

The Unwanted Lecture

One line summary: Cynthia thinks back to when she was a young graduate student.

Characters: Cynthia, Manny Volynsky (Professor of Ancient History), Jody (a student).

Setting: A lecture hall at Princeton University, Department of Near Eastern Studies.

Conflict: Cynthia is torn between love for her father and embarrassment over his theories.

Resolution: For the first time, Cynthia stands up for her father (literally) in defending him.

Timing: This takes place seven or eight years before the main story. Cynthia is about 21.

Note: **This scene is backstory**, and needs to be somehow woven into the story later on.

Words: 2,542

Synopsis: Cynthia, a young graduate student, attending a lecture in her father's history class at Princeton, is distressed when the lecture, once again, doesn't cover the planned material. She is embarrassed when her father Manny gets off track in responding to a student's question about the reading assignment. She surprises herself by standing up for her father and his Alternative Egyptian Timeline when she feels he is being bested by the student's questioning.

Backstory: Cynthia reluctantly enrolls in her father's class on the Ancient Egyptian Timeline to meet her post-graduate requirements. It is the only one still open that is accepted for students pursuing degrees in other disciplines. She wants to get a degree in Seismology and move to California. She is an only child, whose mother recently passed away. She loves her father but struggles with his increasing eccentricity.

Manny published what has become known as The Alternative Timeline for Ancient Egypt, which caused an uproar among his peers. He completed his PhD before field work was required. His reading of the ancient literature is his strength. He also has tenure, the only thing saving him from being fired. He is nearing the end of his career and seems oblivious to the criticisms being leveled against him in academia.

A Day in the Sun

One Line Summary: David is caught off guard when the sun goes dark for a few moments.

Characters: David Mitchell, Tom Keys of Goddard Space Flight, Joe (a research assistant).

Setting: David's condo in Boulder and his office at CU (University of Colorado at Boulder).

Conflict: David is put on the spot to explain an unexpected and unprecedented solar event.

Resolution: David is told to stall with any forthcoming details until he can analyze the data.

Timing: This takes place a few months before the main story begins with the Red Dust.

Note: **This scene is backstory**, and needs to be somehow woven into the story later on.

Words: 1,340

Synopsis: David, dreaming about receiving the Nobel Prize in Physics, is awakened from a deep sleep by a ringing cell phone. He answers to hear the voice of his contact in Washington, Tom Keys of the Goddard Space Flight Center, who alerts him to the Solar Phenomenon taking place. David is the face of the Government to the citizens on this event, even though it was unexpected. He races to his office at CU, analyzes the data with his research assistant and then formulates a plan. Calling Tom back, he is told to withhold some of the details in order to buy time.

First Encounter

One line summary: David and Cynthia view the oncoming planet from atop a mountain.

Characters: David Mitchell, Cynthia Walker, and a few unnamed local telescope enthusiasts.

Setting: Atop a high mountain known by local enthusiasts for viewing the skies at night.

Conflict: David is trying to make a move on Cynthia. She is not resistant to his advances.

Resolution: They witness a piece of the comet breaking off. A fellow viewer records it.

Timing: This takes place a few weeks *after* the main story begins with the Red Dust.

Note: **This scene is not critical** and can be cut, but would be nice to weave it in somehow.

Words: 1,955

Synopsis: As the comet rounds the Sun and approaches the Earth, David invites Cynthia to meet him on the top of a local high mountain in Southern California. Cynthia travels down from her office in Berkeley to be with David. Although their initial encounter was antagonistic, she is intrigued by this young rising star, an expert in his field of Astrophysics. They are both very sharp, ambitious and successful, and of course, are both single and attractive. Cynthia sees the comet seems to be accelerating. A piece breaks off the comet. David asks a man who recorded the anomaly to send him a copy of the astonishing event.

Too Many Disaster Movies

One Line Summary: David meets the press to announce the new comet. It doesn't go well.

Characters: David Mitchell, Stan Johnson (Science Reporter), Tom Keys, Jillian (David's secretary).

Setting: Duane Physics and Astrophysics lab at CU Boulder (bottom floor) and David's office upstairs.

Conflict: David is confronted by a savvy reporter who discovers the comet was named after David.

Resolution: David blows him off, but it is obvious he is flustered when he leaves his laptop behind.

Timing: This takes place a few weeks before the main story begins with the Red Dust.

Note: **This scene is backstory**, and needs to be somehow woven into the story later on.

