Is that right?

-- Juliette (Part 3, Chapter 26 paragraph 12)

**Importance:** Juliette is a quick study as she realizes that Bernard had a plan for leadership of the silo that didn't include her. She knows the trumped up charge against her is just Bernard's attempt to get her out of his way so that he will have no one to obstruct his plans for the silo.



She had been sheriff for a short time, a star appearing on her breast for but a wink, and yet she felt an incredible urge to investigate Scottie's death. There was something not right about the boy having killed himself.

-- Narrator (Part 3, Chapter 26 paragraph 24)

**Importance:** Even in her distress at the quick turn of events, she knows Scottie well enough to believe that he did not kill himself.

But she did know this: it would require a diminishing of power to align things once again. And there would be no way to call what happened next a 'holiday'.

-- Narrator (Part 3, Chapter 26 paragraph 52)

**Importance:** Juliette knows that just as it took turning down the power to make her generator run correctly, the political power in the silo must be disrupted in order for things to run smoothly. Juliette doubts this process will be pleasurable or even tolerable.

The silo was rotten to the core, an evil man was acting mayor, a puppet stood where a good sheriff had been, and all the good men and women were gone.

-- Narrator (Part 3, Chapter 28 paragraph 3)

**Importance:** As she is banished back down to Mechanical, Juliette knows that she has been taken out of office because she is suspicious of Bernard's intentions as he seeks power.

And that's when Juliette realized what she had to do. A project to pull the wool back from everyone's eyes, a favor to the next fool who slipped up or dared to hope aloud.

-- Narrator (Part 3, Chapter 28 paragraph 14)

**Importance:** Juliette hopes to put an end to cleanings as she seeks to let the other people in her silo know what is really happening on both the inside, and outside, of the silo.

She wasn't the first cleaner from Mechanical, but she was determined to be the first to refuse.

-- Narrator (Part 3, Chapter 29 paragraph 44)

**Importance:** Juliette not only is determined not to clean before she is sent outside, but also carries through with her intention not to clean.

Perhaps that's why Mayor Jahns could never bear to watch. She had no idea what they were seeing, feeling, responding to. She would come up with her weak stomach the next morning and take in a sunrise, mourn in her own way, the rest of the silo granting her some space. But Bernard cherished this transformation, this delusion he and his predecessors had honed to perfection.

-- Narrator (Part 3, Chapter 30 paragraph 4)

**Importance:** Bernard reasons that Jahns never watched the cleanings because she



didn't know that when the cleaners were sent out, they believed that they were seeing the world of their dreams. Bernard, however, is obsessed with the way he and his people are able to manipulate the people even after they have been condemned to death.

He had only needed to see it once—to kill a man—but even that was too much.  
-- Narrator (Part 3, Chapter 30 paragraph 15)

**Importance:** It is in these thoughts that Bernard admits that he was guilty of killing Juliette's lover. His distaste of Mechanical is also clear in this thought, even though it is Mechanical that provides much of the power that allows the silo to run as smoothly as it does.

While she had spent three days climbing stairs and three lonely nights in three different holding cells on her way to banishment, they had replaced IT's materials with those from Mechanical.

-- Narrator (Part 4, Chapter 34 paragraph 14)

**Importance:** During the time that she has spent climbing up through the levels of the silo, Juliette has realized the meaning of Walker's note.

They've been making those suits to fail. Not 'cause it ain't bad out there, that's not what I figure. But they don't want your body wandering out of sight, no sir.' He stirred his oats. 'They want us all right here where they can see us.'

-- Walker (Part 4, Chapter 37 paragraph 34)

**Importance:** Although he's older and a recluse, Walker hits on the main aspect of Juliette's failed cleaning that bothers IT most. Juliette is out of sight. Although it is believed she is dead, no one can be sure.

If not, then may our bodies haunt your view of the outside, which I now see as far less rotten than this blasted silo!

