

THE MARK

PART ONE

CHAPTER 1: THE MONSTER

Summary

The chapter opens with the incident at the beach: Juliet and her flatmates play a game. Their Handler Xavier pretends to see a 'monster' in the water and begins to scream. This causes panic and sends the Posh revellers off the beach, leaving their belongings behind. As they run for protection, Juliet and Kitty have open access to their personal items. As the girls rummage through handbags, beach bags and picnic baskets, the Locusts (security forces) arrive on the scene to manage the situation. They spot Kitty and call out to her for attention- but Juliet quickly puts on an act of fainting to direct the attention towards her, thus saving Kitty.

Later, back at their flat in Section O (Orphans), we discover that Juliet and Katherine are flatmates, and Juliet is fiercely attached to Kitty, but Kitty (who is described as exceedingly beautiful but naïve) does not share Juliet's affection or depth of friendship. Handler Xavier takes the credits (money) they have stolen and tells them to take the items to Cowboy in the market. Juliet hides a book she has stolen under a paving stone.

Introduction of main characters:

Juliet (Ettie)

- Quick and resourceful – Diverts attention from Kitty and she deceives Handler Xavier.
- Loyal and caring – Only to those who she believes are worthy of it.
- Grateful and loyal to Kitty – Kitty saved her many years ago.
- She is protective over Kitty.
- No affection for Handler Xavier – He uses the girls and shows no kindness to her.
- Loves books – Finds pleasure and excitement in them.
- Ettie is a survivor – Able to deceive others and help them dishonestly.

Handler Xavier

- Ruthless and self-centred.
- Only concerns himself with the girls because of their usefulness to him.

Katherine (Kitty)

- Shallow and self-centred.
- Greedy for attention, beautiful things and food.

Locust

- Compassionate to Ettie – Believes she is ill.
- Intelligent enough to see through her performance – Starts to track her.
- Later we find out the Locust is Nicolas – The young man Ettie has a romantic relationship with.

Introduction to conflicts:

Ettie vs. Society

- Resents the Mark – Controlled by the numbers on her back.
- Desperately tries to remove the numbers right from the beginning
- Selfishly concerned with her own freedom.

Ettie vs. Other Characters

- Handler Xavier – She needs him so she can be slightly better off than those who beg for food. She must convince him of her innocence and honesty while deceiving him.
- Kitty – Kitty’s carelessness leads her into danger while Ettie always wants to follow the rules which frustrate Kitty.

Ettie vs. Herself

- She wants to not care about Kitty but she is constantly agonising about Kitty’s safety.

Extra notes for learners to read

The Setting – References to heat: blistered skin, sunblocker, cracked lips and eyelids. In this chapter the beach setting supports how cruel the heat is which people try to escape. Those who are privileged are able to lessen the effects of the heat but the majority suffer because of the heat.

Genre – Science fiction: an example of this is the role of the Necromunda. They are sea scavengers who sail out to sea and dive to the city that existed and which has now been covered by the rising water. It gives the idea that the rising temperatures caused the polar ice to melt and that much of the world has been lost under the resulting floods.

The name *Necromunda* was created by combining *necro* (Greek, related to death) and *munda* (Latin, world). Meaning these are people who live off the dead world under the sea. The word, *scavenge* means to look through items that have been thrown away to find something useful. In the novel, the word is abbreviated to *scavvies*. The Necromunda search the city under the waves for anything useful, which is taken to warehouses controlled by the Mangerians and sold off.

Themes – Appearance and reality: Not only are Ettie, Kitty and Handler Xavier deceiving the victims of their games, they are also deceiving each other.

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CHAPTER 2: COWBOY

Summary

We meet Cowboy- he is the illicit trader who pawns stolen goods from Juliet for money. She in turn she uses what little money she gets to buy a few things (fruit and water) for herself and for Kitty. We also discover the supernatural world that exists within Slum City, in the form of Witch (who has 14 fingers), Mistress Hadedra (the talking bird that predicts the future) and Nelson (the psychic whose skin has been dried by the sun). Witch concocts medicine that helps the Orphan Warden keep the children sleeping and quiet throughout the night. Juliet's tender side is also revealed as she puts each of the Smalls to sleep at bedtime. Back in her room, she applies an acid-based cream to remove the numbers on her spine. Juliet loves to read and reads *Peter Pan*. The chapter ends with a Hadedra screaming a warning that Juliet will go to Savage City. Kitty returns after sunrise.

The background

- **Savage City** – the place where convicted prisoners are sent and no prisoner escapes: they either serve their sentence or they die.
- **The Laboratory** – Where food is supplied and it indicates that food is manufactured by a chemical process.
- **Conflagration** – A very powerful and extensive fire which almost destroyed the world.
- Pg. 60 – When Witch and Nelson are playing Extinct Species (a board game), Ettie explains that the animals were not always extinct after the fire. Some survived and were kept in zoos. Before she was born, there was a problem at the Laboratory and food grew scarce. The flies got eaten and people were still hungry. People got so hungry that they broke into the zoos and ate all the animals. That's when the animals became extinct.
- Pg. 55 – Ettie was 3 days old when she was sent from the birthing station to live in Section O with the Orphan Warden. She was told that her parents were sent to Savage City where they died.

Genre: Science Fiction

Evidence of a futuristic (very modern) world:

- **Muti Nags** who sell medicine.
- **Bug juice** – Made from the fruit that the Market Nags have not managed to offload and sell. The rotting fruit attracts flies which sink to the bottom where their juices add to the flavour of the rotten fruit juices.
- Older children are called **Bigs** and the younger ones are called **Smalls**.
- **Market Nags** who sell food.
- **Market Wardens** who patrol and try to prevent cheating.

Characters and Relationships

- **Handler Xavier and the Orphan Warden** – Handler Xavier is the Orphan Warden's deputy. They are also mother and son.
- **The Orphan Warden:**
 - Gets credits from the government which she must pay to the Bigs as part of their living allowance. She pays a small amount to the children so that they are forced to play the game with Handler Xavier which advantages her son. From the game, the children get a small amount of credits which is just enough to keep them working.
 - She drinks too much bug juice which causes her to sleep through the noise made by the little children.
 - She does not care about the children; she only cares about the money that she gets for looking after them.
 - She buys medicine from Witch which she says is for her sore bones but she uses it to drug the children at night so that they sleep.
 - She relies on the older children to look after the younger ones so that she does as little as possible.
 - Her title as “warden” is ironic because the term means a person who looks after and cares for orphans but she is selfish, abusive and treats them unfairly to benefit herself.
- **Juliet/Ettie**

She makes herself appear as ordinary and hardened but in this chapter we see a more affectionate, caring and soft-hearted side to her:

 - When the babies are screaming in their cots, Ettie goes to them. She walks in between cots, comforting them and turning down the lamps to prevent a fire. She removes a toy that a child might choke on.
 - When Kitty is not safely at home, she panics about whether Kitty is safe.

However, she does not want anyone to see her affectionate, caring and soft-hearted side:

- When she is removing the toy from the child that might choke on it, Handler Xavier sees her and assumes she is stealing the toy. She allows him to believe that she is stealing because she wants him to know as little about her as possible.

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CHAPTER 3: DRUDGE SCHOOL

Summary

Kitty is apparently suffering from the after effects of bug juice and Juliet blames her for being irresponsible, for possibly getting caught by the Locusts and for risking being in trouble with Handler Xavier. Juliet spends the day at school where she learns to be a drudge.

The mark at the base of everyone's spine is a unique code. It is imprinted on each individual by the machine, and controls their every move, every action and even determines the course of their lives in terms of career, life partner and social status. To equip each child for their pre-determined future, citizens of the new world attend schools that are specifically designed to cater for each profession. Kitty, for example, is beautiful. She was made that way so she could successfully work at the pleasure houses, serving and entertaining men for money. Juliet, however, is built for hard labour. She, therefore, is destined for domestic responsibilities, serving as a maid in the households of the Posh.

