Champion

Champion is the explosive finale to Marie Lu's bestselling *Legend* trilogy, a dystopian saga blending political intrigue, high-stakes action, and heart-wrenching romance. Set in a fractured future where the Republic and Colonies wage a cold war, the story follows two iconic protagonists:

- **June Iparis**, the Republic's brilliant prodigy turned rebel, now a high-ranking official struggling to prevent war.
- **Day**, the Republic's most wanted criminal-turned-hero, whose deteriorating health hides a secret that could change everything.

When a deadly plague threatens global stability and the Colonies prepare for invasion, June and Day must reunite despite their fractured trust. Their choices will determine the fate of nations—and whether their love can survive the ultimate sacrifice.

Packed with cinematic battles, ethical dilemmas, and a bittersweet emotional core, *Champion* delivers a satisfying conclusion to a trilogy that redefined YA dystopian fiction.

Chapter 1: Day 1

The chapter opens with the protagonist, a former criminal turned national hero, disguised in a carefully crafted ensemble to blend into San Francisco's eclectic streets. His appearance—dark red hair, green contacts, and a striking crimson tattoo—mirrors the city's trend of face-painted youth, though his choice of stylized flames reflects his ambivalence toward the Republic. Equipped with an earpiece and mike, he navigates the Marina sector, observing its damp, uneven streets and towering buildings

reinforced against earthquakes. The atmosphere is a mix of industrial grit and coastal brine, punctuated by bonfires and the distant glow of the Golden Gate Ruins.

As he walks, the protagonist notes the city’s shifting dynamics under the new Elector, Anden. Graffiti messages reveal divided public sentiment, with some praising Anden as a beacon of hope and others dismissing him as a fraud. The protagonist remains skeptical, questioning whether the optimistic slogans are genuine or propaganda. His role as a mediator between Anden and the people feels precarious, likened to a fragile string. The chapter underscores his internal conflict—caught between his past distrust of the Republic and the tentative hope for change.

The narrative shifts to his personal life, revealing his protective relationship with his younger brother, Eden, and their caretaker, Lucy. Initially resistant to her presence, the protagonist reluctantly accepts her help as his health deteriorates, relying on her for medication and support. Lucy’s steadfast care contrasts with his lingering paranoia about the Republic’s intentions, highlighting his struggle to balance independence with vulnerability. Their move to San Francisco’s affluent Pacifica sector underscores the Republic’s continued influence over their lives.

Exhausted, the protagonist ends his walk outside a club, where he smokes a prescription cigarette to numb his chronic pain. The hallucinogenic effects conjure visions of Tess, a former ally, sparking a bittersweet exchange about her disappearance and the Patriots’ uncertain fate. Their conversation shifts to June, leaving the protagonist emotionally raw. The chapter closes with a sense of longing and unresolved tension, mirroring his fractured psyche and the unstable world around him.

Chapter 2: June 1

The chapter opens with June reflecting on her conflicted emotions as she reconnects with Day after months of silence, questioning her own manipulative tendencies. Late at night, Elector Anden visits her apartment, visibly distressed, to reveal a critical crisis: the Colonies are preparing to declare war on the Republic. A deadly virus, originally developed by Anden's father as a biological weapon, has spread in the Colonies, and they demand a cure the Republic doesn't possess. Anden warns that the Colonies have allied with Africa, threatening a full-scale invasion unless the Republic complies. The stakes are dire, as failure could lead to the Republic's collapse.

Anden proposes a desperate solution: they need Eden, Day's younger brother and a former test subject, to help develop a cure. June is horrified by the request, knowing Day will never agree to endanger Eden again. Anden insists June is the only one who can persuade Day, leveraging their emotional connection. June reluctantly agrees, though she dreads reuniting with Day under such manipulative circumstances. The tension between duty and personal loyalty weighs heavily on her, as she grapples with the moral implications of using Day's trust against him.

The narrative shifts to a courtroom scene where June observes the trial of Thomas and Commander Jameson, key figures in past conspiracies against Anden. The atmosphere is tense, with June uncomfortable in her formal attire and surrounded by indifferent Senators. The trial underscores the Republic's ongoing political turmoil, as Anden purges traitors and consolidates power. June's restlessness mirrors her inner turmoil, as she struggles to reconcile her role in the Republic's survival with her personal relationships.

The chapter closes with June preparing to meet Day at an evening banquet, haunted by guilt and uncertainty. She fears his reaction to the Republic's plans for Eden and worries about the damage to their already fragile relationship. The countdown to their

reunion heightens the tension, as June braces for a confrontation that could alter the course of the war and their lives. The chapter masterfully intertwines political intrigue with personal drama, setting the stage for a high-stakes conflict.

Chapter 3: Day 2

The chapter opens with Day arriving in Denver for an "emergency banquet" on Independence Day, which he finds ironic given the frivolity of a feast during a crisis. After settling into a government apartment with his younger brother Eden, he leaves Eden under Lucy’s care, expressing his usual paranoia about his brother’s safety. Day then meets Faline, a Senator’s daughter assigned to help him dress for the event. Her polished appearance contrasts sharply with his rough street attire, and she humorously critiques his outfit before guiding him through the upscale shopping district. Day notices an unusually heavy military presence, sparking his suspicions about the Republic’s motives.

As Faline takes Day to prepare for the banquet, he observes the opulent surroundings and the wealthy citizens, feeling out of place. The excessive number of soldiers patrolling the streets unsettles him, and Faline’s vague reassurance does little to ease his mind. Day reflects on June’s sudden request for his presence at the event, wondering what the Republic truly wants from him. His thoughts turn to fleeing the country with Eden, questioning why he remains in a place that clearly distrusts him. The chapter highlights Day’s internal conflict and growing unease about the political climate.

Later, Day arrives at Colburn Hall amidst chaotic celebrations, where crowds cheer for him despite his discomfort. Faline, now dressed in gold, greets him and hints that someone other than the Elector is eager to see him, causing Day’s heart to race. As they navigate the lavish hall, Day attempts to blend in with the elite but feels overwhelmed by the artificiality of the environment. His attention is drawn to the nervous undercurrent among the Senators and guests, mirroring his own anxiety. The opulence of the setting contrasts sharply with Day’s street-born skepticism, emphasizing his alienation from this world.

The chapter culminates in Day spotting June across the room, stunning in a scarlet gown but appearing uncharacteristically restrained. His momentary awe turns to discomfort when he notices Anden by her side, seemingly engrossed in conversation with her. The encounter leaves Day conflicted, torn between his lingering feelings for June and his distrust of the Republic’s leadership. The chapter ends with Day silently turning away, his emotions unresolved, as Faline observes his reaction with concern. The scene underscores the tension between personal loyalties and political intrigue.

Chapter 4: June 2

The chapter opens with June anxiously scanning the crowd at Colburn Hall’s Independence Day event, hoping to spot Day amidst the political elite. Despite her rehearsed smiles and polished appearance, her focus wavers as she recalls their strained recent interactions. Anden, the Elector, praises her publicly, but the Senators’ thinly veiled resentment underscores the tension surrounding her rapid rise. June’s unease grows as she searches for Day, torn between hope and doubt about his arrival, while the formalities of the event weigh heavily on her.

