

Perhaps The Stars Notes

Chapter One - World Civil War

- The narrator (servicer after Mycroft, the ninth anonymous) explains that the world is at civil war. It seems like the war should be over quick given the actions the Utopians took to limit harbingers and WMD's, but history seems to suggest otherwise.
- The narrator wants to believe, like Mycroft did, that this civil war has some greater noble purpose. But the narrator finds himself doubting that at times - how could humanity or all of this have such a grand purpose? Yet, he's seen the evidence through Bridger's miracles, etc. Nonetheless, doubt still plagues him.. and wondering what/when the outcome of the war could/will possibly be

Chapter Two - The Battle of Cielo De Pajaros

- At the Cielo De Parajos in Chile, Hiveguard (Sniper) forces are attacking. They are making their way towards the Saneer-Weeksboth (SW) house because they need control of the cars that are managed by that house (currently that house is under Alliance control). They have to go house-to-house, a la the Iraq War / War On Terror, but meet little resistance as most of the people there are humanist anyways.
- A car has exploded, creating quite a science, given their antimatter engines
- Apparently aside from that cars have been randomly disappearing recently; it is not clear who controls this.
- 9A (Narrator) warns all that listen to his feed (which is many) to not take any cars given the situation
- Martin is stuck in nowhere Oregon, with no good place to go.
- Heloise is flying over Africa, hoping to make it to the safeguard city/ location of Alexandria. They were originally going to Casablanca to help keep things under control as the city is now ran by Nurturists
- 9A is in Papadelia's office
- Bryan is in Delhi
- Mason is in Alexandria
- Mycroft is unknown
- Carlyle is with 9A in Romanova
- Apparently Cielo De Pajaros has been blown up (from within)
- Dominic is in Togenkyo
- Guards come in and plan to take Carlyle and 9A to the prison cells, they don't believe they have papa's permission to be in his office
- Su Hyeon enters and stops them. She claims the guard arresting them,

Deputy Chowdhury, is working for Madame D'Arout and has them arrested instead. When they demand to know where Papa is they are told he got into a car earlier (which may be a lie)

- Su Hyeon works on organizing everyone into action to minimize conflict and casualty as the war breaks out
- Carlyle is tasked with getting aid from the Sensayer's Conclave Guard
- Su Hyeon says they will protect 9A

Chapter Three - Now I Am in a Place

- For the first time inhabitants have a new sense of "where". With the cars before they could always quickly be anywhere. Now, without the cars, "where" and "place" are definite - a new meaning they had no really experienced
- The cars are being used for some nefarious purpose to strike down anyone that attempts to travel, even the Utopians (due to the cars' speed)
- Many blame amoral set-sets for this
- The Mitsubishi seem to go out to sea while the empire erects protective zones for all of its parts
- The Nation-strats fare best so far since they are the closest to the old systems that work well with war (Flags, ranks, recruitment, nationalism, patriotism, etc)
- The King of Spain is set to become emperor of Europe and marry D'Arout, which will make JEDD the heir apparent. However, their system of a constitutional monarchy is still far from what JEDD wants (total power). The issue is still being debated.
- Cousins are working akin to the Red Cross and have developed and are trying (yet failing with no cars) to distribute stun guns in place of real guns to make the war more humane. Heloise heads up much of this "Red Cross" (now the "Red Crystal") effort
- The Utopians have distributed low-cost, low-material bicycles to supplement travel (or at least the blueprints for them) and are keeping to and guarding their own territory well
- Gordon's continues to be against any war or human violence in any way. They use their knowledge of human nature to try and reduce casualties, often helping Romanova. They are pacifists.
- The Humanists (and Vivian Ancelet) declare that they would likely find an alternative to the OS system, but will not condemn the usage of it in the past.
- MASON has threaded to use violence to stop all that do not condemn Sniper and their supporters. Humanists say they do not officially support

this, but that it is a "right" to support Sniper and OS if you choose. As such, the Humanist Hive and Masons are at war and those that do not support such.

- With this, things such as racism, etc. have started to return
- Carlyle wants resources to support people that want to celebrate religious holidays, with rosh hashana being the next. They argue that since people can't go to reservations because there aren't cars, there's no way for people to practice these things privately without fear of retribution. The buildings would be set up so that anyone that comes would be anonymized so retribution couldn't be taken.
- The above makes 9A wonder how faith and religion may come back to make this war even worse
- Everyone supports Carlyle's recommendation
- Su Hyeon, 9A, Guildbreaker, and Jin agree to form a neutral alliance to keep things peaceful and save lives
- Huxley Mojave, a Utopian, visits 9A comes and give him a memento of Mycroft and a weapon to defend himself