With her birthing day looming, and her fate becoming more and more concrete, Juliet is more determined than ever to get rid of her mark, and free herself from being a servant- whether it is to the Posh, or The Machine, or Handler Xavier- she will be free at any and all cost!

Relationships

- **Handler Xavier and Kitty** – Kitty is devious and careful and Handler Xavier knows more about Kitty than Ettie. Kitty is not the superficial, foolish girl Ettie believes her to be.
- **Kitty and Ettie** – Kitty appears to be disrespectful to Ettie. However, later on we learn that Kitty has been watching over Ettie closely and cares about her. Kitty tries to distance herself from Ettie to avoid Ettie being harmed in any way. Ettie believes that Kitty enjoys the sexual attention she receives and seeks out the men because that is what she has been trained to do. Ettie has no idea that Kitty uses her position to spy on the Posh and that she is working for a rebel group trying to overthrow the government.

Background

- **Section AR** – A place for attitude readjustment for children with problems. Children are sent to this section to make them more obedient.
- **Slum City** – Is divided into sections according to background or trade: Section O for orphans, Section F for families, Section PT for past traders, Section D for drudges, etc. This is done to restrict and control society while the elite maintain their status and oppress the others.
- **Mangeria** – The Mangerians made up stories about a sea monster to persuade people not to go too far out at sea and discover other cities beyond the sea.
- There was a terrible fire which destroyed most of the vegetation. There is a forest which survived the fire, but it is maintained in a Tree Museum in Mangeria City. Since museums protect valuable items from the past, this makes us understand that these are the only trees left.
- **Floater**s – These are burning slicks of oil from the olden days that still float on the sea. To protect against the pollution caused by the floaters, people use nose protectors.
- **Drudge School** – Ettie hates school because she will have to be a drudge for the rest of her life. Ettie hates the policy that allows The Machine to decide people's roles and their trades. In school among the children, Ettie tries to be invisible because the less people notice her, the less chance she has of getting into trouble. Ettie also avoids making friends. In class, Ettie is the perfect student because she learnt that rebellion and stupidity results in corporal punishment. Ettie behaves in a way that makes her teacher think that she has accepted her role as a drudge and that she welcomes the future that has been given to her.
- Ettie describes her skin as Posh skin, pus-coloured skin. Ettie is ignorant to the quality and colour of her skin and never questions why she has Posh skin; however, it is a clue to her parentage.

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CHAPTER 4: READER

Summary

In this chapter we meet the enigmatic Reader. He is so called because of his personal library, and his great love for books and stories. Unfortunately, he is blind, and can no longer enjoy his passion. He recruited Juliet when she was nine years old to be his protégé. He taught her the letters of the alphabet, then words, then letters, and eventually how to read stories. In many ways, he gave Juliet her greatest gift - the love for reading.

The two of them have an agreement - Juliet brings books to him to add to his library, and in return, she gets to spend a few hours in his library reading when she wants to. The Reader

has one condition though: Juliet must read out loud to him. It is a guilty pleasure that Juliet indulges in, and in this chapter we get a brief sense of peace amidst a world of chaos and devastation. In Mangeria City, Juliet delivers the book she stole from the beach to Reader and reads to him for the afternoon.

At the end of the chapter, we see Juliet secretly slip a book into the back of her shorts to read privately at home. She thinks she is deceiving Reader because he cannot see her, but we find out that he knows all about her stealing his books. But he does not mind.

When Juliet tries to return to Slum City, after the curfew siren has sounded, she is stopped at the gate by a Locust and her spine tingles. She does not notice that this Locust is the same one from the beach. She is late – the curfew siren has sounded and she is carrying stolen goods (the tube of cream and a book). She quickly pretends to have sun sickness. The Locust protects her by pointing this out to his colleagues and they advise him not to touch her. Juliet does not realise that this Locust is tracking her and for his own reasons, also protecting her. This chapter ends on a note of suspense, the Locust “attaches his glove” to her shoulder and she is apparently caught.

Another interesting part of this chapter is a scene at the *Beautiful Like Me Beauty Parlour*. In the novel, this is as good as a salon and the owner of the beauty parlour is a character named Me. The purpose of taking a look at the beauty parlour is to show the contrast between the lives of the Posh and the traders. The Posh are self-centred, focusing on their appearance. In the beauty parlour, they speak about the upcoming election and we get to hear how shallow the Posh are since they plan to vote for the person that “looks” trustworthy. This short scene in the beauty parlour also provides Juliet with an opportunity to steal the cream that she hopes will burn away the numbers on her back. The numbers she has been trying to remove since she was seven years old.

Characters and Relationships

- The introduction of Reader’s character helps us learn what happened to books and why people do not read. People had abandoned printed materials (books) for digital versions of books, but there was a virus that destroyed all digital copies of books and people burnt the books they found when other sources of fuel were used up (trees died and oil was finished or spilt into the ocean).

Reader and Ettie

- When Ettie was nine, she was stealing from the Posh at a Mangerian sports show; she found a picture book which she believed was magic.
- Ettie took the book to Witch to trade for magic to get rid of the mark. Witch sent Ettie to Reader whose trade was a teacher and their relationship began.
- Reader first taught Ettie the alphabet and then how to read.

- When Reader asks Ettie how long she has been reading for him, she refuses to speak about their past, answering the question with a short sentence and priding herself for not going too much into detail. She refuses to acknowledge an emotional connection between her and Reader. She takes pleasure in believing that she has tricked Reader about how long she has read for him.
- Ettie also thinks Reader does not know how many copies of books he has. This is shown by Ettie thinking she has deceived Reader when she steals a book from him.
- Ettie also shows that she has limited understanding when she thinks the bumps she feels on certain books are because insects have been eating these books. Ettie does not recognise these bumps as braille (a language used by blind people to read).

Extra notes for learners to read

Narrator

- First person narrator – The narrator is Juliet who is fifteen years old. She has the experience and knowledge to deal with the difficulties or dangers of her life in a cruel environment.
- There are times when Juliet is cold-hearted which is caused by the painful experiences that she had with the world. She tries to hide her more sensitive side.

Themes

- Deception – this was very evident in this chapter with Ettie thinking she deceived Reader by not answering his question fully as well as Ettie thinking she deceived Reader when she stole a book from him. The chapter also ends with the readers being deceived that Ettie might have been arrested.

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CHAPTER 5: POSH TROUBLE

Summary

The previous chapter ended with the Locust attaching his glove to Juliet's shoulder to stop her, in this chapter we find out that the Locust stopped her in order to return the tube of cream that fell out from her shorts where Juliet was hiding it. Juliet does not question why the Locust returns the tube of cream and why he was smiling at her when he returns the cream.

Handler Xavier takes Juliet out for another game. Today they are going to pretend that they are Posh. Juliet can carry off the role because of her light coloured skin. Only her eyes do not

look Posh, so she covers them with sunshades. Juliet's role is to deal with any potential trouble.

Their gimmick is to sell fake toys that appear to dance when music is played to unsuspecting customers. They show their displays on the streets to lure young people with money to buy their goods - only for them to discover when they get home, that the toys do not work as they were shown and they were deceived.

This game of making fools of people almost hits a snag when a young Posh boy starts asking questions about the toy. The Posh boy suspects that the dancing toys are a trick but he cannot quite work out what is happening. Juliet steps in and saves Handler Xavier's game, dressed in disguise. However, she seems to have caught the eye of the boy. He pursues her and tries to find out her name and where she lives. His name is Nicolas and he is a Posh. Juliet, though, knows she is just playing a game, and changes back into Ettie, the drudge from Slum City quickly and easily.

But as she looked deeply into the green eyes of that Posh boy, something happened inside her. Is she really just playing a game, or is it possible that something has just happened to Juliet that has never happened before?

The last line of the chapter shows us how miserable Juliet is when she sees that the numbers are still on her spine.