June’s persistence pays off when she finally spots Day across the ballroom, standing silently during the pledge with a date on his arm. His presence stirs her emotions, reminding her of his striking beauty and untamed spirit. As Anden delivers his speech, June observes Day’s subdued demeanor and notices his physical decline, hinting at recent struggles. Determined to reconnect, she approaches him, exchanging polite pleasantries with his date before the two are left alone, their reunion charged with unspoken tension.

Their conversation is a mix of familiarity and restraint, with June teasing Day about the stifling political atmosphere and Day responding with his trademark irreverence. Despite the lightness of their banter, June’s underlying guilt and Day’s guardedness suggest deeper unresolved issues. She informs him of the upcoming private banquet with Anden and the Princeps-Elects, hinting at the gravity of the discussion to come. Day’s skepticism and June’s evasiveness foreshadow the difficult revelations awaiting them.

As they prepare to leave for the banquet, Day’s proximity unsettles June, his casual touch reigniting her longing. Her internal conflict—balancing duty with personal feelings—mirrors the chapter’s central tension. The chapter ends on an ominous note, with June acknowledging Day’s likely disapproval of the impending news, leaving their

relationship and the political stakes hanging in the balance. The scene sets the stage for a pivotal confrontation, blending personal and political intrigue.

Chapter 5: Day 3

The chapter "Day 3" opens with the protagonist, Daniel, experiencing a vivid nightmare about his younger brother, Eden. In the dream, they are at a San Francisco hospital where Eden receives new glasses, a sign of progress in his treatment for his deteriorating vision. The scene is tender as Eden crafts an intricate paper rose, showcasing his creativity despite his disability. However, the moment is shattered when Colonies airships attack the city, and Republic soldiers forcibly separate Daniel from Eden, leaving him to believe his brother is dead. The nightmare ends abruptly, leaving Daniel disoriented and in pain.

Awakening in their Denver apartment, Daniel is relieved to find Eden safe but is immediately gripped by a severe headache. He dismisses Eden’s concern, refusing to wake their caretaker, Lucy, and insists on taking his medication alone. The pain is debilitating, and Daniel struggles to function, reflecting on the doctors’ warnings that such episodes could be life-threatening. Eden, though visually impaired, assists him with touching determination, highlighting their deep bond and mutual reliance despite their physical limitations.

As the headache persists, Daniel and Eden sit together in the kitchen, enduring the agony. Eden’s attempts to comfort Daniel—reminding him to breathe and offering sarcastic humor—reveal his resilience and maturity beyond his years. Daniel’s laughter turns to coughing, and the pain intensifies, blurring the line between his nightmare and reality. The chapter underscores their fragile existence, with Daniel grappling with the fear of his own mortality and the haunting memories of losing Eden in his dream.

The chapter closes with Daniel’s pain unrelenting after an hour, far longer than usual, leaving him convinced he might be dying. Eden’s quiet concern and the slow arrival of dawn amplify the tension. The narrative poignantly captures their struggle to survive in a world that has already taken so much from them, blending moments of warmth

with underlying dread. The chapter leaves readers questioning Daniel’s fate and the stability of the brothers’ precarious lives.

Chapter 6: June 3

The chapter opens with Anden informing June that Captain Thomas Bryant, a condemned prisoner, has requested to see her as his final wish before execution. Despite her exhaustion and unease, June agrees, driven by the possibility that Thomas may reveal details about her brother Metias's death. The exchange highlights June's internal conflict—her lingering anger and curiosity battling her reluctance to face Thomas. Anden assures her she can refuse, but June steels herself, determined to hear whatever Thomas has to say, even as she dreads the encounter.

Upon arriving at the Denver State Penitentiary, June is escorted through a stark, high-security wing reserved for high-profile prisoners, including those involved in the assassination plot against Anden. The atmosphere is tense and foreboding, with armed guards and cold fluorescent lighting amplifying the gravity of the situation. June's analytical mind notes the cell dimensions and security measures, a coping mechanism to maintain composure. Her resolve is tested when she encounters Commander Jameson, her brother's killer, who taunts her with chilling remarks about their similarities and the Republic's impending downfall. June confronts Jameson with defiance, but the encounter leaves her shaken.

June proceeds to Thomas's cell, where she finds him disheveled yet maintaining his disciplined demeanor. Despite his impending execution, Thomas remains steadfast in his loyalty to the Republic, addressing June with formal respect. Their interaction is marked by an uneasy silence before June encourages him to speak freely. Thomas reveals his intention to disclose the full truth about Metias's death, acknowledging his debt to June. This moment underscores the complexity of their relationship—June's lingering sympathy for Thomas's unwavering loyalty clashes with her grief and anger over her brother's murder.

The chapter ends with June grappling with the emotional weight of Thomas’s impending confession. Though she questions whether reliving Metias’s death will bring closure, she recognizes the importance of hearing the truth for her brother’s memory. Thomas’s willingness to share his account before his execution adds a layer of poignancy, as June prepares to confront a painful past. The encounter sets the stage for a revelation that could reshape her understanding of Metias’s death and her own path forward.

Chapter 7: Day 4

The chapter opens with the protagonist being released from the hospital after a mysterious incident that has sparked widespread rumors. Despite official attempts to downplay the situation, the public remains skeptical. The protagonist enjoys a quiet day at home with his younger brother, Eden, who is blind but finds joy in building robots with high-tech cubes provided by the Republic. The protagonist reflects on the Republic's unexpected generosity toward Eden, wondering if it stems from guilt or the influence of June, a key figure in his life.

Eden's perceptiveness becomes evident as he teases the protagonist about his feelings for June, noting how his tone changes when thinking about her. Their playful banter reveals Eden's growing curiosity about June and her significance in their lives. The protagonist avoids delving into the complicated history between June and their family, offering only vague answers. The tension escalates when June calls, prompting the protagonist to arrange a meeting away from Eden, hinting at unresolved emotional and practical concerns.

June arrives at the apartment, and her interaction with Eden is warm yet tinged with underlying tension. Eden's cheerful demeanor and candid remarks about the protagonist's admiration for June lighten the mood, but the protagonist quickly redirects the conversation to avoid further embarrassment. June's suggestion of grabbing dinner together hints at her desire to reconnect, though her subdued expression suggests deeper concerns. The protagonist's teasing about a potential date momentarily lightens the atmosphere, but June's reaction remains guarded.

As they leave the apartment, the protagonist and June navigate the snowy streets, blending into the crowd to avoid attention. The chapter ends with a vivid description of the wintry cityscape, adorned with Republic banners celebrating Anden's birthday. The juxtaposition of their personal turmoil against the backdrop of a politically charged

environment underscores the ongoing tension between their private lives and the larger forces at play. The chapter leaves their conversation unresolved, setting the stage for further developments.

Chapter 8: June 4

The chapter opens with Day and June reacting to a sudden city-wide alarm signaling an enemy attack, as Republic soldiers scramble into formation. Amid the chaos, June calculates their route to Day’s apartment while reflecting on her ability to think clearly in crises. The alarm, rarely used in Los Angeles, triggers evacuation protocols for the upper class, while the poor are left unprotected. Day’s confusion reveals his lack of prior exposure to such drills, highlighting the Republic’s systemic inequality. The urgency escalates as Republic jets mobilize, and explosions light up the horizon, confirming the Colonies’ unexpected breach of their agreement.