Chapter Four - The Uniform Question

- A Mitsubishi fleet prepares to invade Sydney and 9A and Su-Hyeon want to stop it
- The fleet demands uniforms so one can tell combatants from non-combatants before their invasion, but they give an unreasonable timeline. Su Hyeon proposes stopgap uniforms (arm bands, sigils, etc). 9A thinks this will just lead to trouble, but isn't sure. Regardless the sides agree on formulating a civilian/military law code and temporary uniforms within 48 hours. 9A realizes this is something JEDD would want.
- They also want to setup a public database describing these laws, what the uniforms mean, and what the rules of engagement are for each/situation. They convince Bryar and the cousins to buy in so others adopt it.
- Bryar and 9A argue over whether the Myrmidons should have uniforms distinct from servicers as per the above. Bryar says they must wear uniforms and use tiring guns. Bryar says 9A must remain in their Censor uniform and not be part of the servicers or Myrmidon's as a safeguard.
- All hives and factions eventually agree.

Chapter Five - Operation Baskerville

- Giant beast/monsters have started attacking various locations around the world (seemingly in remote locations) , right when the King of Spain is being crowned the new Emperor of Europe. 9A thinks it's U-Beasts from

the Utopians at first. Shortly after complete data outages started in those areas.

- Then there is a complete communications blackout - they implement more manual solutions so the world doesn't freak out.
- 9A talks with Huxley (Utopian) who claims this isn't the Utopians. He suggests whoever is doing it is the same person that is controlling the cars. They say they want to reconnect him with JEDD Mason.

Chapter Six - A Sea of Flags

- As a result of the attacks people start to congregate in groups according to strat, etc. Mobs think Utopia did it all. There are reports of bio weapons and real fights.
- Reports suggest satellites themselves have been damaged
- They managed to get the trackers back temporarily using previously restricted bands after hacking them to get a certain level of admin access
- They try and use the time before the blockers realize to establish other communications
- They decide to quarantine their area due to bio weapons reports
- The mason oath is being streamed, which contains dangerous secrets. It suggests that Cornel MASON (the current MASON) has become partial to the Utopians. Achilles arrives and begs MASON to not give into his rage from the oath being shared; they seem to get an optimistic response before the trackers cut off. It implies that the reference to the Utopians had been in there before Cornel MASON - and thus if JEDD were to swear by this oath and its contents, then he would be the emperor.

Chapter Seven - A Secret Friend

- Huxley Mojave, the Utopian, offers to give 9A the ability of aerial surveillance of the city
- Apparently the reports of plague are actually just the stun guns working
- Su-Hyeon appears and starts talking abstractly to the point that implies she may have discovered Huxley Mojave secretly helping 9A. It turns out she was actually harboring the highly wanted Toshi Mitsubishi
- Huxley confirms that Utopians believe JEDD Mason is truly some kind of magical alien, but that it was worth confiscating the harbingers even though it brought them into the war
- Aerial numbers suggest few support JEDD so far
- Huxley suggests he personally would rather have retreated to the moon and mars and have investigated the alien events like JEDD and Bridger
- 9A and Huxley agree to wear the V to symbolize their belief even if JEDD

technically doesn't want them to

Chapter Eight - The Battle for the Almagest

- Almagest is Utopia's space elevator
- They manage to setup communications using lasers, but it is slow and limited
- They also work on narrow beam communications, which are harder to jam
- Mitsubishi has taken the oceans mostly and used their naval power to cut the empire territory in half along a narrow strait, but this is all secondary to the real target... the space elevator
- Mitsubishi forces attacked there, blaming the Utopians, and the MASONs tried to fight back meeting them there.
- Utopia managed to save their elevator and its functionality. But they used powerful weapons and AI bots in their attacks. This has turned opinion against them further, though they deny using overly powerful weapons.
- The Mitsubishi's rally around their common enemy of Utopia despite losing. They claim to be seeking to reclaim JEDD Mason from MASON hands and Utopia. Regardless MASON And Mitsubishi are at war
- The nature of limited Comms has completely divided a world - which will be difficult to unify given vast diverging local, and often incompatible, histories
- The world agrees to add a protocol to their informal World Wide Web to make things more efficient at the behest of 9A
- Now they can use cryptographic means to verify identity through the network ,which allows 9A to finally announce that he's officially on the network, showing the world that some semblance of what it put together previously is back

Chapter Nine - How Carlyle Foster Saved the World

- Things have slowed down after the development of the impromptu internet and the aftermath of Almagest
- 9A discovers the reason for Carlyle's inspired sense of purpose despite their previous disillusionment (in the prior books)
- Carlyle successfully inferred that Doria-Pamphili had taken Sniper and was keeping him hostage as doll in a dollhouse (her thing) literally, forced to conform through chemicals and psychological tools. In fact he was the one that found this out just before the Olympic Games and resulted in Sniper being present for them. Carlyle used this as blackmail to make Doria-Pamphili present Sniper at the games and let him have a say in everything the sensayer conclave does (if Dominic found out, for

example, he'd come kill her). Carlyle can get away with this because they truly don't care whether they live or die and thus the blackmail can work.

