

Hike snowman oryx and crake

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Hike Snowman eventually walks his way across the once park that he had been treading through. He enters the pleeblands—full of wrecked cars and debris. The area used to be residential. The shops on the ground floors are completely empty now. Plants grow through the cracks of most buildings. Soon the plants will overtake the buildings. Snowman ponders the possibility that he is not the only human alive. Maybe others survived in isolation. He imagines the questions that the human descendants will ask- -how did this happen? He thinks that they just might decide that what they see, remnants of society past are not real.

Snowman remembers an argument he once had with Crake. Crake had asked Jimmy to imagine the world if civilization had been destroyed. Crake surmised that it could be accomplished with the destruction of a single generation. Instructions for how to put together complicated technology would be lost, as would the vast majority of the once available surface metal. Humanity would be finished. Snowman finds it hard to walk through the overgrown vines that cake the floor. He sees vultures circling him in the sky. He wonders if it even matters if he dies. The sun rises higher in the sky and Snowman begins to feel light-headed.

He tries to hum to cheer himself up. Perhaps he is not actually the Abominable Snowman; he could be the kind of snowman that children build on chilly winter days. He stops to drink water and hopes that he will soon find more. The houses are slowly replaced with warehouses. After that, he approaches the Compound. This is the dangerous part of his trip, as he will have to cross open space. There is nothing to shield him if he finds that he

needs cover. He finally reaches RejoovenEsense. He maneuvers through the barricades, stepping around the body of a dead guard.

As he continues on he sees a trail of abandoned objects, evidence of hope lost. RejoovenEsense By the time Snowman reaches the outer wall of the RejoovenEsense Compound, he is covered in sweat. He stops to eat his chocolate energy bar and drink the rest of his water. As he looks at the land stretched in front of him, he sees the large houses, shopping malls, and clinics that once constituted his world. He continues onward, primarily in search of food. He chooses a random house and enters it through a broken window. He calls out but, of course, there is nobody there.

He begins his search for sustenance. Snowman finds the remains of a man in the bathroom, and the woman of the house lying in the king-sized bed. He stops to look at himself in the mirror. He sees a complete stranger looking back at him. The woman in the bed reminds Snowman of Oryx. She had a wig that resembled the hair of the dead woman. Oryx enjoyed dressing up. Oryx teased Jimmy by telling him that she knew men liked variety. Snowman continues to walk through the house. He exchanges his dirty sheet for a clean one. He finds a few snack foods to take with him and a couple of useful tools.

He bags them all in a black garbage bag. He feels as if he has broken into someone's house after seeing a note scrawled next to the telephone. Twister Snowman knows that he will have to try a different house in order to find food. He climbs back out the window only to see five pigeons staring at him. He waves his stick at them, attempting to spook them away. The pigeons hold their positions. The pigeons eventually retreat. Snowman waits until he

is sure it is safe to proceed. He later sees seven pigeons coming out from behind a bush. They stare at him from afar.

Snowman carefully weighs his options and ultimately decides to walk away from them sideways in the direction he came. A storm begins to darken the afternoon. Snowman heads to a checkpoint cubicle for cover. He heads for the back room just as the lights turn on. He sits in a chair and begins to fret about all of the things that could go wrong. The lights go out; he is alone in the dark. Snowman snacks on cashews, drinks some bourbon, and, just before setting his head on the desk, he sees Oryx floating toward him. Analysis Snowman spends much of his time reminiscing about the hints that Crake gave about his plans.

Snowman feels responsible for not having caught these tidbits of information in time to have prevented what ultimately happened. It is easy for Snowman to blame himself for two reasons. The first is that hindsight is 20/20, or in other words, it is much easier to find fault after the fact than during. The second reason is that Snowman is the last man alive. His solitary existence facilitates his self-loathing because there is no one else around. Snowman's guilt is only compounded by the physical remnants of death and destruction that he has to walk through in order to reach RejoovenEsense.

The loss of hope that he sees in the strewn items, rotting corpses, and abandoned houses is a constant reminder of what he did not suffer. As Snowman respectfully ransacks a house for food and supplies, he has flashbacks of Oryx. Again, in trying to escape his past he is forced to confront it. Snowman's only company consists of a small herd of pigeons that stare at him in hungry lust. His relationship with these animals has changed

dramatically over time. His father originally worked on a pigoon project at OrganInc Farms. When young Jimmy would visit the pigoons with his father, he felt pity for them.

All they did was sleep. Now, ironically, he runs for his life from the very same animal. Survival has become a game that both Snowman and the pigoons have to play. The threat of the pigoons can also be read as a criticism regarding the genetic modification of animals. Jimmy's mother, Sharon, felt that the highly spliced animals were dangerous because man had meddled with nature. Jimmy's father, on the other hand, argued that the transformed animals were simply a conglomeration of cells. In trying to create a species that would benefit humankind, Jimmy's father ended up contributing to his son's eventual predator.