Words: 1,785

Synopsis: At a press conference to announce the discovery of a new comet, David is confronted by Stan Johnson, the bulldog science reporter for the Denver Post. Because CU is a research institution, David must take care to be on good terms with the press. Stan is convinced David knows more than he lets on. In the course of his questioning, he asks David who discovered the planet. David confesses he did. Stan makes a bit of a scene, causing David to make a call to his contact in Washington for direction.

In the call, David asks for more than money for his part in the public face for what may be a serious catastrophic event affecting billions of people. He requests a seat on the National Science Board and control of all the observatories in the Western United States. He plays hard ball, threatening to go rouge during a scheduled upcoming interview with a friendly reporter the next day. He is so engrossed in the conversation he doesn't realize he is standing in his office with the door open and his secretary there.

A Push to the Right

One Line Summary: A comet hits Mars and pushes it out of orbit and toward the Earth.

Characters: David, Dr. Ralph Fredrickson (science team), and Stan Johnson (the press).

Setting: A lecture hall in the astrophysics lab at CU Boulder, and David's office upstairs.

Conflict: Stan confronts David as the comet / planet has a close encounter with Mars.

Resolution: David goes out of his way to placate the reporter who accuses him of deception.

Timing: Takes place over two days, a month or two before the planet approaches earth.

Note: **This is also backstory**, but needs to be woven into the story in the appropriate place.

Words: 2,132

Synopsis: Because of the interest of the press, David and his science team have moved out of the cramped lab and into a lecture hall. Stan Johnson, an antagonistic reporter continues to badger David, accusing him of covering up what he knows will inevitably happen. David takes the disciplined approach of not speculating, especially in public. Wanting to avoid a public showdown, he invites Stan to his office the next day to see the results of their data analysis after pieces of the comet hit Mars.

Electromagnetic Pulse

One Line Summary: A massive solar flare and huge EMP destroys unshielded electronics.

Characters: David Mitchell, Captain Lundwell and Colonel Randle, officers in the Air Force.

Setting: Cheyenne Mountain Complex, the underground bunker for the military in Colorado.

Conflict: David is asked to assist the military, which he loathes, when a huge CME hits the earth.

Resolution: The CME has an intense, but scattered effect on electrical and electronic systems.

Timing: This takes place a few weeks before the main story begins with the Red Dust.

Note: **This scene is backstory**, and needs to be somehow woven into the story later on.

Words: 1,488

Synopsis: A Coronal Mass Ejection, or CME has erupted from the sun and is about to hit earth. As the designated subject matter expert, David has advised the military to bring the Cheyenne Mountain Complex out of warm standby to ensure military command and communications are not disrupted. Even David is surprised at the intensity of the direct hit, which burns out much of the electrical components of the underground bunker. Even with massive shielding, the facility is no match for the power of the sun.

Red Dust

One Line Summary: In this opening chapter, red dust causes a near crash of Manny's jet.

Characters: Manny Volynsky, David Mitchell, and several unnamed passengers on the plane.

Setting: Aboard a commercial aircraft on its way from Salt Lake City to Denver Colorado.

Conflict: The plane's engines fail as it runs into red dust in the atmosphere above the Rockies.

Resolution: The captain recovers the engines just before it is about to fall short of the runway.

Timing: This is contemporary. The reader should feel it could happen now or in the near future.

Note: This is the opening chapter. It is the inciting incident to dramatically introduce red dust.

Words: 1,761

Synopsis: We are introduced to the book's two primary characters: Manny Volynsky and David Mitchell. Manny is older, a retired history professor. David is a younger up and coming astrophysicist. The opening scene is with Manny onboard a plane coming in for a landing at Denver airport. The engines flame out after encountering a thick cloud of red dust falling from the sky above.

We follow the action as Manny sees it. The plane barely makes it down, then slides off the runway. David arrives on the scene and goes to offer assistance. Manny takes off walking to the terminal. The captain sends David after Manny. They realize they know each other, have a confrontation. We discover that both David and Manny know something about the red dust and why it's falling.

Sealing the Gaps

One Line Summary: A family in Salt Lake prepares their home to survive the falling dust.

Characters: Janet and Adam Mitchell (David's older brother), their children Bryce, Jason and Abby.

Setting: We find the Mitchell family in their home in a middle-class Salt Lake City suburb.

Conflict: The family must overcome fear and prepare carefully to survive the onslaught on red dust.

Resolution: The family draws together to face their fears of the coming catastrophes with faith.

Timing: This scene occurs near the beginning stages of the Earth passing through the comet tail.

Note: There are only three chapters containing the Mitchell family. I need to add two or three more.

