Chapter 13

**Vocabulary:**

|  |  |  |
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| 1. arable | 1. primitive | 1. obliquely |
| 1. complacent | 1. unabashed | 1. improbable |

**Questions:**

1. What are the two events which dash any hopes of the runaways not being followed?  
     
   David and Rosalind attack but do not kill a man who immediately recognizes them. They are also seen by a group of people on a farm at the edge of Wild Country.
2. What is the Sealand woman’s message to David and Rosalind through Petra?  
     
   The most important part of the message is that Petra “must be protected” (141). They also learn that help is “on the way” (141) but that they must try to stay safe until then. The group is also surprised to find that the Sealand woman thinks of them as “primitive” (142) and thinks that the possibility of help is impossible because the Badlands lie between her and them.
3. What has happened to Sally and Katherine?  
     
   Katherine has been unconscious for so long that they are afraid she is dead. Sally’s thoughts are weak and confused, indicating that she is perhaps being tortured. (143)
4. Why can’t Petra understand why David must kill them if they are captured?  
     
   Petra can’t understand why non-telepathic people are afraid of them and want to hurt them. She does not yet understand the concept of xenophobia.
5. How does Sealand contrast to Waknuk?  
     
   “Sealand must be a funny place. Everybody there can make think-pictures – well, nearly everybody – and nobody wants to hurt anybody for doing it….She says that everybody there *wants* to make them, and people who can’t do it much work hard to get better at it.” (145)
6. How does this chapter end? What do you suspect has happened?

The chapter ends with something dropping onto David in the pannier.

Chapter 14

**Vocabulary:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. aloof | 1. ingenious | 1. irreverence |
| 1. odious | 1. pretense | 1. perturbed |

**Questions:**

1. What knowledge of Rosalind’s character is presented at the beginning of the chapter?  
     
   We learn that Rosalind is a soft, gentle person who uses the “crust of independence and indifference: the air of practical, decisive reliability; the unroused interest, the aloof manner” (149) to protect herself.

Rosalind is representative of many people from minority groups who may appear harsh or cold, but are really just protecting themselves in a difficult world. Rosalind reminds us to, when we meet someone who is unkind or unfriendly, to consider what may have made them that way.

1. What different version of religion does David hear from his captor? Specifically, compare and contrast references to the Devil and God to what David was taught. How does this relate to what Uncle Axel said to David about the “true image”?  
     
   David has learned that Waknuk is a place of God, while the Fringes and Wild Country are where the Devil lives. The man says the opposite – the Devil is in Waknuk, where people are arrogant, believe that they are in the image of God, and have learned nothing from the mistakes of Tribulation. Meanwhile, God lives in the Fringes, where “life is change” (153).

This relates to Axel’s suspicion that the people of Waknuk may not be in the image of God after all, and that perhaps the telepathic group is closer to the true image.

1. What do the telepaths agree to tell the Fringes people? What do they agree to hide from them?  
     
   They decide to “tell them the truth, only minimize it” (155). They say that Rosalind, David, and Petra can communicate with each other and don’t tell them about anyone else. They also tell them that they are being pursued.
2. What opinions does the New Zealand woman express about normal people? How do these comments echo the very same problems in the attitudes of the normal people and the fringes people? How does she explain the causes of Tribulation?  
     
   “They were only ingenious half-humans, little better than savages; all living shut off from one another, with only clumsy words to link them.” (156)

The Waknukians, the Fringes people, and now the New Zealanders all appear to feel that they are the superior people and that everyone else is stupid and misled.

Her explanation of Tribulation is that the Old People could sometimes share ideas and emotions, but they were always individuals who could not think collectively. “They had no means of consensus. The learnt to co-operate constructively in small units; but only destructively in large units. They aspired greedily, and then refused to face the responsibilities they had created…They could, at their best, be near-sublime animals, but not more.” (156)

1. What do David and Rosalind notice about the appearance of the Fringes people they meet, and how does this compare with what they expected?  
     
   “Rosalind and I shared a feeling of relief at not being confronted with the kinds of grotesquerie we had half expected.” (159) They have all been raised with stories of the monstrous Fringes people. Instead, they find that the Fringes people are more like Sophie – mildly deviational in some ways, with six fingers or large feet, but otherwise normal.
2. Who does David meet in the Fringe settlement? What is the story behind this person? Why is this person so hopeful that David’s father is in the search party?  
     
   He meets the “spider-man” (160) that had been captured at Waknuk many years before. This is the man who looked very similar to Joseph Strorm, and who had made Joseph so uncomfortable.

David reveals that learned that his father had an elder brother who was “thought to be normal until he was about three or four years old. Then his certificate was revoked, and he was sent away.” The spider-man is David’s uncle, and as the eldest son, should have inherited the farm that David grew up on.

He hopes that Joseph is part of the search party because he wants to meet him on “equal terms” (163). The last time they saw each other, the spider-man was a captive. This time, if Joseph is part of the search party, they will meet in the spider-man’s territory.

1. What is the Fringe leader’s ruthless intention and why does David try to attack him? What is the leader’s response and how is this somewhat characteristically similar to David’s own father?

His intention is to have children, and he sees that Rosalind is not only beautiful but capable of having children, unlike the Fringes women who have been sterilized.

Joseph Strorm and his brother are both authoritative men who think that they can take whatever they want.