June recalls her training for such emergencies, noting that soldiers must report to assigned locations while civilians seek bunkers—a privilege reserved for the wealthy. Day’s unfamiliarity with the drills underscores the disparity between the gem sectors and impoverished areas. As they run, June notices Day’s declining stamina, a stark reminder of his deteriorating health. The Colonies’ premature attack sparks her anger, as they had only given four days to comply with their ultimatum. June urges Day to call his brother Eden, directing him to prepare for evacuation while she coordinates with Anden for transportation.

Anden contacts June via earpiece, arranging a jeep pickup and assuring Ollie’s safety. Upon reaching Day’s apartment complex, they find crowds panicking as enemy jets and airships appear overhead. Day reunites with Eden, and June discreetly informs him of Anden’s plan. Day’s concern for the poor sectors forces June to confront the Republic’s neglect, leaving him furious. The arriving jeep saves her from explaining further, and they speed toward safety with Anden, who warns them of the dangerous route due to nearby explosions. The driver reports escaped prisoners, including Thomas Bryant, hinting at looming threats.

Anden directs the group to Subterrain One, a secure underground hold, emphasizing the need for thumb scans to enter or exit. The driver reveals that explosions have damaged key routes, delaying their progress. Anden’s tension is palpable as he confirms the escape of high-profile prisoners, including Thomas and Jameson’s associates. The chapter closes with a sense of impending danger, as the group races toward safety while the Republic’s defenses falter. The attack exposes both the fragility of the city’s security and the deep-seated inequities within its society.

Chapter 9: Day 5

The chapter opens with Day encountering Tess and her companions, former Patriots, shackled as prisoners in a Republic facility. Tess appears older and calmer, but her wary demeanor toward Day hints at their strained past. Pascao, a sarcastic and flirtatious Runner, mocks Day's Republic uniform, sparking tension. Day demands their release, but the soldiers insist they were aiding the Colonies—a claim Pascao vehemently denies. June intervenes, questioning the soldiers' orders, while Day quietly reconnects with Tess, who reveals they returned after hearing his radio transmissions about his illness and the war.

Tess explains that her group, including Pascao and Frankie, returned to the Republic after being exiled from Canada. Pascao admits they sought redemption by aiding the war effort, hoping for a pardon. June remains skeptical, probing their motives, but Pascao deflects, acknowledging their fractured history. The tension escalates when Elector Anden arrives, dismissing the soldiers' claims and ordering the Patriots' shackles removed. His cold demeanor suggests unresolved conflicts with June and Day, particularly after their earlier argument. Anden instructs the soldiers to monitor the group but evacuate them, signaling a pragmatic approach to their potential usefulness.

The scene shifts as Anden leads Day and June to another group of soldiers, where four guards kneel under accusation of treason for aiding Commander Jameson and Captain Bryant's escape. One guard pleads innocence, but the others remain silent as guns are trained on them. Anden's uncharacteristic icy demeanor underscores the gravity of the betrayal, hinting at the Republic's internal fractures. Day observes the scene, sensing the Elector's ruthlessness, while June's presence adds to the underlying tension between leadership and loyalty.

The chapter highlights themes of trust and shifting alliances, as Day grapples with Tess’s return and the Patriots’ ambiguous motives. Anden’s authoritarian actions reveal the precarious balance of power, while June’s skepticism reflects the Republic’s deep divisions. The soldiers’ betrayal underscores the chaos of war, leaving Day and June to navigate a landscape where loyalties are constantly tested. The chapter ends on a foreboding note, with Anden’s chilling resolve foreshadowing darker confrontations ahead.

Chapter 10: June 5

The chapter opens with the protagonist reflecting on the time elapsed since key events—Thomas's death, Day's disappearance, and the Colonies' bombardment of Denver. She is aboard the Elector’s plane with Anden and Ollie, en route to Ross City, Antarctica. The atmosphere is tense, with Anden preoccupied by calls about the battle. The protagonist observes the stark contrast between the Republic’s struggles and the seemingly advanced world outside the window, hinting at the technological and economic disparities between the Republic and Antarctica.

Anden reveals the Republic’s fragile dependence on Antarctic aid, which is contingent on brokering a treaty with the Colonies. The protagonist’s questions uncover the geopolitical stakes: Antarctica’s rivalry with Africa makes them a potential ally, but their patience with the Republic is wearing thin. Anden’s composed demeanor masks the pressure he faces, and a brief, lighthearted exchange between them reveals underlying tension and mutual admiration. The conversation underscores the precariousness of their mission and the weight of leadership.

As the plane descends, the protagonist is awestruck by Ross City’s futuristic skyline—color-shifting skyscrapers, transparent domes, and magnetic docking systems highlight Antarctica’s superiority. The landing process is seamless, but the group is immediately subjected to rigorous biohazard checks, a reminder of the Colonies’ plague. The protagonist notes the Antarcticans’ condescending attitude, particularly when they offer to replace the Republic’s jets. Anden’s diplomatic response impresses her, reinforcing her respect for his ability to navigate humiliation with grace.

The chapter closes with the group being escorted into the city, the protagonist marveling at its grandeur while grappling with feelings of inadequacy. Her observations of the vibrant, technologically advanced environment underscore the Republic’s decline and the urgency of their mission. The tension between admiration

for Antarctica’s achievements and resentment of their arrogance lingers, setting the stage for the challenges ahead in securing their alliance.

Chapter 11: Day 6

The chapter "Day 6" depicts a tense underground bunker where evacuees flee amid relentless attacks from the Colonies. Dust shakes loose from the ceiling as trains depart hourly, while soldiers enforce order with riot masks and threats. Day, alongside Pascao, Tess, and other Patriots, refuses evacuation, instead strategizing sabotage against the Colonies. Discussions reveal the Armor’s weakening defenses, and the group plans to disrupt enemy jets and weapons using electrobombs and grenades. Despite Baxter’s skepticism, Day’s confidence and Pascao’s enthusiasm highlight their determination to stall the enemy, even against overwhelming odds.

The Patriots’ true motives emerge as Pascao admits they returned not just for pardons but to support the Republic’s potential under Elector Anden. Day questions their sudden loyalty, but Pascao explains their belief in Anden’s leadership and disdain for the Colonies’ oppressive regime. The group’s shift from terrorism to aiding the Republic underscores a nuanced redemption arc. Meanwhile, Day’s leadership shines as he assigns roles, including decoy work for Pascao and support from Frankie and Baxter, emphasizing teamwork in their desperate mission.

A poignant moment unfolds between Day and Tess as she apologizes for her past anger and misplaced blame toward June. Day reassures her of his love, though not romantic, acknowledging his failures in treating her well. Tess, grappling with unrequited feelings, expresses deeper gratitude for his unwavering care when no one else offered it. Their emotional exchange reveals unresolved tension but also enduring bond, adding a personal layer to the chapter’s high-stakes backdrop.

The chapter balances action and introspection, juxtaposing the urgency of war with intimate character dynamics. Day’s strategic mind and the Patriots’ evolving allegiances drive the plot forward, while Tess’s vulnerability humanizes the chaos. The narrative sets the stage for a daring sabotage mission, blending hope and desperation

as the group prepares to confront the Colonies. Themes of loyalty, sacrifice, and unspoken love intertwine, leaving readers anticipating the next phase of their fight.