- 9A tells Carlyle and offers to help them

Chapter Ten - Pass It On

- They listen through the network as battles and war start to spread across the planet, to a degree
- There seems to be some dissension within the Mitsubishi of whether to fight for the space elevator
- The MASONs are fighting various groups at sea.
- It turns out the Cousin stun guns have a longer effect than expected, lasting up to 4 months and in reality doing a fair amount of damage
- In certain parts there are Hiveguard-Remaker fights, getting worse
- Tully Mardi proposes a system of skin staining dye to mark someone as 'dead' instead of killing them, after which they gone no longer fight. Everyone would agree to this and enforce violations by actually killing that person - to ensure everyone follows the system
- UFO appears that keep the car-air-denial system going via refueling and act as future cars themselves
- At one point local Hiveguard tried to take the network but Carlyle intervened, including DoriaP, demanding it stay neutral
- A Greenpeace director was assassinated, but it turned out to be misinformation, which is sprouting up
- There appear to be people associated with the strange (Fake) U-Beast attacks. They were blue tablecloth like covers (called Bluesmocks)
- Battles get worse near Europe
- 9A debates censorship on the network - a la fake news and social media
- Papa is alive
- King Isabel Carlos has disappeared
- Mycroft may be alive

Chapter Eleven - The God Who Rings The Earth

- Mycroft was trapped for 95 days at sea in the Mediterranean
- Mycroft awoke on Montecristo at sea where he was rescued by a ship that was then destroyed soon after before waking up on another as a prisoner of Remakers.
- They agree that they are somewhat on his side and that they plan on delivering him to Jehova Mason. The ship is a historic recreation which actually works out given all communications are down
- But they are captured by Mitsubishi forces; treated as real POW's. It's another Mitsubishi crew that ridiculously wears the V to rescue Mason

- They take down the prison camp and escape, but the commander lives knowing Mycroft was there. They escape towards Greece but are helped by friendly Mitsubishi commander he knew from earlier.
- News of Mycroft has spread
- They make it far before finally stopping for "aid". One of them has been shot with a fake gorgon (cousin) gun and was actually drugging one of their crew, keeping them stuck there. He exposes them and blackmails them into helping him.
- They escape, but Mycroft is triggered by cannerbeat and in fever dreams is told of and realizes the massive journey he has underway due to the shattering of connection and distances effects on war
- They end up on a U Beast Battery Farm. Mycroft says to wait for Utopians to arrive, but the crew gets bored and tries to steal a battery - which is met by retaliation by the Farm.
- He eventually ends up on an island near Sicily where he first announced his presence through the pass it on network and the others in Romanova realize he is alive. Huxley then comes for him.

Chapter Twelve - The Battle for Romanova

- 9A asks Mycroft if Bridger read the Odyssey in addition to the Iliad and if it might affect the outcome of the war indirectly in the way Bridger set things about. Mycroft wonders.
- With Emperor Isabel missing, Ganymede sees it fit to take his place
- Ganymede despite being a humanist agrees to JEDD Mason's better system and wears the V, which causes a wave of such in Europe and a diminished number of hive guard
- Hiveguard Mitsubishi arrive near Romanova to invade
- Ganymede has caused Remaker Mitsubishi to rift with Hiveguard Mitsubishi because Ganymede demands any fleets he encounters be more Remaker than Mitsubishi
- In this first invasion the Hiveguard Mitsubishi dig in and take much, with Blacklaws defending the Aventine, Remakers on the northeastern hills, and 9A/Mycroft in the (now taken by HM) Forum
- Seven days later there is a second invasion
- Weapons have been deployed that turn the tops of river solid, preventing the flow of ship, and allowing the passage of people/land-vehicular (predominately piloted by Remaker forces via Ganymede)
- Ganymede arrives proposes that all factions of Romanova meet and share alliances, so they can decide who would win a battle and thus try and make surrenders without any bloodshed (or to at least reduce it)
- Ultimately they go to negotiate a peace whereby most Hiveguard will take

peacewash, cousins will watch over Ganymede. The Blacklaws resist though but agree after a duel that Ganymede wins.