-- Knox (Part 4, Chapter 40 paragraph 51)

**Importance:** These are Knox's words to McLain in Supply as he tries to get them to join forces with him.

There was no cleaning,' he said abruptly. 'And now all hell will break loose, and people will die. And the silos, you see, were designed from the ground down to prevent this.'

-- Bernard (Part 4, Chapter 47 paragraph 14)

**Importance:** When Lukas asks what should happen in the case of a failed cleaning, Bernard shows him a page that warns them they must prepare for war.

Had decided, alone and without input from anyone, what they should and should not know. It was the same man who had sent Juliette to her death, a man who had killed who knew how many more ...



-- Narrator (Part 4, Chapter 50 paragraph 51)

**Importance:** Although Juliette had not liked Bernard since she met him, she is stunned by the power that this man has tried to take for himself.

I'm coming for you. I'm coming home, and I'm coming to clean.

-- Juliette (Part 4, Chapter 52 paragraph 44)

**Importance:** When Solo teaches Juliette how to contact the other silos using the radio, her message to him is clear. She plans to rid her silo of him.

One little message to Supply, one favor for Juliette, just a chance at dignity, an opportunity to test her wild and horrible theory, to bury herself out of sight — and now look at the cascade of events, the eruption of anger, the senseless violence.

-- Walker (Part 5, Chapter 55 paragraph 39)

**Importance:** Three weeks after the violence started, Walker thinks to himself that all of the deaths and killings have been his fault.

That's the past, and the past is not the same thing as our Legacy.

-- Bernard (Part 5, Chapter 63 paragraph 29)

**Importance:** As part of his training, Bernard tries to help Lukas understand the difference between the past, where things have gone wrong and people have revolted, and the Legacy, where the people are kept in the dark about their past in an attempt to keep them from repeating it.

Back then she'd been unfairly treated, but at least she'd been safe. There had been injustice, but she'd been in love. Did that make it okay? Which sacrifice made more sense?

-- Shirly (Part 5, Chapter 65 paragraph 45)

**Importance:** As Shirly thinks about the differences in her life now that she knows the truth about the silo, she wonders if knowing the truth was worth the trouble that it has caused.

It turned out that some crooked things looked even worse when straightened. Some tangled knots only made sense once unraveled.

-- Narrator (Part 5, Chapter 77 paragraph 32)

**Importance:** When Juliette sees that the children who were abandoned in Silo 17, she realizes that some of the rules and regulations governing her silo are important even though she had believed in the past these rules were unfounded.

They would say he had broken down and uttered the fateful taboo, but Lukas now knew why people were put out. He was the virus. If he sneezed the wrong words, it would kill everyone he knew.



-- Narrator (Part 5, Chapter 78 paragraph 9)

**Importance:** Although Lukas meant only that he wanted out of IT, Bernard and Peter have twisted his words and will tell others that he expressed a desire to go outside the silo.

Each of them began to falter, to waver in the conviction of their climb as they listened to Juliette and Bernard argue.

-- Narrator (Part 5, Chapter 78 paragraph 19)

**Importance:** Although Peter has turned his radio down, he can still hear the sounds of Juliette and Bernard arguing. As the words begin to convince Peter that Bernard does not have the best interests of the silo in mind, Lukas decides not to kill himself, as he thought he might.

What I think will happen, when all those people on that fence see that a cleaner has come home, I think it'll make them come down on the right side of things, and with that much support, the guns and the fighting are meaningless.

-- Juliette (Part 5, Chapter 79 paragraph 32)

**Importance:** Juliette hopes that when she returns home, her people will help her overthrow IT without guns and fighting.

Silo eighteen will be different. Full of knowledge, of purpose. Think about it. Instead of manipulating people, why not empower them?

-- Juliette (Part 5, Chapter 82 paragraph 45)

**Importance:** After Bernard is ousted, Juliette suggests a new future for the silo she now governs. Instead of attempting to control her people by manipulation and lies, she wants to give them all the information and let them come to their own decisions.