

CHRONOS CHAPTER SUMMARIES



Timebound

Time's Echo

Time's Edge

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Timebound Chapter Summaries

Prologue. The book begins in Chicago in October, 1893. An unknown woman flees down the dark corridor of a hotel, chased by someone she refers to as “the good doctor,” someone who has injured her. She’s clad in period-appropriate clothes, and the long skirt is slowing her down. She draws out a mysterious medallion that glows with a blue light her pursuer can’t see. Heart pounding, she tries to use it to escape, when someone else grabs her and presses a damp cloth toward her face.

Chapter 1. The setting is now modern day. The girl telling the story has moved from one school to the next several times, and her parents are divorced, so she splits her weeks living with each of them. But even with plenty of experience with that kind of chaos in her life, she is shocked to learn that she was born before her grandmother. Worse, this inexplicable situation somehow has erased her life.

The scene flashes back to the previous April. After a ten year absence, her grandmother calls to say she’s ill. Though it’s clear there’s conflict between her mother and grandmother, her mother agrees the three of them will meet for dinner. Kate, the girl, is interested to see what her grandmother is like. Petite, clad in stylish casual clothes and wearing cropped gray hair, her grandmother doesn’t appear to be ill and her mother Deborah comments drily on that fact.

Kate’s eyes are immediately drawn to the unusual medallion her grandmother places on the table. It glows with a blue light and features a strange hourglass with moving sand. Deborah doesn’t seem to notice.

Deborah and Kate's grandmother spar verbally for a while, as Kate learns she was mistaken to believe her grandmother is named Prudence. Her grandmother is named Katherine and Kate, whose full name is Prudence Katherine Pierce-Keller, was named for Deborah's twin sister Prudence who died young. Kate is relieved, because she hates her first name Prudence. Her grandmother then reveals that unknown to them, she's been in touch with Harry, Kate's father and has bought a house nearby and is living with someone named Connor.

Deborah storms off to the ladies room. In her absence Katherine hurries to confirm Kate *can* see the light on the medallion that neither her mother nor anyone else in the restaurant notices. It appears blue to Kate, but glows orange for Katherine. She tells Kate urgently that there's much more, but they can't talk now. She jolts Kate by revealing that two strange episodes Kate experienced during the past year were not panic attacks, as she'd been told.

Deborah returns and Katherine explains she has an inoperable brain tumor and that she's left everything to Kate in her will, with the odd stipulation that Connor, Katherine's assistant, be allowed to live in the house to continue his work. She requests that Kate and Deborah move in with her, stating if Deborah won't, she'll ask Harry instead, so she can get to know Kate in the time she has left. Then she abruptly leaves.

Angered, Deborah reveals to Kate a long-standing hurt that began when her father and twin and Katherine withdrew from life, "abandoning" her, but ends by grudgingly telling Kate it's her decision if she wants to move in with Katherine.

Chapter 2. At Harry's house, a cottage on the grounds of her high school where he teaches, Kate helps prepare dinner for Sara, his girlfriend. Kate broaches the subject of Katherine's

illness, her move to their town, and the fact she contacted Harry without Deborah's knowledge.

Harry tells Kate he likes Katherine, but doesn't know as much as Deborah assumes. He is unaware Katherine already bought a house or had a new will. Kate announces she wants to move in with Katherine.

Recognizing that the medallion is very unusual, Kate hides her knowledge of it from her father.

The next morning they go to breakfast at Katherine's new house. Katherine has left the medallion on the counter and Harry actually picks it up, stating that he remembers Kate as a baby was fascinated by it. He tells the story of how Kate always called it her "blue light" even though it was plain metal. Kate picks the medallion up and the room recedes, she sees and senses things she doesn't understand. A wheat field, large white humming buildings perched near an ocean, a cave, a child sobbing, a dark eyed man with black hair embracing her.

Katherine recognizes what is happening and pushes the medallion away, warning Kate with her eyes not to speak of it in front of Harry.

Connor Dunne, a tall, red haired man, joins them. Katherine tells Kate she's a historian, the same profession as Deborah, stating offhandedly that it's genetic. Several small points of this conversation don't add up for Kate. Connor says there's a lot to do (Kate misunderstands him to mean unpacking books); Katherine says she studies "more distant eras" and Connor laughs; Katherine mentions her husband (Kate's grandfather's) death and Kate accidentally adds "and Prudence," but Katherine strangely doesn't seem upset.

Katherine and Kate finally have their first private talk. Katherine jumps right into how much they have to do, pending an assessment of Kate's abilities. She mentions Kate's panic attacks

again, giving them a name for the first time: temporal aberrations. She tells Kate that another one is coming, and that only Kate can set things right, otherwise *everything* is lost. She presses a small book into Kate's hand, saying it will explain everything.

Chapter 3. Kate rides the subway to karate after school and notices a pale pudgy youth looking at her. With him is the dark-eyed black-haired man she'd seen earlier in the medallion. The two mysteriously disappear. After karate class, Kate tells her friend Charlayne everything. Together they look at the book and discover it's a tiny computer only Kate can operate.

The next morning as Kate rides the subway to school, the same pudgy youth approaches and sticks cold metal into her side, stomps on her foot, and robs her of her backpack only to disappear. Then Kiernan, the dark haired man, appears, asking if she's okay as though he knows her. He urges her to get back to her grandmother's house as quickly as she can, since she's in danger without a medallion. Kate sees a blue light glowing through his shirt, and he tells her the medallion he wears belonged to his father. Though it's puzzling, she can tell that somehow he already knows her. Before they part, he surprises Kate with her first ever kiss, then he vanishes.

Kate flees back to the house and tells her grandmother what happened. Katherine and Connor are startled to hear Kiernan was there, and Connor reveals that Kiernan is his great-grandfather. They are dubious that Kiernan was helping her, but Kate instinctively knows he is "on their side."

Chapter 4. Katherine reveals she was born in the year 2282, having received the "chosen gift" of the historian gene which would allow her to see and study different times and places. Kate asks

what CHRONOS is, and Connor answers: Chrono-Historical Research Organization and Natural Observation Society.

Katherine explains her genetic enhancement ensured she would be successful at her job. Such inherited genes can be recessive, as in the case of Deborah being unable to see the light of the medallion. Katherine reveals to Kate she's inherited the historian gene from Deborah as a dominant trait, which is why she can see the medallion's light. Kate has ability to operate specialized equipment like the diary (the field link to information the historian needs), and the CHRONOS medallion (the portable key that enables the historian to return to headquarters). She explains one uses the key by holding it and looking into it until you can see the surroundings of the set coordinates, and then with a blink it transports you to that place and time. Certain destination points known to be stable throughout the period being studied were pre-set by CHRONOS.

Kate asks why Katherine is in the past, and Katherine reveals that another historian, Saul Rand, sabotaged CHRONOS headquarters, stranding her and the other historians who were in the field. Saul, her lover and Kate's biological grandfather, had fallen in with "bad elements" and tried to follow Katherine to kill her, but she escaped into 1969 Woodstock, NY at the last moment. She tried to return to her time, but all she could see in the key was "a black void with occasional bursts of static." Trying to use a diary to contact headquarters caused it to vanish as though her time no longer existed. The key was pre-programmed only to return her to headquarters, leaving her no other options, so she blended into her location. She is pregnant with twins by Saul.

Katherine learned that her historian friend Richard had gone to 1893 Boston instead of Woodstock, and died in 1913. When she contacted his granddaughter, the astonished woman says Richard predicted Katherine would visit after his death, and told her to give Richard's CHRONOS key and diary to her.

A few months later Katherine married a young history professor named Jimmy, who raised her girls as his own. Saul, meanwhile, had also jumped somewhere and Katherine thought he was stranded too. She never told Deborah or Prudence that Saul was their biological father.

Prudence discovers Richard's medallion in Katherine's jewelry box. Katherine never suspected the key might work for her twins and is surprised Prudence sees it glowing green, while Deborah cannot. Katherine takes away the key without explaining, and Prudence, always a handful, grows moody. When Jimmy and Prudence climb into the car to head to a violin lesson, Prudence smirks and shows Katherine a medallion as they drive away. Katherine learns they have been in a car accident, and before he dies Richard tells her Prudence vanished and then he lost control of the car.

Connor and Katherine show Kate two pictures of Kiernan Dunne from 1921. Originally identical, after the temporal aberration, the picture Connor's sister kept outside Katherine and Connor's CHRONOS field changed to show Kiernan as a Cyrist preacher with a different family than the one Connor remembers. Connor growls that he now spends his time trying to figure out what Saul has done and how they can change it back, while more and more Cyrist Temples pop up.

Chapter 5. Connor and Katherine show Kate the library, and the odd apparatus they've built to extend the CHRONOS field to protect it and the rest of the house from any temporal shifts.

When they go outside the house, they wear a CHRONOS key for protection.

Katherine says after Prudence disappeared, she began trying in earnest to determine what happened to the other twenty-three stranded historians so she could collect their medallions to prevent anyone else from disappearing. She's found ten keys and a few diaries so far.

She tells Kate she noticed the first temporal shift about three years after the car accident. A New York 1848 Women's Rights Convention document suddenly included a new signature: Prudence K. Rand. Katherine assumes Prudence had met Saul and was sending a message, though whether it meant she was asking for help or boasting, she did not know.

Katherine tells Kate Harry also carried the recessive version of the gene and has slightly more ability that Deborah, as he can see a faint pinkish glow around the medallion. She explains she maneuvered to cause him to meet Deborah. Harry's parents were CHRONOS historians trapped in 1963. They'd died in an accident and Harry had been adopted by the Kellers. When Harry was grown, he'd sought out Katherine, a friend of his parents, to find out more about them.

Kate grows angry when she realizes her grandmother set her parents up hoping they might have a child who would be able to help hunt through time for Prudence. She tells Katherine she's not sure she wants to help. But then Katherine says it's not just about Prudence. Saul must have figured out, as she did, that some descendants could bypass the key's safeguards. And worse, the temporal shifts suggest Saul has a small army of such people actively working to remake history, while Katherine has only Kate.

Kate insists that her father be consulted, and since she is supposed to have class with him at school, she leaves—wearing the medallion Katherine gives her for protection.

Chapter 6. Kate checks in late at the Briar Hill School office then spots her father through the glass window in the door to his classroom. She opens the door and the same gut-wrenching sensation as before hits. When she looks up her father is gone. A woman she doesn't know is teaching the class, and a boy is sitting in her place. A few of the faces in the room are familiar, but others are not. Dizzy, Kate slides to the floor.

The woman teacher bends over her. The good looking guy with dark-blond hair sitting in her chair has leaped to help her too. Trey introduces himself, asking if she's new to the school, and the teacher suggests he take Kate to the nurse.

Kate hurries down the hall and heads out an exit. Following along, Trey asks her why she's leaving. She says she's heading for her father's faculty cottage. Trey tells her he knows she's not a student and there's no Harry Keller on the faculty. Kate tries to convince him to just go back to class, but he persists in wanting to help her since she'd just fainted.

She shows him her school ID, then tries to unlock the cottage door. It opens but everything inside looks wrong, it is not her father's cottage. Trey asks her what's going on. Thinking he won't believe her anyway, Kate shows him the medallion, and explains that someone is altering reality. He is dubious, so she starts off to find her mom. Trey comes along, saying Kate's either in trouble or crazy, and either way she might need his help. Remembering the incident on the subway that morning, Kate consents. Her mother's townhouse isn't the same either, and she is devastated.

Chapter 7. Trey steers her to a coffee shop and asks her if she thinks the time shifting made her mother and father disappear. She's not sure, but thinks something was changed in the past. Still not believing her, Trey pulls out a laptop to help her look up her parents. An internet search for her mother brings up nothing, as if she didn't exist.

Fear building inside her, Kate searches for Harry Keller and finds he exists and is teaching at a school in Delaware. In the photo online he has a beard, so Kate pulls out the photo of him she carries to show Trey, who agrees it's the same person. When she lays the photo down on the table, it disappears. Trey, feeling nauseous and looking pale because of the shift, now believes her story. She makes sure his hand is touching the medallion she's wearing so he won't "forget," and the color returns to his face. She insists on holding his hand to prevent him from losing his memory of her. She discovers she's very comfortable with him, even if they did just meet.

Kate's father's bio says he has a wife and two children, but she still wants to go, insisting he'll know her. Trey offers to drive. After a while they stop for food and Trey drops her hand, teasing that he doesn't remember her. He says it didn't make sense that he'd forget unless there was another temporal shift, and grins that he'd enjoyed holding her hand. Kate has a hard time staying mad at Trey.

When they arrive where her father lives, she spots Harry sitting at a picnic table watching two young boys playing. Kate asks Trey to come with her, and she tells Harry that she's his daughter. Shocked, he tells her that it's not possible, he's never met Deborah Pierce. Kate shows him the medallion, and he sees the light as a faint pink color, but says he's never seen one before.

To prove her story to Harry, Kate puts her photo of Deborah down and it disappears before Harry's eyes. She tells him everything she can remember about him, his adoption, his family growing up, then tells him Katherine's theory and what they are trying to do. He is sympathetic and can't deny that the photo has disappeared. But while he can't explain how she knows so much about him, or why her green eyes look just like his, the world that's disappeared isn't his world. He loves his wife and boys, and though he doesn't want to hurt Kate, he hopes she fails.

Chapter 8. Trey leads her back to the car, and gently holds her in his arms as she falls apart.

They drive back towards her grandmother's house. Kate feels guilty, realizing that she should have gone straight back instead of putting Harry through unnecessary confusion and pain. Kate ponders whether it's right to try to change the current timeline, which might result in Harry's little boys ceasing to exist. Trey points out that Kate most likely doesn't exist in this timeline. Over her emotional limit, she begins to cry again. She is vastly relieved when they pull up to the house and Katherine—still there—pulls her into a hug.

Kate introduces Trey, and though she doesn't say so, it's clear that Katherine would have preferred Kate hadn't told him so much. Kate and Trey share a moment alone on the front porch for a kiss, and Trey heads home, promising to come see Kate the next day.

Connor's computer program scans for changes on the internet, so he and Katherine knew about the temporal shift. Katherine tells Kate it's too dangerous for them to be outside the house because they might disappear. Kate thinks that Saul has killed Kate at some point in time to cause these changes, and Katherine agrees. She chides Kate for involving Trey, but Kate fires

back that although she's just met him, she trusts him more than anyone else at this point. She tells Katherine she has no choice, she'll try to help restore the timeline.

Chapter 9. The next day, Kate wakes and goes downstairs. Katherine's dog Daphne now has a CHRONOS key sewn to her collar. Kate thanks Connor for buying clothes for her. He scolds her for "scaring Katherine half to death" and tells her there's work to do.

Upstairs, Katherine apologizes for Connor's grumpiness, explaining that he didn't just lose his identity in a temporal shift, he lost his children—they ceased to exist after the time shift last May. Kate begins to study diaries to learn about Katherine's historical expeditions and to try to determine exactly when Katherine is killed.

Kate asks why Saul is changing history. Katherine tells her she believes Saul is stranded somewhere in the future, and is using others—like the two Kate saw on the subway—and Prudence to change history for him, because he's a psychopath in search of power. Before she was stranded, Katherine had noticed Saul breaking CHRONOS protocols on the sly. She believed he'd gone back to various places and times in history to lay the foundations for the Cyrist church, with himself as the prophet Cyrus. When Katherine confronted him, he'd tried to kill her when he destroyed CHRONOS, but he'd failed.

Kate notes that the Cyrists have been around for centuries, and doubts that Saul created the religion. Exasperated, Katherine explains that to someone who hasn't been under the protection of a CHRONOS field, it looks like the Cyrist church had been founded in 1478, but the protected books in her library contain no mention of the religion. The real date the Cyrist church started was May second, the year before—the date Kate felt the first temporal shift.