- Mycroft hopes to go to Ganymede and ask him to return him to JEDD Mason
- It appears that much of North Africa has fallen to Nurturists
- Ganymede recognizes Mycroft and they are reunited
- Cook of the Nurturists arrives and hugs Ganymede. At the second she explodes from within, killing Ganymede and injuring many of the others. Video footage of it suggests that it may be an extension of Operation Baskerville, someone framing the Utopians - as it appears that Cook may have been a U-beast

Chapter Thirteen - Diary of a U-beast

- People start to blame the Utopians, for they are forbade from making human U-beasts. Plus it's perfect for Utopians to try and frame Cook as they the nurturists despite set-sets and u-beasts
- The next portion is from the logs a u-beast and details the arrival before the explosion. Many logs are deleted. One can hear the various organic fractions that make up the U-Beast and it's neural net components think and react to their environment (often in different ways) and then come to formulate an answer. It seems at times some components realize their system has been compromised in some way. But ultimately not enough to prevent the portion of it set to assassinate Ganymede. Someone appears to be controlling the weights and/or thoughts. Two of the four representative fractions appear bent on destroying Ganymede whereas another is stuck in deliberation and considered about its identity as there are issues with its backups and potentially foul play and lastly one realizes this is bad and wants to stop. "Faraday" appeared to be the hacker.
- This whole section was REALLY well done

Chapter Fourteen - Faustpact

- The Utopians grant them the ability to briefly communicate with Papa at the cost of a valuable satellite. He talks in a language only Mycroft and 9A know and suggests they need to assassinate the triumvirate of Guildbreaker, Im-Jin, and the censor. 9A convinces them they need not.
- It's revealed that Papa works for Madame - his loyalty bought by being given the right to take Mycroft's case by Madame
- Further the two of Papa's guards that were originally thought corrupt in the early chapters (which they technically are and do work for Madame, but that's expected now given that Papa does work for Madame) are truly

close allies and know the tunnels under Romanova so they can get around and escape

- It's suggested the Cousins ordered the cars to disappear with important people and disabled the car network
- They plan to take the Censor and 9A to Alexandria
- Charlemagne will run the city with Im-Jin although Charlemagne is reliable neutral whereas Im-Jin will need to be closely watched as they don't trust him given his propensity for the V. Julia will watch over Im-Jin
- Carlyle plans to go
- Gordian and Utopia are at war, competing for the price's favor
- The Utopia have spheres of priority, earth, moon, mars, the unexplainable

Chapter Fifteen - Man Made

- The crew escapes aboard a Utopian Dreadnought
- They suddenly encounter a battle and have to act as they see what appears to be Martin Guildbreaker's ship currently being attacked
- They turn out to be led by Croucher it seems. Utopians and Achilles show up in time as the dreadnought and other crew seem to be in a stalemate.
- They attack and appear to capture a vessel holding who they think is Tully Mardi.
- Reinforcements arrive and they appear to win, but it turns out it's not Martin Guildbreaker. He was already captured by someone months ago. They merely have his notes.
- They wonder if the attackers included Perry (the other ship got away so no way to know for sure)
- 9A goes to rendezvous with Achilles, leaving Mycroft behind. Mycroft tells 9A to ask Achilles who they thought was really on board and who the attacker was
- 9A wonders to Achilles whether Mycroft is really Odysseus. Achilles seems to confirm he is

Chapter Sixteen - Damnatio Memoriae

- They arrive in Alexandria and Mycroft is reunited with JEDD, but kept as a prisoner given his attempt to flee before and past ultimatums from Caesar
- He then realizes that JEDD is a prisoner too - likely because after hearing the oath shared publicly in combination with being offered the role of Caesar that JEDD must have rejected it and implied that the reason for his rejection must be the oath (as it was the only new info) and therefore the Empire is also something JEDD will remake - making JEDD an enemy
- Mycroft is also reunited with Boo just for him to turn back into a toy (as

he was a Bridger creation) upon being reunited

- Mason wants to punish Mycroft and immobilize them, but JEDD does not want that; they put the question on hold
- They read Martin Guildbreaker's letter
- It suggests that Perry was involved in Sniper's disappearance
- It goes on to implicate the other Guildbreaker's (Martin's bash) in the stealing of the Oath. Many commit suicide or wind up dead upon arrival of Caesar's guards as they are sentenced to be removed from history. Xiaoliu was a noble one though and forced to be remembered in infamy for history through giving the bash the surname Guildbreaker, thus giving it's origins. He doesn't quite kill Xiaoliu, impressed by their nobility
- Martin seem to impart a secret messaging suggesting Cato is no longer human

