

The Marrow Thieves



Journal by:

- ❖ Why hasn't frenchie seen his parents in a long time? What happened?
- ❖ Who are the recruiters?
- ❖ Why are frenchie and Mitch so scared of the recruiters ?

At the beginning of the book, we are just thrown into these characters' lives, Frenchie and Mitch.

It is described at the start that their parents aren't there and they are hiding in a treehouse. It

then goes on to a little action where these recruiters come by and tries to take them to this school or something. Now instantly I connect that to the residential schools. I'm still not

entirely sure when this book takes place so this book could be set in the past where those schools

were still a thing, or it could be a future setting where the schools still exist. If this school was

like a residential school it would answer my question of why is Frenchie and Mitch scared of the recruiters as the schools were a very bad place and it would be brutal to get separated from your brother as well.

“I'd never heard this story before. But I knew what a plague was. That's what they were calling the dreamlessness when it started, a plague of madness. I saw men in the woods...”

This quote was said by Frenchie. When he says "I'd never heard this story before," he's admitting to lacking awareness regarding specific details and or events in the situation they are in now. Anyways he understands what a plague represents, in this instance an outbreak causing people affected by dreamlessness which strips them from dreaming which is known as “the plague of madness.” When he talks about the “men in woods” Frenchie has run into people affected by this dreamlessness plague, leading them to display unusual behaviour due to insanity resulting from the absence of dreams. The quote emphasized Frenchie's realization of how extremely devastating the epidemic is affecting his world in multiple ways.

I chose the quote because it kinda reflects our current world state right now. The “dreamlessness” are like people who aren't in tune with nature or who are “mind controlled” you could say. I connect this to my life and even our world because nowadays everyone is on their phones or believing and the source of information their medium produces etc. With all of this info and always being sucked into social media, it kinda takes away your connection to real people or like makes you dreamlessness to not like to follow your dreams because you're too caught up in your Instagram or whatever. I know I'm just rambling on and repeating myself but that's my take on it.

- ❖ How is Frenchie assessment of Rose relevant?
- ❖ What does him pulling his braid out have anything to do with it, doesn't make sense to me
- ❖ Frenchie has more dreams about Mitch, how does he deal with this later on?

Rose represents both the future and the past which connects to children of indigenous heritage as they are the ones who will carry the culture forward bringing it down from the elders but also speaking English and accommodating to the modern society.

In this chapter, Rose finally begins to open up and feel comfortable with her coming to story and Frenchie begins to catch feelings. Thoughts of going after the government occur within the group. Miig takes a group out to go hunting where he teaches them what to look for. Rose brings up a word in the native language which makes Frenchie upset as he doesn't know it yet and feels like he deserves to know it more than she does so he pulls his braid out to show independence. I don't know why.

Frenchie dreams about Mitch still not getting over losing him and wakes up in a sweat. The group needs to hurry and move sites before the recruiters catch on.

❖ Isaac and Miig sought solace in their cabin's embrace

Months passed, uneventful, in a peaceful space.
Guests arrived, secrets hidden in their eyes,
Darkness approached, catching them by surprise.

A young woman whispered of danger in the hall,

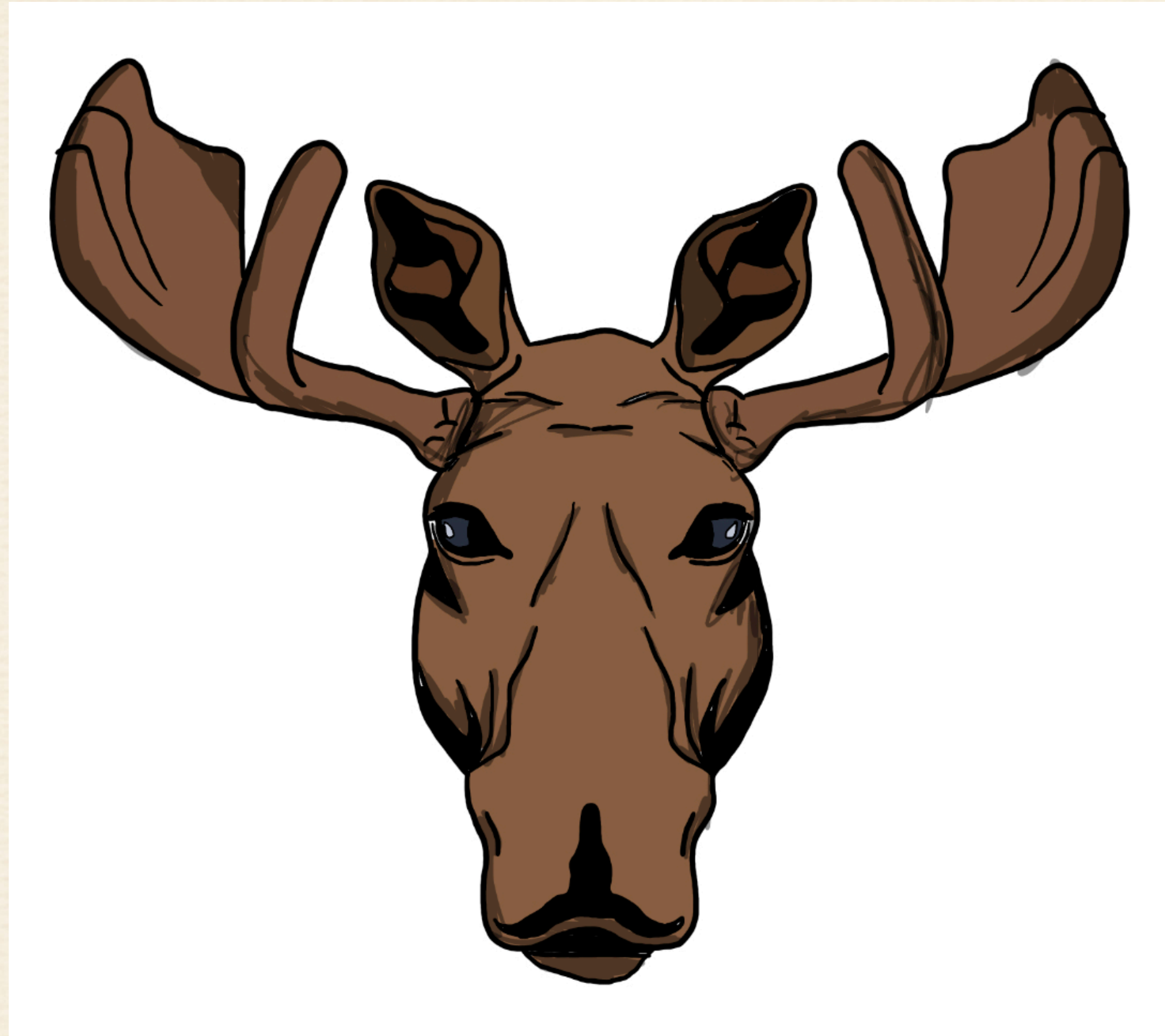
An ankle monitor revealed, impending downfall.
Fear gripped their hearts as Recruiters drew near,

