

Reader Information Guide

Alabaster

Approximate Reading Grade Level

- **Grade Level:** 9th – 12th Grade (Young Adult / Adult)
- **Rationale:** The narrative features a sophisticated structure, including a foreword discussing the writing process and a story that blends science fiction with philosophical themes. The prose is descriptive and involves complex concepts related to technology, desert survival, and existential discovery.

Recommended Age Group for Readers

- **Recommendation:** Ages 14 and up.
- **Themes and Content:** The book is suitable for older teens and adults. It explores mature themes of isolation, the burden of truth, and the evolution of human understanding. The "textbook-style" origins mentioned in the foreword suggest a reader who appreciates world-building and lore.

Trigger Warnings & Sensitive Content

- **Isolation and Loneliness:** The protagonist, Hollis, has carried a significant truth alone for his entire life, which involves themes of emotional weight and social separation.
- **Peril and Environmental Hazards:** Characters face the harsh realities of a desert environment and the physical challenges of building and maintaining structures in a demanding landscape.
- **Existential Dread:** The story concludes with a revelation about humanity's place in the universe and "the darkness between the stars," which may be unsettling for readers sensitive to cosmic horror or existential themes.
- **Violence/Confrontation:** While the narrative focuses on discovery, the transition into the sequels suggests a shift in the world's safety and established order.

Racy, Adult, or Spicy Content

- **Synopsis:** Based on the manuscript provided, there is no racy or "spicy" content.

- **Romance:** The focus of the narrative is on "found family," community building, and the shared pursuit of knowledge rather than romantic or sexual relationships.

Themes for Readers

- **The Burden of Secrets:** A central theme is the cost of protecting a truth for generations and the courage required to finally share it.
- **Found Family and Community:** The story highlights characters like Prael and Tomas, emphasizing how individuals come together to build "something worth having" in a difficult environment.
- **Discovery and Evolution:** The narrative tracks the transition from basic survival and building to a profound understanding of a much larger, more complex reality.
- **Persistence and Legacy:** The characters are defined by their commitment to work that "needed doing," showing the importance of contributing to a future they may not fully see.