The theme of nature vs. "nature" is played out in Snowman's escape from an animal that he once pitied. The pigoons, Crakers, and rakunks all symbolize parts of Snowman's past. The pigoons were featured prominently in his childhood and in his relationship with his father. The Crakers embodied the beliefs of Snowman's once best friend. The rakunks represent Killer, Jimmy's pet from long ago. All of these artificial creations are physical reminders of a past that he cannot escape. To a certain extent, Snowman's constant recalling of the past is understandable as he lives in a world of memories. Vulturizing

Jimmy graduated from Martha Graham with a degree in Problematics. He tried for weeks to get a job and was unsuccessful. Luckily, he was able to get a job at the Martha Graham library for the summer following his graduation. His job was to sort through the library's collection and decide which books

should be destroyed. He lost his job halfway through the summer because he could not stand the thought of throwing something away. He then moved in with his girlfriend, Amanda Payne. Her real name was Barb Jones but she used Amanda Payne as her artistic name. She came from a troubled, low-class background that appealed to Jimmy.

He wanted to try to heal her, make her anew. Amanda lived in an old condominium in a Module with two other artists. The roommates tolerated Jimmy more than anything else did. The trio would often get into debates on moral and political issues. Amanda was a relatively quiet person, thinking more in images than in words. Her current art projects were attracting a lot of publicity, even from Jimmy's old roommate, Bernice. She had been awarded a grant to continue her artwork, which was considered cutting edge by many. Jimmy was finally hired and able to move out of the artistic stronghold of Amanda's apartment.

His new job was at AnooYoo, a small Compound that practically looked like the pleeblands. Jimmy's job was to work on the promotional for the company's products. His dissertation on self-help volumes attracted his employer to him because of his ability to understand what motivated individuals to want to improve. He told Amanda about his new job but she was not impressed. One of her friends had recently been through an AnooYoo program that had promised much, but delivered little. A few days later, she told Jimmy that she had thought of a new word to center her next project on—love. AnooYoo

Jimmy moved into a small apartment provided by his company. It was slightly nicer than his place at Martha Graham. He wrote ads for a variety of

products – creams, exercise machines, pills. Although he did his job well, he soon found that it was empty work. His sex life had stalled. Occasionally, he would receive correspondence from his father. Jimmy's father and Ramona still had not had a child. If the natural way did not work, they were considering trying a fertility treatment. Ramona asked him to come home for the holidays, but Jimmy had no interest in doing so. Eventually, Jimmy was granted a promotion.

He bought himself new things to fill his empty space. He also found that his promotion led to an improvement in his sex life. He went through streams of women—so many that he no longer considered them girlfriends. Most were married or committed to someone else. Others sought comfort. None of them wanted anything serious. Jimmy was dissatisfied with his life. Somehow, he expected more. He now had to work out to maintain his body in shape. He saw other signs of aging—his hair was becoming sparser. Crake was now working at RejuvenoSense, one of the top companies. He was quickly climbing the ranks of the corporate ladder.

Crake told Jimmy that he had been given complete freedom to work on any project he desired. After a bit of silence, Crake emailed Jimmy to tell him that Uncle Pete had died of infection with a violent virus. Jimmy asked if anyone else had become infected, Crake said no. Their communications slowly trickled to a stop. Jimmy began to think of Crake as a person from his past. Jimmy was increasingly unhappy with his situation. His string of lovers stopped satisfying his needs, although he continued with the trysts. He would watch the depressing newscasts when there were no women with which to spend the night.

The reporting was particularly filled with sex scandals. One day he catches a report about a girl that was found in a locked garage in San Francisco. She claimed she had been rescued from a faraway place; the man had paid a considerable amount of money to save her. She refused to say anything bad about her captor—claiming that she was treated well and that she would always remain thankful for his actions. During a close-up shot of her face, Jimmy realized that it was the same girl from the web porn long ago. He freezes the frame, pulls out the picture of the eight-year-old girl, and compares their faces.

He felt light-headed looking at her face, realizing it was the same person. Gripless Throughout the years, the CorpSeCorps had kept track of Jimmy. In college, they had dragged him in for questioning four times a year. They always wanted to know if he had information about his mother. He did not. They began showing him pictures of people to see if he recognized anyone. He waited for a still shot from the Happicuppa rally at which he had seen his mother on TV years ago, but it never appeared. He had not received any postcards in a long time either. After starting his job at AnooYoo, he stopped hearing from the Corpsmen.

