

Reading Annotations for *City of the Beast*

406 pgs.

Part 1

Chapter 1-5:

The first couple of chapters of the book focus on Alex and his family. His mother is sick and he had to go be with his grandmother in New York. He went through a lot to get there, and I'm not sure that I agree with his grandmother's excuse of why she didn't pick him up at the airport but I digress.

They end up going on a trip to the Amazon. The reason why his grandmother really wanted to go to the Amazon is to catch the Beast. The Beast is a giant creature that they say is super scary and big and makes people pass out just by smelling it. Almost like the Loch Ness monster. They went with a group of travelers and met a lot of different people.

A lot of the people that they were traveling with were there for attention and to brag when they got back. They traveled with a doctor, and they met a nice group of people in a small town.

One of the big things that they learned about was how the people who move into the Amazon disrespect the land and the Native people from that land. The Native people all have their own unique cultures, but they are treated as though they are "savages" even though all they want to do is protect the land. One of the men that Alex and his grandmother traveled with is one of those people who disrespected the Natives.

Since my project is mostly about the ecosystem, I didn't find a whole lot of information that I can use in this first section but I did find a few things.

Notes from the book to use:

1. People like to trade guns, drugs, and other illegal substances through small towns and cities in the Amazon and in South America. Because in the jungle there is not a huge military presence, people are able to traffic a lot of illegal things
2. The Native people of the lands want to protect and care for the land but the new people do not
3. There are a ton of plants in the Amazon that can have medicinal benefits but the new people in the land don't know all the treatments, and they are killing and displacing the Natives that do
4. There are dolphins in the Amazon!
5. There are many plants and animals that are beneficial to humans in the Amazon.
6. New people are deforesting and killing a lot of animals which disrupts the environment and the circle of life.

Part 2

Chapter 6-10:

I ended the 10th chapter with Alex and Nadia being kidnapped by a group of Native people. They call them the People of the Mist. They are a group of Native people that move very swiftly through the jungle. They can disappear and camouflage in the jungle very well.

Before that though, the group set off to a land where they believe that they can find the Beast. This land is very remote so they have to travel to a certain area in the Amazon and then take a plane up into the place where they want to find the Beast.

On their travels however, one of these men was shot and killed by a poisonous arrow, another man's head was twisted off and he was cut in the chest. Additionally, one of the photographers (I think), was strangled by an anaconda, and Nadia says that she saw the Beast when they were kidnapped by the People of the Mist.

The man who is there for "research" (turns out he just wants to go back and say that he was a hero or something), is one racist, but also I believe that he thinks that these attacks are from the Natives. I do think that the poisonous arrow was from a group of Natives but the man whose neck was twisted off- his attack could have been from the Beast.

Also in these chapters two of the soldiers ran away with the boat and went back, leaving the group stranded. And, the Native that was hired to take care of the racist man, is messing with the group I believe. Nadia and Alex overheard a conversation between two of the men before they left and they had terrible plans to hurt not only the Amazon but the Native people as well. Nadia and Alex believe that the Native man is working with them and that is why he is messing with the group's things. He might be behind the attacks as well.

In other news, Alex found out that he is a Jaguar. He also lost his glasses. He got rid of his food pickiness, and he is learning to survive.

Notes from the book to use:

1. The Native people know the land very well. Many travelers get very lost if they don't have Native people to guide them.
2. The Native people know the plants and animals very well. They can use their environment to their advantage whether that is medicine, food, protection, or whatever. They know the land very well.
3. People take, capture, poach, and kill animals in South America. This not only hurts the animals but the ecosystem, and the overall balance of the ecosystem in South America. (Some animals can go extinct due to over poaching)
4. Again, the deforestation is a problem

5. The racism towards the Native people is also a problem. Especially considering the fact that they are so helpful.
6. The culture of the Native people is very dependent on the environment in South America. They believe in the land and they have more respect for the animals and resources that they use.

Part 3

Chapter 11-15:

A lot has happened in the last couple of chapters. We left off with Alex and Nadia being kidnapped by the People of the Mist. They end up traveling with them and going on many adventures.

In these chapters the fictional aspect of the book really started to show. They ended up going to the village of the People of the Mist. They hide the village in plain sight, but like the People of the Mist it seems as though it can appear and disappear. The Native people use their resources to hide themselves in the land and to protect themselves. Mostly they are protecting themselves from the people who come in to take land, plants, animals, and resources.

In these chapters a lot happened. Alex fully leaned into his spirit animal. We found out that Nadia is scared of heights. Additionally, Alex goes through the ritual of becoming a man, the chief of the People of the Mist dies, Alex and Nadia become a part of the group, the man that gave Nadia the necklace came back to help them. Later on in the book they found out that Alex and Nadia were there to help protect the Native people and to protect them from a beast that is coming to kill/harm them.

Alex was given the position to talk to the humans to tell them not to hurt the Native people. The other human people bring serious diseases to the Native people causing them to get very sick and die. Also they take their resources and their land or money or out of greed.

Also in these chapters Nadia and Alex went to El Dorado and they found the City of the Beasts. They are there to help them and to help protect the Native people.

Notes from the book to use:

1. New people bring strong diseases to the Native people that causes them to get very sick and die
2. The Native people know how to get across the land very well due to old lessons and teachings being passed down over the generations. (ex. How they were able to climb the waterfall)
3. There are protections for the Native people because they are so very knowledgeable and resourceful but not many people follow those protections.

4. The animals, plants, and resources are very important to the Native people and to the world but people come in and ruin the land.

Part 4

Chapter 16-20:

Again, this section of the book is packed with stuff going on. Alex and Nadia ended up going to El Dorado. They found the fountain of youth and healing, and went on a lot of adventures in El Dorado.

They ended up finding and meeting the Beast. Turns out there are more than one and they help protect the People of the Mist. They protect them from the foreigners and they help preserve their history and memory. In return the People of the Mist also help the Beasts. They give them food sometimes and overall they are very useful for the Beasts.

Alex ended up finding the fountain of youth and healing. He had to face his fears and retrieve the water to help heal his mother. He did have to give up his grandfathers (I believe) flute to get the water but believe that the water will help save his mother.

Nadia got 3 diamond eggs. I don't know what they are for, but she got them.

When they went back to their family, they had to try to get the People of the Mist to get vaccinated. They thought that the vaccine would stop them from getting terribly sick from the illnesses that the foreigners carry.

Instead, however, they realize that the doctor is actually working for the man that they overheard plans to kill the Native people. Turns out the vaccines are actually what is causing so many of the Native tribes to fall sick and pass away. The Native man that one of the foreigners hired, that Alex and Naida thought was trying to hurt the Natives, was actually working for the government to protect them.

A fight broke out between the Native people and the foreigners, and people were shot and killed. The Beasts ended up coming out to protect the Native people and a lot went down.

Overall, Alex and Nadia were able to protect the Native people, Alex got, hopefully, a cure for his mother, Nadia found out more of who she was, Alex grew as a person, and overall the entire group learned a lot about the Native people and themselves.

Notes from the book to use:

1. There are groups and organizations in place to help protect the Native people and the ecosystem of South America, but we have to support these groups and listen to their guidelines and regulations.
2. Journalism can play an important role in protecting the Native people and ecosystem of South America.

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3. The Native people of the Amazon need to be protected along with the ecosystem because they both are so important to the world.