Katherine and Connor tell Kate today's shift resulted in a doubling of members of the Cyrst church. Paula Patterson, a Cyrst who had been Vice President before the shift, was now the President of the United States. Plus the Cyrists are building a fortune by interfering in financial markets using their knowledge of history. Katherine gives Kate her personal CHRONOS journal to read to give her a better understanding of what went on between her and Saul.

[Chapter 10](#). Kate watches video of a very young Katherine, just back from her jump to 1893 Boston. She is angry at Saul because he broke CHRONOS protocol and actually preached to the church he was visiting instead of merely observing. And he'd taken a modern anti-cancer pharmaceutical with him to give to a minister he thought had skin cancer—strictly against the rules. But Saul made up with her, telling her how much he loved her, flowers in his hand.

In another video entry, Katherine is crying. She says her implant has failed and she's pregnant. Saul has been performing miracle healings and making prophesies based on information he already knows from studying history, and it's been having an impact. She thinks it has something to do with Saul's Objectivist Club and a friend of his named Campbell. Katherine questions whether she should reason with Saul or just tell their supervisor Angelo what is going on. She thinks Saul will be kicked out of CHRONOS or even imprisoned, but she decides to try to reason with him for the sake of her unborn child. She has a solo jump scheduled for the next morning.

In the next video entry on the same day, it's obvious Katherine's been roughed up by Saul. She says she never even told him about the baby, he was so crazy with anger. He'd told her that he was the strong leader needed to create the world as it could be and should be, and then he hit

her over and over again. Frightened, she pretended to agree with him and told him she'd help, but she knew he didn't believe her.

Kate looks up from the video display to see Older Katherine has entered the room. She asks why Katherine didn't delay the jump to tell Angelo about Saul. Katherine explains she stuck her head into Angelo's office before the jump and found him there, dead. She found Richard, dressed for Woodstock, in the hallway and told him Angelo had been murdered. They went to the jump platform and told the jump coordinator, who was in the process of calling security when Saul—disguised in a burqa—burst in dragging a female historian, a knife held to her throat and an odd box strapped to her chest. He ordered them all to take their places for the jump. Fearing for the life of their colleague, they complied. Richard stepped into Katherine's place without Saul noticing, Katherine took his slot, and the rest of them took their places, including Saul. When the jump initiated he cut the woman's throat and shoved her into the center of the circle. Katherine saw the beginning of a white flash then fell into 1969.

Katherine says she assumed Saul believed he would be able to jump at will once his genetic tether to CHRONOS was destroyed, but instead he was trapped whenever and wherever he'd landed, unable to act on his plan. Or so she believed until Prudence disappeared. Saul must have learned that others could inherit the CHRONOS gene and use the key to go to any time desired and change things. It is obvious that the timeline Saul is creating is a bad one. Now that she understands why her mother is gone and what is happening, Kate finally agrees wholeheartedly, saying she will try to set things right.

Chapter 11. With a small circular device adhered behind her ear, Kate memorizes jump sites by working her way through the Log of Stable points. Using the visual interface, she chooses a time and date to activate, then she can see that location in real time on the screen. Connor tells her he is unable to jump, and Katherine's ability stopped with the explosion. Kate complains it is boring, since most locations are deserted broom closets, woods, or alleys.

Trey comes by bringing a gift of coffee drinks for each of them. Kate is glad he's there but feels a wave of shyness, since in spite of the trying day they spent together, she doesn't really know him yet. They talk about what happened, and Kate fills Trey in on what she's learned about the Cyrists from her grandmother. Trey agrees a custom designed religion was an excellent way to gain wealth and power without governmental interference. She offers to let him try the Log of Stable points, and when she puts the small disk behind his ear, he presses her hand to his cheek, and tells her he missed her from the moment he left the day before. They share a kiss, and for Kate, it's the most natural thing in the world, something she's never felt with any other boy before.

The disk doesn't work for Trey, he doesn't have the CHRONOS gene. Kate tells Trey that soon she will begin practicing a series of short local jumps. Once they figure out where and when Katherine was killed, she will restore the altered timeline by warning her and getting her to return to CHRONOS headquarters before it happens. Trey points out the man on the subway had a gun, and it could be very dangerous, but Kate shares that she knows karate and can defend herself. He teases that she doesn't look like she could flip anything heavier than Daphne, then grows serious and says he wishes she didn't have to go into danger.

After a few weeks of study, Katherine has Kate try to pull up a stable point holding the CHRONOS key. Kate has to hold her focus steady to be able to adjust the date and time on the holographic display, but it's incredibly difficult and frustrating, and often her vision changes swiftly from one location to another the way it did the first time she accidentally held the medallion. But Katherine tells her she's making amazing progress and teaches her how to set a new location.

Several times she finds herself in the golden field with Kiernan again, but it feels disloyal now that Trey is in her life, so she quickly puts the medallion down. It's difficult for Kate to have to stay inside the house. Trey visits her most evenings and weekends to watch movies and order pizza, and their relationship is slowly moving forward, giving her one small point of normalcy in her upended life. She feels a hollow ache whenever she thinks about her parents, and a growing anxiety about the upcoming trial jumps. Kate misses Charlayne, and looks her up on the internet. She is stunned to see that in this altered timeline, Charlayne's family belongs to the Cyrist church.

Chapter 12. Though Kate is terrified, her first two test jumps inside the house go smoothly.

Katherine tells her to avoid trying to see herself, because her brain will have to reconcile two conflicting memories which causes headaches. Katherine is elated that Kate is actually able to jump.

Kate continues slowly reading through Katherine's diary entries to try to pinpoint the date she is murdered then with a flash of inspiration suggests she simply watch all the jump points

Katherine had used a few moments before her scheduled arrival to determine which one she didn't complete. Katherine and Connor agree it's an excellent idea.

Kate begins looking at the last two jumps in Boston, and sees Saul alone without Katherine. She crosses Boston off of the list, and watches the 1893 Chicago World's Fair jumps. Kate doesn't see anyone in the last jump date stable point, but for the second to last, she sees both Katherine and Saul appear in period costume. She knows what day the murder took place.

Connor notes Katherine actually had a separate solo jump that also happened that day, so there will be two Katherine's walking around the crowded fair. Katherine explains this was often done, since historians could wear disguises and blend into the crowd. Her tasks in the solo jump included studying reaction to the assassination of the mayor of Chicago, performing general cultural research on the Midway, and doing research for a CHRONOS friend who was studying a serial killer preying on women at the fair. Katherine shares her memories of the two jumps with Kate, describing where she went—including a ride on the Ferris wheel.

Their preparations shift to getting Kate ready for the jump, including hiring a dressmaker to come to the house to outfit her with 1893 clothing. The dress is fully reversible, with hidden pockets so she can carry an extra medallion and money just in case. Kate reviews Katherine's diaries, memorizes maps of the fair, and watches documentaries about the Expo that Trey rents. One was about Dr. H. H. Holmes, the serial killer Katherine had mentioned who built a hotel with torture chambers near the fair, and it gives Kate the chills.

Kate perfects her jump technique inside the house, even showing off for Trey by jumping from the library to the foyer for quick kisses as he arrives. She also establishes that she can jump

from point A to B to C, without having to return to point A, which was a safety feature limiting the CHRONOS historians' jumps, but not hers.

Kate does a short jump to a nearby stable point located outside the house, the Lincoln Memorial, at one a.m., with Trey there as a backup in case she is unable to return, and it works. Trey is there waiting and Kate enjoys the sensation of being on an almost normal date outside the house. Trey mentions that her birthday is coming up and wishes she could go out with him, but Kate says Katherine wouldn't allow it. She asks him instead if he would meet her at the Cyrist church so she can try to see Charlayne and examine the Cyrists more closely to see what she's up against. He agrees and she jumps back inside the house. Katherine is pleased the jump went smoothly.

Chapter 13. They plan for Kate to "sneak out" by jumping from the stable point in the kitchen to the Lincoln Memorial again so Trey can drive them to the church. Kate takes care dressing in nice clothes with the medallion hidden beneath layers of camisoles so the blue glow is hidden since some of the Temple members with the CHRONOS gene might be able to see it.

She jumps to Sunday morning and there is Trey waiting for her, with a plan to take her to his house to meet his father before they head to the Cyrist service. His family's housekeeper is already cooking a meal for Kate, so she can't back out. Estella the housekeeper and Lars Coleman are pleased to meet Kate. Estella warns them against the Cyrists, telling them their focus is on earthly riches instead of how they ought to treat people, and that she doesn't trust them. Mr. Coleman chimes in that their successful stock gains look suspicious, though he would never say so in public since Cyrists are especially well connected politically.

When they arrive at the Temple, Kate is surprised to see a tall parking garage and several small Cyrist annex buildings and several new upscale businesses that didn't exist before the time shift. The tall white Temple building is larger than Kate remembers from her previous visit with the "other" Charlayne. It has a Cyrist symbol on top, a cross with a rounded loop on top and a widened base, like an Egyptian ankh. From the back, the horizontal bar looks like an infinity symbol, and on the front is an ornate lotus flower.

They enter the Temple through a security checkpoint with a metal detector. Kate holds her breath but her medallion doesn't set it off. They wander into the church bookstore, and Kate spots the same Cyrist band logo she'd seen on Simon's faded shirt on the subway. The band is called Aspire, and Trey says it's been very popular over the past year. Kate notes it is another cultural difference after the timeline shift. Three Acolytes on visitor duty approach and Kate gets a lump in her throat when she realizes one of them is Charlayne.

Chapter 14. This Charlayne is dressed much more conservatively than the one Kate knows, but she looks Trey up and down and sizes Kate up as competition. Kate whispers to Trey to pretend they are cousins, as this Charlayne will be more likely to talk to them if she thinks Trey is available. Trey introduces himself, and tells them Kate's name is Kelly. Kate feels jealous that Charlayne seems to be best friends with the other Acolyte, Eve.

They are whisked into the main chapel and seated up front. A side door opens and a security detail sweeps the room, then President Paula Patterson enters with her family. Kate looks around at the stained glass windows and notices several show a tall dark haired man doing various good deeds. She realizes the man is her grandfather Saul as Brother Cyrus.

Trey nods toward another image on a screen—a young woman in a white gown with a medallion on her belt, her arms and eyes raised—and Kate recognizes it is her Aunt Prudence. Trey asks Charlayne who the woman is, and Charlayne replies she's Sister Prudence, an oracle. She says quietly she's never seen Brother Cyrus to know what he looks like, but that it's a very good likeness of Sister Prudence, whom she herself has seen in the Temple. She says that Brother Cyrus and Sister Prudence are both alive and eternal. Kate is uncomfortable when Charlayne points out her resemblance to Prudence.

The preacher enters, wearing a CHRONOS medallion on a white ribbon around his neck. After a service centered on The Way and tithing to the church, the screen behind him plays an unnerving video of church members chanting angrily in unison that "Enemies of The Way will face our Wrath and Judgment."

The Acolytes escort Kate and Trey to the youth meeting after the service, and though Kate thinks about following the preacher to try to find a copy of the secret Book of Prophecy, the Acolytes don't give her a chance. Trey questions Charlayne about the religion, and she tells him that not everyone who follows The Way is Chosen to "find mercy at The End," but that the Chosen will live on after the world ends, which will happen soon, and everyone else will die. The Acolytes explain people are Chosen based on their talents—the ability to do miracles or prophesy. Kate shudders.

Acolyte Eve tells Kate to follow her to the office so she can give her a membership kit. Eve opens secure doors with an access badge, until finally they are in a richly appointed office. Through a glass wall Kate sees two Dobermans drinking from a fountain. With a self-satisfied

smile, Eve says “You might as well sit, Kate. We might have a bit of a wait.” She knows who Kate is. Eve is a thin girl, and Kate decides to pump her for information before she takes her out.

Eve boasts she is Brother Conwell the preacher’s daughter. Security knew who Kate was the minute her CHRONOS key set off the detector, though Eve didn’t interrupt her father with the news. Eve says her father is in an executive meeting with Sister Paula, and maybe she should just take Kate’s CHRONOS key herself. Kate reminds Eve that very few people have CHRONOS blood as pure as she does, since all four of her grandparents were part of CHRONOS, and hints her aunt and grandfather might not like it if Eve interferes. She baits Eve into getting out the Book of Prophecy, which Kate recognizes as a CHRONOS diary, then she bashes Eve over the head with a chair, takes her access badge and the Book of Prophecy, and runs from the room.

Kate reaches Trey and Charlayne, and she tries to warn Charlayne about Eve, then they run. Eve emerges angrily through a door with a trickle of blood running down her face. She falls, and the two Dobermans leap over her to chase Kate and Trey as they race for the exit. Realizing she can’t run as fast as Trey, Kate pulls out her CHRONOS key. The dogs stop near her, whining at the key. When the larger dog lunges at her, Kate tries to kick it, but it bites her in the thigh. She hears Trey call for her, so she tells him to go, focuses on the coordinates on the key, and blinks her eyes to jump back to the night before just as the dogs attack.

Chapter 15. Kate’s scream from the kitchen brings Connor and Daphne running. Kate shows Connor the Book of Prophecy. Blood from the dog bite is dripping down her leg, and he patches her up while she explains what happened and that the Cyrists know who she is and are

probably watching the house. They agree not to tell Katherine, who is still asleep, unless they have to.

The next morning, Connor pretends to have found the Book of Prophecy on Wikileaks. The Book turns out to be a slapdash collection of political and social prophecy, investments, aphorisms, platitudes, and sales pitches about the rewards of following the Cyrist Way. Kate is nervous all day, worrying about whether or not Trey escaped out the door of the Temple when she disappeared. But it hasn't happened yet in real time, so she must wait. Connor tells her not to worry revealing that he called Trey before he went to bed the night before to warn him to run. Finally Trey calls. He is okay and is driving to join her.

They all celebrate Kate's seventeenth birthday with pizza, cake, and presents. Afterwards when they're alone, Trey tells Kate he never would have gone through with their visit to the Temple if he'd known she was going to get hurt. Kate apologizes for taking such a risk.

That night, Katherine gives Kate another birthday gift, a bracelet with a tiny hourglass that her own mother had given her when she'd completed her CHRONOS training. She tells Kate that she should show it to Younger Katherine when she finds her at the fair, and explain how it got chipped to get her attention. Then Katherine tells Kate she's concerned that she's become so close to Trey so quickly, because if Kate succeeds in repairing the timeline, Trey won't remember who she is because he won't even get into Briar Hill until the spring semester. Dismayed, Kate asks why they can't bring him in to watch the jump so he'll remember. Katherine points out that once he leaves the house, he will have thousands of points of

disconnected memories, which might lead to permanent mental damage. The relationship will have to end.

Chapter 16. Wearing her 1893 dress Kate attempts unsuccessfully to do her hair in the complicated style of that time. They've slipped tiny receivers into each garment that extend the medallion's to prevent them from disappearing if she takes them off while she's there.

Trey comes over and admires her dress. They talk about the normal things they haven't been able to do, like the prom. Kate decides not to tell Trey about the inevitable memory loss, choosing just to enjoy the present. Trey has a school paper to write, so they kiss goodbye on the front porch.

Trey drives away, and as Kate turns to go back in the house, Simon appears in the yard and grabs her. She fights back but freezes when he grabs her CHRONOS key. She tries to inch him inside the protective field in the yard, but he holds her tight and tells her to call for her grandmother. Daphne barks ferociously and Katherine comes to the door. Simon demands her CHRONOS key, insisting if she gives it to him he'll let Kate keep hers. Katherine asks why he'd let Kate go, and Simon tells her Brother Cyrus only said to finish Katherine, not Kate, and besides he doesn't want to cross Kiernan.

Katherine holds out her medallion. As Simon loosens his grasp on Kate to take the key, she uses a karate move on him, but as he flips to the ground the medallion drops and her grandmother winks out of existence. Simon pins Kate down with his knee on her chest and reaches for her medallion. He threatens to take her with him, touching her thigh suggestively. Unable to breathe, Kate begins to black out when she hears a loud whack. It is Trey wielding a tire iron.

