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**The Last Thirteen: 8**  
**By James Phelan**

- When Sam first dreams of being with Maria on the pontoon boat they're feeding lemon sharks. Have you ever seen lemon sharks at an aquarium or in the sea? Why do you think they've been given this name? Maria likens these sharks to "puppy dogs." Dogs can however, sometimes be dangerous. Do you think this might be true of the lemon shark also?
- Maria is terrified when Scarface shows up. What kind of shark is Scarface? Is Maria's fear well-grounded?
- Sam and Rapha arrive in the city of Rio Branco. Were you as surprised as Sam was to learn that there are large cities with many people in the middle of the Amazon region?
- Do you think Mac is lying or telling the truth when he tells Eva she's "not just any Dreamer." What do you think he means by this statement?
- Sam, Xavier, Rapha and Tobias discuss the race to discover the Gears and build the Bahku machine which will lead to the Dream Gate. Xavier shares his skepticism and his need to understand the "how of it all." Sam chooses to accept it all at least for the present while working to win the race. Would you react more like Sam or like Xavier. Why?
- Alex reflects that the Academy and the Enterprise now have to work together to keep the Dream Gate away from the forces of evil. Do you think the two sides entirely trust each other? Should they? Why or why not?
- Solaris tells Sam that they need each other, that they're "two parts of the same thing." What do you think he means by this?
- The Professor and Jack explain to Alex why they believe he may be one of the last 13. Do you agree? Why or why not?
- When Eva's Aunt Julia arrives Mac claims his alliance with Solaris is only an act meant to help defeat him. Do you think he's telling the truth? Why or why not?
- Phoebe tells Alex, "... it's not all about what you do, it's as much about *how* you do it, how you carry yourself." What do you think she means by this? Have you ever heard similar advice before? Can you think of other circumstances where this might be true?



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- Tobias explains to Sam that their enemies “would do things we would never consider doing.” Do you think there are ever circumstances where the ends might justify the means? If so, can you give examples of what those circumstances might be?
  - Mac tells Eva and Lora Solaris wants to work with him because of his US military connections and access to technology. Do you believe him? Why or why not?
  - In Eva's dream the figure lying face down in the sand wearing the mask of Solaris turns out to be the Professor. Do you think there is any significance to this?
  - Maria, Sam and Tobias find and explore the mysterious shipwreck of Maria's dream. They're at a loss to explain why it's there, seemingly hidden and abandoned. How and why do you think this happened?
  - Why do you think Julia helps Eva and Lora to escape from Mack and his security men while they're all in the labs?
  - Sam thinks of his parents whenever the other Dreamers meet up with theirs and he resolves to try to find them. Do you think he'll ever see his family again? Do you think his family miss him?
  - Is the metallic voice in Alex's nightmare Solaris? What do you think he means when he says, “You can be the one”?
  - Sam dreams he finds his parents – and Stella – at the Grand Canyon. What do you think this dream means?