Characters and Relationships

Locusts

- Ettie does not recognise the Locust that returns her tube of cream because to her, all Locusts look the same with their sunglasses and nose shields.
- The sunglasses are worn because of the relentless sunshine but it also makes the Locusts look intimidating as you cannot see their eyes.
- With the sunglasses, they are able to look at a person they are talking to as well as scan the surrounding area without the other person knowing it.
- Since people cannot see the Locusts eyes, when they are stopped by Locusts they are at a disadvantage and they feel nervous around the Locusts.

Juliet and Kitty

- In the past they had a close relationship but now there is always tension between them.
- Juliet remembers when Kitty came to the Section when she was four years old and Juliet was required to give her medicine to make her sleep. Kitty refused to take the medicine because she said that the medicine would not let her dream.
- Kitty used to hold Juliet while she slept but then that suddenly stopped.

Juliet and the Posh boy (Nicolas)

- The mark on Ettie's spine tingles and not long after Nicolas arrives to see Handler Xavier's trick.
- Ettie just sees a Posh boy and does not recognise him as the Locust from the beach or the gate. Ettie does not realise that this Locust has been tracking her ever since the performance on the beach.
- Ettie knows he is a threat as he watches Handler Xavier's trick too closely and for too long.
- Ettie breaks Handler Xavier's rule to not speak to the Posh except in the game (when tricking them) when she responds to Nicolas.
- Ettie speaks to Nicolas as if he was a normal human being and not a Posh. Nicolas assumes that she is Posh because of the way she looks. Her eyes are hidden behind sunglasses because they would give her away.
- Ettie repeats his name to herself in loving diminutives but when she is about to tell him her name, she rushes away because she believes that he has mistaken her for a member of the Posh.
- Ettie feels guilty and regretful for deceiving Nicolas and she feels ashamed for betraying him.
- By now, we realise that she is seriously attracted to him.

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CHAPTER 6: THE FESTIVAL

Summary

In this chapter we see how 'marriage' is done in the new world. At age sixteen, youths are assigned 'fate-mates'. They are carefully selected according to the mark on their back. To keep bloodlines pure, matches are made to complement lifestyle and profession, and social status. For example, Kitty is beautiful, and will work at a pleasure house. She will therefore be matched with someone attractive and in the entertainment industry too. Juliet, however, being a pre-determined drudge, will probably match with a fellow labourer. Some Posh or Mangerians pay their way to see their children favourably matched with people of power and prominent social status. Kitty and Juliet attend the festival.

The festival is basically a mass-wedding, where young people take their vows and begin life with their fate-mates. But at this year's festival, there is some drama. Just as one couple is about to take their vows, the young man hesitates and cannot complete the ceremony. Simultaneously, a young girl in the crowd screams out to him, and he tries to run towards her. The two are stopped and captured by Locusts and taken away.

It turns out that this couple had a relationship and she is now pregnant- which is totally forbidden. We are made aware of the term 'going down the river' which means that when a girl is ready to deliver her illegitimate child, she goes to the river to get rid of her problem.

Juliet meets Nicolas again at the festival and she tells him her name. Juliet's immediate response upon seeing Nicolas is that she wishes she had made an effort to look more attractive. Juliet behaves like a typical teenager as she is shy around Nicolas, unable to speak to him, embarrassed when he teases her and self-conscious. When Kitty is around Nicolas, Juliet is jealous of her. They have a date next Sunday at the tree museum.

Background

- In the novel, children were told that when people chose their own partners in the past, they would fight and the marriage would end in divorce, often with the couple wanting to kill each other. This twisted view of marriage was told to children in order to make them accept the policy of their fate-mates being chosen for them.
- The festival is done by the Mangerians just for publicity. It is a holiday where all security is lifted and people are encouraged to celebrate by singing, dancing and enjoying the food provided.

Characters

Juliet

- When she gives her name to Nicolas, she gives him her birthing name – Juliet.
- This is interesting as Reader is the only person who uses her full name.
- Juliet expresses another side of her identity – sensitive, emotional and caring.
- Ettie shows the girl in the game – battling to survive, ruthless, deceitful, thieving and dishonest.

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CHAPTER 7: THE RIOT

Summary

Kitty and Juliet are awakened by the sounds of people screaming and the smell of smoke. They realise as they watch the chaos from the balcony, that there is a riot. Immediately they jump into action - where there is a riot, there is looting. And the girls do not want to lose out on getting their hands on free stuff.

As they make their way to the market, there are wagons overturned and set on fire. They jostle the crowd and are separated from each other. The culprits who started the riot are caught and publicly arrested. Two Locusts drag out a prisoner. As he is beaten, his shirt lifts and Juliet sees his spine. There is no mark. Two more prisoners are thrown to the ground. The Director of Justice and Peace and the head of the Locusts, nicknamed Cockroach, arrives to take control. He gives an order to the Locust Warden, the one in charge, who allows the crowd to stone the prisoners to death. The Locusts attack the mob. Eventually, when they are exhausted, the traders start to leave. The dead are removed and business returns to normal.

The criminals not only tried to steal goods and set the market on fire, but they also set the tree museum alight. This angers and saddens Juliet to the extent that she wishes them to pay in skin and blood for every leaf and branch of her beloved trees.

We are taken back in time to the beginning of the relationship between Kitty and Juliet. There was a fire long ago, and Juliet was fast asleep. Kitty insisted on saving her while Xavier refused. Eventually, Kitty saved Juliet, but she was badly burned and scarred in the incident. This is why Juliet now feels that she owes Kitty her life.

As the chapter closes, Nelson (Witch's companion) suspiciously enters a side building, followed by six or seven other people. Juliet watches their behaviour and realises that something is going on.

Character

Cockroach

- He has a reputation that terrifies everyone.
- As a child, Ettie was terrified of many monsters, the main one being Cockroach.
- In the crowd, no one touches him in case he notices them.
- At first when the Locust Warden is given an instruction by Cockroach in this chapter, the Locust Warden disagrees with him but then he quickly changes his mind. No one disagrees with Cockroach because he is too dangerous.
- The Locust Warden is instructed by Cockroach to get the crowd angry by telling them that the prisoners wanted to create a food shortage which would have resulted in the people having a shortage of food and starving.
- The circumstances that lead to the prisoners' deaths are clearly orchestrated on the orders of Cockroach, in order to destroy the evidence of the prisoners having no marks on their spines.

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CHAPTER 8: THE EXPERIMENT

Summary

As Nelson enters the building with the small group of people, Juliet is curious to know what they are up to. She climbs across rooftops and ends up on the roof of their building. As the occupants feel hot, they open the window and Juliet is able to hear what is being said.

As it turns out, the three criminals were part of an organisation of resistance fighters, and were taken to Savage City to be incarcerated. The laboratory erased their marks and told their parents that they had died, but continued to use them for experiments. The two younger prisoners were sentenced to Savage City for treason as they had vandalised a statue of a Guardian and the older prisoner's crime was also meaningless – he stole Cockroach's pencil. Juliet now understands that the prisoners had to die or someone would have to explain how people who were officially dead could still be alive.

They escaped and tried to draw attention to themselves by creating the riot, so that people will come to know what is really going on. They became a liability to the laboratory, and the Locusts were given orders to start the stampede and leave them unprotected. This is how they were trampled to death.

The group inside the room decided that they needed a volunteer to get inside the laboratory to find information on the experiments they do on innocent people.

As revelations are made, Juliet's world as she knows it, is turned upside down; among the members of the organisation are Nelson who is the leader of their "movement", Handler Xavier, Witch and the criminal's parents. But most shockingly, Kitty is there too. Juliet realises that Kitty has been leading a double life all this time - she has been the one in the permanent mask and Juliet had no idea. The two younger prisoners who were killed were also part of the movement.

Kitty volunteers to enter the laboratory and find information. In order for this to happen, she has to be arrested. Juliet is shocked when she hears Witch supporting this by offering evidence of the work Kitty has done for the movement in the past eight years. Juliet finds out that Kitty has been collecting information in the pleasure clubs. Most of the people Juliet knows turn out to be part of the movement, even Cowboy and Me.