But as Simon falls to the ground unconscious, Kate feels her medallion chain break away from her neck.

Chapter 17. Nothing happens, Kate is still there. She gasps for air, and Trey gives her back her medallion. He'd come back for a forgotten school book and he'd seen Katherine disappear, so he got out the tire iron. Simon hadn't noticed or heard with all Daphne's barking. But when Trey paused to check on Kate, Simon roused and used his own medallion to disappear.

They find Connor inside. He'd expanded the perimeter of the safe zone, but it didn't work fast enough to save Katherine. He's despondent that she's disappeared. Kate asks if she can fix the timeline by preventing Katherine's murder at the fair. Connor says theoretically yes, but she can't tell Katherine that Saul is behind the murder plan because she might end her relationship with him, and Deborah, Prudence, and Kate will never come into being. Kate must only tell her enough to prevent her murder.

Kate is determined to move forward with the plan. Connor returns upstairs, and Kate thanks Trey for saving her with a long, passionate kiss. Trey realizes that if she succeeds, he won't know her and won't remember that he loves her. Her heart soars to hear him say those words, and she tells him she loves him too. He grins, but then sinks back into misery. He has heard Simon mention Kiernan, and asks her who he is to her. She explains about the other timeline that doesn't exist any longer, and that Kiernan is nothing to her. She repeats fiercely that she loves Trey. They embrace, but before they become too intimate Trey stops, saying if they're going to make love he wants to make sure he is able to keep the memory, so for now he'll wait.

The next morning Trey skips school and comes back to the house bringing sandwiches. Connor and Kate review the diaries for the times and places where Katherine will be in the fair. Connor points out that if Kate can't find her, she can use a stable point to come back and try again, though it would mean a second version of herself walking around the fair.

Kate dresses, and Trey helps her lace her corset, admiring how she looks. They have another tender moment, and he tells her when she gets back she must find him, and even if he can't remember her, he will fall in love with her all over again.

Connor comes in and asks to speak to Kate privately. He tells her it's a huge risk, and she doesn't have to go through with it if she doesn't want to, they find another way. Connor gives Kate a letter her father Harry—the one in this timeline—sent to her after she'd met him offering to help her. Kate dissolves into tears, comforted to know her father is a nice man in any timeline.

Kate steels herself to go and says goodbye to Trey. He tells her he believes in her, and leaves to go home. Kate takes up her parasol and handbag. CHRONOS key in hand, she locks in the destination and blinks her eyes.

Chapter 18. Kate opens her eyes and she's in 1893, one minute after Saul and Katherine's arrival. A boy sweeping the path notices her struggling up the muddy hill. Kate sees Saul and Katherine crossing a bridge and she follows, but begins to lose sight of them in the crowds of people.

She hears running footsteps behind her and it's the boy, telling her she's dropped something. He hands her the letter from Harry. Kate thanks the boy and gives him a half dollar, then

realizes it's too much when his dark eyes grow wide. She tells him she needs to be going, but he follows. Though he has a job later, he offers to guide her for two dollars saying that a respectable young lady shouldn't walk alone. Kate continues walking, just barely keeping Katherine's hat in sight in the crowd, but the boy persists. Noticing the boy's worn clothes, she decides to take him up on it. She tells him she's a reporter working on an exclusive, and that he mustn't ask any questions. He says she can call him Mick, and asks if she's following the man and lady who came up the hill before her.

They head to the Midway, Mick in full tour guide mode. He knows a lot about the fair. He tells her about his parents coming from Ireland with him, and how they first lived on a big farm, but that his father didn't trust the people there and they moved to Chicago, where he died in a fire while the fair was being built. Kate tells Mick she must be at the Midway by ten o'clock. Mick tells Kate the man is always coming out of the bushes by the Hunter's Camp looking so suspicious he almost told the police, except that the lady is always with him. Kate reminds him not to ask questions.

They head to the Ferris wheel and Kate tells Mick the man and woman will be in a large group with the mayor, and she needs to get near the lady so she can speak with her. He says it's simple, he knows what the mayor looks like and he'll get his friend who works at the Ferris wheel to put them on the same car. Kate sends Mick off to buy tickets and he speedily returns.

The group approaches, and several women and men step aside, afraid to ride. One of them is Saul. Katherine is beside a woman mayor named Dora Salter among the larger group who are

going to ride the Ferris Wheel. Making sure that Katherine and the other woman are aboard, Kate steps onto the car, looking around for Mick.

There is a commotion, and Mrs. Salter emerges, dragging Mick by the ear to throw him off the car. Kate says he's not a stowaway, she's a reporter and he's her assistant. She holds up their tickets. Younger Katherine notices the hourglass charm bracelet and their eyes meet. Kate realizes with a jolt that the woman who has hold of Mick is actually Prudence in disguise, and by her expression, she knows who Kate is. Prudence insists to the group that Kate and Mick are pickpockets, and that security must be called. Katherine catches Kate's eye and asks what paper she works for, and Kate stammers out some made-up name. Katherine says she's heard of it, calming the crowd. The mayor suggests they take the next car since they're not part of the group. While she is moving toward the door Kate manages to whisper to Katherine that she must speak with her later, and that her woman companion is not who she thinks.

Once they've boarded the next car, Mick is inconsolable. Kate tells him it's okay, that she was able to let Katherine know she wanted to talk with her later, but Mick says that's not it. He says he's in trouble because the woman Katherine was with—Prudence—is his other boss.

Chapter 19. Kate questions Mick about his job. He says Prudence hired him to keep watch for the man and lady, but that he wasn't supposed to tell anyone. Mick has a book and a bright light that belonged to his father and his grandfather before him that he uses to send Prudence a message when Saul and Katherine appear. "Sister Pru" is from the Cyrist farm that Micks father didn't trust, and somehow she found Mick and his mother at the fair and forced them to work for her again. Kate realizes that Saul has found some way to use the CHRONOS diaries to

communicate. She also realizes with a start that Mick, the little boy with the dark eyes, is actually young Kiernan.

Unable to decide what she can tell him that won't cause him to act in a way that will change the timeline, she instead kneels down to his level and pulls out her CHRONOS key. From the fear on his face, she realizes he associates the key with the Cyrists. She tells him his father was right not to trust the Cyrists, and that she doesn't like them either. Kiernan knows that the medallion—which he sees as a green light—can make a person disappear, and tells her it's a holy object for the Cyrists. Only a few people other than his dad brought them to the farm, and they'd handed theirs over to Sister Pru. The leaders had tried to force Kiernan to learn to use it, but it gave him terrible headaches.

Once they climb off the Ferris wheel car, they find a quiet place by a lake to plan the next move. Kate decides it will be best to try to reach Katherine as she leaves the Auxiliary Building after she attends a speech.

Kate is adjusting her bonnet in the ladies room when there's a tap on her elbow. It's Katherine, whispering that the woman posing as Mrs. Salter has been sticking with her but now is inside a bathroom stall. If Kate wants to talk, they'd best escape out the door.

They rush across the street into an exhibit. Katherine holds up her wrist to compare bracelets, and asks who Kate is and why she's there. Kate tells Katherine that her older self gave Kate the bracelet. She recounts how it got chipped. She can't say why, but Katherine needs to return to CHRONOS headquarters immediately, and she'll have a messenger tell Saul. Katherine insists it isn't standard protocol, and wants to finish the jump as planned. Kate says Katherine is in

danger, even if headquarters doesn't know it. Kate convinces her to return to CHRONOS, and they leave separately.

Kate tries to watch Katherine through the crowd but a man roughly shoves her to the ground.

She looks up to see Simon dressed in a suit with a new, jagged scar on his right temple.

Taunting her, he races off after Katherine before Kate can get up. She gives chase, but he's halfway to Katherine. Once again, Prudence is following close by Katherine's side, so Kate yells that Simon has a gun. The crowd takes up the cry. Simon puts his hand into his pocket, and Prudence tackles Katherine to the ground. Simon disappears into the crowd as security shows up. Saul kneels by Katherine's side. Kate maneuvers closer, trying to find Simon, but he has brazenly jumped to another time right in the midst of the crowd.

Young Kiernan runs toward Kate. She holds her hand up to stop him, but the look of fear in his eyes makes her turn. Prudence grabs Kate's arm, spitting angrily "I had this covered, Kate.

Katherine would have been perfectly okay and we would have avoided a spectacle. You're meddling in things you don't understand." Prudence tells Kate that two men were hidden in the crowd to stop Simon. Kate is dubious, but Prudence boasts she herself created the Cyristis, and she's not going to let Saul take over. She lets Kate go for the sake of her innocent sister Deborah.

Prudence wants to follow Katherine and Saul, but Kate stops her since that Katherine knows to return to headquarters. Prudence says Kate isn't entirely useless, and that with her talent with the CHRONOS equipment she could have a future as a Cyrist, but Kate bluntly rejects her.

Prudence snaps she can either be one of the Chosen, or line up with the other sheep to be

fleeced and slaughtered, which only strengthens Kate's resolve. Prudence admonishes Kate to stay away from Kiernan, that he will be one of the Chosen, and that he will be *hers*. Kate is horrified, since Kiernan is only a little boy. Prudence jeers about Kate forgetting Kiernan from the other timeline, pulls out her CHRONOS key, and disappears.

Chapter 20. When Kate turns around, Mick is already gone. She asks a man sweeping up nearby where he's gone, and he tells her Mick ran off to follow a pale, chubby young man toward the Midway. Thinking the description sounded too much like Simon to be a coincidence, Kate heads that way. She wonders if Kiernan was working with Simon, now or in the future, but she has a hard time believing it.

She remembers with a flash there are two Katherines walking around the fair. Having missed his first target, she fears Simon might go after the other. Kate pulls the diary from her bag and learns Katherine was looking for people's general impressions of the fair at the German Village. She stands at one entrance to do some reconnaissance. She's watching three girls in German garb when she feels the sharp jab of a needle, then everything goes pitch black.

She comes to dizzy and disoriented. She is locked in a small room where someone has tucked her into a bed. Her green dress is missing and she's wearing only her silk chemise and petticoats. Katherine's hourglass bracelet is gone. There are three holes drilled in the wall above the door, and Kate recalls the horrible movie about Dr. Holmes, the serial killer, that she watched with Trey.

The door opens to reveal Holmes' wife Minnie. She urges Kate back to bed, explaining she fainted at the fair and that her husband the doctor brought her here. She says she and the doctor will be back up to check on Kate.

Kate frantically checks the secret pocket of the chemise and finds the spare CHRONOS key and cash. She isn't near a stable point, but given that she was locked in a room in Holmes' nightmare hotel, she decides to take the risk and jump. She's just begun pulling up the coordinates when she hears footsteps running down the hall, breaking her focus.

She slips the medallion inside her chemise and hides in the corner by the door, ready to attack Dr. Holmes, and pulls back just in time before she kicks her grandmother who appears middle aged thanks to the CHRONOS costume department. This second version of Younger Katherine sees the glow of the CHRONOS key and in confusion, asks Kate who she is. Kate quickly tells her she's her granddaughter and that they need to get out of the hotel as quickly as possible. Kate again explains the bracelet story and Katherine believes her.

Katherine has a stable point set up on the third floor, and explains she came because a boy came to her on the Midway and told her a lady wearing the bracelet had been kidnapped and needed her help. She thought it was a different version of herself trapped in the room. Kate realizes Kiernan must have managed to snatch the bracelet when she fell unconscious. Kiernan also gave Katherine the bag Kate was carrying and her dirty parasol. Katherine says he was unusually persistent, and she was barely able to make him wait outside in the alley. Katherine shows her the medallion and the diary inside the bag, wanting to know why Kate has two CHRONOS keys. Kate sighs that it's complicated.

Kate realizes Katherine needs to go to the stable point to jump. As Katherine helps her get dressed, Kate explains the danger and urges Katherine not to tell anyone at headquarters about her. Katherine is skeptical because she does not believe in breaking protocol. But Kate finally tells her the bigger picture. She herself, the future Katherine, has worked for twenty years to achieve this moment, even arranging for Kate's parents to meet so they can have an offspring who has the CHRONOS gene, and if she fails, billions of people will die. Finally, Katherine is all in, and they head out the door.

Chapter 21. Kate and Katherine accidentally run into Holmes, a gun in one hand and Kiernan in the other in one of the hotel's blind corridors. The boy has come looking for Kate and been caught. Waving the gun, Holmes forces them to return to the room where he locks the three of them in.

Kiernan apologizes for not staying in the alley. Kate thanks him for finding Katherine and saving her life. Katherine pulls out her CHRONOS key to dial headquarters for an emergency extraction, but Kate stops her. Since Kate is able to jump from a spot that's not a stable point, she will just jump to the third floor then come let them out. Kiernan mentions a ladder that leads from an upper floor window to another roof. They decide to use it to escape. Katherine shows Kate the stable point to jump to in the display, and Kate locks on it to leave, making Katherine promise to get Kiernan out no matter what.

Kate makes the jump into a dark linen closet on the third floor. There's a nasty, pungent smell rising from the floor, but she doesn't want to look. One door won't open, but she finds her way out another and tiptoes down the hall using the light from the medallion. In another blind

corridor, she finds a third-floor door similar to the other and opens it, telling the unknown occupant to be careful, that Holmes has a gun. On the stairs, she can hear Holmes somewhere below arguing with Minnie. She makes her way to the second floor, a confusing maze of twists and turns, and reaches the room to let Katherine and Kiernan out.

Kate tells Kiernan to get Katherine back to the cabin's stable point safely, using the back ways through the fair and keeping a sharp eye out for Simon. With Katherine out of view around a corner, Kate puts the extra medallion around Kiernan's neck and whispers he must always keep it on, because she believes Prudence will take his father's medallion from him, and if he's not wearing a spare he'll forget why he doesn't trust Sister Pru. They continue through the dark halls. Kate gets the creepy feeling someone is watching, but no one seems to be there. Holmes' office is dark.

Kate takes the lead and they move quietly along, trying to find the way out upstairs. They hear gunshots and jump behind a corner, but from the sound, the shooter is on the floor below. Hearing a rapping noise behind her, Kate whirls around and thinks she sees a tall figure, but then it's gone. They press on trying to find their way through the third floor, then the smell of smoke reaches them.

Chapter 22. Their trek to escape seems endless. Every corridor seems to come to a dead end, and they keep having to backtrack. The smoke is getting thicker, and Kate is terrified Holmes will appear. Kiernan is in tears that he can't find the window. Kate remembers from the movie that Holmes built trap doors into the hotel, so she leads them back to the linen closet where

she ignores the foul stench rising from the floor and kicks open the trap door leading the other way.

They move through a long narrow room toward a window, passing what looks like a corpse.

There is a shuffling sound behind them. Kate fears it is Holmes moving stealthily. They have the advantage of being able to see a little bit in the glow of the CHRONOS keys, but Holmes designed the hotel and knows it well. Kate tells Katherine and Kiernan to climb out the window, and steels herself to wait for Holmes.

They push up the window with a loud creak, and Holmes fires the gun. His face is sinister and unnerving in the faint blue light. She lines up to kick the gun from his hand, but her skirt limits her movement and she hits his midsection, causing him to double over and he shoots again, wildly. Across the room Kate can see the dim outline of Kiernan climbing out, and she prays Katherine is already outside. Holmes' catches her foot and upends her, causing her to hit her head on the floor and see stars.

Kate sits up against the wall, dazed, and tries to focus on the medallion to return to Katherine's house. She hears Holmes curse and step back to take better aim in the darkness. There's a clink of glass, and he laughs. Breaking her focus she turns her head, and burning liquid splashes onto her neck. She crawls away back towards the linen closet. The smoke is getting thicker, and she wants to get out of the room to a place where she can focus on the medallion to jump. She struggles to her feet. Moving as silently as possible, she makes it out the door. She runs for the stairs but her heel rips her hem. Holmes is coming down the smoky hall with a lantern.