Words: 2,545

Synopsis: The scene opens with David's older brother, Adam Mitchell, taping plastic sheeting over all the windows and doors in his house with the help of his two boys. They have seen the reports of the red dust falling and what it seems to bring with it. They want to let the light in but not the dust. The boys go to town to get whatever bottled water supplies they can find before the populace turns to lawlessness.

They get back just in time as the red dust begins to fall, along with ash and light pebbles. The majority of their experience with the dust takes place in the next chapter, *The Return of the Plagues*. At the end of this chapter, they still have electricity, are able to see what is happening in other parts of the county, especially in the Western United States. Through the television news, they witness the beginnings of volcanic activity in the Seattle area. It seems worse than what they saw earlier in the day from Denver.

Return of the Plagues

One Line Summary: Adam Mitchell and his family witness the return of the plagues.

Characters: We visit with the Mitchell family again as the stuff coming down from the sky gets worse.

Setting: The Mitchell family are hunkered down in their home, hoping to survive the catastrophe.

Conflict: How do you survive something as capricious as a firestorm of burning hail from the sky?

Resolution: Was it pure luck their house wasn't burned, unlike others in their neighborhood?

Timing: This **chapter needs to be tweaked** and placed before the chapter entitled, Sealing the Gaps.

Note: The purpose of this chapter is to show the plagues that accompany the foretold apocalypse.

Words: 2,448

Synopsis: Adam Mitchell takes his boys camping in the High Unitas every year. This year they see and feel things they have never seen before. The weather is hot and dry. There is a new star in the North, growing larger and brighter each day. As it gets closer, strange lights begin to dance from the top of the mountain peaks. They feel a strong sense of ionization in the air, and smell ozone as lighting flows upwards toward the new star. They cut their trip short and head for home.

Lounge Act

One Line Summary: Manny presents his wild theories of the last days for an airport crowd.

Characters: David, Manny, unnamed bystanders in a small but growing crowd.

Setting: A lounge or waiting area at Denver International Airport.

Conflict: Manny is insistent on persuading David to see his point of view on the current events.

Resolution: None. David rejects many as a nutcase, walks away unconvinced in the end.

Timing: Current day, or sometime in the near future, just after the red dust has first fallen.

Note: This a critical piece of the story. It helps us get to know both characters better.

Words: 2,600

Synopsis: Entering the airport terminal, David finds all flights have been cancelled due to the dust. He sees a news report on the crash, ducks into a bar to hide out until the storm passes over. Manny finds him, wants to continue the conversation they started at the scene of the crash. David is in no mood to talk but agrees to listen to Manny tell what he believes will happen next. As a disciplined scientist, he doesn't believe any of Manny's theories.

Manny becomes animated in his story telling and draws a crowd that is very intrigued. David becomes upset by Manny's story. Someone calls security. They try to take David away. A news report on the TV monitors catches everyone's attention. Fire falls from the sky in Seattle. Manny tries once again to get David to agree to introduce Manny at the upcoming conference. David dismisses him as a nutcase, walks away unconvinced that Manny's story has any credibility.

View From the Top

One Line Summary: Astronauts on the ISS encounter the approaching menace first.

Characters: Mark, Jason, Greg, Yuki, Boris and Vladimir, all astronauts aboard the ISS.

Setting: About 250 miles above the earth aboard the International Space Station or ISS.

Conflict: As communications fail, the astronauts attempt to find a way to reach someone.

Resolution: Using a deactivated Russian system, they reach a ham radio operator on earth.

Timing: This scene takes place the day after a massive CME first hits the earth.

Note: We never encounter any of these characters again in the story of Red Dust.

Words: 1,801

Synopsis: Astronauts aboard the International Space Station encounter the same electromagnetic interference that has been hitting the earth for the past twelve hours. They were on the far side of the earth when it first hit, but with each orbit, their shielding decays until all communication links fail. Members of the Russian team have an old system in their module, similar to ham radio, that hasn't been used in years. They are successful in reaching a ham radio operator in Fargo, North Dakota.

Focused and intent on reestablishing any form of communications, they are unaware of what is happening outside their now doomed spacecraft. The same radio hobbyist they reach confirms the effects of what they have been witnessing from the ISS. Colorful sheets of the electromagnetic storm prove to be anything but benign. The ham radio operator tells them to turn around and look at the approaching planet behind them. Blue streams of electrical current stream out toward the planet.

At the Gate

One Line Summary: David meets Cynthia on a classified flight to Washington DC.