It is at this movement that the Hadedda bird cries out that Juliet is "the one" but since Juliet cannot be seen, everyone assumes the words are for Kitty. Right now, all Juliet can think about is that Kitty will be free of the mark and Juliet will be forced to live a life of a drudge.

Juliet swears to find out what the movement is planning and immediately resolves to become part of that organisation, no matter what. Not in the sense of serving the movement but in the sense of using them to get rid of her mark.

Characters

Rejects

- These are people who have been injured as a result of their work or were born disabled and impaired.
- This is the Mangerian way as they are rejected from society because they cannot contribute to society and so society refuses to support them in anyway.
- They are thrown outside Slum City and try to survive by foraging in the rubbish dumps.
- They are unable to work and so they do not receive any credits or housing and have to survive as best as they can. Younger rejects are saved by older rejects but end up becoming slaves to the older rejects.
- Some rejects manage to find their way back into Slum City where they live on rooftops. They earn credits by acting as spies for the Locusts.

Juliet

- Ettie realises that Kitty has just been putting on an act around her – the shallow self-indulgent girl Ettie thought she knew is just a mask for Ettie's benefit.
- When Handler Xavier speaks up in supporting Kitty, Ettie feels like a child who thought she was part of a team only to find out that the game was being played somewhere else without her.
- She feels deceived by Kitty and Handler Xavier.
- Because of the Hadedda bird, we know that Ettie has some important role to play in the fate of her world.

Background

The Laboratory

- To Ettie it has also been seen as a source of food and she explains how the food is copied from the genetic material of what was saved after the conflagration.
- The Mangerians are now seen as experimenters on prisoners from Savage City.
- These experiments take place in the laboratory and they start by scientists removing the mark.
- This is what is so important to the movement: they want their freedom and to achieve that they have to escape the ability of the Machine to track them and so, they have to remove the mark.

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CHAPTER 9: GRADUATION

Summary

Several discoveries are made in this chapter.

Following her realisation that Kitty and Xavier are part of a rebel organisation, Juliet has been watching Kitty like a hawk, tracing her every move. Juliet follows Kitty into the pleasure clubs and notices that Kitty does not drink but behaves in a seductive way for the men. Kitty pretends for the Posh, trying to pick up useful pieces of information for the movement.

Juliet is desperate for information but finds nothing when she searches the room she shares with Kitty. The night before graduation, independence and their birthing day, Juliet remembers the one place she may find out background information on Kitty: the Orphan Warden's filing cabinet. This is where she keeps records on all the children in her care.

Kitty's name is Katherine Seven and she was brought to the orphanage at the age of four. Her parents were arrested for resistance and treason - they organised a protest against the festival of fate-mates and they had formed a resistance army and tried to break out of Savage City. The last piece of information states that they were sent to the desert and buried in holes in the ground. Juliet learns that Kitty's hatred for the Mangerians is not only because of what happened to her parents but because of what she was made to suffer when she was seven. The torture she endured made her ready for recruitment into the movement to work actively to overthrow the Mangerians.

Juliet discovers about herself that she was abandoned at the orphanage when she was born, both her parents worked for Mangerians and that they are still alive. It hurt deeply that she was never wanted by them. Everything she has been told about her parents is a lie and Juliet wonders why the Orphan Warden would lie.

She graduates and gets ready for life as a drudge - but not before she goes to say goodbye to the burnt remains of her beloved tree. There is one tree alive in the Tree Museum, despite being blackened by the fire. In the tree is Mistress Hadedra which has a nest and she protects it viciously. The bird attacks Juliet and she cries that Kitty will go to Savage City.

Background

- While watching Kitty, Juliet tells us what happens during the night. Juliet discovers that Nelson is a Scavvie. Kitty and Nelson meet at night; they think they are hidden but Juliet is watching.
- There are terrible fires that start and spread quickly because everything is dry. During these fires, the Reject population increases because many people are crippled and damaged by the fires. Many fires are started in Section PT by state agents so that the

people in that section die or are horribly burnt which means the state no longer has to support them since they are dead or become Rejects.

- The heat is followed by rain which cuts like glass.

Characters and relationships

Juliet and Kitty

- There is tension between Kitty and Ettie because Kitty hides her true intentions from Ettie and Ettie hides what she knows from Kitty.

The Orphan Warden

- The Orphan Warden boils cabbage water for the Smalls which shows how cruel and dishonest she is.
- The cabbage water has no nutritional value but she still gives it to the Smalls, showing her cruel side.
- Her dishonest side is shown by her bribing an official from the Mangerian Welfare Department – the official is meant to check if the orphans are being well looked after but because she is bribed, the official checks nothing.

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CHAPTER 10: THE PLAN

Summary

This chapter is action-packed.

As the girls get ready to leave Section O, Xavier decides there is one last game to play. Being one of the hottest periods in recent times, most Posh have gone to vacation in holiday resorts where the weather is cooler and pools are available to enjoy.

The girls are going to pick pocket and lift handbags of holiday-makers as they bask in the sun or go for their swim.

As Kitty makes a lift, she signals to Juliet, but Juliet misreads the code. Juliet tries to follow her but cannot find her anywhere. She hears Kitty scream in the floor above. Upon arrival she finds Kitty being held firmly by a servant of the man she was trying to burgle. The girls are beaten savagely by the man, as Nicolas walks in and demands to know what is happening. He lies to the man but the man named Festis Four does not believe him. Nicolas opens a way for Juliet to escape and covers for her. He is left behind with the man and Kitty.

She finds Handler Xavier outside and he is furious that she left Kitty behind. He tries to get her arrested, but she runs away. She heads back to Section O to grab the last few of her belongings and she finds a note from Kitty. Kitty admits the plan was to have both of them arrested but she says that she wants to play this new game alone for the number of credits she could win – she presents herself as being selfish. Kitty also indirectly acknowledges that she knows that Juliet can read since she leaves the note.

She then finds her way to the house of Reader- only to be told that he was discovered and taken to Past Traders (Section PT) and his books destroyed. Juliet ends up on the beach where she tears up her own books and throws the pieces into the wind as she screams Kitty's name to emphasise how terrible she feels for betraying Kitty.

This chapter and Part One ends on a note of despair.

Characters and relationships

Kitty and Juliet

- On their last morning together, Ettie tries to convince Kitty to trust her and be honest with her but Kitty refuses, putting on the foolish pleasure worker act for Ettie's benefit.
- Kitty also tries desperately to protect Ettie from being arrested as she tries to separate herself from Ettie at the hotel.
- Kitty's note is a mixture of love and deception.

Nicolas and Juliet

- He shows loyalty to Ettie when he lies for her and Kitty at the hotel.
- He admits he helps her because he has been waiting for Ettie every Sunday at the Tree Museum for their date. Ettie never imagined that he kept the appointment more than once which causes her to feel a mixture of emotions.

Handler Xavier and Juliet

- He betrays Ettie when he insults her for leaving Kitty behind.
- This betrayal is further emphasised when he calls for a Locust to arrest her.

Juliet

- She is conflicted: she blames herself for being a coward for leaving Kitty and not going back. She blames Nicolas for interfering but she also admits that she was afraid and did not want to be arrested.

THE MARK

PART TWO

CHAPTER 11: THE DRUDGES

Summary

Juliet is placed in Section D with flatmate, Dora. The two are not a good match, but today they begin their lives as drudges, and as it happens, they will work together for the same Mangerian family - one as caregiver to child of the house, and the other as assistant to the cook.

As she enters Mangeria City to start her new life, Juliet thinks of Kitty and how her clever plan worked. Kitty is awaiting trial for burglary in Savage City. She will either remain there or be taken to the laboratory and used as a lab rat.