Chapter Seventeen - The Second Battle for the Almagest

- There is war at the space elevator and it appears Utopia will lose unless Caesar can work diplomacy to help get them more support. For that reason they devote the effort to bring Cato to Caesar on the suspicion Martin raised in the previous chapter
- JEDD tells Huxley to rest more
- They watch the MASON control room with Achilles and the rest of the gang as they try and manage the war happening at Almagest. Most attempts at initial diplomacy fail and the battle starts and is to escalate. There are factions amongst the Mitsubishi attackers that have different goals and different opinions on whether they should attack and what to do with the Almagest
- Anonymous shares his findings on Cato and seems to believe he may have an embedded computer brain - essentially a human u beast.
- MASON and Achilles will not surrender
- Cato is brought in the room. Achilles realizes something is amiss and grabs Cato, but Cato manages to escape his cannergel cuffs and temporarily paralyzes Achilles arm. Cato claims they are not a threat. There is a marking on their back that says H.E.L.E.N - a Utopian program for higher level human intelligence. It indicates they are a kind of computer enhanced human but not exactly a human u beast. It turns out that Bridger had heard Cato's ultimatum given back in Cato's Suicide and granted the wish of the world having a real mad scientist. This is what the new Cato is. Cato also seems to imply Mycroft is Odysseus as well.
- Nonetheless they have no good way to prove this scientifically.
- Cato offers to help repair Achilles
- There are more peace offers but Caesar resists though they are heading

in the right direction

- Kosala decides to side with the attackers to limit the damage of the battle - forcing Achilles and their forces to start a retreat
- Apparently the cousins have lost control of the other space elevators, which have been co-opted to launch an assault on Luna City on the moon via harbinger weapons launched from the elevators
- The cousins had apparently prepared weapons on the elevators to attack Luna City precisely because that was where the Utopians were storing prior harbingers and the people behind them. It was supposedly a defensive plan in case Utopians weaponized Luna City. It seems Kosala themselves may have been against this even though their Hive was not.
- The Utopians last ditch harbinger interceptor Skymaw fails due to potential sabotage
- Some of the attacks are not for Luna City but for the station that serves the basis for going to Mars
- They tell the station to evacuate but they claim they have a bigger problem to prevent. Two terraforming vehicles have become non-responsive/hacked and are on a crash course for mars - which would cause catastrophic damage to Mars itself. It would destroy everything on Mars and prevent further colonization for centuries.
- There appears to be nothing they can do
- Cato and Achilles start talking and Achilles suddenly transforms into some kind of ulterior mode. It is his Armor (called Alexander) from Apollo's version of the Iliad. It corresponds to how Alexander the Great used the soul of Achilles (Iliad Achilles) to achieve the change that Achilles. It is a super powerful armor that could allow him to travel to Mars or back, etc. It appears to be a by product a la Bridger of divine intervention. This is connected to the Peer (behind human history and what is happening) and Jehova not wanting to not be friends. Achilles claims it was Cato's fixing that did this whereas Mycroft believes it is due to the Jehova connection and his Peer not wanting to not be a friend. This "Armor" is a supposed by product of a science project from a Bridger - another artifact.
 - [See book notes for more on the whole metaphor here and how it ties in with JEDD and the whole book - very important part here]
- They need Tully's help to get Achilles into orbit so they can execute this divine savior weapon. He agrees to for complete immunity and his Eureka come.f
- They manage to save everything

Chapter Eighteen - Help From Outside

- The United Nations (Of Africa) want to put the Cousins on trial in their system, not the Hive system
- Dembele of the UN wants to act alone, not with MASON despite sharing the belief of no universal laws and personal will governance. They say they do not trust MASON because they think he orchestrated the taking of Eureka after the prior events
- MASON swears he did not by admitting everything he's done wrong before
- They believe him and decide to work together to take the Cousins in Alexandria
- The fighting is brutal and chaotic on the way there; Achilles is still in orbit
- 9A from Papa's reports thinks that the cousins orchestrated the cars stealing people - essentially hiding away those with violent tendencies, calculated using a complex program .
- The Brilliants are supposedly behind the Baskerville like situations. It was a propaganda global mid game to turn all against the Utopians - re: the Utopia vs Brilliants war mentioned much earlier
- The Brilliants must secretly have been in space to pull this off - so it would imply the Cousins are innocent. They essentially wanted to destroy the path to space, which technically prevents a lot of pain - especially if humans could learn to just be happy a la hunter gatherers.
- They used set sets to run their calculations on who to take a la Sybil System.
- They think the Gordians haven't realized they've figured this out

Chapter Nineteen - Peacemaker

- Mycroft has been lost again
- They work to find proof of Gordian being guilty
- They plan a 3rd attack to take back the Almagest
- They believe the Gordians have many outposts over the world which explains where they put the people they stole from the cars and how they pulled off Operation Baskerville, which also gave them a strong communication network everyone now lacks.
- Further they believe the Gordians orchestrated the members of the Guildbreaker bash to do what they did (through psychological means)
- Lastly they point out that the Gordians, who must have set off the outage, were the first back on with Felix Faust's specific message that set the stage for how everyone else responded
- Caesar is reported to have gone into battle on the Per Aspera with Cato and Eureka