Characters: David, Manny, Cynthia, Elena (volcanologist), Dr. John Grady (oceanography).

Setting: At the Denver airport, first in the terminal, then at a private hangar.

Conflict: David meets Cynthia, later Elena. Sparks fly between Cynthia and Elena.

Resolution: Our heroes are grounded until David calls his contact in Washington.

Timing: Just after the red dust starts and an hour or so before it stops for the night.

Note: Told from **Cynthia's POV**. Still **needs work** (critical feedback from female readers).

Words: 2,132

Synopsis: Cynthia Walker, a seismologist from Berkeley California, steps off a flight that has safely made it to the Denver airport in between bursts of the red dust. Walking from her gate, she encounters her father Manny just as David walks away from him muttering about a "crazy old man." She is both surprised to see her father and a little taken aback at overhearing David's characterization of him.

They catch a limo ride to a secluded hangar for a chartered private jet flight to Washington DC. Cynthia is annoyed that David is included in the limo ride. Nor is she happy her father is coming with them. Arriving at the hangar, they meet Elena, a volcanologist and Dr. John Grady, an oceanographer. Sparks fly when Elena, an old love interest, hugs and kisses David profusely. Cynthia is also irritated when David is able to get their flight cleared for takeoff with a single phone call to his Washington contact.

Coronal Mass Ejection

One Line Summary: The team watches the CME take out many electrical systems.

Characters: David, Manny, Cynthia, Elena, Dr. Grady and the G-650 pilot.

Setting: Aboard a private jet, chartered by the Government to take the team to Washington DC.

Conflict: Witnessing the effects of the CME on the earth, David is pressed to tell what he knows.

Resolution: Acknowledging they have only a few days, David describes what is about to happen.

Timing: Evening of the first day. It is safe to fly as that side of the earth doesn't face the planet.

Note: Should **rename this scene**. The CME is not the focus, it is **David's turnaround** in thinking.

Words: 2,461

Synopsis: After the intense events of the first day of red dust hitting the earth, the main characters board a private charter flight headed for Washington DC. All other flights are grounded due to the Red Dust, but David knows it is safe to fly at night until the planet passes them. They watch as the effects of the electromagnetic storm become obvious. In fact, the terrain looks so bright in places below them, it seems as if that spot is on glowing with fire in the undulating flow.

Like the astronauts aboard the ISS in a previous chapter, our heroes are able to see the auroras stretching as far south as Tennessee and Arkansas. In a major plot twist, David, tired of holding up the façade for the government, confesses that Manny's theories are probably correct. While he's not ready yet to apologize for misleading the world, he decides to help Manny get his chance to speak at the conference of the American Astronomical Society.

Meet the Press

One Line Summary: David sets the scene for Manny's worldwide announcement.

Characters: David, Manny, Cynthia, Elena, Dr. Grady, Robert Blackstone, scientists and reporters.

Setting: Prince George Exhibition hall, Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, Wash DC.

Conflict: David is determined to turn this opportunity to speak to the world over to Manny.

Resolution: In spite of resistance from Blackstone, David manages to get Manny to the microphone.

Timing: Approximately twelve hours after the opening scene of Red Sky with the dust falling.

Note: Also a **critical scene**. Cannot be overemphasized how important this moment is to the story.

Words: 2,774

Synopsis: Arriving in Washington DC, our heroes are greeted by a limo and whisked to the convention center for the annual conference of the American Astronomical Society. They find the conference has been turned upside down by the events of the day. Normally an awards ceremony and reception, the place has been thronged by hundreds of reporters and their crews. David and the rest of the team are rushed to the podium where Dr. Blackstone calls the convention to order and presents David to them.

As he steps to the microphone, David is emboldened by the presence of the reporters, especially his old antagonist Stan Johnson of the Denver Post. Instead of backing down from Stan's challenging questions, David seizes the opportunity, pushes Dr. Blackstone aside and begins to answer Stan's question about why this comet is different. He tells the astonished audience the ongoing celestial body is a planet and then shocks them by turning the microphone over to Manny over Dr. Blackstone's strenuous objections.

The Warning Voice

One Line Summary: Manny finally gets his chance to warn a worldwide audience.

Characters: David, Manny, Cynthia, Elena, Robert Blackstone, thousands of scientists and reporters.

Setting: The annual conference of the American Astronomical Society in Washington DC.

Conflict: The scientists and reporters in the audience are prejudiced toward Manny.

Resolution: The bombardment starts at the end of Manny's presentation, **or does it?**

Timing: This address is delivered **on the very day** the worst bombardment of meteorites arrive.