Chapter 12: June 6

The chapter begins with June settling into her hotel room in Ross City, accompanied by her exhausted dog, Ollie. Unable to sleep, she wanders the halls without her virtual glasses, appreciating the unfiltered reality. Her exploration leads her to a higher floor near Anden’s room, where she discovers a simulation room. Intrigued by the cylindrical glass booths, she enters and dons her virtual glasses, triggering a welcome message and a points reward. The room transforms into a vibrant space with interactive displays, prompting June to test its capabilities by searching for information about Day.

Inside the simulation booth, June is surrounded by countless screens displaying news articles, videos, and images of Day. She watches clips of his past actions, including his speech supporting Anden, and hears unfamiliar perspectives from international sources. The immersive experience allows her to navigate the screens effortlessly, revealing global perceptions of Day that differ from her own. Overwhelmed by the flood of information, June shifts her search to the United States of America, curious about its history and the events leading to its division into the Republic and the Colonies.

The simulation transports June to a virtual recreation of North America, where she learns about the USA’s collapse and the formation of the Republic and Colonies. The narration details the political and environmental crises, such as the Flood of 2046, that precipitated the split. June interacts with the map, selecting the Colonies, and is plunged into a chaotic scene of riots and unrest. The vivid, pixelated footage depicts civilians clashing with soldiers over ration shortages, highlighting the Colonies’ corporate-controlled governance and stark contrast to the Republic’s martial law.

The chapter ends with June immersed in the simulation, witnessing firsthand the turmoil that shaped the Colonies. The experience leaves her both fascinated and unsettled, as she grapples with the unfiltered truth of history beyond the Republic’s

propaganda. The simulation room’s power to reveal hidden narratives underscores the chapter’s themes of discovery and the quest for knowledge, setting the stage for June’s deeper exploration of the world outside her familiar confines.

Chapter 13: Day 7

The chapter opens with Day waking up in a wheelchair, disoriented and bandaged, as Tess informs him they've arrived in Los Angeles. Despite his frustration at his weakened state, he learns that Eden and Lucy are safely settled in a temporary apartment. The city's familiar yet altered atmosphere strikes him—warm and hazy, but now tinged with a sense of uneasy normalcy. Day's physical condition weighs heavily on him, as he recalls the doctor's grim prognosis of only a month or two left to live, a reality that clashes with his identity as a resilient Runner.

As Day is driven through the city, he observes the interactions between soldiers and civilians, noting a shift in dynamics. The soldiers distribute rations and allow protests, while propaganda screens broadcast messages of hope rather than fear. A touching scene of a soldier entertaining refugee children softens Day's perspective, hinting at a tentative collaboration between the people and the Republic under Anden's leadership. This newfound optimism is tempered by his lingering distrust, as he grapples with the possibility that the Republic might be changing for the better.

Upon arriving at the hospital, Day is met by a crowd chanting for salvation, a stark reminder of the weight placed on his shoulders. Eden's silent determination to help adds to Day's internal conflict, as he fears his brother's willingness to sacrifice himself. Medical examinations confirm his dire condition, with doctors proposing risky treatments and a potential surgery that may come too late. The urgency of finding a cure for the plague looms large, tied directly to Eden's fate and the Republic's survival.

The chapter closes with Day reflecting on the bleak timeline ahead. The doctors' cautious hope contrasts with his realization that time is running out—both for his survival and the Republic's stability. The stakes are clear: without a cure, the Colonies' invasion will proceed unchecked, and Day's role in securing Antarctica's aid hinges on Eden's cooperation. Despite his physical frailty, Day's resolve lingers, underscored by

his quiet determination to test his limits even as the odds stack against him.

Chapter 14: June 7

The chapter opens with the protagonist arriving at Drake University’s airfield, now a makeshift landing site after the Republic’s capital falls. The campus, once familiar, feels eerily empty as many students have been sent to the warfront. Refugees from Denver crowd the quad, highlighting the displacement caused by the conflict. The group, including Anden and other officials, travels through Batalla sector, where evacuation centers dominate the landscape. The protagonist notes the stark contrast between the treatment of poor refugees and the wealthy, who are housed in Ruby sector, underscoring the persistent class divide in the Republic.

As they drive, Anden receives news of a Colonies broadcast infiltrating Republic channels. The transmission paints the Colonies as liberators, offering financial incentives and freedom of choice to Republic citizens. The propaganda showcases a utopian vision of corporate governance, contrasting sharply with the protagonist’s memories of the Colonies’ oppressive reality—slums, exploitative ads, and indifferent police. The broadcast encourages protests against the Republic, further destabilizing the already fragile society. The protagonist and Anden recognize the Colonies’ strategy to turn the people against the Republic, though they remain uncertain of its effectiveness.

The chapter takes a personal turn as the group arrives at Los Angeles Central Hospital, where Day is being treated. Anden reveals that Day collapsed during the evacuation due to severe headaches triggered by explosions. The protagonist’s dread grows as Anden hints at another, undisclosed reason for their visit. The hospital’s significance—where the protagonist’s brother, Metias, died—adds emotional weight to the scene. The uncertainty surrounding Day’s condition leaves the protagonist anxious, foreshadowing potential turmoil ahead.

The chapter concludes with a sense of unease, blending the political tension of the Colonies' propaganda with the personal stakes of Day's health. The protagonist's internal conflict—weighing the Republic's flaws against the Colonies' hollow promises—mirrors the broader societal struggle. The juxtaposition of public upheaval and private vulnerability highlights the interconnectedness of personal and political survival in a collapsing regime. The chapter sets the stage for further confrontation, both on the battlefield and within the protagonist's relationships.

Chapter 15: Day 8

The chapter "Day 8" delves into the protagonist's emotional turmoil and intimate connection with June. Despite his past experiences with other girls, he finds himself utterly vulnerable and consumed by his feelings for her. In a quiet, tender moment, he reflects on how his defenses have crumbled, leaving him exposed. The dim lighting and physical closeness between them amplify his internal conflict, yet both remain silent, as if words would disrupt the fragile intimacy they share. This scene captures the depth of his emotional surrender and the unspoken bond between them.

The narrative shifts abruptly as the protagonist awakens from a terrifying nightmare, disoriented and drenched in sweat. The vivid memories of violence and trauma from his past in the Lake sector haunt him, leaving him trembling and unable to sleep. He carefully avoids disturbing June, who remains peacefully asleep, and struggles to steady his breathing. The nightmare's lingering effects leave him feeling weak and unsettled, highlighting the psychological scars that continue to torment him despite his current surroundings in the affluent Ruby sector.

Unable to return to sleep, the protagonist leaves June's bed and ventures out into the night. He navigates the stark contrast between the pristine gem sector and the gritty reality of his past in the slums. As he moves through the city, his thoughts drift toward his mother and the painful memories associated with her. The paper clip ring on his finger serves as a tangible reminder of his roots and the losses he has endured. His journey through the streets reflects his internal struggle to reconcile his present with his past, underscored by a sense of unresolved grief and longing.

The chapter concludes with the protagonist returning to his old neighborhood, where he encounters an elderly woman whose bandaged hands evoke memories of his mother. Overcome with empathy, he gives her a significant sum of money, a gesture that underscores his lingering guilt and compassion. As he approaches his childhood

home, now abandoned and marked by faded bloodstains, the weight of his past becomes unbearable. The chapter poignantly captures his unresolved trauma and the enduring impact of his origins, leaving him questioning whether he has truly escaped his nightmares or remains trapped within them.