Five years after starting his job, however, they showed up at his door once again. They showed him a series of pictures in movie form, one of which contained a line of dead bodies. Jimmy was sure that one of the bodies belonged to his old roommate, Bernice. More images were shown. Jimmy did not recognize anyone. A scene of an execution flashed on the screen—a blindfolded woman wearing the outfit of a prisoner. As they removed the blindfold, Jimmy realized he was staring into his mother's eyes. Speaking

defiantly into the camera, she said “ Goodbye. Remember Killer. I love you. Don’t let me down. They shot her, almost removing her head with their bad aim. Jimmy pretended not to know who the woman in the video was when the Corpsmen asked him. They had sensed his tension during the scene, and they knew the truth. After they asked Jimmy about Killer, he broke out laughing. He had to explain to the Corpsmen that Killer was his pet rakunk. Later, Jimmy wondered when the execution had taken place. Was it even real? If she was alive, what information had he unwillingly given the CorpSeCorps? Jimmy spent the following days riding an emotional rollercoaster that oscillated between anger and sadness.

He tried to ease his pain with alcohol and sex, but nothing worked. On his worst nights, he would summon the image of Alex the parrot on the internet. The bird brought Jimmy to tears. Jimmy tried to find comfort in words, but there was none. The image of Oryx as a child would come to haunt him in his dreams, threatening him somehow. Analysis Jimmy’s dissatisfaction with his life is heavily reflected in his romantic relationships. In the case of Jimmy’s post-college relationship with Amanda Payne, he finds himself attracted to her primarily due to her troubled background.

His desire to save her from her problems could be a reflection of his own inability to solve his personal and familial problems. The departure of Jimmy’s mother left him wounded a way that did not allow for resolution. The constant questioning of the CorpSeCorps about his mother’s unknown whereabouts only served to reopen a festering emotional wound. Despite wanting to help Amanda, he does not love her and is slightly off put by her declaration of love for him. Jimmy does not seem capable of love at this point

in his life. Jimmy's first months at his new job with AnooYoo are marked by a period of stagnancy.

His romantic life is at a standstill and his father is still unable to have a second child with Ramona. This holding pattern makes Jimmy introspective. He finds that he does not really love his job. The creation of ads for subpar products leaves him feeling empty. Nevertheless, he succeeds at this work. Once he is given a promotion, things begin to change. As he did before, Jimmy begins to search for women looking for a shoulder to cry on. He becomes intimate with a long list of married and committed women. The women searched for comfort and found it in Jimmy.

Jimmy, on the other hand, found the fleeting intimacy that he had with these women reassuring because it required little to no emotional investment on his part. Jimmy's unhappiness continues to grow, eventually resulting in an acknowledgement on his part of the emptiness of his sexual relationships. In the midst of this period of discontent, Oryx enters his life once again. While watching a television broadcast about a girl that was trapped in a man's garage, Jimmy sees Oryx. She was the girl that was trapped. Oryx comes to represent pivotal moments in Jimmy's life.

The first time he sees her, he realizes the level of disgust and disdain he has for his indirect participation in the support of child pornography. This time, Oryx has once again appeared at a time of personal revelation. Oryx serves as a bookmark in between the chapters of Jimmy's life. When the CorpSeCorps show Jimmy a video of his mother's execution, Jimmy's world comes to a crashing halt. His first reaction, laughter, is spurred by his mother's inclusion of his old pet rakunk, Killer, in her final message. In that

moment, Jimmy realizes that perhaps he would never be able to understand his mother's mind.

Denial floods Jimmy's mind, he has no proof that the video he was shown was real. Finally, Jimmy sinks into a depression so deep that not even alcohol and sex can comfort him. Jimmy associates this trauma with the emotions he felt upon seeing Oryx on the internet years ago. His connection between profound sadness and Oryx is not the first that he will make. She remains a beacon of light, a symbol of hope, throughout the text. Pigeons Snowman wakes from a nightmare. At first, he is disoriented, but he soon remembers that he is in the gatehouse. He hears a noise coming from the corner.

Squinting in the darkness, he sees a land crab emerging from the shadows. Snowman carefully looks around before getting out of the chair—he is weary of other animals that may have also chosen to wait out the storm in the gatehouse. He walks to the outer door of the gatehouse to gaze at the grey sky. He is hungry but knows that he will have to wait to eat. He has to make it to the central mall first. Just as Snowman sets out in the direction of the mall, he is confronted by seven pigeons. They approach him slowly, watching him with penetrating eyes. He glances to his other side only to see an even larger group of pigeons.

He is cornered. He turns around, runs back to the gatehouse, and shuts the door behind him. The door does not latch because it is electronic. Without power, he is unable to secure himself. Snowman knows that the pigeons will be able to open the door with little effort. He runs through the gatehouse searching for a hideout. He hears the pigeons entering the building.

Snowman is sure that the pigeons will wait him out if they cannot open the door. After placing a desk against the door, he realizes he has cut his foot. He stands in the center of the back room, searching for a solution. Radio

Snowman stands from the chair and begins to search the inner room. He tries the three doors in the room. Luckily, one opens. He glances up the flight of stairs behind the door and realizes that the pigeons will not be able to climb the steps. With a great sense of urgency, he runs up the stairs. He emerges from the top of the staircase to find the watchtower. Snowman is pleasantly surprised to find two cots, an alarm clock, a cigarette pack, a toilet tank full of water, and various other sundries. He takes out a cigarette and searches for his plastic bag. Snowman realizes that he probably dropped the bag in his hasty climb up the stairs.