Note: This is perhaps the **most important chapter in the whole book** due to the critical timing.

The timing needs to be adjusted. The bombardment takes place in **daylight, not at night**.

Perhaps what starts is the snapping of the Van Allen belts, giving them a few more hours.

Words: 2,319

Synopsis: Our hero, Manny has been handed an opportunity to address a worldwide audience via a live broadcast. His local audience is comprised of several thousand scientists, primarily astrophysicists, as well as thousands of people in the press, media, TV, Internet and print outlets who have all witnessed for themselves a day of red dust falling from the heavens.

There are politicians in the audience who are opposed to anything that could change their livelihood or control of their constituents. In spite of what they have witnessed, everyone, especially the scientists and the media trained by the scientists to spew only their explanations are antagonistic toward this individual, who they have just met, introduced by one scientist who believes Manny's story.

This one lone scientist, the discoverer of the comet / planet that now threatens the earth, has heard Manny's story on a couple of occasions and is convinced it is the only logical explanation for what is happening and what is about to happen. He has just sacrificed his career, giving up his time at the podium in which he was to accept an award and to spew governmental nonsense designed to calm the people into believing that everything would pass quietly in a few days.

Convinced that the people deserve to know the truth, he has maneuvered this unprecedented opportunity and handed it over to our hero. Think of it: a worldwide audience of billions. They all are interested in what is about to be said, because they are afraid. The red dust has already caused some sickness and the falling hail has caused fires all over the globe. Volcanic activity has been in the news all day and earthquakes are being reported worldwide. They will listen.

Our hero will have approximately thirty minutes before the earth passes through another portion of the red dust and burning hail. Enough of the satellites still function that this event can take place, but it will be the last thing the world hears from anyone other than whatever the local TV and cable companies can put together as the event unfolds over the next few days and weeks. Anticipating this opportunity, our hero is prepared with slides on a USB stick and is now ready.

Given that scenario – only thirty minutes to warn the world – what slides will our hero show and what short, quick explanations will he make that will help people believe him and convince them to take shelter as best they can – underground where possible. He is an old man, a retired history professor and has been trying for years to get people to listen to him. He has been called a fool all his life, but this is the moment for which he was born. His speech could save billions of lives.

How can he convince the world, even though the local scientists and media will interrupt him over and over? His presentation has got to be dazzling, convincing and extremely well prepared.

Bombardment

One Line Summary: The initial bombardment of meteorites in advance of the planet.

Characters: David, Cynthia, Manny, Elena, Stan Johnson, Professor Hansteen, and thousands.

Setting: Convention center of the annual conference of the American Astronomical Society.

Conflict: Dealing death and destruction firsthand, David and Cynthia hunt for her lost father.

Resolution: Manny is found unhurt, but hundreds have been killed in the bombardment.

Timing: About twenty minutes after the last broadcast before the Satellites are all wiped out.

Note: Since writing this, I noticed **a flaw**. The bombardment **must take place facing the sun**.

Words: 2,347

Synopsis: This is a dreadful scene of death and destruction close up as it occurs around them in the convention center. It is rather graphic in describing the horror of the terrible devastation. There is no way to sugarcoat it, nor should it be. Manny warned them of this loss and annihilation in advance. He feels awful that he could not warn the people sooner but feels gratified for what little he could do.

The lights go out. The bombardment takes place in the dark. David and Cynthia are blown off the podium into the relative safety of the curtain behind them, which collapses on top of them. They search for Manny and are relieved to find him underneath the podium where he and Professor Hansteen had been thrown by the initial blast. They were lucky. Hundreds of attendees of the conference lay dead. Elena organizes the people to care for the wounded. There is nothing they can do for the rest.

The Sun Shall be Darkened

One Line Summary: The President is briefed by his science advisor about the catastrophe.

Characters: The President of the United States and his Senior Science Advisor John Holden.

Setting: The Oval Office of the President of the United States of America in the White House.

Conflict: Dr. Holden struggles to explain the credibility of Manny's theories to Pres. Sanchez.

Resolution: The president considers what his science advisor shares just before Manny comes in.

Timing: This may or **may not be placed well**. It might need to be placed **before** the bombardment.

Note: Needs to be expanded a little bit. Seems short and does not mention the bombardment.

Words: 1,271

Synopsis: The President of the United States is in a difficult position. He is about to meet with a man who has shared theories of imminent destruction to the earth from a rouge planet now heading toward them. He was just as shocked as everyone by the tremendous impact Manny's warning voice has had on the world. Everyone is clamoring for a statement of the President's position on what Manny shared.