- Ando is defeated as MASON refuses to stop from his path against Gordian reclaiming the Almagest
- Mycroft realizes the situation implies, a la the Iliad, that MASON will die
- He magically disintegrates and disappears, evidently on a quest to save MASON, seemingly from the u-beast encounter but perhaps from Bridger
- MASON and Cato board the Almagest against Kosala's wishes and refuse to back down. Kosala finally decides to fire on them, destroying it.
- Achilles responds angrily from orbit
- Cato somehow survives and is recovered by Delian's. They are important because they contain HELEN technology, like Achilles, amongst other reasons
- They strive to find MASON's body

Chapter Twenty - Will You Take The Oath, Prince

- They ask if JEDD will take the Masonic oath, but he refuses
- Due to a long series of rules that made 9A acting emperor
- Achilles continues to rampage and attack but must periodically recharge
- Bryar is in hiding
- Contact re-established with the USA
- Gordian continuing to interfere, unsure if they know they know yet
- 9A wonders what to do

Chapter Twenty One - Transcript from a Hospital Bed

- Alexandria is attacked by a bit of everyone but mostly Mitsubishi. They avoid Achilles attacking by carrying hostages with them everywhere.
- 9A is hit by Gorgons badly
- Battle continues as 9A recovers. 9A uses his powers as emperor to allow certain others to talk to the Prince
- Many Utopian cities have fallen but much favor is built by letting the Prince talk with others and they get ready to take back more space elevators
- Achilles rampages a bit less
- Dominic has disappeared amongst a large Remaker smuggler faction hiding from assassins
- 9A struggles with recovery
- EU confirms the Prince as emperor earning their cause many cities
- 9A begins to doubt his doctors with no recovery and eventually wants to consult Cinna. Su Hyeon never listens to Mycroft in communicating those wishes to Cinna. 9A eventually assumes Su Hyeon has plotted against him and is keeping him in this state to them make themselves the de facto emperor. He tell them this

- He gets no answer from them
- He starts to twists but rallies as Sniper did

Chapter Twenty Two - I Can't Do It Alone and I Don't Have To

- Carlyle and Bo Chowdhury and Xiaoliu come to rescue 9A; Carlyle was the one who figured it out
- They tell him he needs to inform the rest of the empire to the conspiracy that kept him prisoner so they will be pardoned
- They managed to get him to escape by having everyone think they were actually planning to spring JEDD
- Cinna is no longer the Prefect. Cinna appears to have been taken hostage by OS or perhaps by Brillists seeking to frame OS as Cinna may have been onto the Brillists
- They tell them and seek to have all of their conspirators arrested, with Bo going after Su Hyeon to keep the Masons in a more neutral way
- The Prefect says they should resign as they may have been installed by the Brillists purposely. 9A makes Huxley the Prefect
- Carlyle also deduced they were 9A in fact
- Carlyle is offered (and appears to accept) being 10A from 9A

Chapter Twenty Three - Until My Uncle Answers Me

- 9A is reunited with JEDD. JEDD wants answers from the Brillists and starts conversing in German with Felix Faust - assuming they are capable of hearing them already as they would have inevitably set things up so they could
- JEDD refuses to do anything further until they answer
- The Brillists call and eventually connect Faust
- Faust claims that Utopia started the war after all and they are just trying to end it the quickest using their superior skills
- Faust claims they've kept their role in the war deliberately hidden for if it was known then their methods wouldn't be as effective
- Faust argues that JEDD hates death and distance and that is exactly the inevitable path Utopia would take us to in space. All the war's actions were to demonstrate this. And that Brillists goal of immortality is better than Utopia's which is not just disarming death but going to the stars as well and that by not pursuing immortality they are murderers in a way. That by making human computer brains and living forever they would make things best the quickest, whereas in the long run going to space and being stuck with the speed of light and thus distance problem would actually exasperate death in the long run as distance is directly proportional to death

- And in this chase for resources for the future visions of Gordian and Utopia it's really been about using Bridger's artifacts and the likes to advance their visions quickly. Utopia kept them all in space on the Moon so that humans don't go full Gordian and never want to go to the stars. Faust argues to the Prince that this is what the Prince really wants and that the stars aren't worth it
- Faust wants the Prince to surrender to this vision and in return he will give him immortality and his friends back, which he shows has all captured
- Alternatively he offers to just trade for all of the relics, etc,
- Regardless he wants to partner to reduce death in the short term and they do