Kate cowers against a door. Her hands shaking, she tries to bring up a location, any location. She sees the lantern moving rapidly towards her, then the door behind her opens and a large hand covers her mouth, muffling her scream.

Chapter 23. A wet cloth moves toward Kate's face. A familiar voice calls her name, and she looks up into the face of adult Kiernan. He holds out a Chronos key with a stable point already pulled up, and tells her to take it and jump, that he will follow right behind her. She does. They are in a small room, and as Kate fades in and out of consciousness, Kiernan tends to her acid-burned neck.

After a time, she is able to ask where and when they are. Kiernan tells her they're in the cabin at five a.m. the next morning. The fair is empty of people, the closing ceremonies having been cancelled because of the assassination of the mayor of Chicago. He chose a point close by because it takes a lot out of him to make longer jumps. Katherine got away, and Holmes escaped the fire and will eventually be captured and tried.

Kate asks Kiernan how he knew to come back for her, and he tells her for years he never knew if she made it out or not. After the fair, his mother moved them back to the farm, and he learned how to operate the CHRONOS key. He did what Kate told him to do, and always kept the hidden key with him. He was sixteen when he first saw Prudence as a young woman on the farm, and she was eighteen, not so much older, and they became intimate.

Kate asks how that could happen when he thought she'd had something to do with his father's death, and Kiernan explains that was Older Prudence, he didn't really know what she'd do later. The next year, the other version Kate found him and convinced him to fight the Cyrists, and

they were part of the resistance and in love. But the other Kate didn't remember him as a little boy or the Expo; something had shifted and the hotel escape never happened in that timeline, though Kiernan still remembered it.

Later, Prudence found out Kiernan had met Kate. She took his father's key and made the changes in the timeline that resulted in Kate not knowing Kiernan. Kiernan played along, but because he had the other medallion, he still remembered everything.

Now the Cyrists know that he warned her on the subway and are most likely after him too. Kate tells Kiernan she thinks that Prudence is no longer working with Saul, since killing Katherine be the end of Prudence if she drops her key. Kiernan tells her it took him fourteen tries to prevent Holmes from killing Kate with the gun before he gets it right. Kate thinks about Trey, who won't remember her when she gets back, and tells Kiernan she understands how he must feel. He kisses her, and she is swept up in his passion. Then he breaks the kiss, telling her he's being selfish.

She still doesn't know what Saul or Prudence are up to, and Kiernan fills her in about the Culling, which will involve a giant scale airborne or waterborne environmental disaster to enable the Cyrists to save humanity and the planet. Once a quarter of the population is Cyrist they will make their move, then only the Cyrists and a few select others will be given the antidote.

Kiernan says he'll fight against the Cyrists with her, but that his abilities are weakened from all his jumps so he needs to rest. He tells her a safe, stable point in 1905 Boston where she can find him. The plan he and other Kate had tried before was to go back and find the stranded

CHRONOS historians and convince them to stay away from Saul and Prudence and give up their keys. Kiernan says goodbye, and Kate jumps back to Katherine's house.

Chapter 24. Kate appears in the house with a bandage on her neck wearing only her undergarments, which have holes in them. Then there's a knock at the door. It's Katherine, asking what she is doing in the yard outside the safety field without a key.

Later, Kate wakes up in her own bed with Katherine sitting in the window seat reading. Katherine asks what happened after she'd climbed out the window and down the ladder, leaving Kate in the hotel. Kate explains that Kiernan saved her. They discuss Prudence's apparent break with Saul, and that Prudence did work to save Katherine but they agree it was out of self-preservation. They plan how to stop Saul and gather the CHRONOS keys.

The timeline is back to normal, and Kate's parents Deborah and Harry are back the way they were. Katherine suggests Kate jump back to the day of the timeline shift to save her parents from worrying, since otherwise she's been gone a month. Kate invents a story of a coffee spill on the Metro to explain the burn on her neck. Katherine thinks Kate shouldn't tell her parents anything else, but Kate says she intends to tell her father the truth, since he'll be living in the house with Katherine and it would be too difficult otherwise. Deborah won't be told.

Katherine says she and Connor will be heading to Europe for an experimental cancer treatment, so Kate and her father are welcome to stay in the house and take care of Daphne. She hands Kate a computer disk she found on the porch. It's a video of Trey from the last night before she jumped. He says he knows she saved the world, and that it's likely he doesn't know her now, but he's saved all of their video chats, and Connor suggested she should make a copy that will

survive leaving the field now that she's safe so she can show it to him and they can start over again. Kate is afraid, and waits.

She spends a few days recording details from the jump into one of Katherine's diaries, then when her neck has healed enough to blame on coffee, she puts on her school uniform, school ID, and the CHRONOS key to jump back to the foyer on the day when her backpack had been stolen on the subway. She quickly brings Katherine and Connor up to speed, since they can no longer remember the month. And then she calls her mother to tell her she's had a small accident with coffee and lost her backpack. Kate is so happy to hear her mother's voice she breaks down crying in relief. Her life is back to where it was before Katherine arrived with the medallion, except Charlayne is a Cyrist in this timeline and they never met.

Kate explains to her father what happened, and after a while he pushes her to contact Trey, though she dreads finding him because it might not work out. But Harry says she made a promise and she owes it to Trey, so she winds up her courage and goes to his house. Kate completely surprises Trey a long kiss, then shows him a picture of the two of them and takes her hand away so it disappears. She tells him she's not a crazy stalker, and that everything he needs to know is on the DVD he made. She can tell he has doubts and doesn't know her, but she's comforted by the warm look in his eyes, and thinks maybe, just maybe, they can rebuild what they had together.

Time's Echo Chapter Summaries

Chapter 1. The setting is 1905 Boston. Kiernan awakens in a tiny apartment overlooking an alley with Kate beside him and finds the cell phone to turn off the chirping. He's up early to head out to apply for a job at Norumbega Park so he can help Kate without travelling too far outside of his own timeline. He showers then returns to the room, where he opens a secret spot beneath a floorboard where they hide things that don't belong in 1905. He uses the small shaver in the dim light and carefully sticks the glowing green light back onto his leg with a new bandage. The medallion in his pocket is Cyst-approved, but the secret one strapped to his leg is not.

He dresses in his new suit, hoping that the heat won't ruin his appearance on the way to the audition, then he puts the jacket into a bag that holds his tricks, his handcuffs, leg cuffs, ring of keys, and a collapsible top hat.

Kate's been spending nights with him for the past four months. Her bed at her Grandmother Katherine's house in Chicago is bigger and more comfortable, but she'd rather sleep with him. She leaves him to go to Katherine's house for a few days, makes a jump to a separate city to collect a CHRONOS key, attends her university classes, then she shows back up just five minutes after she left.

Kate asks Kiernan what time his audition is, and he explains it's in the afternoon, but it will take him time to get there and he needs to check out the props the previous magician left behind. She laughs and says he doesn't need a trick cabinet when he can use the medallion to disappear, and besides, he has a forged recommendation from Houdini himself, who is overseas for a month. The plan is for Kiernan to perform magical escapes billed as Boudini to

anger Houdini and draw him to them, so they can see if he does indeed have a CHRONOS key as Kate believes.

He combs his hair and gazes at her sitting there on the bed before he leaves, feeling a sense of wonder at the gold ring on her finger. Once he's gone, Kate intends to confront Katherine about something that happened in 1938. He asks Kate to wait for his return before she comes back because he doesn't want her to jump back to their empty apartment all upset like she did the night before. Tears fill her eyes, and she tells him if he'd only seen what had happened to the body of the man, he'd understand. Kiernan comforts her, promising they'll talk to Katherine together.

She will wait an hour so she can unlock the cuffs from his hands. Kiernan jokes he will just jump back to before he left and unlock himself, but he doesn't mean it. Kate has warned him about the mental dangers of seeing a previous version of himself. After all, look at the damage it's done to Prudence. Kiernan pushes away a sudden uneasy feeling and leaves.

Chapter 2. Norumbega Park is a family attraction, and Kiernan weaves his way through the summer crowd to reach the theater. He is surprised to see a matinee in progress, since he was told to be ready to audition at four-thirty. The woman selling tickets isn't sure where Mr. Easley the manager has gone. Kiernan eyes the audience of the half full theater, realizing he'll have to perform in front of just such a crowd if he gets the job. While the last couple acts of the matinee perform, he makes his way backstage. An attractive blonde is joking with a couple of jugglers, and she looks Kiernan's top hat over and guesses he's there to replace the last magician. Kiernan tells her Mr. Easley mentioned a palanquin cabinet and asks her to take him

to it. She leads him into the prop room, saying she's Eliza Easley, one of the magician's assistants, and that a girl named Daisy is the other.

He introduces himself and tells her his stage name is the Amazing Boudini. She snorts that he'll get sued or even killed, that Houdini has a temper. Kiernan asks her if she's Easley's daughter, and she laughs that she's his third wife. Kiernan is disappointed with the cabinet on wheels because it's small sized for a standard vanishing act, not an escape artist, and he'll be too cramped to move. She heads off to fetch another prop, and reemerges pushing a coffin. Kiernan fixes it to the cabinet's wheels and puts his gear inside so he can roll it onto the stage where he rigs a latch so it will stay in position, which is crucial for his jump. She wants to practice, but he runs through the main points of the act instead, since he can probably only manage four or five round trip jumps before he tires out.

Rehearsal over, Kiernan sits on the edge of the stage to await Mr. Easley. An hour later the man strolls in, and Daisy, a redhead slinks in after him. The manager takes a seat, mocking Kiernan for not being ready yet. Eliza chides him angrily that she and Kiernan have been ready for an hour, and that it would have been nice if Daisy had been around earlier to practice. She clearly suspects Easley has been with Daisy.

Kiernan takes the stage, and begins his act, but Easley soon interrupts saying all he wants to see is the finale. Kiernan pulls off his coat and hat and climbs the wooden platform beside the coffin. Eliza and Daisy help him on with the wrist and ankle cuffs, then he slips down into the coffin. He locks in the stable point on his CHRONOS key and he's back in the apartment where

Kate has fallen back asleep. She unlocks the cuffs. Kiernan tells her he thinks he'll get the job since the previous man quit without notice, then he jumps back.

Mr. Easley makes Kiernan perform the trick again and again, watching from different angles. When Kiernan has done the trick five times and doubts he has enough energy to jump again, Easley him to do the trick in the open where he can see him, but Kiernan fends him off by saying it's a trade secret and part of his agreement with Houdini. He can't show how the trick works without risking a lawsuit. Easley hires him.

Chapter 3. Kiernan leaves Norumbega Park, noticing how it resembles the World's Fair years before when he was eight. He never brings up the Fair with Kate, because she's touchy about it, but he suffered nightmares about his escape from the hideous smoky hotel full of death for a solid year afterwards. Neither Kate nor Katherine remember it for some reason, and they suspect it's some trick by Prudence and the Cyrists. Kate doesn't remember putting the spare medallion around Kiernan's neck, the one he now wears on his leg.

He makes his way home, cutting through an alley. Three unknown men attack. They bang him on the head with a club, knocking him out. He comes to again only to find the robbers have taken his bag, his coat, even his dress shirt, and his pants pockets are turned out, which means they've stolen his money as well as his medallion.

His head bloody, Kiernan heads toward Jess's shop. Jess and his wife Amelia are friends of his who used to allow him to live in their downstairs storage room in exchange for helping out in the shop. Amelia fusses over Kiernan's head, while Jess tells him that Kate was in the shop at eight p.m. looking for him. Amelia cleans and bandages his head, then sews up a tear in the

knee of his pants. Ready to leave, Kiernan steps toward the doorway when a huge wave of dizziness and nausea hits him. Jess grabs Kiernan to prevent him from falling. He and Amelia think it's the head wound, but Kiernan has felt this sensation before and knows that someone is altering the timeline.

The room shifts in small ways as Kiernan watches. A photo disappears, a doily evaporates. When Jess lets go of Kiernan, the older man is overcome with weakness, and he sinks down into a chair, his face pale. He too has seen the change to the photos. He demands that Amelia name their granddaughters, and she names only five, not six. Jess seems to remember a granddaughter they no longer have. Amelia asks Kiernan what is wrong with Jess. Though Kiernan doesn't say, he knows it was because Jess was holding him up with the medallion just inches away when the time shift came.

Amelia goes off to get an aspirin, and Kiernan tells Jess he isn't crazy, but he'll have to wait until the next day for an explanation.

Chapter 4. Kiernan takes his leave, and heads for a stable point outside the store. He pulls out his remaining medallion and jumps to the apartment. The bed has been made, and the apartment is empty. Kate's cell phone, a book, and an open tin of mints lie on the nightstand.

Something feels off to Kiernan, a faint buzzing fills his head, and he realizes Kate would never leave her phone out in the open. Kiernan kicks himself for not jumping back earlier in the evening, because he doubts he can do it now. He uses the medallion to look at the apartment at seven, and he sees Kate momentarily but then the image blurs. He's never seen the key act this way. He doesn't see her in the bedroom at Katherine's house either. The buzzing sound

peaks, an odd tingle comes over him, then wanes. He takes two pain relievers Kate's put in the hiding place in the floor, and the odd tingle hits him again. He catches movement to the right, but no one is there. Anxious, he pulls up the apartment at 12:20 earlier in the day, ten minutes before the cell phone woke him. He sees the two of them in bed, then right before his eyes the image distorts and she's no longer there.

He realizes the muggers were after his medallion, and that someone wanted to make sure he has no memory of the previous timeline, though he has no idea why. Shadow and color ripple in the room's center, and the buzzing noise increases until he has to hold his head, then it is gone again. The door appears cracked, but by the time he reaches it, the frame is whole again. He decides to jump back to a time before the shift. This time, Kate's phone and the box of mints are gone.

Later, his eyes swollen and blurry, he sees a green light appear. But it isn't Kate, it's Prudence, and she's a much older version. She asks him who he expected, and he lies that he woke and thought she was his mother. She asks him where he's been, since he was supposed to report to Estero before the adjustment. He explains he was mugged and the key was stolen, and that he's having trouble remembering anything from the past year, though the last part is a lie to fool her. Older Prudence examines him angrily, her eyes too bright, and Kiernan wonders what juggling so many different sets of memories has done to her mind. Prudence pretends when they split up, it was only a lovers' quarrel, and that Kiernan said they belonged together. Kiernan remembers the fight differently but says nothing.

She tries to convince him to return to the Cyrist farm—Nuevo Reino. He tells her he can't because he doesn't have a medallion. She grins and pulls one out of her pocket. He can tell it is the same one he lost, his father's key, though he stays silent. He insists he needs to rest before he jumps and she snatches the medallion back, snapping that she'll send June along with a key later so she can treat his head wound. He's to meet at the main residence on May 30, 2030, which means Saul will be there. Prudence says their plan will double their numbers and get some of their leaders (including U.S. Vice-President Patterson) situated in positions of greater authority.

Prudence tells him he'll be helping Simon, but that Kiernan should keep him in line "to prevent another Cincinnati." Kiernan wasn't getting along with Simon even before he met Kate, but Prudence lies that he patched things up with Kiernan months ago. Prudence touches his face and continues to pretend they've been lovers all along, blind to the fact that Kiernan remembers Kate.

Chapter 5. The next morning, Kiernan makes his way to Jess's shop. Jess is dressed in his usual dapper suit, but looks as though he hasn't slept. Amelia is at the market, so Kiernan explains a limited version of what has happened, warning Jess first that it's going to sound crazy. He uses the spare medallion to prove time travel is real by disappearing before Jess's eyes and coming out of the storeroom five minutes before he arrived. Jess is flummoxed, and Kiernan tries to explain the medallion is technology from four hundred years in the future, not magic, and that one of the historians is trying to change history which is a bad thing. This change is what Jess felt the night before.

