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**The Last Thirteen: 1**  
**By James Phelan**

- As *The Last Thirteen: 1* opens, Sam's nightmare reveals that Solaris is actually the last dreamer of the 13. Did this come as a surprise to you? Why or why not? Did you notice any clues in the earlier books that might have hinted at this?
- When Sam reenters his dream with the Professor and his Academy friends monitoring they all learn the identity of Solaris: Sebastian, the Professor's son, believed killed in the airplane crash in New York City in *The Last Thirteen: 13*. Had you suspected this? Do you think the author provided any clues to this throughout the series?
- Lora and the Professor conclude that somehow Sebastian "became evil." Do you think Sebastian completely changed or do you think the seeds to this transformation were already a part of his personality? What do you know about his life that might explain this? What do you think happened immediately following the crash?
- The series is presented primarily from Sam's point of view and those of other Dreamers. How do you think the story would be different if presented from Sebastian's perspective? Would you want to read that book?
- If you were one of the 13 Dreamers which one would you want to be and why?
- As Solaris attempts to place the gears in order Sam reflects how each is a memory for him – of each Dreamer and their country. Each adventure made up one book in the series. Which was your favorite book and why?
- After Stella dies as a result of the fight with Lora, Alex tries to "find some pity for her." Do you think she's deserving of pity? Why or why not?
- As Solaris leads them all toward the Dream Gate, Sam reflects, *I guess you can't have good without evil to push against it*. Do you agree? Why or why not?
- Ultimately Dr. Dark is revealed to be the true villain and mastermind behind the forces working against Sam and the Dreamers. Had you suspected this and if so, why?
- Do you think Sam's experiences over the course of the race changed him? In what ways?
- The Dream Gate led to unlimited, free energy for the world which will have a huge impact on economies and the environment. In what ways might this impact be felt?
- The Dreamers eventually come upon the hidden room housing the gold, jewels and artifacts of the pharaohs as well as long-lost scrolls and carved tablets. Which would you consider the more valuable treasure and why?



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- Several important characters die over the course of the series. What theme do you think the author is trying to illustrate by this?
  - Another theme of the book is the importance of hope. Can you think of instances in this book and the earlier ones where this is brought out?
  - *The Last Thirteen* has now concluded with this final book. How do you feel about how the story played out? Were you satisfied? How would you have changed the ending if you were the author? Would you want to read more about these characters? What could come next?