He returns to the stairwell and sees the bag halfway down the steps. He carefully climbs down and stretches out his hand to grab the bag. Just as he does so, something lunges at him. The pigeons were baiting him with his bag. In the watchtower kitchenette, Snowman finds a few edible items. He drinks half a bottle of beer with some of the snack foods he has found. As he continues his search of the room, he finds a wind-up radio. He cranks it up and searches the stations. In the midst of much white noise, he hears a voice speaking what he believes to be Russian. Then, he hears a faint voice in English calling out to any potential listeners.

In his excitement, he struggles to remember how to send a message. He shouts into the radio, affirming his presence. Unfortunately, nobody responds. Snowman is elated because this brief encounter has changed his world. Rampart Snowman finally attends to his foot wound. He removes the

sliver of glass from his foot and washes the cut with some of the beer. He finds a tube of expired antibiotic ointment and slathers it on his cut. He worries about what germs may have entered his wound during his escape through the littered floor of the gatehouse. He watches the sunset from the tower windows.

The pigeons look almost like toys from above. As night falls, he lies down on one of the cots. Snowman cannot fall asleep because of the stuffy heat. He lights a candle and studies some sex-site printouts that he found earlier in the day. Instead of being attracted to the images of the women, he feels dismay. That night Snowman dreams of his mother. To be exact, he dreams of her absence. His heart is thumping in his ear when he awakes. He remembers his mother's arms. The alarm clock wakes him with a seductive female voice saying, " Rise and shine. " Snowman worries about the Crakers.

They have been alone three days now. He cleans himself up, checks his foot, boils some water, and eats. He puts on some of the clothing that he has found in the room and prepares himself for his escape. At first, he tries breaking the kitchen window. When that fails, he moves on to the air vent. He squeezes himself through the tiny opening and drops down to a rampart. Snowman scolds himself for having forgotten the radio. He walks along the rampart toward the mall. At the third watchtower, a cloud of smoke in the distance catches his attention. It's coming from near the Craker encampment.

He is confused by the large fire that seems to have resulted in the large smoke cloud. He eats part of a Joltbar, hydrates, and continues onward. Each time he looks back, the smoke is still there. Analysis The theme of the nature

of Nature is addressed in chapter 11 as Snowman tries to escape from the human cortex containing pigoons. Snowman is essentially trying to outsmart a creature that thinks more like a human and less like a pig. Transformed into hunters, pigoons are more similar to predatory humans than prey swine. The change in mental capacity provided to the pigoons demonstrates an important point about human nature in the novel.

Humans in *Oryx and Crake* have created their own worst enemies. In their attempts to better the world, they have only set themselves up for disaster by modifying the environment to the point that it has become hostile not only for lesser creatures, but for all creatures. In trying to outwit the pigoons, Snowman must logically think about what they might do given their mental and physical capacities. In this particular situation, both Snowman and the pigoons have physical limitations. Snowman has injured his foot and the pigoons, due to their short leg length, are unable to climb the stairs to the top of the watchtower.

What follows is a stalemate, ended only with Snowman's thorough analysis of all options of exit. For Snowman, this minor victory reinforces his position of intellectual superiority to the pigoons. Before he had determined a solution to his plight, he was at the mercy of the pigoons. They had outsmarted him. Snowman's strategic competition for success against the pigoons is amplified by another feat of human ingenuity. For the longest time, Snowman had thought that he was the only human alive. While searching the radio waves for any sign of life, he hears a voice.

The presence of another human changes Snowman's world. The possibilities are now limitless. This small revelation gives him an exit from his depression

and provides him with additional encouragement to continue onward. The last portion of chapter 11 addresses the nature of the Crakers. Crake, as mentioned before, had attempted to remove all capacity for art and creativity in the Craker gene pool. As Snowman continuously documents, Crake was unsuccessful in this quest. As Snowman is exiting the watchtower, he notices smoke billowing in the horizon from the location of the Craker encampment.

This change in their behavior confuses him. Although he has witnessed minor tendencies toward innovation amongst the Crakers, this is the first true deviation from normal behavior. The content of chapter 11 tells the story of many inversions of behavior. The pigeons, perhaps working off their human cortex-influenced brains, have lost their fear of humans and have turned into hunters. Snowman realizes that he is not alone in the world; a revelation that opens many doors he did not even know existed before. Finally, the Crakers show signs of innovation that they were not supposed to have.

It appears that no matter how much the “nature” of a being is tweaked through genetic modification, the true nature of beings is to adapt to their environments. Pleebcrawl Snowman hobbles toward the dome, slowed down by his injured foot. Near midday, the sun makes the pavement too hot for him to walk on, so he takes a break. Hunched under his sheet in the shade of one of the watchtowers he worries about the sun scorching him through the layers of fabric and sunscreen. As he sweats under his makeshift tent, he questions why he was brought into this situation by an unnamed “him.” Snowman has an image of himself pristinely dressed, waiting for Oryx. He did not mean anyone any harm. Jimmy was having a hard time waking up.