Chapter 16: June 8

The chapter "June 8" begins with the narrator observing Day as he wakes from a nightmare and quietly leaves their shared room. Despite his attempts to remain unnoticed, the narrator is roused by his distress and follows him into the night. The cool air and moonlight set a somber tone as the narrator trails Day through the streets, eventually arriving at his family’s abandoned home. Day’s speed and silence highlight his emotional turmoil, even as his physical condition deteriorates.

Upon reaching the boarded-up house, the narrator hesitates, overwhelmed by memories of the past. Day enters through the back door, and the narrator cautiously approaches, listening to his movements inside. Through a crack in the boarded windows, the narrator finally spots Day sitting at the living room table, his head in his hands. The darkness obscures his features, but his grief is palpable in the trembling of his silhouette and the sound of his quiet sobs.

The narrator is struck by the raw emotion displayed by Day, who is typically stoic. His crying is unfamiliar and heartbreaking, a stark contrast to his usual demeanor. The narrator realizes the depth of his pain, tied to the loss of his family, and is moved to tears as well. The scene underscores the heavy burden of guilt the narrator carries, knowing their actions contributed to Day’s suffering.

The chapter concludes with the narrator grappling with the irreversible impact of their choices. Day’s love for the narrator is intertwined with the trauma of his family’s fate, creating a painful paradox. Every glance at the narrator reminds him of his loss, making their relationship both a source of comfort and enduring sorrow. The chapter poignantly captures the complexity of love, grief, and guilt in the aftermath of tragedy.

Chapter 17: Day 9

The chapter opens with the protagonist returning to June’s bedroom exhausted and emotionally drained. He collapses on her couch, avoiding the bed, and sleeps until she wakes him. June informs him that Anden has arranged for a lab team to pick up him and Eden in two hours. Despite his visible distress, June remains composed, though her weariness is evident. The protagonist struggles with overwhelming emotions, haunted by memories of his brother John and the precarious situation they’re all in. He tries to hide his pain from June, but his trembling hands and vacant stare betray his inner turmoil.

In the bathroom, the protagonist battles his emotions, splashing water on his face and taking a scalding shower to numb his thoughts. He avoids looking in the mirror, fearing the reflection of his trauma. When he emerges, June observes his pale, shaken state but doesn’t press him. Instead, she shares news about Commander Jameson’s betrayal, revealing she’s now working for the Colonies. This reignites the protagonist’s hatred for Jameson, blaming her for their shared suffering. June’s touch triggers violent flashbacks, causing him to flinch, which visibly hurts her. Their unresolved grief and guilt create a tense moment, with June apologizing for causing his pain.

The protagonist attempts to reassure June, but his hesitation confirms her fears. She believes their relationship is irreparably damaged by her past actions, and he admits he doesn’t know how to move forward. Despite their mutual doubt, they cling to the hope that they’ll be okay, though their expressions betray their uncertainty. The chapter shifts to the second day of the Colonies’ ceasefire, as the protagonist prepares to take Eden to the lab for testing. He struggles with fear for his brother’s safety, but Eden remains resolute, downplaying the procedure’s severity.

At the hospital, the protagonist watches through a glass window as Eden undergoes preparations for the lab tests. Eden appears small and vulnerable, his feet dangling

from the bed as technicians take his vitals. The protagonist’s anxiety is palpable, his hands sweaty and trembling, but he tries to stay strong for his brother. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, emphasizing the weight of the Republic’s fate resting on Eden’s shoulders, leaving the reader in suspense about the outcome of the tests.

Chapter 18: June 9

The chapter opens with the protagonist reflecting on the emotional turmoil of the previous night, contrasted by the stark reality of Day’s physical recoil from her touch. As she heads to a Senate meeting, her mind remains preoccupied with the ongoing war, the Colonies' advances, and Commander Jameson’s escape. Despite the urgency of political negotiations, she feels her skills are wasted in meetings and longs to be in the field. Her thoughts oscillate between duty and personal concerns, particularly her unresolved feelings for Day and the looming threat of war.

As she navigates the eerily empty streets of Los Angeles, a sudden sense of being watched unsettles her. She dismisses it as paranoia but remains cautious, recalling Day’s warning about the Colonies targeting her. Her instincts prove right when she spots Commander Jameson in disguise. The encounter sends her heart racing, and she quickly alerts Anden, deciding to tail Jameson despite the risks. The tension escalates as she slips into her agent mindset, abandoning politics for action.

The protagonist follows Jameson through the city, relying on her training to stay hidden. However, Jameson eventually vanishes, leaving her frustrated and uneasy. Anden confirms they’ve lost track of her, heightening the sense of danger. As the protagonist prepares to retreat, she narrowly avoids a bullet, realizing she’s under attack. Panic surges, but she forces herself to calm down, drawing on her brother’s advice to think logically. The chapter underscores the psychological toll of war and the constant threat of betrayal.

In the final moments, the protagonist regains composure, recognizing how fear and propaganda could destabilize the Republic more effectively than direct combat. The chapter ends with her resolve to stay focused, highlighting the internal and external battles she faces. The narrative blends personal vulnerability with the high-stakes tension of espionage and war, leaving readers on edge about the impending

confrontation with Jameson and the Colonies.

Chapter 19: Day 10

The chapter opens with the protagonist waiting anxiously at the hospital after receiving news that Commander Jameson attempted to shoot June in public. The gloomy weather mirrors his somber mood as he watches Tess, who is critically ill with a virus, being treated by a lab team using an experimental cure derived from Eden's blood. The protagonist's frustration and exhaustion are palpable as he grapples with the Republic's failures and the relentless threats to his loved ones. Meanwhile, Pascao updates him on new quarantine zones in the city, hinting at the urgency of their planned rebellion.

As tensions rise, the protagonist's anger peaks when June finally arrives at the hospital, unharmed but visibly shaken. He confronts Anden, the Elector, for failing to protect June, revealing his deep-seated fear of losing her. Anden, though furious at his soldiers' incompetence, remains composed and shifts focus to Eden's progress in the experiments. The protagonist, however, remains wary, emphasizing that the crisis is far from over. He proposes a private meeting to discuss leveraging the chaos caused by Jameson's actions to strike back at the Colonies.

In the conference room, the group disables security cameras to ensure secrecy. June recounts her encounter with Commander Jameson, describing how she tailed her until their confrontation near the airship bases. Her calm demeanor belies the danger she faced, further highlighting her resilience. The protagonist, though relieved, struggles with his emotions, torn between his desire to protect June and the need to focus on their mission. The chapter underscores the recurring tension between their personal bonds and the larger political stakes.

The meeting sets the stage for a risky plan to incite rebellion against the Colonies, with Anden's cooperation remaining uncertain. The protagonist's internal conflict—balancing his love for June and Eden with his revolutionary goals—drives the

narrative. The chapter ends on a note of urgency, as the characters prepare to act amidst escalating threats, leaving readers anticipating the consequences of their next move.