The Mangerian family at Number 3 include:

- Mistress (Guardian of Culture and Heritage)
- Master Hylton (Guardian of Science and Technology)
- Little Miss Larissa (ill with an incurable sickness)
- Madam Merriem (has been with Mistress for thirty-one years as her caregiver)
- Cook
- A few insignificant other servants.

Larissa will decide which of the drudges she would like as her caregiver, while her mum and dad go to work.

Dora proves to be a bully, and she is determined to be chosen as the Larissa's nanny.

Characters

Dora

- She feels threatened by Ettie.
- She is desperate to be accepted into the household because she is afraid of being labelled a Reject and being sent to the dumps.
- The Mangerians have absolute power over the drudges and their lives and even their children can send a drudge to the dumps – this terrifies Dora and explains her sneaky ways.

Larissa (Little Miss)

- She is spoiled and pampered because of her illness.
- She has grown up to be selfish, inconsiderate and cruel.
- She orders the drudges unnecessarily, plays games with them, she is rude to them and demanding.
- Her mother hopes that she will like the new drudges, showing that she is constantly rejecting the drudges irrespective of what happens to them afterwards.

Background

Juliet and Mistress

There are clues from the beginning that Mistress is Ettie's mother:

- They both are tall – however, Mistress is elegant and Ettie is awkward
- They both love trees and have a desire to protect them

THE MARK

PART TWO

CHAPTER 12: THE PARTY

Summary

Tomorrow is Kitty's trial and Juliet cannot wait for her day off after a month of working at Number 3 Mangeria Compound. She also hopes to spend some time at the tree museum.

Madam Merriem, Master Hylton, Little Larissa and Dora, all continue to be wicked and mean to Juliet. Only Mistress seems to be interested in Juliet as a person. She is the only remotely human person in the house. Juliet, however, masks herself from Mistress- she is still playing a game, and cannot let anyone know her true feelings and thoughts.

The party begins and we see how lavish and spoiled Mangerians are, with their wasting of food, drinking of wine, smoking of cigarettes and dismissive attitudes towards the servants.

A debate begins about the upcoming elections, and they argue over candidates and entitlement. Master Hylton offers up his wife's position in exchange for a special favour for his research- without her even knowing about the decision. A crack in their relationship is exposed as they argue in front of their guests.

Among the guests at the party is the family of Nicolas- the green eyed boy who is interested in Juliet and saved her from being arrested. Bartholomew, Nicolas's father, is the Guardian of

Justice and Peace. He is accused of having Cockroach in his pocket – a phrase that means he controls Cockroach.

It is revealed that Nicolas is going to testify at the trial tomorrow and give evidence against Kitty. Nicolas is present and manages to whisper his apologies to Juliet but she rejects his apology. Juliet is sickened by the fact that he has to turn against her, but he cannot go against his family. What makes matters worse is that he now knows where she lives and where she works, and who she works for.

Characters

Dora

- Her slow voice and friendly behaviour proves to be false as she is very clever in determining a person's weakness and using it to her advantage.
- Dora has made sure that Ettie makes the following mistakes:
 - Day 1 – Dora pinches Ettie who stumbles into Madam Merriem
 - Day 2 – Ettie finds her uniform on the floor covered in dirt and gratefully accepts Dora's offer to wear her spare uniform, however, the uniform is too big on her and she looks terrible. Madam Merriem criticises her lack of pride in her appearance
 - Day 3 and 4 – Dora gives Ettie the wrong instructions from Master and Little Miss.
- By the third day, Ettie realizes she needs to be more careful around Dora.

Mistress

- She appears to be kind-hearted and speaks to the drudges gently.
- She asks Larissa to be polite to the drudges.
- Mistress appears to be unhappy in her marriage.
- Mistress and Madam Merriem share a close bond, understanding each other without speaking.

Background

Ettie describes the difference between the way the Mangerians use solar power and how the people in Slum City suffer from the power of the sun. The Mangerians live in comfort due to solar power.

The Mangerians do not bother to introduce the idea of solar power in Slum City because they do not see it as their responsibility to improve the lives of the people in Slum City. For the Mangerians, the people in Slum City are just workers who they use and get rid of when they are no longer useful.

THE MARK

PART TWO

CHAPTER 13: THE TRIAL

Summary

On Juliet's day off, Cook makes sure she pulls the last ounce of energy from our heroine. As Juliet goes down the stairs to get permission to leave, she overhears Mistress cry and complain about losing her job as Guardian of Culture and Heritage. Master Hylton has carried out his strategy, indicating that he cares more for what he wants than his wife's concerns. Once again, she tries to get to know a little bit more about Juliet, but, as always, Juliet hides her true feelings. Juliet lies to Mistress when she asks her about Kitty as she does not want to be associated to Kitty because this could be dangerous for Juliet.

With her wages, she manages to get into the viewing gallery of the courthouse. The trial of Katherine Seven takes place in the building for Justice and Peace. She sees a haggard and pitiful looking Kitty and it breaks Juliet's heart. Kitty has been tortured, shown by the fact that she has no fingernails.

Cockroach is in charge of the prosecution. The testimony of Festis Four insists that there were three people involved, but Kitty lies to protect Juliet and accepts sole responsibility. Nicolas enters to testify- and he also swears that nobody else was involved. Kitty is found guilty and sentenced to five years in Savage City. The people in the courthouse fuss about the lenient punishment.

On her way back out, Handler Xavier accosts her, and asks her to help him by finding out information about Master Hylton and Nicolas and his family. Xavier mentions that he made sure that the drudge who had been allocated to the family was hit by a taxi so that Juliet could go work for them. Xavier threatens her to force her to cooperate and then when that does not work, he pleads with her to act for Kitty's sake, hoping that since Kitty saved Juliet's life that she would want to do the same for Kitty. Juliet does not want to show any softer feelings to Xavier so she says she will only help him if he pays her with credits. Xavier is furious with how greedy she is but she is excited as she knows keeping the communication open between them might provide her with a way to help Kitty.

She now knows that her Master and Mangerian fifth family are the targets for the next game, but she is going to play by her own rule - and she is going to win, for Kitty's sake.

Juliet goes to the tree museum where a new forest has been created. There is one tree that survived the fire and she hopes that it will provide her with comfort. Juliet finds that the tree has been railed off and she cannot touch it which causes her to feel hopeless.

The trial is a mockery of justice for the following reasons:

- Prisoners are assumed to be guilty.
- Those who claim to be innocent are tortured until they confess to being guilty.
- Prisoners are not given a chance to plead as they have confessed to being guilty before the trial.
- There are no lawyers to defend the prisoners. There are only lawyers to prosecute the prisoners.
- If the prosecution has witnesses, they do not have to appear in court. The witness's testimony is accepted as true and not necessarily read in court.
That is why Cockroach is nervous when Nicolas insists on giving his testimony in court in person. Cockroach is afraid this might upset the Mangerians which will cause him to be punished.
- Witnesses who do not support what the Prosecutor says are not called. In this case Festis Four does not appear in court, he is said to be unwell. It can be assumed that he is arrested or dead for presenting something that the Prosecutor does not want.
- For Kitty's case, there is the Prosecutor's case and one witness (Nicolas). She is sentenced once these people present everything they have to say.
- The Judge does ask if anyone will be a character witness for Kitty. Ettie is very tempted to do this but is stopped by Kitty's pleading stare. In her mind this is what she thinks about Kitty's character:
 - "Kitty is cruel and vain" – this is the fake Kitty
 - "Kitty is sweet, funny, brave and loyal" – this is the real Kitty
 - "There are many things I could tell them about my Kitty" – shows Ettie's love for Kitty and her need to protect her

Characters and Relationships

Mistress and Madam Merriem

- We once again see the close relationship that they have as Mistress goes to Madam Merriem for comfort after losing her job as a Guardian.

Mistress

- She appears tender and gentle – Mistress defends Ettie's lack of manners and she scolds Madam Merriem for keeping Ettie so late and because she is so tired.
- She feels betrayed after he husband causes her to lose her job as a Guardian.