He had been hiding from the world. Jimmy's boss had not come to complain, he guessed that they knew about his mother's execution. Perhaps now, he thought, the Corpsmen would leave him alone. The voice of his phallic clock encouraged him to " get it up. " He found the clock insulting although he had once found it humorous. He considered getting out of bed to grab a beer. The night before one of his lovers had arrived with food and Scotch, stating that she had been concerned about him.

She left after Jimmy challenged her to leave her husband if she cared about him so much. When she replied that she also loved her husband, Jimmy harshly said that she only cared about him from the waist down. After the fight, she cried. Jimmy had sex with her and actually enjoyed it even though she did not. He wondered if he would ever see her again. He surmised that he would because she genuinely seemed to want to save him from his sadness. Soon enough the intercom buzzed. He thought his lover had returned. Instead, he was surprised to hear Crake's voice on the other end.

Jimmy realized that Crake was probably the only person that he wanted to see. Crake looked much as he always had. Crake told Jimmy that he had tried to email him after learning about his mother. Jimmy admitted to not having had checked his email. Crake asked Jimmy to go with him to the pleeblands. Jimmy knew that if Crake had passes to the pleeblands that he must be a very important person. As they headed to New New York in a Corps car with an armed driver, Crake injected Jimmy with a short-term vaccine to help prevent infection with any bugs that might be running rampant in the disease-ridden pleeblands.

Crake also handed Jimmy a nose cone to filter the dirty pleebland air. Jimmy had never visited the pleeblands before. He was overwhelmed by the number of people and the fact that they did not look the way that the Compounders depicted them. They looked normal. Unlike the Compounders, deformities and crooked teeth existed in the pleeblands. Crake takes Jimmy to the Street of Dreams—an area of New New York where Rejoov's numerous body-oriented products are sold. Jimmy and Crake head out for a drink. After indulging in spirit and rich food, they indulged in women. The next morning Crake offered Jimmy a job at Rejoov.

BlyssPluss Jimmy returned to work at AnooYoo the Monday following his weekend with Crake. To his surprise, he was greeted by several of his superiors, thanking him for his service to the company. He was to be given a generous severance package, more than what he deserved. His bosses wished him luck at his new job. Everything had been arranged for his move and trip to his new home. Jimmy was given a room at a special VIP guest hotel for his first night at RejoovenEsense. In the distance, from his hotel window, he could see the dome of the Paradise building. The following day Crake took him on a tour of the entire compound.

Jimmy was impressed at the level of cleanliness and beauty that the Compound possessed. Jimmy asked Crake what funded the lavishness of RejoovenEsense. Crake vaguely replied that the human condition did. After a luxurious lunch at one of the nicer restaurants on the Compound, Crake began to tell Jimmy about his unit, Paradise. He explained to Jimmy that he was working on immortality. Jimmy was doubtful about Crake's ability to accomplish such a feat. Crake told Jimmy that there were millions of dollars

invested in the research and development of his project. Crake explained that Paradise focused on two main projects.

The first involved the creation of a pill, BlyssPluss, which eliminated many of the non-biological causes of death. In other words, it removed misplaced sexual energy. Crake saw this as the main indirect cause of death. The pill accomplished this by protecting the user from diseases, providing an unlimited libido, and extending youth. Crake explained that the pill would also serve as a permanent form of birth control. However, he did not plan to advertise this last fact. The premise of such a mass sterilization was to reduce the population size so that there were more resources to go around.

Crake thought that this, by definition, would remove many causes of armed conflict. Crake admitted that the pill still needed some tweaks, as there had been some unfortunate side effects in the clinical trial stage. Crake told Jimmy that there were millions of dollars to be made in the project. Jimmy was to be in charge of the advertising. MaddAddam After finishing lunch, Jimmy and Crake went to visit Paradise. The complex was extremely guarded—Corpsmen were not allowed inside. Crake wanted to make sure that the integrity of the project was maintained. The facility had its own guards.

After walking through an airlock, they entered a large room full of people working in front of screens. Each staff member had a nametag that carried the name of an extinct animal. Jimmy immediately recognized this as being related to the game he used to play with Crake, Extinctathon. Crake explained that these individuals were all Grandmasters of the game. All of the individuals were involved in many of the acts of bioterrorism that once

plagued society. Crake got a hold of them before they were caught. In exchange for a new identity, they went to work for him.