Chapter Twenty Four - I Have to Move the Mountain

- 9A strikes a deal with Eureka to help in the battle against Gordian
- 9A employs Tully to be a familiaris and Tully agrees
- 9A acknowledges that Toshi wasn't fully complicit in the scandal and tells her to be the new Censor while Su Hyeon is missing
- Hiveguard, Homeland-EU all acknowledge they are somewhat losing and want the war to end quick. They will agree to much, but not unconditional surrender like the Prince demands - any cultural surrender or anything treasonous to their nation-strats.
- Homeland will have to choose a side nonetheless and refuse to side with the Remakers... unless they can make JEDD accept their conditions (of not true unconditional surrender). They encourage 9A to convince them as they're technically a child
- 9A argues JEDD is bound by his absolute filial piety to not do anything to Homeland as his promises and nature is absolute (a la not becoming Emperor yet). Thus giving him an unconditional surrender wouldn't risk any of their fears becoming true because JEDD is already indirectly bound to not let that happen
- JEDD when asks confirms that filial piety will bind and shape their world. But that was not enough to quite satisfy Homeland as there were questions such as competing pieties, etc
- 9A demands clear answers .The price basically agrees with all of Homeland's demands, however, he cannot with the Hiveguard who ask for hives and their 100% independence to be preserved
- When pressed on moral judgements (deontology versus consequentialism) the prince ends the call for today. They agree to a ceasefire. Hiveguard seems to suggest they can't win the war with the new Homeland alliance, but could at least win via assassination now

- 9A believes this amicable process though proves the Madame was wrong and that humanity could overcome her poisons
- 9A wonders where Mycroft is and swears being visited by Saladin asking whether they'd die for Mycroft still. 9A says unlike Saladin there are others he cares about too. He then warns about Achilles

Chapter Twenty Five - The Wrath of Achilles

- The Hiveguard are losing to this new alliance across the globe, so they focus their attack on Alexandria primarily as four forces/armires (typical Hiveguard, duogong mitsubishi, cousins that want to save and rehabilitation JEDD, and Gordian). They have weaponized cars.
- They wonder about Eureka disappearance and yet to return yet but the Censor thinks they are not a traitor
- Achilles holds off for now but warns them that the invading force is coming surprisingly fast - suggesting they must have something powerful on their side
- They try to scale their headquarters, which doesn't make sense, suggesting they have some plan
- They appear to have broken in; being warned they need to evacuate. It appears to be an olfactory attack made by Thisbe but arranged by someone other than OS (otherwise Eureka would've known). Further it has been being used the whole war to make things worse. So if they could stop this it would not just save the Prince but potentially the war
- It was Kosala that scaled the headquarters - thus tempting / preventing Achilles from attacking them without risking the Prince and everyone else
- Thisbe is there and gets to the Prince. Chagatai stops and kills her at the last minute
- The battle starts to turn in their favor
- Achilles ultimately attack killing Kosala as it is his nature, heel
- But Cato is there, as Helen symbolically, after studying the artifacts to see that they aren't just magic but products of science and that he will try and replicate them on Kosala
- It works
- Cato declares to Gordian that now that they have proven resurrection and have kept the technology on space stations, guaranteeing them immunity from Gordian as they wouldn't risk damaging something so close on the path to immortality
- This is technically where the Iliad would have ended, meaning the path forward is less known as Bridger had not read other things
- And as the war ends, so does Achilles, killed by Sniper... followed by the implied surrendering of hive forces

- Now that the war is over as that portion of the Iliad so is Achilles role

Chapter Twenty Six - No One

- 9A interrogates Sniper but is partially in awe of Sniper and breaks down a bit in front of him
- 9A talks about how Sniper's similar situation got them through theirs
- Sniper knows they have lost but is happy to see how their side has in a way influenced JEDD
- 9A acknowledges they are upset that Achilles died but that it was somewhat inevitable in a way
- Sniper is told the news of the resurrection potion and that Cato did it.. but not quite that Cato is ... somewhat inhuman now
- 9A tells Sniper about the Gordian VS Utopia undertones and "secret war" and asks for Sniper to help a bit. Sniper enthusiastically wants to help.
- Mycroft then seems to take over the life of 9A and become them - with 9A effectively dying. This explains why 9A kept having hallucinations about Saladin (like Mycroft) and how Mycroft kept surviving impossible things as other fell a la Saladin, Mason, etc.. Bridger wills him to come back as long as there is a person willing to give their life for Mycroft as 9A is now, inspired by Sniper. So it seems Mycroft returns.

Chapter Twenty Seven - Melodrama

- The King of Spain was freed and Ockham Prospero Saneer was used by Sniper (peace washed in the war) to make it happen
- They used randomness to beat Brillists. The King catches Madame and Perry working together and he kills Perry. The world can hardly blame him.
- The King claims Madame's example will restore bad will and values to a modern monarchy
- But Madame is killed by what is ultimately the hands of Perry (their past work or agent etc)

Chapter Twenty Eight - An Alphabet for Strangers

- Mycroft and Hobbes talk about how humans are and if from that we can infer anything of the nature of our Maker
- Faust argues with Mycroft+Huxley over their recent actions and how it has destabilized the war. They debate immortality and mind science coming before space
- Ultimately Faust says they will harm one of the hostages to prove their intent and force them to make a deal given what just happened
- They try to compromise with Faust, but he believes he can get more by

