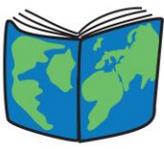




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The Last Thirteen: 2
By James Phelan

- *The Last Thirteen: 2* opens with Alex's dream. What do you think is the meaning behind this dream? How does it reflect Alex's feelings about Sam, Hans and the race?
- Were you surprised to learn that Alex is one of the thirteen Dreamers? Why or why not?
- Why does Sam feel "a wave of shame" about his actions in Alex's dream? Could his actions be justified?
- On the flight to Australia Sam reflects that the search for the Dream Gate has taken him all over the world. Of all the places Sam's been over the course of the race which would be your top choice to visit and why?
- Xavier calls the nightmares the Dreamers have a blessing and a curse. In what way are they a blessing? A curse?
- Jabari compares a desert sandstorm to the snowstorm in Antarctica. Which would you least prefer to experience and why?
- Sam remembers Tobias telling him: *The early bird may get the worm but the second mouse gets the cheese*. Can you think of an example to illustrate this?
- What do you think Stella means when she tells Sam that he's the one who will enslave the world, not save it?
- Why does Xavier experience a sense of doom and impending dread as he, Phoebe and the other Dreamers approach Dr. Kader's workshop? Have you ever had a feeling like that? What were the circumstances?
- Do you agree with Sam's decision to leave the unconscious Lora behind and make his escape alone from Stella and her Agents?
- Lora and Xavier are rescued at Chernobyl by Dr. Dark. How do you think he happened to be there?
- Who was Herodotus and what is he known for?
- While briefly unconscious from his fall after the plane passes over him, Sam dreams of he asks Solaris: *Before you put that suit on – who were you?* Who do you think Solaris is beneath the mask? Has your idea of who he might really be changed over the course of the series?
- Ahmed tells Alex, "Some doors are meant to remain closed." What do you think he means by this?



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- Sam comes across the burned-out Chilean research station and concludes that someone other than Solaris destroyed it. Who do you think did this?
 - Who do you think the snowbike riders are who attack Lora and the three girls as they escape from Stella in the snowcat?
 - Holding a gun on Sam and Alex, Jabari explains that the “change of heart” by the Egyptian Guardians was merely a tactic to get close in order to stop the race. Were you surprised by this? Why or why not?
 - The Professor unexpectedly appears, shooting Jabari before he can harm Sam and Alex. Can you cite hints the author provided earlier in the book that the Professor would turn up in Antarctica?
 - Alex is reluctant to abandon Hans to his fate. What do you think this says about Alex?
 - What do you make of Dr. Dark's behavior? What do you think it means when Solaris appears at the very end of *The Last Thirteen: 2*?