A few had abandoned the project early on; Crake was forced to eliminate them from the picture. Jimmy wondered if any of the people knew his mother. Crake quickly whisked him onward. Paradise Crake and Jimmy stopped in at Crake's office. Jimmy slowly took in the surroundings—stopping to read all of the magnets on the fridge of Crake's mini-bar. Crake wanted Jimmy's full attention. He was going to explain what else they were doing at Paradise—the main project. Crake showed Jimmy a large one-way mirror. Behind it were shrubs and a blue sky. It was the first time that Jimmy saw the Crakers.

He admired their beauty, turned to Crake, and asked if they were robots. Crake said that they were the equivalent of floor models at a furniture store. Later that evening Crake told Jimmy the complex number of splices that were made in order to produce a Craker. The Crakers were self-reproducing—Crake had programmed them to die at age 30 to avoid any of the sickness and anxiety related to old age. This was Crake's view of immortality: life with no fear of death. Across the world, other companies were trying to come up with similar prototypes so the existence of the Crakers was top secret.

They were endowed with fortified immune defenses to combat any illness they might pick up from the staff. All of the scientists who worked in Paradise were prohibited from leaving the complex. Only Crake was allowed to leave. Jimmy was also to be an exception to the rule. Crake explained that the MaddAddam crew was only allowed to leave the complex after the company had gone public with their creation. Jimmy could see how this project would

appeal to a wide variety of people. Who groups of people could be programmed for beauty and kindness.

The BlyssPluss pill and the Craker project were invented to work together. The reduced birth rates of humans would allow the Crakers to serve as an alternate to the human species. Crake was amazed by what his team had accomplished. Pseudospeciation, for example, had been eliminated by programming the Crakers not to notice differences in skin color. As they were strict vegetarians, they had no need to kill animals or farm. They survived simply on grass and leaves. A simple species, they had no need to create shelters or money or anything else of inheritance.

That which so many of humankind fought over was eliminated from the picture in the world of the Crakers. Crake explained to Jimmy that they had done market research on the different qualities that buyers might want in their Craker. Jimmy asked if they could speak, Crake answered affirmatively. Jimmy wanted to know if they had the ability to tell jokes. Crake said that they were still working on that. That evening Jimmy was moved into a suite inside of the Paradise complex. All of his things were there with a sizeable number of new additions. Everything was to his liking.

Crake in Love Lightning and thunder resound over Snowman who lies crouched on the rampart. He thinks about how at this point in the story, a play would say Enter Oryx. It would be a fatal moment. However, Snowman cannot decide which moment is actually the fatal one. Oryx entered so many times—as a child in a porno, as a teenager on TV rescued from a locked garage, as a stark naked teacher to the Crakers. He has so many images of

her entering his world that he is not sure which one would be considered the fatal one. He hears her laugh in his ear. Jimmy had not seen Oryx at first.

She blended into the crowd of naked Crakers with her beauty. It was only a few days later, when Crake was showing him how to work the controls of the camera, that he spotted her face. Jimmy was full of both happiness and fear at that moment. She was now a real person—not just an image. He asked Crake who the woman was. Crake explained that she was serving as a go-between, someone who could teach the Crakers about botany and zoology. Oryx's lessons with the Crakers were short. A specialist would go over all of the details of the day's lesson with Oryx before she entered the Crakers' home.

Sprayed with a citrus chemical to hide her non-Craker scent, she would creep into their arena through a hidden door behind foliage. Jimmy wanted to know how Crake met Oryx. The Student Services office at Watson-Crick had arranged for Oryx to be brought to Crake at his request. Crake had given them the print out from the internet that he and Jimmy had seen years ago in order to help the office find her. When Crake became the head of Paradise, he hired Oryx to work alongside him. Oryx emerged from the shower room with her damp hair braided. She shook Jimmy's hand and the three of them went to have coffee.

Oryx explained that she found the Crakers very relaxing. Jimmy wants to know if the Crakers ever wonder where they came from. Crake realizes that he has missed the point and explains to him that any desire to know such things has been edited out of them. Oryx jumps in and says that they did ask her that very question. She told them that Crake made them. The Crakers, however, were not interested in knowing more. Jimmy was bothered by

Oryx's presence because he wanted to be near her. He feared the problems that would arise with Crake if he did so, so he avoided it.

Whenever he felt the need, he headed off to the pleeblands to satisfy his sexual needs. It did not take away his desire for Oryx. He worked diligently at his job, coming up with catchy phrases to accompany the advertisements for BlyssPluss. At night, when he could not sleep, he would feel sorry for himself. To Jimmy's surprise, Oryx seduced him. She came to his suite and quickly had him in bed. Oryx told Jimmy that she did not want to see him sad, especially not about her. Jimmy worried about Crake. Oryx shrugged off Jimmy's concerns. Crake lived in a world of thoughts and was her boss. He did not have time to spend with her.

Apparently, Oryx's interpretation of the situation was correct because Crake did not appear to sense anything about Jimmy and Oryx's relationship. Jimmy thought that perhaps his love for her was blinding. Crake simply did not see what was right in front of him. He was always touching Oryx, something that he had never done with anyone else. In addition, Jimmy sensed that Crake trusted Oryx. She was in charge of making contacts in the pleeblands for the marketing of BlyssPluss. It was hard on Jimmy when Oryx was away on business. When she returned from a trip, she would come to his room in the middle of the night.