Jess demands that Kiernan tell his people to bring his granddaughter Irene back, but Kiernan explains he can't, she was never born in this timeline. He asks Jess if his daughter Mary, Irene's mother, belongs to the Cyrists, and Jess gets a headache from the conflicting memories of before—when she was a Methodist and didn't belong before, and now—when she has been a Cyrist for twenty years. Kiernan explains the Cyrists are a bogus religion created only six months ago to gain power and wealth.

Simon comes into the tobacco shop, and Kiernan has to suppress the desire to pummel him until he divulges whether he had anything to do with the time shift. Simon, loathsome as ever, has brought Kiernan his medallion. He reminds Kiernan he's expected at the farm, then he lies that the time he almost got Kiernan killed in Cincinnati never happened. They leave the shop. Back out on the street, Simon pulls out a cellphone to check the Red Sox baseball schedule for 1905, not even bothering to hide the anachronistic device. He wants Kiernan to go with him to the game, but Kiernan points out with his injured head, he can't jump with Simon to the game. Having finished his task of delivering the medallion, Simon jumps away in broad daylight, leaving Kiernan alone on the sidewalk.

Chapter 6. Kiernan jumps to the Farm, and reminisces about the way things were the year he arrived as a boy. Back then it was a working farm with animals, and Pru had a palomino stallion she bought the year Kiernan arrived. He remembers Older Pru appearing to take the reins from her seventeen year old self, leaving Younger Pru to take Kiernan up into the hayloft.

Instead of going straight to the Founder's House as he was told, Kiernan first heads down to the river trail to reminisce. He remembers the first time he saw Kate after he escaped from the

burning hotel, one April morning in 1902 when he was seventeen on the boat he used to ferry visitors from Ft. Myers. She didn't recognize him, and he thought it was because he'd only been eight when their adventure at the Expo had happened. People on the boat mistook her for Prudence, and once the group had come ashore and walked on she'd pulled out her medallion.

Kiernan grabbed her arm just in time before she jumped. He spent the next three hours explaining everything he knew about the Farm, the Cyrists, and Prudence to persuade her to trust him. She had no memories of the 1893 Fair or him. They eventually decide it must still be in her future, even though Kiernan privately thought the Kate on the riverbank looked older than the girl he'd helped at the Expo. He also decided that his father might have been right not to trust the Cyrists. Now here he was, back at the farm, eighteen months after that day, and Kate had vanished from his life.

Kiernan vows to get her back. He remembers the other two times he met Saul. The first time was to have his CHRONOS skills assessed. Since Kiernan was two generations removed from a CHRONOS historian, his skills were the weakest in the group and Saul barely noticed him. The second time they met it was supposed to be a family dinner with Kiernan, nineteen year old Pru, and Saul. Saul emerged from his suite to berate Pru for a few minutes, then slammed the door without speaking to Kiernan.

He reaches the Founder's house as Prudence jumps to Saul's secret location. Franklin and Edna, regional Cyst leaders from 2030 stand waiting for Kiernan to take his turn. Franklin enters the coordinates for him, and Kiernan jumps to a conference room at an unknown location and time. Prudence sits at one end of the long table while Saul—dressed as Brother Cyrus—sits at the

other. Simon, five regional Templars, Conwell and his daughter Eve, six other jumpers, and several of Saul's bodyguards make up the rest of those in attendance. Kiernan notes the strong family resemblance to Saul around the table.

Simon, running the meeting, calls them to order. Quiet tension hangs in the air. As the meeting progresses, Saul and Prudence occasionally snipe at one another. They discuss various prophecies they intend to capitalize upon and the upcoming natural events that will validate them. Saul cautions them to give no warning outside of the inner circle. Simon is about to bring the meeting to an end when Prudence stops him to ask for his own report. Simon smirks and mentions few financial assignments he'll perform with Kiernan along, plus he will monitor overall developments, and decide when to launch with Saul's go ahead.

They stand and recite the Cyrist Creed aloud in unison as a closing. Having learned it by heart as a child, the words roll off of Kiernan's tongue. Kiernan notices Prudence, still seated, isn't joining in. She looks saner than usual, and she eyes Saul and Simon as though she's trying to work out the solution to a puzzle. Sudden anger crosses her face, and she pulls out her key and blinks out. No one else mentions it.

The meeting over, June offers to look at Kiernan's injury. She brings up Kiernan's mother Cliona, who has recently died, but he doesn't want to talk about it. Then she mentions Kate, thinking the girl has broken it off with Kiernan. Unaware of who Kate really is or that Prudence has manipulated her out of the timeline, June lowers her voice to confide that Prudence will be lucky to remember her own name with all of the changes she's weathered.

June tries to convince Kiernan to come back to the Farm. He promises to think about it, but her face turns sad. She can tell he's lying since she's known him since he was seven.

Chapter 7. Simon and Kiernan visit twenty-three different coordinates—mostly banks—in preparation for the next timeline adjustment. Each time, Simon goes inside with a banker to accomplish some moneymaking activity based on knowledge of the future while Kiernan waits in the lobby. Simon is infinitely distractible, dragging Kiernan to movies, strip clubs, sports events—anything mildly amusing instead of his tasks. Kiernan attempts to get Simon drunk to find out what he knows about Kate, but alcohol doesn't seem to affect Simon. Later Kiernan finds alcohol-blocking pills in Simon's pocket, and he steals them. He is weary of Simon playing time-tourist.

They go to a show to hear Louis Armstrong and afterwards they jump to the 21 Club. It's Prohibition, and Simon holds up some kind of token to get in the door. Two girls join them, and the bootleg liquor flows, but Kiernan doesn't feel it because he's taken one of the pills. Simon drags them to the Epicure next, and when he keeps watching the door, Kiernan realizes he's up to something.

Simon dances inappropriately for the era, embarrassing his drunken date. Then the band plays a song that the crowd recognizes as a warning, the liquor is poured out, and people run for a back door. Drunk, Simon waits until the officers are right in front of him then he uses his CHRONOS key to disappear. Kiernan crouches under a table and follows.

Back in the hotel room, Simon laughs that he chose the date so they could experience the raid. Then he turns maudlin, saying the girls they abandoned are dead sacks of bones in their graves

in his time. He pulls out a bottle of scotch and pompously states that the ordinary people only get to see a tiny slice of life, while he and Kiernan get to sample the whole pie. He boasts about real power—being able to erase the life of anyone who ticks him off.

Kiernan has heard this rant before, but he keeps trying to draw Simon out. Finally, Simon blunders and mentions Kate's name, but then lies and says she's just "a piece I shacked up with down in Miami." Furious inside, Kiernan pretends not to know what Simon is talking about. He now has the information he's been prodding for; Simon has let slip that Kate is still alive.

Chapter 8. Kiernan and Simon are at a subway station in DC. It's the final set of coordinates on the list though Simon hasn't given any clues as to why they are there. In a foul mood, Simon leads them onto a train, then keeps stealing glances at a girl on the car whose head is down then takes sidelong looks at Kiernan. Kiernan realizes the girl is Kate holding a CHRONOS diary, but manages to hold his composure. None of it makes sense, because Kate never lived in DC. He notices Simon is watching him, so he whispers to him that for a moment he thought the girl was Younger Pru.

Kiernan asks Simon who she is, and Simon ominously answers "someone who wouldn't be here if Pru had done her job." Having seen what he's come to see, Simon instructs Kiernan to take out his key to jump back, but Kiernan has locked eyes with Kate, who looks uncomfortable at his rapt attention. Simon is still watching, so Kiernan jumps back to the hotel room. Simon follows, telling him they're done, and says flippantly he thinks Saul will be needing Kiernan's key.

Kiernan takes action. He jumps back to Nuevo Reino in 2030 just before the meeting takes place. His other self is down by the river, so there's no risk he'll see himself. He goes down the corridor to a propped door and finds sixteen-year-old Pru, who has an outlandish hairstyle, a bejeweled ear, and a large Cyrist tattoo on her shoulder. He was twelve when he last saw this version of Prudence. He asks her if she should be here, and she replies "the old lady won't be out for another ten minutes or so."

Kiernan learns Prudence is clearly jealous of Simon's closeness to Saul, in spite of the fact Simon is her future self's son. She leads Kiernan toward the formal dining room, then when they hear voices coming into the kitchen, she blinks out abandoning him there. Kiernan listens at the door, and hears Simon talking with a lackey named Ron. Simon intimates that Prudence isn't thinking rationally about a task that she's bungled. He convinces Ron not to say anything to her. Simon will take care of the task after their meeting. Then Kiernan hears what it is Simon intends to do: grab Kate before she learns to use the Key, and with her as bait, lure her grandmother Katherine out into the open.

Kiernan rests so he'll be ready for Simon to make his move. He jumps to DC in Kate's time, and finds her online by searching for Deborah Pierce, Kate's mother. He heads to Deborah's house, sets a stable point where he can hide and view the door, then he jumps back to 1905 Boston to wait and watch in the medallion. After a time, Kate and another girl arrive wearing Karate uniforms. After that, no one but a pizza delivery man arrives, so Kiernan skips ahead until dawn to resume watching. Kate and her friend emerge wearing school uniforms, then they part. He follows Kate to the subway station, almost losing her. He's just about to step aboard the train she chooses when Simon appears, accompanied by two men in suits.

Kiernan thinks it's the diary Simon's after, not Kate. And if he is planning to hurt her, Kiernan can jump back a few minutes to stop it. He steps onto the next car to keep watch. Kate holds up a hand mirror, spots Simon behind her, and tries to bolt at the next stop. But before she can get out the door Simon grabs her backpack and activates his key to disappear. The men in suits exit the train. Kate has fallen onto two other passengers, who help her up.

Kiernan calls out to Kate, who recognizes him from the day before, and she questions him angrily. Not sure how much to say, he tells her his name and explains he was following Simon. She begins to trust him, and he involuntarily reaches out to touch her face, causing her to jerk back. Gently, he pulls the band out of her hair letting it fall to her shoulders. He tells her to go back to her grandmother's house, and to keep her CHRONOS key on her at all times. She tells him she doesn't have a CHRONOS key.

Blushing, she asks why she saw Kiernan in her grandmother's medallion when she held it the day before. Kiernan realizes this is the Kate from the Expo, which hasn't happened yet for her. He doesn't know how she got out of the burning hotel, nor what shift must have occurred to make her his Kate, the one that he's lost.

Kiernan knows Saul will order Simon to make the adjustment that triggers all the other events they've been planning, so again he urges her to go straight to the house as quickly as possible. Then he gives in to the overwhelming urge to kiss her, and though she's not his Kate, she doesn't pull away. He tells her to run then blinks out of the subway care. This Kate may not know him yet, but that is something he is determined to fix.

Time's Edge Chapter Summaries

Chapter 1. Kate jumps into 1963 Dallas, Texas, near the Book Depository. JFK's motorcade is due in ten minutes and she's looking for her grandparents, CHRONOS historians Timothy and Evelyn Winslow. She's already made several failed attempts, but this time she spots their powder blue Ford Fairlane. Kate opens the door and slips into the backseat, holding up her CHRONOS medallion.

They are angry, because behind the camouflage of kisses they're attempting to watch a man who might be a second shooter, but then Kate holds up a photo of the two of them holding a dark-haired little boy and tells them she's their granddaughter. Since interacting with your own family in the past is against CHRONOS protocol, Evelyn suggests they abandon their study and jump back to CHRONOS. Kate shocks them with the news that CHRONOS is gone.

Evelyn says they knew something was wrong when a man dragged Shaila into the jump room. They park at a drive-in restaurant so Timothy can get some food, then Kate plays a video recording Katherine made for them explaining how Saul destroyed CHRONOS, stranding them. They ask Kate why Saul is doing these things, and Kate explains his dangerous plan to play God. The Winslows believe Kate and give her their two CHRONOS medallions.

Chapter 2. Kate jumps back to where Kiernan is waiting in 1905 Boston—a storage room in the Jessup tobacco shop. She asks what the other version of Kate did next—the version Kiernan

knew and was in love with before Saul and Prudence erased that timeline. Kiernan tells her he has information in his room that they were working from, and gives her a 1905 dress to replace the knee-length skirt, sweater, and saddle shoes she'd worn in 1963. She slips the dress on over her clothes and when Kiernan touches her to fasten the back, she reminds herself he is not Trey.

They emerge from the storage room and Kate meets Jess, the owner, though he already knows the other version of Kate. Once they leave, Kate asks Kiernan how it is that Jess "remembers" her, and he explains that when the temporal shift hit him he staggered and Jess grabbed his shoulder, which protected his memory. He tells her now Jess is juggling two sets of memories, including a granddaughter who no longer exists.

They reach Kiernan's building. In his room, he pries open the hiding place under the floorboard and gives Kate a CHRONOS diary that belonged to the other version of her that contains details of the jumps she made to try to retrieve medallions. Kiernan asks Kate if everything is okay and if she's seeing Trey, and Kate answers everything is fine, though in truth she hasn't seen that much of the new version of Trey—the one who only just met her. Kiernan notes sympathetically that it's not the same as before. Kate doesn't want to give Kiernan false hope that he might have a chance with her, but he's clearly struggling with his memories of Other Kate.

They talk for a while about which jumps might be easiest for Kate to attempt now, and then the conversation turns to how difficult stopping the Cyrist will be and the doubts Kate has. Kiernan says that although he doesn't think Katherine will approve, he will always be there to help Kate

plan what to do. He suggests setting his room as a stable point and invites her to come see him at Norumbega Park on Saturday. The mischievous look in his dark eyes reminds Kate of eight-year-old Kiernan at the Fair and she laughingly agrees then jumps back to her grandmother's house.

Chapter 3. Though she's had a long day of jumps, Kate returns just one minute after she left. Katherine, Connor, and her father Harry are eager to hear what happened. Kate pulls out the two CHRONOS keys and a diary. Katherine notices the diary isn't from the Winslows, and Kate admits she stopped at Kiernan's place in 1905 to get the information the other version of her had gathered.

Harry is eager to hear about his birth parents, since they died when he was five. Kate shares the brief video she took of them. Katherine meantime has clicked the playback on one of the Other Kate videos in the diary. Remembering Kiernan told her Other Kate had recorded some rants about Katherine, Kate snatches back the diary, saying she'll watch the videos and decide if there's anything important enough in them to share,. She tells Katherine she needs to order a Russian language course since one of the jumps is to Moscow.

Kate watches the videos recorded by her other self, who feels like an imposter to her. The Other Kate talks about learning to use the CHRONOS equipment and studying the history of the areas and times the historians were stranded. It's an odd experience.

She gets ready for Trey to arrive for dinner with her family and becomes overwhelmed, wondering if she did the right thing in giving him the DVD his other self recorded in the timeline that disappeared. She worries whether their relationship will ever get back to the way it was.

During dinner, Katherine is less than polite to Trey, and Kate can't help but snap at her. This Trey seems different and Kate awkwardly tries to get to know him better. She's beginning to understand what Kiernan is going through. She and Trey go play with Daphne the golden retriever for a while, and being together feels easier, then Trey announces he is flying out to the Dominican Republic with his father in the morning to be with his mother on his birthday. Kate tells him about the jumps she's planning. They watch a Simpson's episode about time travel and Kate enjoys just being with him. But as he is leaving, she has the distinct feeling she's being watched, and a van pulls out from the curb and follows Trey's car.

Chapter 4. Kate watches Other Kate's video diary some more and learns that Other Kate lives in Chicago instead of the DC area.

Her mother Deborah calls, inviting her to a restaurant. At dinner Deborah announces she's been offered a research sabbatical in Italy. Kate tells her she should go, although she knows she will miss the part-time refuge her mother's house offers from Katherine and all of the CHRONOS pressure. When they return to Katherine's house, Kate invites Deborah in but Deborah declines because she doesn't get along with Katherine.

