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The Last Thirteen: 11
By James Phelan

- Sam is able to escape the German Guardians determined to kidnap him. In his next dream he sees the Brandenburg Gate in the distance. What do you know about this landmark?
- Are you surprised that Xavier turns out to be the boy in Sam's nightmare? Why or why not?
- As Lora, Eva and Gabriella head to the plane to take them back to the Academy, Gabriella accuses Eva of not liking her. Do you think this is true? Why or why not?
- Consider Alex and Shiva's conversation in chapter 6. Where do you think Shiva's true loyalties lie? Why?
- Do you think that Sam and Xavier have really convinced the museum staff that they're Dr. Dark and his colleague? Why or why not?
- As the girls and Lora make the flight back to the Academy, Gabriella observes, "Look how beautiful the world is ... it's so easy to forget, to just not notice." What does she mean by this? Have you ever felt like this?
- A special, often hidden, school for specially chosen, select students is a common theme in fantasy and imaginative fiction. What other books have you read with this feature? What other kinds of stories can you think of that also use this theme? Why do you suppose so many authors use this device?
- At the museum Sam and Xavier are searching through the artifacts recovered from Dr. Dark's excavations at Larnaca. What do you know about Cyprus and the Larnaca castle?
- The boys find a wax rubbing of the missing half of the Dream Stele. What significance does this rubbing have?
- In chapter 10 Alex watches and reflects on a training drill carried out by Stella and her team. Why do you think the author included this chapter?
- As they zoom away from the museum in Dr. Dark's car Sam thinks back to the weekly sessions he's had with the psychiatrist over the past several years. "It felt good to talk it all through like that." Has talking through a problem with someone else ever helped you? How do you suppose this might have helped Sam?



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- Dr. Dark reveals to Sam and Xavier that he's a member of the Council of Dreamers. Are you surprised by this? Why or why not?
 - Gabriella is described as "a social chameleon adapting with ease." What does this mean?
 - Alex stows away on the airplane taking Stella and her team of Agents on their mission. What does this say about him?
 - What do Eva's comments and behavior in chapter 18 reveal about her feelings toward Gabriella?
 - How would you describe Xavier's reaction to learning that he not only has enhanced DNA but that he's one of the last 13. How would you feel?
 - Dr. Dark describes the ultimate goal as "leading to a treasure so great that it will eclipse all others." What do you imagine this treasure to be?
 - Jedi suggests to Eva that she and Alex could be among the last 13. Do you agree? Why or why not?
 - Dr. Dark tells Sam and Xavier he believes Solaris is "trickery, nothing more, someone out to spook you into making mistakes." Do you agree? Why or why not?
 - Eva dreamed she had to investigate the campfire outside the Academy. How is this important? Who do you think has pulled her from the avalanche and returned her to the campus?
 - Sam and Xavier eject themselves from the Horton HO 229 airplane and the book ends as Sam, his parachute destroyed, crashes to the ground only to hear the ragged breath and see the approaching masked face of Solaris. What do you think will happen next?