Chapter 20: June 10

The chapter opens with June expressing her disdain for Senate meetings, which she finds tedious and frustrating. Despite her aversion, she attends a critical session at Batalla Hall to discuss a plan devised with Day and Anden. Anden, visibly exhausted, briefs the Senators on escalating attacks from the Colonies and hands the floor to June. She reluctantly presents their controversial proposal: a strategic surrender to the Colonies to protect civilians and negotiate a fair treaty. The announcement shocks the Senate, sparking immediate backlash and disbelief among the politicians.

Chaos erupts as Senators voice their opposition, with some questioning Anden’s leadership and others dismissing June and Day’s credibility. A particularly hostile Senator insults Anden, accusing him of being weak and influenced by a "teenage girl" and a "criminal." Anden’s composed demeanor shatters as he silences the room with a threatening reminder of his authority, channeling his father’s ruthless legacy. The tension is palpable, and June observes Anden’s transformation with unease, realizing the precariousness of their plan and the fragility of their alliance with the Senate.

After the meeting, June comforts Anden, assuring him the Senators will eventually comply. Anden confides in her privately, revealing a deal with Antarctica for military support and medical treatment for Day—in exchange for surrendering the territory of Dakota. June feels a mix of relief for Day and sympathy for Anden, who is forced to fragment the Republic to secure aid. The weight of his decision is evident, and June recognizes the sacrifices he’s making to protect their people.

The chapter concludes with June reflecting on her place in the political turmoil, feeling increasingly out of sync with the Senate and Anden’s leadership. As they retreat to her apartment, the emotional toll of their decisions hangs heavily between them. Anden’s exhaustion and June’s internal conflict underscore the chapter’s themes of power, sacrifice, and the moral complexities of war. The fleeting hope of Antarctic support is

overshadowed by the grim reality of their fractured nation.

Chapter 21: Day 11

The chapter opens with the protagonist visiting their brother, Eden, in the hospital during the Colonies' ceasefire. Eden is visibly unwell after undergoing blood tests, and their conversation shifts to Tess, a friend who remains unconscious with an unbroken fever. The protagonist tries to stay optimistic, suggesting Eden and Tess might meet someday, but privately worries about their collective survival. The emotional weight of the situation is palpable as the protagonist watches Eden fall asleep, contrasting Eden’s restfulness with their own sleeplessness, plagued by nightmares and a persistent headache.

After leaving Eden’s room, the protagonist meets Pascao, who informs them about the plan to rally support by marking the city with their cause’s symbols. Pascao reveals specialized suits and air launchers borrowed from Republic soldiers, designed to enhance physical abilities for stealthy movement. The protagonist is skeptical at first but is amazed by the suit’s lightweight yet empowering design, which restores their confidence in their physical capabilities. Pascao explains the broader strategy: a surprise attack on Colonies’ airships if they land in Los Angeles after the Elector’s surrender announcement.

Equipped with the suits and air launchers, the protagonist and Pascao head out into the city to mark key locations with their message. The protagonist revels in the newfound freedom and strength the suit provides, allowing them to move effortlessly through the urban landscape. They spray-paint “LISTEN FOR ME” and their signature red streak on walls, symbolizing their resistance and rallying the people. The act of marking the city becomes a cathartic release, momentarily overshadowing their fears and reminding them of their purpose.

As the night progresses, the protagonist moves from sector to sector, repeating the process of marking walls and spreading their message. The chapter captures a blend

of tension and determination, highlighting the protagonist’s resilience amid personal and collective struggles. The suits symbolize a fleeting return to their former strength, while the markings serve as a beacon of hope and defiance. The chapter ends with the protagonist immersed in their mission, driven by the urgency of their cause and the fleeting solace of action.

Chapter 22: June 11

The chapter opens with the protagonist, June, jolted awake by an air raid siren, momentarily transporting her back to a traumatic memory with Day in Denver. As reality sets in, she rushes to check the news, discovering that enemy airships are approaching Los Angeles ahead of schedule, forcing their plans into immediate action. The urgency escalates as she contacts Day, who reveals they are at Eden’s hospital room, and they exchange tense words about the impending threat. June prepares to join them, sensing the gravity of the situation as the city’s electricity flickers and the sirens fall silent.

June arrives at the Central Hospital’s lab floor, where Day, Eden, and the Patriots are gathered. The atmosphere is tense, with Eden appearing weak but stable, while Day and Pascao discuss urgent plans in hushed tones. Anden, the Elector Primo, delivers a televised surrender speech to the Colonies, a staged act meant to buy time, but the absence of the Republic’s flag and his somber tone evoke a sense of genuine loss. The group watches in silence, their resolve tested as the reality of their precarious plan sinks in.

Pascao informs Day and June that they must act quickly to prepare the air bases for sabotage before the Colonies land their ships. Meanwhile, Day reveals a critical setback: Eden is not Patient Zero, and his blood lacks a key component needed for the cure. This revelation casts doubt on their ability to secure Antarctic aid, jeopardizing their entire strategy. June’s concern deepens as Day leads her to a lab room, where a tech prepares to show them the scientific discrepancy in Eden’s blood samples.

In the lab, the tech displays side-by-side cell comparisons, highlighting the missing element in Eden’s blood. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, with June and Day grappling with this unforeseen obstacle. The urgency of their mission intensifies, as the success of their plan now hinges on solving this medical mystery while the enemy

forces close in. The weight of their roles in the rebellion becomes ever more palpable, leaving readers anxious for the next steps.

Chapter 23: Day 12

The chapter begins with June undergoing intensive medical tests after her theory offers a potential breakthrough in finding a cure for the plague. The protagonist, deeply concerned for her safety, is forced to leave the hospital with Pascao and other Republic soldiers. As they travel by train to Batalla's airship bases, the protagonist reflects on their past exploits, including sabotaging Republic ships, which first earned them a notorious reputation. The group's mission is to plant explosives at the bases to cripple incoming Colonies airships, leveraging the protagonist's intimate knowledge of the layouts.

The urgency of the situation is underscored by the third day of the Colonies' ceasefire, with Anden's surrender announcement sparking mixed reactions among civilians. Some are shocked, while others vent their anger at the perceived betrayal. The protagonist notes the importance of channeling this rage against the Colonies. Pascao briefs the team on the plan to plant six bombs per dock, aiming to disable Colonies airships without causing excessive damage to the bases. The protagonist, however, is preoccupied with the high stakes, fearing the consequences of failure.

Arriving at Naval Base One, the group observes Colonies forces gathering on the horizon, their presence signaled by distant specks in the sky and a low hum. The protagonist's anxiety grows as they recall past failures, but they push these thoughts aside, focusing on the task. Republic soldiers guide them to strategic points within the base, emphasizing the need for precision. The protagonist and Pascao are assigned to plant bombs in hard-to-reach crevices, with the protagonist volunteering for the most challenging spot, despite Pascao's concerns about their physical condition.

The chapter concludes with the protagonist and Pascao preparing to execute their part of the plan. The tension is palpable as the protagonist assesses their strength and the precariousness of the mission. The Republic captain's skepticism about their abilities is

met with Pascao’s confident humor, but the protagonist remains focused, determined to prove their worth. The chapter highlights the protagonist’s resilience and the collective desperation to thwart the Colonies’ advance, even as doubts linger about the feasibility of their plan and June’s potential role in saving them all.