Before arriving in Jimmy's room, she would have already briefed Crake on the details of the trip and satisfied his relatively simple, direct sexual needs. For Oryx, fulfilling Crake's sexual needs was just a part of her job. Jimmy found Oryx to be new and refreshing each time he was with her. He never seemed to tire of her. Jimmy always wanted to know the details of Oryx's

past. He wanted to uproot her emotional connections to her troubled past. Oryx, however, did not want to explore these feelings. When asked what happened in the garage she was locked in, she would return the question with a question.

Pretending not to know what Jimmy was talking about, Oryx would try to convince Jimmy that he was imagining things. She could not understand why he was so preoccupied with her past. After much pushing, Oryx would finally give in and talk about her past. However, Jimmy was not satisfied with her responses. For example, Oryx spoke only kind words about the man who kept her in his garage. Oryx felt that Jimmy always thought the worst of people. Takeout Snowman knows that the next part of his story is one that has troubled him for a long time. He has replayed it many times. The alternate scenarios that could have taken place haunt him.

He wonders if he had objected to Oryx's trip to get take-out if things would have still turned out the way they did. He wished he had known that something was going to happen, a gut feeling. He did not. That evening she had come to his suite after working with the Crakers. Jimmy had asked her where Crake was. Oryx replied that he was outside of Paradise in a meeting. He asked her if she loved him. Oryx laughed. Oryx got dressed, ready to head out. Jimmy asked her not to leave. She told Jimmy that she was coming right back; she was only going to pick up a pizza. Jimmy suggested that they drop everything and leave Paradise.

Oryx laughed, telling Jimmy that he was funny, and that they were already together. At Jimmy's suggestion of leaving Crake, Oryx proclaimed that Crake needed them both. Jimmy suggested that Crake might know about

their intimate relationship. He had started searching his room for bugs, hidden cameras, and microphones that might be secretly recording the reality of his relationship with Oryx. Snowman thinks back to the signs that he missed. Crake had once asked him if he would kill someone he loved to spare them pain. Jimmy had been unsure of how to answer because a number of factors would influence his answer.

Crake changed the subject by telling Jimmy that he was depending on him to continue the Paradise project if something happened to him. Crake felt that only Jimmy had the empathy required to deal directly with the Crakers. Jimmy asked about Oryx taking over. Crake replied by saying that if he was not around, Oryx would not be around either. Jimmy had taken it as a joke. Jimmy revealed to Oryx that he was convinced that Crake had been snooping on them. He did not mean it at first, but after it was out in the air, he realized that it could be true. He was not sure if he wanted to scare Oryx or not. Oryx was not convinced.

She did not think that Crake would be jealous because he fundamentally did not believe in jealousy. She pointed out that perhaps Jimmy was jealous. Oryx would not leave the project because she believed in it. She was dedicated to seeing it through. Oryx made Jimmy promise that if she and Crake were gone that he would take care of the Crakers. The request made Jimmy anxious, but he agreed. Snowman wonders why she asked him that. How much did she know about what was about to happen? Airlock Jimmy had waited impatiently at first but as time went on and Oryx had still not appeared his impatience turned into panic.

A bulletin came in at nine forty-five describing an outbreak in Brazil. Jimmy received it as he was second in command and Crake was not present. Then, more notices came in. The outbreak was spreading all across the world. It was a major plague. Jimmy tried to get in touch with Crake but he could not be reached. He watched the news. The bioform appeared to be a hemorrhagic, causing death in a surprisingly short amount of time. Jimmy's cell phone rang; it was Oryx. She was bawling. Oryx told Jimmy that she did not know; she was sorry. Jimmy, confused, asked her what she meant.

Oryx explained that the pills she was selling had been the spreading agent. The line died. Jimmy began to worry about the infection reaching Paradise. What if Oryx was already infected? The staff of Paradise was worried. They were not sure what to do next. Jimmy, still in charge, did not know what to do either so he simply told them to do nothing. Waiting it out seemed to be their best option. Jimmy told the nervous staff that their main goal was to protect the Paradise models, e. g. the Crakers. Everyone was to be kept out of the complex. Jimmy's phone beeped, it was Crake.

Crake sounded inebriated, a rare occurrence. He claimed that everything was under control. Jimmy angrily replied that nothing was under control. He confronted Crake about the real motives behind the BlyssPluss Pills. Crake said that he would be returning soon—he was at the pizza place. Jimmy hoped that perhaps Crake had found Oryx and would bring her back to safety. He went to check on the Crakers. They slept peacefully under their fabricated night sky. What happened next remains a fuzzy, soundless memory in Snowman's mind. Jimmy sat in a chair waiting for Crake to return.

