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The Last Thirteen: 10
By James Phelan

- In his nightmare, Sam finds himself viewing Gericault's *Raft of the Medusa*. What can you learn about this painting? Sam feels "desperation and despair" coming from the painting. Some observers also see hope depicted. Do you think the author had a reason to select this particular work for use in the novel?
- Learning that Alex is alive rekindles hope that Sebastian and Tobias may also have survived the New York disaster. Do you think this might be possible?
- Alex tells his mom he thinks the Enterprise has her brainwashed. Do you agree?
- In discussing Solaris Alex asks Phoebe if she thinks he's a Dreamer. What do you think?
- How would you describe Sam's feelings about losing the Gear to Solaris in Berlin?
- Pi is collecting Sam's catchphrases. Do you have a favorite phrase? Do any of your friends? Can you think of any catchphrases that have become identified with a particular book, TV or movie character?
- What do you know about the Louvre museum? (You might enjoy visiting the museum website www.louvre.fr and the interactive, animated "Tales of the Museum.")
- After the Professor leaves the hotel for the Council function Sam decides to put his new Stealth Suit to use to sneak out and set off in search of Zara, the next of the 13 Dreamers. Do you think this was a wise decision?
- Sam creates a ruse to get Zara out of the museum. How does this help us learn more about Sam?
- Why does Zara finally agree to give Sam a chance to explain himself after his inept attempts to speak with her at the bookshop. What does this tell you about her?
- Once Sam and the Professor each return to the hotel, Sam wonders if the Professor knows he left to find Zara. What do you think?
- The Professor explains to Sam that Jack is determined to "do things his way" when they should be working together. Can you describe any well-known, real-life situations like this?



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- History is filled with instances where power has led to corruption. Can you describe some of them?
 - Why does the Professor object to Mac's plan for the Dreamers?
 - What do you know about the Eiffel Tower? (You might enjoy the 360° high definition tour of the Tower and surrounding Paris on the Tower website, www.tour-eiffel.fr.)
 - Why do you think Mac and many others at the Council meeting are so reluctant to believe that there could be rogue elements within the Enterprise?
 - The director of the Enterprise tells Alex and Phoebe he trusted Matrix to spy on Stella for him. Do you believe his story? Can you imagine any other scenario?
 - Sam and Zara escape and head for the Council headquarters after Hans and his team of German Guardians show up at the Sorbonne. What do they find? What do you think has happened there?
 - What do you know about Leonardo da Vinci? (The museum at Clos Lucé has an exhibition of his scientific inventions with 3D animations of several of his ideas. You can preview the dream of flight and the automobile at www.vinci-closluce.com.)
 - Matrix used Alex to hack into the Academy and isolate their communications systems. Alex later says, "I should have known that slimebag was up to no good." Do you agree? Were there any indications that Matrix should not be trusted?
 - Why do you think Matrix teamed up with Stella? What do we know about him that might point to his reasons?
 - Did Pi's death during the Enterprise attack on the Academy come as a surprise to you? Were you surprised by Tobias' reappearance?
 - In the final encounter of the book, Solaris tells Mac, "You always were an idiot." Do you think they have had previous dealings or encounters? Who do you think may be working together?