Isaac's hope clashed with Miig's looming fear.
In rush, they packed, but it was too late,
Recruiters stormed in, sealing their fate.

If they had known they'd escape the looming doom,

Regret fills Miig's heart, in that hidden room.

For question number 23, do you agree with Miig that there are times when it is better to keep info to yourself, I would have to agree with this statement. The reason I agree with this is that sometimes the info you are keeping from this person could cause them to make dumb decisions after hearing this info. Like if you told someone info and they didn't like it they might act in a negative manner that could impact the way they act in a setting. For the group discussion, Zach made 2 collages, one about part 1 of Miigs coming to the story and the other about part 2 of Miigs coming to the story. The collages were pretty good and showed the amount of detail he put into them and how he has been following the story and being able to take that story and reiterate it himself.



Do you think Miig was right to lead the group into an encounter with these “other Indians” especially after hearing Wab had a bad encounter with one before? I’ll be answering this question in today’s reflection. I do think that Miig was incorrect here putting the whole group’s safety at risk by trusting 2nnew sketchy “Indians.” Sure, their part of their people but that does not mean that they are good people. He should have disengaged from the situation and trusted Wab when he said not to trust them and when he talked about the terrible scenario that had happened previously.

- ❖ How did Minerva break the machine with her dreams?
- ❖ Does Minerva have powers, how was she so powerful make the machine and school collapse
- ❖ What kind of machine was Minerva hooked up to? What does it do?

In the groups today Colton made a Minerva compass showing how wherever the group goes they still think about Minerva. The compass has a forest background and has Ms on all sides representing that Minerva is always involved despite her absence. For question 36: What is the secret weapon Minerva uses, I believe the answer would be her dreaming/ singing abilities. I'm not entirely sure how that works and am still confused by the concept of "dreamers" and how she's been collecting dreams. I'm excited to see how the book plays this out and where it goes from the burning of the school. As for my questions I am still confused by them and don't understand but I'm sure I'll get the answers I'm looking for in the remaining chapters.

❖ Your weekly contribution: A question, a connection, a drawing, a poem, etc.

Your reflection after your discussion

❖ “How does the Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline reflect Canada presently and historically?”

- ❖ The marrow thieves represent Canada presently and historically in a few ways. The author, Cherie Dimaline, takes more of a dark dystopian take in this novel and kind of serves as a reminder of Canada's dark colonial history and its lasting impact on First Nations peoples. The book is largely influenced by the years spent in residential schools away from family and the community, this can be seen with the “recruiters” taking away the aboriginal people and harvesting them for their dreams, connecting back to the 17th century when the schools first started. In this book “dreams” act as a way of culture or a way of passage and in a world where 50% of the population has died and global disasters occur frequently, you could see how it could be beneficial to harvest the indigenous people dreaming capabilities. Capturing this concept in a symbolic form through 'recruitments', or taking bone marrow from Indigenous peoples to restore dreaming capabilities for non-Indigenous people not only represents historical exploitation but also perpetuates further harm. Another theme reflecting on the past in this book was Intergenerational Trauma. I feel like this theme is relevant to me to talk about as I did one of my keystone parts on it. Most of the characters in the book have experienced said trauma, many have experienced physical and sexual violence and have lost their loved ones, the novel shows how trauma does not only happen to one individual, but is also transmitted from generation to generation, hence Intergenerational trauma. Many characters, including Miig, French and Rose, have heard stories of their families' histories in Canada's residential boarding school systems, where the schools tore Native children from their families and prohibited them from speaking their languages or practicing their cultural traditions.
- ❖ In many ways that the book reflects history, it also reflects the present. Presently speaking, this book investigates the present realities experienced by Indigenous communities in Canada. It highlights their continuous battle for governmental rights as well as protecting their traditional practices while certain people in high places could be against them. The book's main characters along with the other indigenous people involved in the camp, are being chased after, due to their highly desirable bone marrow. Another way this book connects to our present is the way it talks about the indigenous history of young people kinda. It touches on the topics that the next generation has to be able to carry on the traditions, stories and ways of their elders, for example, when they lost Minerva they now must carry on the things that she thought them. Seeing as our generation is young and eager to embrace the fullness of their cultural identity, there's bound to be more ways of celebrating their cultures to be found while still keeping the traditional practices within their people.