Kate has a voice mail from Trey inviting her to attend a new student barbecue with him once he returns from his trip. She leaves a message for him saying yes. A light outside the window catches her eye. It's a reflection off of the same blue van that followed Trey the day before, and Kate has the same creepy feeling of being watched.

Chapter 5. Kate wakes from a nightmare about being chased in the smoke-filled World's Fair Hotel. It's early morning, and she finds her father downstairs in the kitchen making pancakes.

As they eat, Harry asks Kate to tell him more about what his parents were like. He asks if she had trouble sleeping and she tells him about her nightmares. She mentions Trey's invitation, and learns from her father that her school, Briar Hill, is merging with another private school called Carrington Day. He teaches at Briar Hill, but the barbecue is a private party not an official event. It's another reminder to Kate that the timeline changed.

They talk about what Kate is facing between school and the jumps to stop Saul and Kate breaks down and cries. Hugging her, Harry promises to help her deal with all of the stress. Kate brings up the Other Harry and his wife and sons from the alternate timeline. Her father reassures her that she shouldn't worry about having erased that timeline, and wonders if they should tell Deborah about CHRONOS. Kate tells her father of Deborah's plans and they decide the best way to handle things is to let her go to Italy without telling her anything. Harry wants Kate to take a day off from watching the diary videos, so they watch a movie and go out together.

Soon Kate begins watching the videos again. One entry is about Wallace Moehler's trip to Moscow, another is about jumping to 1895 Florida to see an obscure cult called the Koreshans. Kate runs to tell her grandmother. Katherine says she's certain it's not Saul, though the group was around when he started tweaking the timeline. Katherine mentions that Deborah called to talk with her about the Italy opportunity. Kate asks outright whether Katherine had anything to do with the offer, and she answers no. Then Katherine reveals that Harry had spoken with her too, and apologizes for pushing Kate too hard. Somehow in spite of the apology, Kate feels as though Katherine has scolded her for not trying hard enough.

Back in her room, she opens the diary again to watch a video titled Fort Myers. Other Kate is in period clothing and explains her cover is that she's a reporter doing a feature on the Koreshan Unity. Other Kate describes several disconnects that bother her about the Koreshan Unity. When Kate turns on her tablet computer to search for the group to better understand, she is immediately redirected to another page—a Cyrist page.

Connor tells her the Koreshans were one of the groups that Saul's Cyrists gobbled up. He thinks Katherine's worsening illness made her forget the connection, and promises to research what happened in Florida. Kate promises to put together a list of likely jumps for him, and Connor wonders aloud why she's not relying on Kiernan to help. Kate says she doesn't think Kiernan is loyal to the Cyrists, then admits she isn't consulting him because of the relationship Kiernan had with Other Kate—feelings she doesn't share—and that she doesn't want to hurt him. Connor tells her that whether to help or not should be Kiernan's decision. Kate tells Connor she does trust Kiernan, and wonders silently if her hesitation might really be that she doesn't quite trust herself with him.

Chapter 6. Kate takes a look into the medallion at the stable point she's set up in Kiernan's room then jumps. He's glad to see her. She asks if he needs to go to work, and he laughs that he can just go to today's work tomorrow. Kate tells him she too has been taking advantages of temporal relativity in the week before her mother's departure by doing most of her hours over two or three times. She invites Kiernan to the jump meeting planned with Connor and Katherine the next day, then asks him about the Cyrist Farm in Florida.

Kiernan explains the farm began in Chicago but then most of the members moved to Estero, Florida by 1902. He met Kate at the farm when she was trying to learn about them. He says the Cyrists rename the farm Nuevo Reino, and that Saul has a house there, having been in the Miami area since shortly after he landed in 2024, though his location is kept secret. Kiernan explains the Koreshans were an odd little group already in existence before Prudence interfered by pretending to be the reincarnation of the founder Cyrus Teed in 1908.

Kiernan further explains that the way Saul set the date for the founding of the Cyrists was by sending Prudence or Simon back to 1478 to pay the man with the first printing press in England to print several copies of the Book of Cyrus, then they did the same with the book of Prophecy. They made it appear that the Cyrists were part of history, when in fact all they'd done was change the historical record. The books contained predictions including dates that Saul knew would come true.

With the Florida group, Saul donated money to push the actual date they moved to Estero back to 1901 and then he had Prudence appear in "visions" to cause Teed to believe she was his future incarnation. Kate has trouble understanding why the followers believe Teed would rise from the dead, when Kiernan suggests they take a field trip. She doesn't want to go at first, then he convinces her it is safe, since he himself lived on that farm as a child and remembers every hiding place.

They jump together to Estero, Florida in December 1901. It's cold up in the barn loft. Down below, Kate can see a brightly lit circle of people gathered around a claw-foot tub that contains Teed's corpse. The people below sing Hymns and perform an odd service calling for Teed to rise

from the dead. With a flash of bright blue, a young woman dressed in white appears behind the tub. Kate can see she's wearing a CHRONOS key and her skin and clothes are glowing. It is a young version of Prudence. The members are stunned and drop to their knees.

Kiernan whispers that the glow is phosphorescent paint and there is a portable black light up on a beam. She raises her arms and calls for the members to follow her in the Way, and manages to discredit the woman left leading the group after Teed's death by pointing her out as a sinner.

Two other women say they believe and are ready to go with Koresh, and Kate looks on in disbelief as they cut their own throats. Prudence appears surprised by their actions too, and when a man in the crowd puts the knife up in front of his own throat, Kiernan puts his arms around Kate to enter the coordinates for his room into her medallion, and they jump.

She is angry that Kiernan has shown her the two gory suicides and lashes out at him. Kiernan says he doubted just like she did, and that Other Kate had taken him to make him believe how serious the Cyrists were in their beliefs and just how fanatic they were willing to be to protect them. After Kiernan and Kate jumped, Prudence told the rest of them to stop but two more took their own lives. The woman leader was pushed out and the group was easily controlled and purely Cyrist from then on. The reason Kiernan knew they would be able to watch from the barn loft is because his sixteen year old self had set up the black light with Simon and he stood downstairs watching from the back of the crowd, too shocked to be able to stop the suicides.

Kate asks Kiernan why he stayed with the Cyrists. He explains that Simon had taken him on a time travel tour of scenes of war, death, and devastation that were to come in the twenty-first

century which convinced him that Saul and Prudence were working toward a future that would prevent those things from happening.

Kiernan tells Kate he and Other Kate never found the Russian key, so she asks about the 1938 Georgia jump. He says Other Kate was driving herself really hard at the end, and that one of the three historians in Georgia had been murdered, and she blamed herself. They did retrieve the three keys, but when Other Kate found out Katherine knew the historian would die and didn't tell her beforehand, she was furious.

Chapter 7. Connor is acting strange because he's nervous to meet his great-grandfather whom he'd spent years blaming for his situation. Pizza arrives and Connor goes to fetch Katherine and Harry while Kate clears papers off of the table. Kiernan jumps in, startling Daphne. Kate introduces everyone but Katherine, who already knows Kiernan. Harry thanks him for saving Kate's life.

They eat, then Kate hands out a three page summary of what she's learned from Other Kate's diary. She asks Katherine to record a video to convince Adrienne in Australia to give up her key. Other than worrying about a crocodile seen at the stable point, she's ready for the jump. With four keys accounted for, there are seven more left to retrieve other than the ones held by Saul, Prudence, and Simon. They all agree Kate should leave those three until last so she doesn't tip off the Cyrists. Kiernan promises the group that Kate will not be alone when she makes those final jumps, stating firmly to them that he doesn't want the future the Cyrists are planning.

Katherine reveals there are only six, because she knows Marcus destroyed his key so the Nazis wouldn't get their hands on it. Kate asks how they can be sure the key was destroyed, and

there is a discussion about the super strong material trinium and how to break it. Connor says the trinium can't be melted, but that the two halves of the key can be pried apart so the insides can be destroyed by sulfuric acid. Katherine says she found Marcus in Vienna and she showed her his key, which no longer glowed and appeared to be plain metal with a still image of an hourglass. Kiernan believes they should destroy the keys they've already collected to prevent the Cyrists from getting them.

Katherine mentions Esther, who was studying in Africa between 1100 and 1300. She thinks that key is buried since it was seven hundred years ago. Kiernan mentions he and Other Kate were trying to confirm that Houdini had a key, and that he had recreated all the same work and would soon know if he did. Kate says she's nervous about the 1938 jump, but Katherine abruptly puts her off, saying she can tackle it after Australia and Russia.

When the others begin to question her as to the details of Moehler's Russia jump, Katherine snaps, yelling at Harry not to doubt what she's telling them, that she was there. Then she crumbles and apologizes, and since Kate's spent two weeks looking for Moehler at the Moscow stable point, they decide they need to consider alternative destinations. Kiernan says if Katherine can pinpoint somewhere Moehler will be before his death, either he or Kate can just go ask him where he jumped. Connor leads the over-tired Katherine to her room, and Kate realizes that somehow they've become a couple.

Kate, Harry, and Kiernan discuss Katherine's illness. Connor returns and tells them Katherine is firm on one point, they can't just jump ahead to 2070 to get cancer drugs to cure her, because it might change the timeline.

Connor says the historians in 1938 Georgia were named Abel Waters and Delia Morrell. Kiernan says he thinks the third historian training with them was named Grant. Kate wants to do at least one trip ahead of the jump to observe the crew and to get a feel for the time and place. She asks Kiernan how many medallions the Cyrists have in total. He answers that Simon, Prudence, and Saul each have one, and he thinks there are twelve people who can use keys, though he's not certain how many they actually have. He believes when they retrieve the five keys in the jumps Kate is planning, the Cyrists will notice one of theirs is missing.

Chapter 8. It's Saturday, the day Kiernan asked Kate to come watch him. They talk about whether Prudence and Simon are watching Kiernan's room through their keys while they head for Norumbega Park.

Kiernan points out that Prudence led him to a spot where he would overhear Simon planning the attack on Kate on the train, so she must have wanted him to warn Kate and prevent Simon from erasing Katherine, though he can't be sure. He says that Prudence often uses her younger self to change things she thinks went wrong in her life. Kate replies that Katherine says seeing yourself jeopardizes your sanity. Kiernan agrees, stating that the older Prudence is, the crazier she seems.

On the train, he explains where they're going by showing her a poster. Billed as the Amazing Boudini, Kiernan will perform a disappearing act in an attempt to draw the real Houdini to him so he can persuade him to give up his key. In the act, he uses his medallion to disappear to his room where he unlocks himself. Kate is unhappy to hear he's seeing himself and offers to be there to unlock him. They arrive at the theater and he shows her to a seat. While she's waiting

for Kiernan's act to begin, Tito the theater handyman speaks to her leaving her with the impression that Prudence and Simon have been in the theater. Kate sees a flash of blue and furtively makes her way to the back, where she spots first Simon then Younger Prudence who has an odd vacant look on her face.

Kate jumps back to Kiernan's apartment to unlock the handcuffs. She warns him he's being watched, every day, every show.

Chapter 9. Time has passed. Kate jumps to Port Darwin, Australia in 1942 and retrieves Adrienne's key as easily as they'd hoped. Kate wonders aloud if Adrienne survives the war, and Katherine reminds her their priority is to "restore this reality, the one in which you exist to *stop* Saul." Kate reminds Katherine that the jump to Georgia was the one that ended Other Kate's timeline, so they should try something different this time, starting with Katherine telling her which historian dies. Katherine finally divulges that Abel dies in a lynching because he was a man of color involved with a white woman. Kate states that she will not assume Abel's death is unavoidable. Katherine mocks her lack of experience.

Kate dresses for the barbecue with Trey, her red dress drawing comments from Connor. Trey is amazed with how she looks, and gives her a kiss before they get into his car. They arrive at a huge estate, and Kate is intimidated. Most of the guests are parents, and Kate is surprised to discover an enormous Cyrist symbol—a cross with a loop at the top—prominently displayed in the outsized living room. A woman introduces herself as Mrs. Meyer, Eve's grandmother, and invites them to join the party outside. Kate fears it's the same Eve she had a run-in with at the Cyrist Temple but hopes that with the time shift the girl won't remember her.

She spots Charlayne across the lawn. Trey sees the older teacher who taught his father and heads off to say hello, leaving Kate on the patio. Charlayne introduces herself, and when she admires how cute Trey is, it's a weak reminder of the old Charlayne Kate knew. Still, this Charlayne makes it clear that she isn't close friends with Eve, and she says mockingly that the barbecue is to make sure the students at Briar Hill understand that Eve is the new queen bee. Trey returns, cryptically telling Kate the party will get interesting if the rest of the Briar Hill faculty let the Carrington people meet Mr. Tilson.

They begin to make their way toward the door to leave early and accidentally come upon Eve. Kate hastily attempts to back up to avoid her, but Mrs. Meyer spots them and makes introductions. Eve plainly remembers their last encounter and makes a thinly veiled threat by grabbing Kate's forearm and digging her nails in while saying Prudence wants Kate to stay focused on school instead of her "extracurricular activities." Kate subtly uses both her hands on a Karate pressure point in Eve's wrist to force her to release her grip.

As Kate and Trey leave the party, Kate notices a large painting of Young Prudence looking like an odd combination of the Virgin Mary and a fertility goddess. Leaving aside the very pregnant belly, Kate is dismayed to note that Prudence looks just like her.

Chapter 10. While they wait for Trey's car outside the front door, a woman from Briar Hill wheels out Mr. Tilson, chastising him for speaking openly against the Cyrists. The elderly man fires back that his views are fully rational and based on decades-long study of "these charlatans." Once the woman has gone back inside, Mr. Tilson gives Kate and Trey an earful

about the Cyrists. He points out Kate's resemblance to Prudence, whom he calls a "Cyrist demigod." Kate assures the older man she is not a Cyrist, and so does Trey.

Kate and Trey head for a Mexican restaurant where Trey fills Kate in on all of the earlier barbed comments Mr. Tilson made about the Cyrists and his angry disapproval of the merger of the schools. Kate describes the bizarre painting of pregnant Prudence and tells Trey about her previous run-in with Eve and her Dobermans.

Trey blurts out his concern over the powerful Cyrists and Kate's intention to put an end to them, and admits he's told his father everything. She is taken aback, as he hadn't told his parents anything in the previous timeline. Trey tells her he promised his father he wouldn't get involved in her plan to defeat the Cyrists, which hurts Kate's feelings. But when they get out of the car, he kisses her and tells her he wants her to succeed because he doesn't want to lose her. His father was only trying to protect him and make him be careful.

They share an open conversation about their situation, and Kate tells Trey about Other Kate and Kiernan and her own complicated current relationship with him—the only other person on her side who can use a medallion. At Trey's request, Kate agrees to be completely honest about what is happening going forward and so she tells him about the planned jump to 1938 Georgia.

Chapter 11. The next morning, Kate tells her father and Connor all about the barbecue, Mr.

Tilson, and Carrington Day's association with the Cyrists. She mentions that Eve somehow still remembers what happened in the other timeline. Then she mentions the suspicious van, but Connor discounts it as belonging to a neighbor. Kate insists Prudence and the Cyrists are watching her and will know something is up if she and Harry don't go to school. Then Kate

realizes in all likelihood Prudence arranged the Italy sabbatical offer for Deborah to keep her out of harm's way.

Harry takes a phone call from his adoptive mother. Meanwhile, Connor explains the odd pregnancy paintings of Prudence fill the doctrinal need for the Cyrists to appear eternal and unchanging. Also, Saul needed offspring who could operate CHRONOS equipment, and by using Prudence to produce them, they could be born in any era. Horrified, Kate notes that Prudence was only fourteen when she disappeared.

Harry returns, telling them his adoptive father has had a stroke and he needs to go be with him. Kate wants to go too, but Harry tells her she should stay and that he'll be back soon.