Nicolas

The following facts are given about him when he identifies himself in court:

- His name is Nicolas and comes from the fifth Mangerian family.
- He is sixteen years old and lives at Number 5 Mangerian Compound.
- He is in the family trade which is Justice and Peace.

- He is training as a Locust and later will become the Guardian of Justice and Peace.

Background

Corruption: Corruption has made its way into every part of society, here we see it when Ettie gets her wages. The Locusts take some of her credits since they know its payday. The Pulaks also demand extra credits for the trips that they do. The Posh waste their credits as the Scavvies take traders to and from pleasure clubs. Ettie is even corrupt as she hides some of her credits in her shirt before the Drudge Warden arrives to demand the rest of the credits for rent, water and cleaning the room.

Building of Justice and Peace: this is an ironic name considering whatever happens in that building cannot be seen as justice, and peace is only maintained by force.

The trial: The Posh treat it as entertainment and so do many other people. The people are also there because the son of a Guardian has been summoned to give evidence. People take any opportunity they get to see someone brought low, especially someone powerful.

Inequality: This is shown when everyone stands when the Judge enters except the Mangerians. This is also shown when Nicolas states that he will become a Guardian, it is unfair that only those children who are born in the highest families will get the most important leadership roles.

THE MARK

PART TWO

CHAPTER 14: PORRIDGE

Summary

Juliet sees Master and Mistress off on their election campaign, and she is overjoyed at their departure.

She has three goals she wishes to achieve before they return:

- to get into Master's study and snoop around
- to enter his library and see his books, and
- to get close to Nicolas and find out more about him.

Juliet poisons the porridge that is served to all the servants and Larissa. Little Miss refuses to eat hers and throws it at Juliet. The workers all get very sick with food poisoning and have to sleep and let it pass out of their system. This gives Juliet enough time to achieve at least two of her goals.

She enters the library and is amazed at Master's selection of books. She steals one and exits the room. Next, she enters his office and finds some bone samples with codes on them - just like the one she has on her back. Juliet's exploration of Master's study reveals that he is very interested in the marks on people's spines. He has many pieces of bone which he has been studying through a magnifying glass.

Juliet drops the magnifying glass and it breaks. She knows that if she admits to being in the study and breaking the magnifying glass then she will be punished by being sent to the dumps as a Reject. If she hides the evidence, she might be accused of stealing and she will be sent to Savage City. Juliet quickly leaves but she sees a shadow in the corridor so she knows someone might have seen her.

She goes to check in on Little Miss, as nobody had been able to see how she is. Larissa is gravely ill, even though she didn't have contaminated porridge. It is at this point that Juliet sees just how sick Larissa is, and why she needs a caregiver and why she does not leave the house. As she holds Little Miss, Juliet becomes aware of how small and thin Little Miss is. Juliet and Little Miss bond, Little Miss even begs Juliet to stay with her when Juliet tries to leave.

Juliet finds herself taking care of the little girl, and walks her to the secret garden outside for fresh air. Juliet tells her a fairy tale and they even save a bird that had flown into the garden. Juliet decides to help Larissa hide the bird in her room and to look after it, Juliet is reinforcing her position with Larissa – they share a secret, Larissa needs Juliet to bring flies for the bird and Juliet uses Larissa to hide her stolen book under the nest she makes for the bird in Larissa's drawer. The two of them become friends - and Juliet realises that she can use the Little Miss to get all she needs to help Kitty.

Characters and Relationships

Master and Mistress

- There is more conflict between Master and Mistress because Master expects Mistress to support him on the campaign trial but she does not want to since he is the reason she lost her job as a Guardian.

Larissa and Juliet

- Ettie encourages Little Miss to depend on her and trust her.
- Ettie is going to use her relationship with Larissa to protect herself and to find out more about the household.
- Ettie seems self-serving at the moment but she is growing fond of the child.

Background

This chapter is divided into three sections:

- Section 1: Juliet poisons the household and puts herself in danger when she is seen leaving Master's study.
- Section 2: The way Ettie escapes the punishment is established – she forms a lasting bond with Larissa who will later save her from the consequences of breaking the magnifying glass.
- Section 3: Ettie's relationship with Larissa is deepened with consequences for everyone.

Ettie sees living flowers for the first time, Love-in-the-mist. The flowers look like the feelings she has for:

- Books
- Trees
- Kitty

She loves all of them.

THE MARK

PART TWO

CHAPTER 15: THE LABORATORY

Summary

In this chapter we see more of the cold clinical world that the writer has created.

Dora is suspected of making everyone sick by infecting the porridge, so she is assigned to only mopping the house. Juliet (following her tender care of Larissa) is chosen as Little Miss' caregiver. Madam Merriem also becomes warmer towards Juliet now that she is preferred by Little Miss.

As the family prepares to take Larissa to the lab, she insists that Juliet accompany her. In the laboratory, Juliet pulls Larissa's head against her to protect her from some of the nightmarish sights. We see the laboratory where Master Hylton works.

The laboratory is a large and distinct building. Meat and vegetables are created by genetic modification and artificial processes - similar to how processed meat is produced today.

We discover that there is an experiment being done on young children at the lab, and Orphan Wardens are paid to hand over the children in their care in exchange for credits.

Larissa holds onto Juliet very tightly when her father tries to separate them. Inside the lab, Little Miss is examined and samples are taken of her hair, cells, skin, nails, and blood, Juliet comforts her as she is poked and prodded. When Larissa is put off to sleep with a drug, Juliet is almost in tears. After the spinal fluid has been extracted, Juliet strokes Larissa's hair and rubs her back. When Larissa regains consciousness, she is frightened and disoriented until she sees not her mother or father but Juliet, and she relaxes.

While Juliet is helping the doctors take spinal fluid, Juliet feels her mark tingle. Master asks about the progress the doctors are making- they have started experiments on the latest prisoners from Savage City.

On their way out, they meet Xavier who is there to sell some of his mother's orphans- he and the Mistress share a glance that suggests that they know each other. They also bump into Nicolas who is at the building to see his father, the Guardian of Justice and Peace. Larissa responds to Nicolas with a mixture of aggression and embarrassment that will be explained later.

Characters and Relationships

Dora and Juliet

- Dora is terribly upset when she is accused of contaminating the porridge, she suspects that Ettie had something to do with it. Even though Dora protests, she is still punished by being reduced to a cleaner.
- Ettie shows how heartless she can be when she makes little effort to defend Dora even though Ettie is responsible for what happens to Dora.
- Ettie makes things even worse for Dora by suggesting that Dora only bathes once a month.

Larissa and Juliet

- Little Miss treats Ettie as if she is a close friend.
- When Little Miss is rude towards Dora, Ettie advises Little Miss to call Dora by her name and to show respect for people.
- Little Miss asks Ettie for forgiveness when she is rude or cruel, explaining that her behaviour is caused by her feeling sick and afraid.

Juliet

- Ettie takes advantage of her new position as the favourite.
- She manipulates Madam Merriem and uses the bird to win the favour of Little Miss.
- Ettie decides that she will throw the bird into the drain once it is no longer useful to her.

Background

The meaning of the word “Savage”:

- To the Mangerians and those in authority it means to be uncivilised, uncontrolled and barbaric.
 - To others it means independent, confident and having the spirit to rise up against those who are in power.
-
- As readers, we learn that Ettie’s mark tingles because Nicolas is tracking her.
 - As readers, we must realise that Larissa has been told that she has been chosen as Nicolas’s fate-mate and she is very unwilling.

THE MARK

PART TWO

CHAPTER 16: APPLE JUICE

Summary

Master calls all the workers in his house together to find out who broke his “looking-glass” (magnifying glass). Master threatens everyone with being investigated by Locusts and being sent to the dumps. Dora uses this as the perfect opportunity to get her revenge on Juliet. Dora informs Master that Juliet was in his study and she is responsible for breaking his “looking-glass”. Larissa lies to protect Juliet and says she was the one who broke it.