- making JEDD choose his side
- Vivien Ancelet encourages the humanists to surrender
- Gordian has essentially scrambled Dominic's brain
- JEDD chooses Utopia's path, after realizing Dominic is a metaphor for his Friend/Peer in a way, reaching out for someone else despite the inability to even perceive such, and accommodating the one's they found desires even if it changed themselves
- JEDD wants to compromise with Gordian, but Mycroft as Emperor can't allow it. So JEDD decides to become emperor so he can.
- He orders Mycroft to defeat Faust

Chapter Twenty Nine - The Battle of Ingolstadt

- Mycroft needs Papa's support to get everyone to accept the new world order with the alliance (or most of it) still in tact
- They want to arrange a meeting with all leaders to go forward as most have surrendered to JEDD - a large council meeting. They plan to meet in Yangon
- They seem to just assume the place would not be attacked - something the Brillists may take advantage of
- Mycroft realizes he truly is Odysseus
- He also realizes the Brillists are already a step ahead. The Brillists then beat them to the punch and capture Utopians at Ingolstadt along with the battle plans they'd been working on to stop FAust, which could be used to show the public that everyone should be totally against Utopia as they were planning to attack and escalate the war first (as not everyone knew the Brillists were at fault yet).
- Mycroft realizes they have no choice but to surrender, the Brillists have won
- A letter is sent to Sniper from Cato about how Cato realized Sniper has actually inspired him and genuinely cared about him. Mycroft inserts a note asking Sniper to be a Trojan horse to stop the Brillists (he would be smuggled in in place of the sniper doll, a relic the Brillists would get by rules of the deal/surrender). He would then free Cato and Mycroft (also given to the Brillists) and they would find proof to indict the Brillists. Cato challenges Sniper to exceed him.
- Sniper agrees to help

Chapter Thirty - Peacefall

- Peace is upon the world as the tracker and car system are restored with a message from Eureka that it has been liberated from Gordian
- Mycrofts plan worked and they took the city and got Faust

- They managed to end the war with only 1.8 million dead
- Rather than kill Faust, Mycroft lets him to live to collaborate
- They reflect on the meaning of small authors

Chapter Thirty One - Seven Peacefalls

- The peace process was not immediate; it was messy and took a while
- They begin announcing reforms
- EU and Mitsubishi "merge" in a way under Homeland, but more so as a United Nations type of purpose than the Homeland of the prior war
- Isabel Carlos and Danae are to marry
- Martin is made a junior emperor
- The empire is forced to check itself from being too powerful and susceptible to misuse. They limit the size which empire can grow to be at most an equal plurality and let the extra space be filled by new future hives the masons help sponsor - creating a world plural enough that there can be some empire but without domination. Likewise Masons must truly limit their absolute authority a bit
- Likewise they plan to be more open minded about religion and not totally ban it. Carlyle is to oversee this new project
- Julia is requested to step down, seek to dismantle and/or heal Perry Kayne's network of criminality (pure criminals) and to reimagine how gender might fit into this world, somewhat similar to religion above. How to deal with it practically and unbiasedly rather than just pretend it doesn't exist
- They also reform land ownership laws as to prevent hoarding and voting block laws to prevent old parties staying in power too long
- The Cousins are to be dissolved as a Hive and instead recreated as a strat. They will otherwise continue in their purpose. This way kind people are more evenly distributed amongst hives. There will be also a more Hive like group that is at least similar, Kith.
- 9A has no formal honor but he is honored nonetheless
- JEDD outlaws killing and lethal weapons as a war law, rendering it permanently illegal and a war crime. Violence is truly outlawed.
- Those that killed during the war are asked to judge themselves and then through a committee receive fair sentence, which is to rebuild what they've done. JEDD considers himself guilty too. - Like a servicer in a way for 10 hours a week. The worst always have the option to become servicers. It also "elevated" the servicer program to not really be such a negative distinction. This technically changes the Humanists.
- JEDD and Faust argue the Adult Competency Exam is not something JEDD can take due to things like loops, amongst other reasons

- JEDD argues Set Sets should be considered human in the way he might be considered in the class of human
- JEDD tells humanity they need to get better at first contacts, like we did with AI after animals.
- Gordian is made to admit to the crimes that were theirs. They also plan to open the Brillists system so all hives can understand and be similarly toolled.
- Utopia surrenders to Empire and the Empire will rule over them to ensure they don't create future wars as by the very nature of their hive they may seek war
- JEDD takes ownership of Mars, to let Utopia nurture it before sharing it with other Hives, to avoid their motive to focus on a Mars war. JEDD will do this repeatedly, encouraging the Utopians to advance, briefly rejoice, then move onto their next stepping stone.
- Dominic is fixed
- Mycroft fears, as Odysseus, that overtime Utopia's strength will become to weak and they'll never truly reach the stars. But JEDD says the spirit will live on in new and resurrected old