Chapter 24: June 12

The chapter begins with the protagonist, June, staying behind at a hospital for testing after discovering her connection to the plague. She is hooked up to machines while Eden, Day’s younger brother, comforts her despite his own illness. Eden’s resilience and kindness remind June of Day’s younger self, and she reflects on the harshness of the experiments Eden endured. Their conversation shifts to the looming threat of the Colonies, whose airships dominate the skyline, raising doubts about Day’s mission to secure the airship bases. June’s anxiety grows as she wonders about the risks Day faces and the possibility of failure.

After hours of testing, the lab team returns with promising news: June’s blood sample was a close enough match to develop a potential cure, now being tested on Tess. This breakthrough offers hope for combating the plague and gaining support from Antarctica. However, June’s relief is short-lived as communication with Day becomes impossible due to static interference. She realizes the Colonies are jamming frequencies, signaling an imminent takeover. Her dread intensifies when Day’s fragmented transmission reveals he is aboard a Colonies airship, vulnerable to their control.

June’s fears are confirmed when Colonies soldiers storm the hospital, announcing the Republic’s surrender. They demand Eden, revealing their true target. June, unarmed except for a hidden knife, prepares to defend him. The soldiers’ arrival underscores the Colonies’ swift and ruthless advance, leaving June to grapple with the urgency of protecting Eden and the dire consequences of Day’s precarious situation. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, emphasizing the escalating tension and June’s resolve to confront the looming threat.

The chapter masterfully intertwines personal stakes with broader conflict, highlighting June’s internal struggle between hope and despair. Her bond with Eden and concern

for Day underscore the emotional weight of the narrative, while the Colonies' aggression heightens the sense of impending crisis. The discovery of the cure offers a glimmer of hope, but the sudden invasion and communication blackout leave the characters—and readers—on edge, anticipating the next move in this high-stakes battle for survival.

Chapter 25: Day 13

The chapter opens with the protagonist, Day, recalling a daring bank heist he executed at fifteen, showcasing his strategic mind and agility. This memory resurfaces as he approaches a Colonies airship, feeling exposed but masking his unease. Despite being escorted by soldiers, he remains composed, secretly carrying recording devices and explosives in his boots. His allies, the Patriots, are positioned nearby, ready to act on his signal. The airship’s interior, devoid of Republic symbols and filled with advertisements, feels alien, heightening his discomfort as he prepares for a pivotal meeting.

Day is led to an observation deck where he meets the Chancellor, a frail-looking man with unsettling mechanical eyes. The Chancellor’s demeanor is deceptively friendly as he praises Day’s decision to join the Colonies, promising leniency for June and the Patriots. However, his tone shifts when discussing the Republic’s leaders, coldly stating that the Elector and other Princeps-Elects will be executed. Day hides his disgust, focusing on gathering evidence via his hidden recorder while subtly probing the Chancellor’s plans for the Republic’s citizens.

The Chancellor reveals his cynical worldview, arguing that people are inherently selfish and incapable of self-governance. He dismisses egalitarian ideals, asserting that control and manipulation are necessary to maintain order. Day challenges him, advocating for the people’s right to participate in decisions affecting them, but the Chancellor remains unmoved. The conversation underscores the stark contrast between Day’s belief in individual agency and the Chancellor’s authoritarian pragmatism.

As the chapter concludes, Day grapples with the Chancellor’s chilling vision for the Republic’s future. The encounter leaves him unsettled, reinforcing his resolve to resist the Colonies’ tyranny. His internal tension is palpable as he balances the need to

appear compliant with his determination to expose the Chancellor’s ruthlessness. The stage is set for a high-stakes confrontation, with Day’s hidden explosives and allies waiting in the wings, hinting at an impending rebellion.

Chapter 26: June 13

The chapter opens with a chaotic scene in downtown Los Angeles, where massive explosions from naval bases light up the sky, shaking the Bank Tower. June, the protagonist, observes the turmoil as hospital staff prepare to evacuate Tess and Eden. Relief washes over her when Pascao confirms Day’s survival, and she reassures Tess before noticing Colonies airships and fighter jets engaging Republic forces. The tension escalates as June rushes to the lobby, where Republic soldiers and civilians clash with Colonies troops, while emergency broadcasts urge soldiers to break surrender. The streets are ablaze, and the urgency for Antarctic aid is palpable.

Outside, the battle intensifies, with fighter jets roaring overhead and explosions rattling the ground. June anxiously scans the streets for Day and Pascao, who eventually arrive, with Day visibly exhausted. They retreat to a safer building, where injured soldiers are being treated. June updates Day on Eden and Tess’s evacuation, but he urges her to leave as well. Despite his concern, she insists on helping with evacuations, leaving Day in Pascao’s care. The scene underscores the desperation and bravery of the characters amid the escalating conflict.

June returns to the Bank Tower, navigating through crowds of evacuees and medics to ensure Eden’s safe evacuation. She finds him unconscious and coordinates his transport to Day’s location. Another explosion rocks the building, forcing the group to carry Eden down the stairs amid falling debris and gunfire. The chaos outside is overwhelming, with Colonies gunmen targeting the evacuation efforts. Republic soldiers provide cover, but the danger is relentless, highlighting the precariousness of their situation.

As the group emerges into the fiery evening, a guard urges June to seek shelter, but she refuses, determined to stay and assist. The nurse carrying Eden moves forward cautiously, while June remains vigilant, scanning for threats. The chapter ends with the

battle still raging, and June’s resolve unwavering despite the overwhelming odds. The narrative captures the intensity of war, the fragility of life, and the characters’ unwavering loyalty to each other in the face of destruction.

Chapter 27: Day 14

The chapter begins with the protagonist witnessing Tess being evacuated from the Bank Tower, carried by a nurse in a semi-conscious state. Overcome with exhaustion and pain, the protagonist takes Tess from the nurse but soon struggles to continue. Pascao steps in, carrying Tess toward safety while urging the protagonist to return to the Bank Tower entrance. As Pascao disappears into the chaos, the protagonist watches until Tess reaches the shelter, then shifts focus to locating Eden and June, whose absence sparks concern.

Amid the turmoil, a sudden explosion throws the protagonist to the ground, disorienting them. A dust bomb fills the air, obscuring vision and muffling sounds. Through the haze, people flee toward Republic barricades, their movements eerily slow. The protagonist, battling pain and confusion, calls out for Eden but realizes their voice is inaudible. The scene is one of chaos and desperation, with gunfire and sparks adding to the tension.

As the crowd momentarily thins, the protagonist spots Eden unconscious in the arms of a Republic nurse. The nurse, disoriented, is heading toward enemy lines instead of the shelter. Without hesitation, the protagonist sprints toward Eden, ignoring the danger. The urgency of the moment is palpable, with no time for thought or hesitation, only action driven by sheer determination to save Eden.

The chapter captures a high-stakes evacuation under fire, emphasizing the protagonist’s physical and emotional strain. Themes of loyalty and sacrifice are evident as characters risk their lives for one another. The abrupt ending leaves the reader in suspense, wondering whether the protagonist will reach Eden in time. The vivid descriptions of chaos and the protagonist’s relentless resolve create a gripping narrative.