He turned on the news only to see even more reports of death. He went to the storeroom and took out a spraygun. He told all of the staff members that they were safe and that they should return to their rooms. Jimmy walked them to the airlock and let them exit to their rooms. He viewed them as already being dead. Nobody was in the inner part of Paradise but he and the Crakers. At dawn, the monitor beeped. Someone was trying to enter. Jimmy had changed the code, so their old code did not work. He saw Crake on the video monitor. Crake told Jimmy to open the door. Jimmy told Crake that he was not going to let anyone in.

Crake objected, saying that he should be an exception. He explained that he and Jimmy were immune to the bioform because the antibody was in the plebe vaccine that they had both used many times. Jimmy opened the door outer door for Crake. Jimmy could see blood on Crake's clothing. He asked where Oryx was. Crake had Oryx with him. Jimmy held on to the spraygun and opened the inner door. Crake was splattered with blood. He had Oryx across his arms, a knife in one of his hands. Before Jimmy knew what was happening, Crake slit Oryx's throat. Crake looked directly at Jimmy and said, " I'm counting on you. Jimmy shot Crake. Analysis Chapter 12 includes one of the two main climaxes of Oryx and Crake. The chapter leads up to this climax through a series of revelations, recalled by Snowman as he walks through the Paradise complex that he once called home. Snowman recalls that he came to work for the project after Crake rescued him from his severe depression following the revelation of his mother's execution. Jimmy is hired by Crake as the ad producer for the BlyssPluss project. As Snowman plays

through his memories, the reader finally begins to learn what Crake had in store for the world.

Although Jimmy is not completely onboard with Crake's deception vis-a-vis the incomplete promises of the BlyssPluss Pill, he agrees to work for Crake after being bombarded with imagery of the big picture. Involuntary sterilization and the creation of a self-reproducing population of humanoid creatures were central to Crake's plan of improvement of life. Crake's ultimate goal was to create a state of immortality. However, as the reader soon learns, Crake's unique interpretation of the concept reinvented the definition of immortality.

It is in this chapter that Crake's old persona begins to crack, and the beginnings of a mad scientist begin to shine through. For example, inspired by his belief that removing fear of death would result in immortality, he programmed his Paradise models, later referred to as Crakers, to drop dead at the age of 30. In addition, Crake creates a paradoxical situation in which by involuntary sterilizing the world's population, i. e. permanently harming their reproductive capacity, he hoped to help heal the world of its main problems. War and hunger were two of the sources of suffering that he aimed to eliminate through his BlyssPluss Pill.

The ethics and logic of his project are twisted, clear signs of someone who has gone off the deep end. Another facet of Crake is revealed in this chapter through the reappearance of Oryx. It is learned that Crake was just as smitten with young Oryx as Jimmy was. Using the resources available to him, Crake was able to track her down. Jimmy suspects that he did this because he was in love with her. The relationship between Oryx and Crake is one of

great conflict for Jimmy. Jimmy is also in love with Oryx and Crake is his best friend. In the end, an unusual sexual arrangement between the trio helps ease tensions.

Jimmy, however, is always skeptical about what Crake might think about the inadvertent menage-a-trois. He fears what may happen if Crake finds out that Oryx is sleeping with both of them. The sexual relationships that Oryx has with Jimmy and Crake serve to highlight major character differences between the two protagonists. The two men have become inextricably linked in the success of the BlyssPluss project. Crake is the scientific mastermind, whereas Jimmy knows how to sell the product for successful, wide distribution. Oryx's relationship with Crake is business-like and emotionally simple.

Her relationship with Jimmy, on the other hand, is filled with excitement and love. These two contrasting yet simultaneous relationship styles reflect the role that each man has in the BlyssPluss project. The beginning of the worldwide pandemic is the crescendo of the book's first climax. As Jimmy pieces together bits of information, he realizes that both he and Oryx have been had by Crake. The sense of betrayal he feels is second only to the panic that courses through his veins. Jimmy assumes a role of leadership that he has never had before. He decides that his primary goal is to keep the Crakers safe.

As such, he locks the world out. In this moment, although he does not realize it, Jimmy seals his own fate. The dramatic irony that results from this decision is that by attempting to keep himself safe from disease, he unintentionally elicits a situation that ends up being extremely detrimental

for his mental health. The climax is reached during the fatal moment of the chapter. Crake kills Oryx by slitting her throat. Jimmy then shoots Crake. In a matter of seconds, Jimmy has lost the two most important people in his life, one by his own hand.

The trauma that results from this moment is what has been driving his obsessive memories. Jimmy is left with the task of caring for what he believes are the only other sentient beings on the planet, the Crakers. He does this not only because Oryx asked him, but also because he feels a sense of obligation to them. The Crakers become a living metaphor for Jimmy by replaying the relationship he had with his mother years ago. The last thing he wants to do is abandon them. Moreover, Jimmy and the Crakers are now in a symbiotic relationship, each needs the other for survival.