Kate begins final preparations before making her reconnaissance jump to Georgia. Connor interrupts to ask Kate to take a look into her medallion to confirm a new time and date for Wallace Moehler. He's tracked the historian to a scientific conference held in Copenhagen in 1955. Katherine had been mistaken. Kate looks at the stable points in the area and does see Moehler several times. When she looks at what she suspects is his final jump, she sees him land in the stable point and fall down. He begins to stand then rocks back again, slumping against the wall behind him, a bullet hole in his forehead.

Kate gets Kiernan to confirm that he too sees Moehler's shooting at the Copenhagen stable point. He tells Kate he looked at the scene for three hours after the shooting but never saw anyone come to take the medallion from Moehler's pocket and promises to "handle it" once they return from the Georgia jump. Thinking he means to jump to Copenhagen to get the key, Kate protests that it's too dangerous with an unknown shooter around. Upset, she recounts

Eve's warning to her at the party and that Prudence likely saw her with him at Norumbega Park. Kiernan takes her hands to comfort her, and says he used to hold Other Kate in his arms to comfort her. Kate has to fight down wanting him to hug her until she feels better.

Kiernan reassures Kate he set up another stable point to watch the entire theater and Prudence and Simon were not there every time. They both agree that the Prudence looked like a drugged shell of herself. Kiernan drops the bombshell that Prudence had two full term pregnancies and around twenty children total through in vitro procedures using surrogate mothers, though he didn't know who the fathers were since Prudence never brought it up. There were, however, five men on the Cyrist farm who had CHRONOS abilities—six if you counted Kiernan himself though he was young and had the weakest abilities.

Kate suggests she make her jumps alone since the Cyrists might be watching. Kiernan agrees they shouldn't be seen together, but says he'll still make the jumps before and after she's there, staying in the background like he did at Port Darwin when he shot the crocodile. She is stunned because she didn't know he'd killed the animal. He shows her he has a gun hidden in the cubbyhole under the bed. She asks him if he has another one. He is surprised, since Other Kate refused to carry one. Kate isn't sure she would be able to shoot someone, but thinks it might be better to be prepared.

Chapter 12. Kate puts on a disguise of round black glasses, a shirtwaist dress, and gray streaks in her hair. She's about to make her jump, and wants to see Trey first without setting Katherine off so she jumps to her mother's townhouse to meet Trey. He laughs at her disguise, then asks

her to be careful. She promises when she finishes the jump, she will reappear just thirty seconds after she left him.

Back at the house, Katherine asks her to run through the plan one more time. Most of Kate's planning has been with Connor, since the ailing Katherine has been spending more and more time in her room. Kate recounts what she intends to do, and Katherine reassures her that she'll do fine.

Kate jumps to the stable point Kiernan has set in 1905 Georgia, a small house in a remote location outside Athens. Kiernan arrives, and explains he bought the house and that it will still be standing long after 1938 so they can use it as their base. He proudly shows her the house is outfitted with indoor plumbing and a hot water heater, then takes her outside to teach her how to use the handgun he's purchased for her by shooting at cans. At first she misses, then she rapidly improves. Kiernan becomes irritated when she begins outshooting him. She admits to having played a lot of a shooting video game.

Kiernan puts old leather football helmets on their heads and shows Kate bicycles with small motors added to them. Dismayed that Kiernan seems to be imagining rides and picnics with her, Kate points out that she can just use the key for wherever she needs to go. Kiernan admits she's right, then tells her she first needs to see the mess Saul left in 1911.

Chapter 13. Kiernan gets out a box containing a CHRONOS diary and newspaper clippings that describe an unsolved mass death of forty-eight people in a rural church. Kate asks why he thinks the event has anything to do with Saul, and he replies that the people died because of some sort of bacterial agent. Kiernan found the accounts of the incident after putting together

an offhand comment Simon once made about Saul's screwup at Six Bridges with the fact that the man who'd installed the water heater in the cabin mentioned nearby Six Bridges Road.

Kiernan suggests they go well in advance to the scene to set stable points so they can watch in the medallions. If they see Saul dump something in the well at the site, they can go get a sample to let them begin working on an antidote for the Cyst Culling.

They jump to 1911 one week prior to the incident, and ride the motorized bicycles toward Six Bridges. They stop before they reach the church so Keirnan can create a little mechanical trouble with his bicycle. Pushing the bikes the rest of the way, they see two boys, a girl, and a small mixed breed dog. Before they reach them, Kiernan whispers to Kate they must think of them as ghosts. Kiernan shows the girl the bolt and loose motor and asks if she knows anyone with a wrench. She takes them to the village where they hear haunting hymns the girl tells them is coming from Sister Elba playing the armonica.

They meet Sister Elba, who is blind. Martha and the boys take Kiernan to find Earl the handyman, and Kate asks to see the armonica. Sister Elba takes her inside the church and Kate shivers, remembering all of the dead in the photos from the clippings. With Sister Elba unable to see what she's doing with the medallion, Kate easily sets up some stable points. Sister Elba talks senses something is worrying Kate. Kate knows she can't tell the woman the truth about what is going to happen to the settlement. Sister Elba wisely tells Kate whatever her problem is, she's a bright girl and she'll have to do the best she can to fix it. After that, Kate must accept some things are out of her hands and let the rest go.

The bicycle fixed, Kate and Kiernan leave, but the knowledge that all the people they've seen in the village will die brings tears to Kate's eyes.

Chapter 14. Kate reappears in the townhouse, and Trey's jaw drops. She and Kiernan have completed the 1938 recon trip too, and she's tired. Kate tells Trey though it seemed only thirty seconds to him, she was gone for sixteen hours because she had to make a side trip and things got crazy. She tries not to cry. He is supportive and doesn't press for details, and they watch a movie and eat popcorn because she's not ready to face Katherine and Connor to talk about her jumps. Exhausted, she quickly falls asleep.

She awakens three hours later. They order Chinese and enjoy dinner alone together.

Afterwards they kiss, and Trey asks Kate what happened to make her feel so sad. Reluctantly, she explains Saul did a test run of the Culling in the village in Georgia in 1911. Trey says he thought Saul couldn't use the key, and Kate explains he did it when he was younger, before he destroyed CHRONOS. Kate tells him she couldn't warn the people they were going to die because it might interfere with the timeline that is allowing her to try to stop Saul, and the moral dilemma is upsetting her.

When Trey leaves, she jumps back to Katherine's house. She explains the jump to 1938 went relatively smoothly and she was able to observe Delia, Abel, and Grant in Athens. Then she tells them about Six Bridges and setting up stable points so Kiernan can watch to find out exactly what happened. Katherine tells Kate she can't stop the massacre, and Kate replies that she knows that, but that they'll go in afterwards to try to get a sample. If she can't stop Saul, maybe they can limit the damage of the Culling. Connor says that Kiernan should do this dangerous

job, and unintentionally reveals Kiernan already made the jump to Copenhagen on his own, and if he hadn't been wearing body armor, he might have been killed.

Angry, Kate jumps to the cabin in 1905 Georgia to find out why Kiernan didn't consult with the group before making the Copenhagen jump. She yells at him for a while, and he angrily defends his decision, saying she shouldn't be the only one taking risks. Seeing a bandage under his pants leg, Kate blurts out she knows he was shot because he couldn't steady the interface in the key to jump back, and that he had no right to risk Connor's existence that way.

She asks how bad the wound is, and he tells her it isn't bad, and that he did wear the Kevlar. Connor is safe, although Kiernan says he isn't very enthusiastic about starting the family in Connor's picture. Kate says she just wishes Kiernan would be honest, and he asks if she's sure that's what she wants. When she says yes, he immediately kisses her, pressing his body against hers. Kate remembers Trey, but has a hard time breaking off the kiss. Kiernan says he knows Kate really does care about him. She realizes even if she's in love with Trey, Kiernan is right.

Kiernan gives Kate a list of times he saw Saul at Six Bridges. Saul did drop a vial of something into the well wearing gloves and a mask.

Kiernan says he's not sorry about the kiss but apologizes for not discussing Copenhagen beforehand. He says he went because he was angry that Kate wanted to go straight to 1938 from Six Bridges, leaving him with the impression she thought it was all his fault. She tells him she was tired and upset, and that she'd yelled at him because she was worried about him. He says he's miserable not being able to save the people at Six Bridges from Saul. They hold and comfort each other and end up falling asleep. When Kate wakes, she writes him a note telling

him to wait for her to return before watching any more for Saul because he shouldn't have to do it alone. Then she jumps back to Katherine's house, wanting to see Trey.

Chapter 15. She watches for Trey from the front porch so she doesn't run into herself inside.

Trey arrives wearing his school uniform, surprised that Kate isn't dressed for school. She tells him she's inside ready for school, but that she just needed to see him. He says he understands and invites her out for dinner. She accepts and jumps back to just after she left for Kiernan's the previous day so she can tell Katherine and Connor that Saul was definitely responsible for the massacre at Six Bridges. Then she goes to bed so she can be rested for when Trey arrives to pick her up for school the next morning.

Dreams disturb Kate's sleep, and once she's dressed and ready to go, she has to fight the urge to look out the window to see herself with Trey on the porch. They arrive at Briar Hill for the first day of school. Kate is disappointed she doesn't have homeroom with Trey and even more disappointed to see Eve is in her first class. The Carrington Day girls are wearing longer, plainer skirts than the familiar plaid of Briar Hill. Charlayne is in Kate's class too, and stops to speak with her afterwards. They laugh together about the change to the school mascot.

At lunchtime, Kate watches for Trey. The students from the two schools are not mixing in the cafeteria. Kate and Trey get their lunches and find an empty table, and Charlayne and her friend Ben show up and join them. It occurs to Kate that Charlayne has shown up to talk with her several times during the day, and that she's probably spying on her for Eve.

Trey casually asks Ben if he's worried about being ostracized for sitting with them. Ben replies he's on scholarship and he's already ostracized. He talks about his decision to "accept certain

conditions” to get the scholarship, showing them his Cyrist wrist tattoo, and Charlayne snaps at him to shut up. Trey asks how long they’ve known each other, and Charlayne tells them Ben’s mother was her nanny. When Ben jokes about being in the tub with her when they were two, she threatens to report him to the temple, but he teases her about some guy named Raoul. It gives Kate hope that the real Charlayne is somewhere inside her in this altered timeline.

After school, Kate talks to Katherine for a while about her first day of school and the Cyrists. Katherine explains why she thinks Saul made the Cyrist religion the way it is, then she discusses the Objectivists, the group from her own time with which Saul had been associated before he blew up CHRONOS.

Kate realizes Katherine looks old and very ill. When Kate gets ready to jump to Kiernan’s cabin, Katherine reminds her again she can’t stop the massacre. Kate hugs her, telling her she knows.

Chapter 16. Kiernan has ignored Kate’s request that he wait for her. She calls him out on it, and he replies that she wouldn’t want to see what he saw. She insists, and Kiernan pulls up the coordinates for her. He tells her Saul locked Martha into a basement before the massacre to test the antidote.

Kate looks into the key and sees the bodies in the church, then the door bangs open and Saul drags Martha in with him. She is screaming, plainly terrified by what she sees. Saul is smiling in a creepy, blissful way. Watching him, Kate is horrified. She is even more sickened when Saul begins sexually assaulting the girl. Martha begins fighting back and kicks him away. In the struggle he knocks over the armonica, breaking the glass. Martha, chased by Saul, runs out of the church and out of Kate’s view.

Kiernan wipes a tear from Kate's cheek. Kate hopes Martha got away, but Kiernan shows her an article that wasn't in the box with the diary. The armonica is unbroken in the photo, and the girl's body was found in the shallow grave in the back of the church bearing signs of strangulation and other assault from several days before the massacre. Kiernan thinks Saul has gone back to correct the error he'd mentioned to Simon which was letting Martha escape alive.

Kate worries Martha died because of something they did while they were there, but Kiernan disagrees, saying he thinks they were supposed to save her, and he's going to go back to do it. Kate insists he wait until his leg heals to try. She brings him food and movies and books on her iPad as six days pass for him, but only an hour for her. Nearly healed, Kiernan makes a map of Saul's movements at Six Bridges. Kate brings the biohazard kit and suits, and with their plans set they suit up, jump to 1911, and hide in the church.

Saul and Martha enter the church, and as before, Martha begins screaming when she sees all the dead bodies. Kiernan emerges from hiding and bangs Saul over the head with a wrench, then picks Martha up to carry her out the door. Saul struggles to rise, but Kate kicks him in the kidneys and he falls back to the floor. Outside the church, they pull off their biohazard masks to show Martha who they are. Kiernan heads off to collect the sample from the well, while Kate takes Martha to the rendezvous point where they've stashed the motorized bikes.

Martha asks about the other man, Grant. Alarmed, Kate urges Martha to go on alone and hurries back to the church. Seeing Saul stagger outside, she fires a shot to warn Kiernan. Then Kate hears gunshots. She can see the blue glow of Kiernan's key behind the well, and she waits,

hoping Kiernan can jump away before Saul reaches him. But it takes Kiernan a while so she shoots hitting Saul's right arm. The blue glow is gone.

Shaking, Kate jumps to the rendezvous point. Kiernan and Martha are there. Kate asks Martha how the men travelled to the village, and she replies they came in a red truck. Kate jumps to where it is parked and punctures a tire to slow Saul down, then jumps back. The three of them make their way down the road and hide when Saul slowly drives by on the flat tire, Grant slumped unconscious in the passenger seat. Martha believes Kate and Kiernan are angels and she gets away safely.

Chapter 17. Kate jumps back to Katherine's house and places the sample into the small refrigerator Connor has prepared to hold it until it can be tested. After she showers, Kate tells Connor and Katherine about the jump, and Katherine chides her for all the things she may have changed by injuring Saul. Afterwards, Kate speaks with her father on the phone. Her grandfather is stable in the hospital, and Harry offers to come home, but Kate insists he stay. She tells him about the jump, and he praises her for saving one person. Katherine belatedly realizes the wound to Saul's arm isn't new—that she had previously written about it in her own CHRONOS diary—and she apologizes to Kate.

Kate and Trey go out to dinner at a fancy restaurant. Afterwards, as they watch the sunset from the top floor balcony of the building, Trey kisses Kate and tells her he loves her. Her heart catches in her throat because she can sense something isn't quite right—it doesn't feel the same as it did the last time in the other timeline. He takes her to a room in the hotel where there are chocolate dipped strawberries and a king-sized bed.

Uncomfortable, Kate asks him what happened to taking it slow. Trey says he thought things had changed in his room at home the night before. They figure out it must have been Prudence who slipped into his bed in the dark then left once he whispered he didn't want their first time to be in a twin bed near his father's room. Kate realizes Prudence is sending her a warning, that she can reach the people Kate loves. She decides Katherine was right and that she shouldn't have involved Trey. Kate tells him she'll find him once everything is over and make it up to him, then she jumps back to her room.

When she talks with Connor and Katherine, they all realize if Prudence could jump back to Trey's house in a previous time to set a stable point, the Cyrists could do the same thing with Katherine's house. They all feel uneasy. Katherine says if the Cyrists have been watching, they already know Kate has collected four keys. Kate says she has the feeling they're being played.

Chapter 18. Kate looks into her key before jumping to Kiernan's cabin back in 1905, and is surprised to see him standing there with his arm around Prudence, who appears to be in her forties. They're talking with a blonde woman in her fifties and a man in his late twenties Kate has never seen before. Prudence says something funny and Kiernan kisses her, which makes Kate feel confused, betrayed, and angry. She considers that Kiernan knew exactly when Kate was arriving, and wonders if she should discuss the possibility that Kiernan has been working with Prudence from the start with Katherine and Connor. But Kate decides Kiernan must have wanted her to see the kiss with Older Prudence so she would understand it wasn't a trap.