Chapter 28: June 14

The chapter opens with a high-stakes chase as Commander Jameson prepares to shoot Day, who is desperately sprinting through a smoke-filled street to rescue his younger brother, Eden. Eden, left vulnerable and blind after a nurse abandons him, becomes Day’s sole focus despite his exhaustion. The narrator, observing from the rooftops, realizes Day is heading into a dangerous open area and rushes to help, only to find her own gun out of bullets. As Commander Jameson fires, narrowly missing Day, the tension escalates, highlighting Day’s unwavering determination to protect Eden at all costs.

The narrator scrambles to retrieve a fallen soldier’s gun with one bullet left, while below, Day reaches Eden and shields him, staggering back to safety. Commander Jameson continues firing, grazing Day and forcing him to his knees, but he persists, clutching Eden tighter. The narrator, now armed, takes aim at Commander Jameson but misses—a rare failure that shocks her. The commander retaliates, forcing the narrator to dive for cover as the confrontation becomes a deadly game of cat and mouse, with the narrator’s fear of Jameson complicating her resolve.

A psychological battle ensues as Commander Jameson taunts the narrator, mocking her attachment to Day, who is now bleeding in the street. The narrator steels herself, using her empty gun as a bluff to disarm Jameson. A physical struggle erupts, with the narrator landing a kick that sends Jameson’s gun flying off the roof. Despite gaining a momentary advantage, the narrator realizes she’s outmatched in brute strength, relying instead on agility and surprise. The fight intensifies as both women circle each other, their mutual hatred and desperation palpable.

The chapter climaxes with a brutal hand-to-hand combat, where Commander Jameson’s superior training and strength put the narrator at a disadvantage. Though the narrator lands a few blows, she is forced to retreat to the roof’s edge, feigning fear

to lure Jameson into a trap. The confrontation is charged with personal vendetta, as the narrator channels her anger to face the woman who killed her brother. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, leaving the outcome of their fight—and Day’s fate—uncertain.

Chapter 29: Day 15

The protagonist, Daniel, hovers between life and death, his consciousness fading in and out as he recalls fragmented memories of his past. He remembers his difficult childhood on the streets, his relationships with Tess, John, and June, and the warmth of his family—his mother’s home, his father’s smile, and his brother Eden as a baby. Despite the pain, he feels a strange detachment, as if his fate was always predetermined. His focus shifts to June, who is crouched over him, though her face is blurred by his failing vision. The chapter captures his acceptance of mortality, underscored by the line, "It’s simply not written in my stars."

As Daniel’s awareness wavers, he notices a bright light behind June, which gradually takes the form of his mother. She appears youthful and radiant, free from the injuries and suffering he remembers. Overwhelmed with emotion, he reaches for her, and she comforts him with a tender touch, calling him her "little lost boy." Daniel apologizes repeatedly, consumed by guilt and grief, but his mother reassures him, kissing his forehead and making him feel like a child again. Through her golden glow, he glimpses his own broken body on the ground, with June weeping over him, highlighting the stark contrast between his physical and spiritual states.

Daniel asks about his father and brother John, and his mother assures him they are well and love him deeply. He expresses the daily pain of missing his family, to which she responds, "We never left," suggesting their enduring presence in his life. She urges him to return to Eden, who is waiting for him, emphasizing his unfinished journey. Daniel searches the crowd for his brother but doesn’t see him, torn between the pull of his mother’s light and his ties to the living world. Her words, "Live well, Daniel," serve as both a blessing and a charge to make his remaining time meaningful.

The chapter culminates in a poignant farewell as Daniel’s mother prepares to leave, her light growing brighter. He pleads to go with her, but she refuses, explaining that he

still belongs to the world of the living. The metaphor of "the other side of the looking glass" underscores the boundary between life and death, with the promise of reunion when his time comes. Daniel is left suspended between two realms, his mother’s love and wisdom guiding him toward a purposeful life, even as he grapples with the pain of separation and the inevitability of his eventual departure.

Chapter 30: June 15

The chapter "June 15" depicts a tense and emotional period as June and others anxiously await Day's recovery from a coma following severe injuries. For months, a dedicated group—including Tess, Eden, Pascao, and Anden—remains by his side, while crowds of supporters with scarlet-streaked hair gather outside the hospital. The war between the Republic and the Colonies has ended, thanks to Antarctic intervention, but the scars of conflict linger. June reflects on the fragile peace and the uncertainty of Day’s survival, haunted by the possibility that he may never wake up or return as the same person.

As time passes, the hospital crowds thin, and life gradually resumes for those waiting. Five months later, June arrives for her routine visit, noting Eden’s growth and Tess’s evolving role as a medic assistant. Tess and June share heartfelt conversations, with Tess affirming Day’s love for June and urging her to care for him. The bond between them deepens, offering moments of warmth amid the uncertainty. Meanwhile, news headlines highlight political developments, including a new peace treaty and leadership changes, signaling hope for the Republic’s future.

The chapter reaches a pivotal moment when Dr. Kann delivers the long-awaited news: Day has woken up. June’s initial joy is tempered by the doctor’s cautious tone, as he reveals that while Day is coherent and recognizes key figures, his long-term memories may be affected. The hippocampus damage raises concerns about his ability to recall past events, though the doctor remains optimistic about recovery through therapy. June’s emotions swing between relief and apprehension, overwhelmed by the sudden turn of events after months of waiting.

The chapter closes with June preparing to see Day, grappling with the bittersweet reality of his return. While his survival is a miracle, the potential memory loss introduces a new layer of complexity. The narrative underscores themes of resilience,

love, and the enduring impact of trauma, leaving readers hopeful yet uncertain about Day’s future. The emotional weight of the chapter lies in the delicate balance between celebration and the challenges that lie ahead for Day and those who care for him.

Chapter 31: Ten Years Later

The chapter "Ten Years Later" follows June Iparis on her 27th birthday as she reflects on the past decade of her life. She recounts celebrations from previous years, including quiet dinners with friends, international trips, and milestones like becoming the youngest lead commander in Republic history. Her relationship with Elector Anden evolved from a romantic partnership to a mutual separation, though she remains fiercely protective of him. Despite the joys and sorrows of adulthood, June acknowledges that nothing compares to the tragedies of her teenage years, particularly the loss of her brother Metias and her complicated bond with Day.

June spends her birthday overseeing Anden’s security during diplomatic talks with Colonies delegates, proud of his progress in fostering unity between former enemies. Later, she visits Metias’s memorial, where she emotionally confronts the fact that she has now reached the age he was when he died. She shares updates about her life with his ghost, finding solace in the imagined comfort of his presence. The visit underscores her enduring grief and the weight of outliving her brother, a milestone that leaves her feeling both vulnerable and reflective.

After leaving the memorial, June reconnects with her daily life, anticipating dinner with friends Tess and Pascao. She muses on how Tess’s updates about Day—once frequent—have dwindled over the years, though she still cherishes the memories. Her thoughts drift to Day, wondering about his happiness and whereabouts, revealing her unresolved feelings. The chapter captures June’s quiet resilience, balancing duty with personal longing, as she navigates the complexities of adulthood and loss.

The chapter takes a surprising turn when June receives a cryptic message from Tess urging her to check the news. A small headline reveals that Day’s brother, Eden, is in Los Angeles for a job interview, implying Day’s return to the city. June’s composure wavers as she processes the news, her heart racing at the possibility of seeing Day

again. The chapter ends on a note of anticipation, leaving June—and the reader—eager to discover what this reunion might bring.