Mistress’ mum is coming to visit. As it turns out, she is the President of Mangeria - the most powerful woman in all the land! And she has come to finalise the match between her granddaughter, Larissa, and Nicolas, the son of the Guardian of Justice and Peace.

The family is planning “the procedure” that will cure Larissa for the following month and the “the announcement” that Larissa’s grandmother is eager to make, can happen: the announcement of the union of Larissa and Nicolas.

A cure has been developed that could help save Larissa’s life - it has been tested on many children but has only worked on one - a savage by the name of Katherine Seven! Mistress does not seem concerned that in the last set of experiments, five people died whereas Juliet almost faints with shock. The cure has something to do with genetic modification.

Later in the chapter, Master mentions that Bartholomew has an experiment that involves removing a “bad gene”. This experiment will make people passive (obedient). The President is excited because they will no longer need a huge security network to control the population. Since they need a security network, it shows that the people of Slum City are not as obedient as we think. It also shows that the President does not care about the people, all she cares

about is a workforce that she can control. However, there are still people in parliament who do not agree with this experiment.

Juliet is caught off-guard by Nicolas' arrival, but the two have a private moment in the secret garden outside the house. Juliet finally realises that Nicolas and Larissa are intended for each other, she is hurt and angry by this.

Nicolas reveals that he has also tried everything he could to remove the mark from his back, and that he had been tracking Juliet since the first moment he saw her, all that time ago when she played the 'monster in the water' game with Xavier and Kitty.

Nicolas reveals that he has a plan to run away- and he wants Juliet to go with him. She agrees to run away with him - but she has one favour to ask...

Juliet has started doing her hair like Mistress and to hold herself upright- tall like Mistress. Juliet believes that she can manipulate Nicolas to get him to help her and Kitty by flirting with him.

In the interim where Juliet has gone to buy apple juice for Mistress' mother, we find out that Reader has been found and taken to Section PT, and his books have all been seized by Locusts. Juliet finds this out from Me (from the beauty parlour) who is on his way to visit Reader. Me also explains that Reader is still able to read although he is blind - Juliet finds out what braille is and she is pleased that Reader can still read. Juliet sends a message to him through Me that she will come and see him on her next day off - with a gift!

Characters and Relationships

Larissa and Juliet

- By lying for Ettie, Little Miss has shown real affection and trust towards Ettie.
- Little Miss shows that she is prepared to risk her own well-being for Ettie.

Nicolas and Juliet

- Ettie cannot understand why Nicolas wants to remove the mark.
- She states that Nicolas is a Posh, his father is a Guardian and that he has everything. She is a drudge and she does not have anything.
- Nicolas then makes it clear that with the mark his life is controlled and restricted.
- He wants freedom and independence and he does not want to deal with the expectations that everyone has of him.

THE MARK

PART TWO

CHAPTER 17: DEATHBED CONFESSION

Summary

Handler Xavier visits Number 3 and is welcomed - it appears that the Orphan Warden is the sister of Madame Merriem, but they have not spoken for fifteen years. The Orphan Warden is now on her deathbed and wants to make peace with her sister - she is asking to see Juliet as well.

While still at home, Juliet eavesdrops on a conversation between Mistress and Xavier that makes it clear that they were close.

On their way to Slum City, there are riots breaking out. The people are getting sick or dying from food that is coming from the laboratory- they believe they are being poisoned.

Back at her old home, it seems to Juliet that nothing much has changed - until she sees the Orphan Warden - she is clinging to life.

The Orphan Warden makes a startling confession - fifteen years ago, Mistress and Handler Xavier had a relationship and Mistress fell pregnant. Merriem sent Mistress and the Orphan Warden to the river to take care of the 'problem'. But when the time came, the Orphan Warden didn't have the heart to drown the new born baby. So she took it home and filed it as an abandoned child left at her orphanage. Mistress subsequently got matched with Master Hylton, and Xavier was matched with a woman who has died since then. As for the child - she grew up to be Juliet Seven...

The Orphan Warden saved the baby because of the bird: The Hadedda bird predicted that the baby would be "the one" and so the Orphan Warden could not dispose of her. The Orphan Warden makes it clear that the bird has repeated this prophecy over and over. The Orphan Warden realises that Juliet would have been a weapon in Xavier's hands against the Mangerians if he knew about her and if the Mangerians knew about her they would do everything in their power to get rid of her.

The Orphan Warden demands that Madam Merriem protects Juliet. The Orphan Warden expects her sister to look after Juliet and see that no harm comes to her. However, later on we will see that Madam Merriem will not fulfil her sister's dying wish - her loyalty is to Mistress and sees Juliet as a threat that needs to be taken care of.

When Juliet gets this news she is shocked and runs out. She escapes the riots on the street and makes her way to Section PT. She gives Reader the book she stole from Master's study.

When she gives him this book, she realises that it is a braille book. Juliet promises to return next month but that is a lie as she plans on running away with Nicolas.

Background

Rumours about the food being poisoned

- The food in the laboratory is guided very closely by Locusts so it could only be someone in the laboratory that could have poisoned the food.
- It is only the Mangerians who have worked with the food in the laboratory, implying the poisoner is a Mangerian.
- The Mangerians are doing this to convince the people in parliament who do not believe in Bartholomew's experiment that the people in Slum City are violent and need to be controlled and the only way this can be done is if the experiment is conducted.
- The traders who are led by Nelson, march in protest to the food poisoning. The traders think they get the Locusts to flee only to be surrounded by Locusts and beaten.

THE MARK

PART TWO

CHAPTER 18: THE PROCEDURE

Summary

Madam Merriem wants to get rid of Juliet because Juliet is evidence of Mistress' crime.

Juliet and Nicolas have a plan to help Kitty, Larissa and themselves. But there are things that could go wrong along the way...

The riots are getting more and more violent, the heating and cooling systems do not work because there is a drop in temperature so the solar energy that powers them are low, and the weather has not been this miserable and cold for as long as Juliet can remember. The procedure cannot take place at the laboratory as Larissa refuses to go to the laboratory and Mistress asks Master to give Larissa what she wants as she has been through so much already, so Master decides to have it done at Number 3.

Mistress is reluctant and nervous, and passes a mean comment about how Juliet looks- this evidently upsets Juliet because it is her own mother who criticises her. We also find out that Mistress has lied to Larissa by telling her that Katherine Seven volunteered for the procedure and that she will be freed after it is done. In fact, Katherine will receive the sickness from Larissa and be sent to the dumps to die.

As the procedure is about to begin, Juliet hints to Larissa that she might want to meet and thank the person who is saving her life. Larissa agrees, she insists that she will not do the procedure until she gets to meet the person that is saving her life and she is allowed to meet with the Savage.

Nicolas, the Locust charged with escorting the Savage safely to Number 3, helps Juliet carry a weak and tired Kitty up to Larissa's room- they are all wearing surgical masks for sterility purposes.

The plan goes wrong when Madam Merriem decides to accompany them to the nursery. Since she is accompanying them, they cannot escape by going back down the stairs, into the taxi and across the bridge. Things look up when Larissa refuses to allow Madam Merriem into her room, Juliet comes up with a second plan: Kitty will escape when Juliet takes her place, and Nicolas having made sure of Kitty's safety, will return for Juliet.

When they exit the room, it is Nicolas and Kitty who carry Juliet out and lay her on the stretcher. Kitty silently slips out of the house and Juliet is strapped in. Without warning, Mistress is told of second procedure, which Master assures her, is perfectly safe. This second procedure is Bartholomew's experiment - removing the Savage gene to make Larissa more obedient. Little Miss is anaesthetised and Juliet is next, but then she sees a bright light and hears a loud explosion, and then goes unconscious...

Characters and Relationships

Nicolas and Juliet

- Their relationship has developed to a point where they seem comfortable with each other.
- They meet almost every night on the bridge between Mangeria City and Slum City.