Kate watches the scene again, then once the others have gone, she jumps to the cabin. Kiernan is acting strangely as though others are watching. When Kate changes into the 1938 dress, she

finds the pistol in the pocket, and she realizes he's probably trying to tell her something. They sit at the table to go over his notes, and he points to Watkinsville on the map, looking straight at Kate and saying very deliberately that they were just spinning their wheels trying to get the keys in Athens. Kate isn't sure what he means, but plays along. They jump to the cabin in 1938.

Once they're in Kiernan's black pickup and on the move, he tells her about Prudence. He's not a traitor, but there are stable points in the cabin and Prudence and her people are watching.

Kiernan thinks that although Prudence and Saul seem to be working toward the same terrible end, she might be open to changing her mind. Saul, Simon, and half of the inner circle have moved to a house near the regional temple in Miami. Meanwhile, Simon and Younger Prudence are still watching his magic shows at Norumbega.

He reveals to Kate that he jumped back to Estero right after Prudence changed the timeline to make him forget Other Kate and he pretended to make up with Prudence. Prudence's big concern is that Kate might interfere with what the Cyrists are doing in 2038, so Kiernan convinced Prudence he would keep an eye on Kate. He used Cyrist money to buy the house next to Katherine's and hired a man to watch their comings and goings, and told Prudence he would keep Kate out of the way. He explains that's why he and Kate have been able to collect keys without much interference.

Kiernan figures the reason the Cyrists aren't concerned about Kate collecting keys is because they have the keys of the twelve historians who weren't in the field when Saul destroyed headquarters. He tells Kate that neither Saul nor Prudence are concerned about Kate using the equipment because she's "barking up the wrong tree." His plan is to keep up his cover with

Prudence and collect all the keys he can with Kate, then somehow prevent Saul and Prudence from getting the other keys before the explosion in 2305. Saul and Prudence have a sort of civil war going. Saul has absorbed lots of small groups to make up the Cyrists, and he doesn't like it that Prudence is more revered by some of the factions than he is. He doesn't know why Saul has gone to the trouble of building a religion since he could just release the toxin to create death on a large scale at any time, but Simon told him the reason Saul started the Cyrist religion was because of some bet he made with Campbell at the Objectivist Club.

A blue sedan goes by and Kiernan follows. Even though what he's told her makes some sense, Kate can't shake the feeling that she doesn't trust Kiernan. They reach an intersection with several cars parked beside the road and pull off behind the blue sedan. Delia and Grant get out of the car to join a group of people who have gathered to see FDR.

Watching them, Kate asks Kiernan about Grant's involvement in Six Bridges. He tells her he thinks it was Grant's first training jump, but that Saul knocked him out for the massacre.

Martha's account confirmed it. Abel gets out of the driver's seat and joins the black spectators under a tree. Kate watches Delia interact with the women in the crowd on the white side of the road. Grant looks awkward and unsure of himself.

FDR arrives and stops to speak briefly to the crowd, then leaves. The Georgians disagree with each other over the president's words and Grant gets knocked off balance into some people. Thinking Grant is to blame, a large man named Willis grabs hold of him. A scuffle breaks out during which the Willis's elbow accidentally connects with Delia's nose, breaking it. Abel is

there behind her to catch her, and he takes a step toward Willis telling him to apologize. Willis refuses and punches Abel.

Chapter 19. Willis and Abel fight. Kate wants to help but Kiernan points out the crowd has turned ugly. Two men grab Abel, and Delia and Grant try to pull them off, then Grant takes a punch. Blood pouring from her broken nose, Delia shrieks for the men to let Abel go.

Kiernan and Kate spring into action. Kate waves her medallion at Grant and orders him to help her drag Delia to the car. Kiernan is now involved in the fight trying to help Abel, and Kate sees Willis pull a knife. The crowd draws back and Abel trips the man. They wrestle on the ground for the knife. Kate stomps on Willis's hand, but a stranger pulls her back and some of the men hold Abel down so Willis can punch him. A gunshot rings out, and the local lawman, a man named Mitchell, tells them all to break it up, instructing two of the men to tie Abel up.

Mitchell says Willis needs to bring himself to the jailhouse, since he started the fight and pulled the knife. He loads two others involved in the fight into the cab of his truck and tells Kiernan to get into the back with Abel. Kiernan gives Kate the keys to his truck and secretly slips her his pistol, telling her to go to the cabin to get cash to bail him out. Neither Delia, Grant, nor the blue sedan are anywhere in sight.

Kate has never driven a car, much less a pickup truck with a clutch, and after the crowd is gone she sits in the cab trying to gather herself before she tries the starter. Kiernan pops up outside the window and tells her to use the clutch. He asks for his gun, telling her she probably doesn't want to know why he needs it, and that she should just go with her instincts. He assures Kate his relationship with Prudence is just business, and jumps.

Grant pulls up. Delia is locked in the trunk of the blue sedan because it was the only way Grant could keep her from going after Abel. Kate tells him Abel and Kiernan were arrested. They let Delia out, and Kate introduces herself as Katherine's granddaughter and shows Delia the recording of Katherine on her phone explaining what has happened to CHRONOS. The three of them get into the car and though Delia wants to go to the jailhouse, Kate convinces her to get her broken nose seen by a doctor so the people will believe Abel is only her driver.

While she's being treated, Grant tells Kate about his training jump with Saul. He was supposed to be researching a string of murders of black women in 1911 Atlanta, but Saul made him go with him to Six Bridges. Grant got horribly sick and the next thing he remembered was waking up in the truck on the way back toward Atlanta. Saul made him lie to CHRONOS headquarters about what happened. He can't believe his second training session with Delia has gone even worse.

Grant's specialty is legal systems and he explains to Kate the peril Abel is in having fought with a white man in 1938 Georgia. Grant is not thrilled being stranded in 1938 with a big war and an army draft coming up. Kate decides the historian isn't in league with Saul; he's just a decent guy who was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Kate jumps back to the cabin to change clothes and get bail money.

Chapter 20. Delia is bandaged up and the nurse finally releases her to Kate and Grant. Delia asks Kate why she's here, since she could have just taken their CHRONOS keys at gunpoint. Kate explains that Other Kate tried that very thing in the other timeline but there were major

repercussions—Abel was killed in that timeline. She tells Delia she's trying to prevent his death from happening this time.

They head to Watkinsville where Abel and Kiernan are being held. Kiernan has already been released and they find him in the Eagle Tavern. He tells them the attorney who helped him buy the farm got him out. He's been charged with disorderly conduct and can't leave the county until the judge rules the next day. He was able, however, to set some stable points inside the jail. Abel is locked up and bail has not been set. Kiernan thinks it would be a bad idea for them to get him out even if they could, because Willis is already out and he and a crowd of his friends are loitering across from the jail, looking for trouble.

Willis has claimed that the knife was Abel's and wants Abel charged with attempted murder. The men in the crowd have corroborated his story. A few people who were present for the fight, including Mitchell, the Georgia State Patrolman, told the truth about what happened, but Kiernan fears it won't matter for Abel because of rumors about the nature of Delia's relationship with him. Kiernan tells Kate, Delia, and Grant to make their statements to the deputy.

Kate manages to set several stable points in front of the jail and inside the deputy's office. After hours of questioning, the three are finally told they can leave. The crowd across from the jail has doubled in size. Kiernan picks them up, and eggs, spit, and worse hit the sedan. Kate thinks she sees a flash of blue light from behind the crowd, but can't be sure.

Back at the Tavern, Patrolman Mitchell pulls up in his cruiser and offers to take Kiernan to get his pickup truck. Kate goes along. Mitchell explains that the sheriff just had his appendix out,

which is why Deputy Beebe questioned them. The deputy can't be trusted. Neither the sheriff nor the judge will want to see a wrongful prosecution, but they both want to be reelected, and Willis is a second cousin of the judge's. Mitchell believes the best Abel could get is an aggravated assault conviction and a year or two in prison, but it will be difficult in a town with a history of lynchings because of the rumors flying around about Abel and Delia. Mitchell himself doesn't have much influence since as a Georgia State Patrolman, he's an outsider.

Chapter 21. Back in their rooms at the Tavern, they watch the CHRONOS keys to see what is happening inside the jail. Delia stares at Abel in his upstairs cell. Kiernan is watching for the patrolman to leave the front desk in the jail or for Deputy Beebe to fall asleep. There's no one else in the cells but Abel. The only way out they see is through the bathroom window downstairs. The crowd out front is drinking and getting ugly. Kate thinks she sees two flashes of blue light while watching the CHRONOS key, but when she asks Kiernan he says it's just ordinary reflections.

Kiernan and Grant go downstairs to get food for the group. While they're gone, Kate has Delia look at the light, and Delia agrees someone is using a CHRONOS key. Grant returns with the food, but Kiernan isn't with him. A large brick flies through their open window bearing a note "nigger lovers go home." They resume watching the keys. Something happens in the crowd and three people are arrested. The owner of the tavern comes up to tell them to turn the lights out. She says the judge is going to charge Abel with aggravated assault instead of attempted murder, and Willis and his friends are furious.

Two truckloads of men pull up outside wearing white robes. Kate and Grant watch through the keys as the men enter the jail. Grant tells Kate it appears Deputy Beebe is going to give Abel to the men, and if she's going to help, now is the time. Kiernan still hasn't returned, and now his truck is missing too. Knowing she must act, Kate tells Grant to pull the sedan up to the back door of the tavern so Delia can get in without the crowd interfering. She tells Grant to drive around behind the courthouse, and that she and Abel will either be there or in the trees behind the jail.

In her key she sees the patrolman leave the desk and go outside with the crowd. Tucking the gun in her pocket, Kate jumps to the point she set in Beebe's office. Beebe is asleep head down on his desk so she sets another stable point behind him. The keys are stuck between his body and leg and he wakes as Kate tries to pull them free, so she puts him into a karate chokehold until he passes out. She then rolls the time back to when the patrolman is away from the front desk. If she gets Abel out now they will have to find a place to hide for thirty minutes while waiting for Grant and Delia to pull up in the car, but it can't be helped.

She jumps upstairs and lets Abel out. They move into the stairwell, and Kate jumps back behind Beebe's chair to reattach the keys to his belt. Back in the stairwell and she and Abel head for the bathroom to get out of the building, timing it so Beebe and the patrolman are occupied with the commotion outside the front of the building. Some kids are sitting on a car between the jail and the woods, right in their way. Kate and Abel squeeze out the window then freeze on the ground as a car rolls up. Mitchell looks straight at Kate, but doesn't speak to her as he gets out, leaving his patrol car running, and walks around the jail yelling at the kids to go home. But the kids stay where they are, so Kate and Abel get into the patrol car and race off.

Kate is trying to figure out the way to Kiernan's cabin when she notices his black pickup on the road behind them. They hide the patrol car. As Kiernan drives, Kate shows Abel Katherine's video explanation of the destruction of CHRONOS. Kiernan takes them through a locked gate to the house where Martha now lives 30 years after Kate last saw her. Kiernan warns Abel that Martha might mention angels.

Martha and her husband Joe take them in. Kate watches the stable point they set by the gate for Delia and Grant to arrive. Kiernan reveals to Kate the flash of light she saw before was Simon and that he left to check it out, but didn't want to worry her. Kate asks why Simon was there and Kiernan guesses it is because Simon wanted to see a lynching.

Chapter 22. Martha and Joe have gone up to bed. Kiernan hides the sedan on a side road five miles away then hides his pickup in the barn. The plan is to lay low for a few days, then Delia, Abel, and Grant will drive northward in the truck and Kate and Kiernan will jump home.

The trouble is, even though they've told the three historians everything they know about Saul and his plans, none of them have agreed to hand over their CHRONOS keys. Delia asks Kate if they have allies who oppose the Cyrists or people inside who can help them, because if they don't, they're going to fail.

Kate takes over watching the stable points at Martha and Joe's gate and the jail. Skipping ahead through time, she sees two truckloads of men in masks at the gate, with two more cars behind them. Willis is chopping through the fence with an ax. With only twenty minutes before the angry men get through the gate and arrive, they scramble to wake Martha and Joe. He takes them in the storm cellar out in the yard but when it's time to go in, Grant is missing. No time to

look for him, Joe locks them in. The plan is when the men roll up Martha will ring the bell to cause Joe's brother on the next farm over to phone the sheriff then come running with his gun.

Kate, Kiernan, Delia, and Abel wait and watch through their keys in the dark cellar. Something in one of the views has caught Kiernan's attention. Kate sees a flash of blue light inside one of the cars. Simon is out there with the men. Kate watches Joe stand on his front porch holding his shotgun, then fear crosses his face. The men have Martha. Furious, Kiernan tries to jump, but he's exhausted his ability and cannot.

Simon bangs on the locked cellar door. He tries to convince Delia and Abel that Kate has been brainwashed by her grandmother into telling them lies about the Cyrists. He tells Delia and Abel they can live as husband and wife in a Cyrist colony, instead of Abel living as a second class citizen for the next forty years. They briefly consider his offer but when Simon refuses to help free Martha, they decide against it. Simon next urges Kiernan to stop working for Prudence and join Saul's side instead.

Kiernan lies to Simon that Kate has already jumped outside and she has a gun. Simon is unimpressed. Kiernan whispers to Kate to jump back to make sure Martha and Joe get safely to his brother's farm before the men come, then she needs to jump home. He tells her he can do more for their cause pretending to be on Saul's side than he can on Prudence's, and she must trust him.

Kate jumps back to just after Joe closed them into the cellar, and she tells Martha they need to go to Joe's brother's house right away. In a few minutes the men's trucks roll into the yard, and

Kate jumps to the safety of her bedroom at home. She's suddenly queasy, but marks it down to lack of sleep.

Kate watches in the key as Simon, Willis, and two other men approach the cellar, their guns drawn and a large black car behind them. Kate can't see who is behind the wheel. Delia, Abel, and Kiernan climb out of the cellar, looking disoriented. Simon looks momentarily dizzy too. When the men step forward to grab Abel, Kiernan points his gun at them holding them off so Abel and Delia can get into the car. Kate can see Simon yelling at Kiernan but can't make out what they're arguing about. Kiernan climbs into the car, Simon throws a roll of money, and a fight breaks out between Willis's men as they fight over it. Simon leaps into the passenger seat and they drive off.

Once she's convinced they're all safe from the Georgians, Kate wonders how she's going to explain to Connor and Katherine why she let Delia and Abel leave with their keys. Her phone buzzes, and listens to a message from her father. She forgot to tell him about the disastrous dinner with Trey, and Deborah has called Harry from Italy, concerned. There are two texts from Trey, one apologizing for reserving the hotel room, and another apologizing again and asking her to call him. Most puzzling are two texts from Charlayne. Another quick bout of dizziness hits Kate. Recovering, she reads the first text telling her dinner with Trey was a trap set up by Eve. Strangely, the second text has the same time stamp and says *Welcome to the Fifth Column!*

Confused by the texts, Kate moves to her voice messages. There are three, one from her mother who called three days ago, and two from Trey. This seems odd, because Kate doesn't

remember missing a call. Deborah is giddy with excitement about some wonderful news and tells Kate to call her.

Worried, Kate runs downstairs calling for Katherine and Connor and finds Trey sitting on the couch petting Daphne. Connor tells Kate Trey has found someone who might be able to help with an antidote. Katherine looks like she's been crying. Deborah's news is that she found Prudence and believes her twin has had amnesia for the past thirty years. Katherine tells Kate something in the timeline has changed. But Kate doesn't understand how it could have since she didn't get the three keys from Georgia.

Trey explains he called Tilson and talked things over with him. It turns out Tilson is part of a large anti-Cyril alliance of scientists, lawyers, and political leaders that's been around since the early 1940s called the Fifth Column. Kate realizes it must be Delia and Abel and a large network of allies fighting from the inside, just like they'd discussed back at Martha's farm.

Connor pulls from his pocket a card that he found attached to flowers that came for Kate. It says: *Kate—The Fifth Column welcomes you home.* And it's signed *Julia Morrell Waters.*