Larissa and Juliet

- When the procedure is being done to remove Larissa's Savage gene, Ettie wants to try and save "her sister".
- This is the second time she refers to Larissa as her sister:
 - The first time was when she found out who her parents were, she stated that she never wanted to see Mistress again which made her aware that Larissa is in that house and that she wants to see her again. This shows her love for Larissa.
 - Now when she calls Larissa her sister, she talks about her sister in the role of an older sister looking after and protecting the younger one.

THE MARK

PART TWO

CHAPTER 19: GOLDEN GOOSE

Summary

Juliet wakes up in the care of Handler Xavier and Me (from the beauty parlour). They remove the surgical mask and Xavier is furious that it is Juliet and not Kitty. Juliet explains that Kitty

is safe and they had a plan, but there was an explosion and she was separated from Kitty and Nicolas. Me (from the beauty parlour) reveals that the explosion was orchestrated by the resistance organisation when they found out Kitty was going to be operated on, used, then discarded. The explosion was meant as a diversion while Kitty and the doctors were safely rescued. The doctors were going to be paid to remove the marks of all members of the group. The doctor dies and Xavier's plans are destroyed. They needed to be free of the mark so they could organise the revolt.

Xavier is focused on getting rid of Juliet because she will be tracked and her presence puts everyone else at risk, Me (from the beauty parlour) shows more concern for Juliet, suggesting that she join the movement. Xavier rejects this immediately because he says Juliet is untrustworthy.

The doctor's death makes Juliet suggest that it is not too late, and that the solar powered machine is operating at extremely low capacity because of the bitter cold and darkness - but as she speaks, the clouds part and the sun shines brightly once more. But Juliet has a brand new idea. Juliet insists that she can get Nicolas to take her to the machine and remove everyone's marks.

Xavier reluctantly lets her go, but he gives her a list of names after Me (from the beauty parlour) convinces him to trust Juliet. She leaves and as she does, she seriously considers throwing the list away and only saving her beloved friend, Me. She makes her way to the river, where Nicolas has promised to meet her.

Once there, she is reunited with Kitty. Kitty is determined to return to the organisation and continue the work they have been doing. Nicolas, however, wants to run away as far as he can, with Juliet. Juliet has to make a choice.

Conflicts

Nicolas and Kitty

- Kitty suggests Nicolas joins the organisation but he is conflicted.
- Nicolas insists that he cannot fight his family and Kitty despises him for this.

Juliet and Kitty

- Juliet also feels conflicted by Kitty when Kitty defends Xavier, saying he is brave and loyal, someone who tried to save her parents and who has been like a father to her all her life.
- Juliet is looking at the girl who has had the relationship with Xavier that is rightfully hers.

Xavier and Juliet

- When Xavier is carrying Juliet into the beauty parlour, she describes the smell of him and she says that the smell reminds her of feeling safe and like what home could feel like.
- Juliet is not aware that she is responding to her father at first and when she does realise who it is, she struggles to be free.

Background

Juliet vs. Ettie

In this chapter Nicolas and Kitty argued between the above two names:

- Kitty insisted that she is **Ettie**, her little drudge.
- Nicolas calls her Juliet, her birthing name – this name is associated to her new identity, the girl worthy to be loved and respected.

THE MARK

PART TWO

CHAPTER 20: THE MACHINE

Summary

This is the action-packed climax of the book....

Nicolas gets Juliet into the Headquarters of the Department of Justice and Peace. He navigates his way through the building, avoiding anyone who may recognise him. They pass his father's office and overhear him desperately looking for information about his kidnapped son. Bartholomew is simply a father agonised about the kidnapping of his son, he is uncertain of what to do as he waits for a ransom demand. Nicolas is affected by his father's worry but does not allow emotion to stop him.

As they enter the room where the machine is housed, Nicolas sets off the fire alarm, and the building begins to be evacuated. They enter the room and he asks Juliet for her list of names of people she wants to help. He has watched his father erase the names of people who have died from the machine so he knows what to do.

One by one, he declares each of Juliet's people 'deceased'. Simultaneously, the marks on the back of the individuals will deactivate and they will become free.

As Locusts appear in the passageway checking to see if nobody is still in the building, Juliet pretends to be washing the floor. They ask her to leave, but she says she has to call one more person from inside...Nicolas comes out and starts making conversation with the Locusts outside - this gives Juliet enough time to finish the list.

When she finds Xavier's name, she hesitates - but deletes him for the sake of her darling friend, Kitty. Kitty will be close to Xavier and if the machine can track him, she will be in danger. She then searches for Nicolas and Larissa, and does the same for them. Her name is not hard to find and when she declares herself 'deceased', she gains a sense of relief and freedom.

THE MARK

PART TWO

CHAPTER 21: THE JOURNEY

Summary

As she prepares to run away with Nicolas, there are a few things left for them to do. He needs to get a few provisions for the journey, and she needs to say goodbye to her beloved tree at the tree museum.

On arrival, she finds Mistress there. Mistress was told by Larissa's bird where Juliet could be found. Mistress and Juliet share a love for trees, so they must share blood.

Mistress reveals that Master Hylton has died following the explosion - but she doesn't seem too upset about that. Mistress reveals that Madam Merriem told her the truth about Juliet. Mistress explains to Juliet the circumstances of her birth and their separation. They share a very tender and sweet moment, as Mistress tries to persuade Juliet to turn Nicolas in, so that his father will help save Larissa's life. Mistress explains that The President is unconcerned about Larissa because Larissa would not help her consolidate power, her grandmother has no further use for Larissa.

When Juliet refuses, Mistress shows her true character by wanting to punch Juliet - Juliet sees who she really is in that moment. Juliet can see in her eyes that Mistress only cares for her one child who is now dying. Mistress is prepared to sacrifice Juliet to find Nicolas and so have a means of bargaining with Bartholomew. Mistress loves Larissa and hates anyone who is a threat to her - even her other daughter, one whom she has never treated fairly. This revelation comforts Juliet because it confirms that she really now has no reason to stay.

But Juliet does love her sister deeply, so there is one sacrifice she needs to make before she leaves. She returns to the boat that they have prepared and begins to disembark. She sets fire to all the other boats so that Nicolas will not be able to follow her, then she starts to pull away....but she is not alone. Reader had traced Juliet to the boat and has been waiting for her there so they can leave together. It is the bird who instructed Reader to accompany Juliet. He brought maps and books and navigation guides (all in braille) so they could voyage happily. Juliet really enjoys his company so she agrees.

And so they sail off into the half-moonlight, visited occasionally by Princess Fanny who brings them news about the goings on in Slum City and Mangeria City. Through Princess

Fanny Juliet finds out that Slum City is in revolt, a State of Emergency has been declared and parliament is suspended. They will start removing the “savage gene” from those at the birthing station and Section O. Many traders are against this but the Rejects are now siding with the Locusts, making it difficult for the traders to resist. Nicolas is still on the run and Larissa is dying. By hearing about Nicolas and Larissa, Juliet is filled with guilt and regret. The story ends with Juliet saying that she waits but does not allow herself to hope – for Nicolas to remain free and for Larissa to survive.

THE MARK

EPILOGUE

Summary

An epilogue is written at the end of a work and gives a final response to the text as a whole.

The epilogue reads:

My name is Juliet Seven. The date is 264 PC. In the time that comes after, I will return. I will find my beloved sister and my Locust. The bird with scarred eyes cries of my retribution against those that harmed them. My deeds were spoken of the tellers, before I existed. And they will be written in the blood of those who oppose me.

In this epilogue, Juliet vows to return to her society and find the ones she loves. She promises to punish anyone who has harmed her loved ones. Juliet speaks using the prophecies told about her and also promises bloodshed.

This prepares us for the next novel in the series which raises expectations of her getting vengeance by fulfilling her heroic destiny. Juliet makes a promise that things will not stay the same. She will challenge the ruling class whose dominance is threatened by Juliet.