John Holden does not savor the experience of even acknowledging Manny Volynsky's theories, let alone having to explain them to the President of the United States. While he does his best, his feelings the obvious absurdity of it all are not lost on the President since they go against every known fact of science in the fields of cosmology, astrophysics and planetary dynamics. Yet, they have epiphanies.

The Caldera at Taum Sauk

One Line Summary: We lose Elena in an accident while collecting data at the Caldera.

Characters: Elena, David, Manny and Cynthia.

Setting: A formally inactive volcano in Missouri that came alive as the comet approached.

Conflict: Elena is determined to get the seismological data recording at the monitoring station.

Resolution: Sadly, Elena falls during a tremor, is burned severely, and dies in David's arms.

Timing: **Not sure if this fits here.** Seems to be anti-climactic to come after the big bombardment.

Note: Several readers have suggested they weren't thrilled about **killing off one of the heroes.**

Words: 2,332

Synopsis: Our heroes are dispatched by Dr. Blackstone to retrieve additional evidence of the effects of the oncoming comet or planet. They go to a dormant volcano in Missouri to get the evidence they need. While resting in the tunnel that leads to the monitoring station, Elena and Cynthia have a conversation about the death of Cynthia's husband (still newlyweds) in Elena's arms a just a few months prior.

Saddened by the memory, Elena foolishly charges ahead to get away from Cynthia. She begins to tug at the cover of the monitoring station, which has become stuck in the recently increased humidity. David arrives to help her. Another tremor hits just after he gets the cover open and the data downloaded. Rocks fall from the ceiling, the floor gives way, Elena tumbles onto hot rocks below, then dies in David's arms.

Wheel in the Sky

One Line Summary: David and Manny witness the destruction of Denver close up.

Characters: David, Manny and Cynthia (end of the story - at the hospital).

Setting: Driving north from Cheyenne Mountain back to Boulder after the EMP.

Conflict: Manny shares details of the Peshtigo fire of 1871. Conditions are similar that day.

Resolution: The Peshtigo fire scenario is repeated in a modern day over the city of Denver.

Timing: Again, **seems out of place.** Seems like everything should be before the bombardment.

Note: This seems a little drastic in the way it turns out. **Manny is almost killed.** **Not good?**

Words: 2,058

Synopsis: David and Manny set out from Cheyenne mountain (**why was Manny with David?**) shortly after the EMP. Manny notes the strange weather, hot and dry with incredibly low humidity, almost an electric feeling in the air. Making conversation, he shares the events of the Peshtigo fire with David who treats it with the incredulity and skepticism demanded of a scientist who has other explanations.

Just before reaching Denver, Manny orders David to pull the car over. Humoring the old man, he does so and they wait for a moment. Manny points out a strange spectacle in the sky just above Denver. In an instant they are enveloped in a cacophony of sounds so loud it makes the car pulsate. A tremendous blast of pressure blows out the windows, flips the car, which throws them out before it bursts into flames.

Manny is injured and unconscious. David carries him up to the top of the cement incline under the bridge where they huddle all night while hot winds whip all around them. David, driven by thirst, carries Manny back down to the road where he is surprised to see a patrol car that had just pulled up looking for survivors. The officers take them to the hospital where Cynthia shows up (**too coincidental**).

Holes of the Rocks

One Line Summary: Still in Missouri, our heroes wait out another meteorite storm.

Characters: David, Manny and Cynthia.

Setting: Limestone caves in Springfield on the drive away from the Caldera in Missouri.

Conflict: Although they are surrounded by evidence, Cynthia and David still struggle to believe.

Resolution: That Manny's theories may be spot on is evidenced by the loss of electrical power.

Timing: Just after we lose Elena at the Caldera of Taum Sauk.

Note: Not sure about the placement of this scene. Needs to come before the bombardment?

Also has a bit of **incredulity** because they have a feed from a weather satellite.

Words: 2,194

Synopsis: In a setup to book two, our heroes stop at a safe government underground facility in Springfield Missouri to wait out yet another storm of meteorites. While there, they watch a video feed of the destruction taking place in various parts of the world (**seems too unbelievable** that they could get such a feed, let alone that it comes from multiple places all over the world – yet, perhaps this is exactly what the government had put into place as part of their preparations for this eventuality).

In an effort to keep from thinking about losing Elena, the conversation turns to what is coming next. Manny shares with them the myths and traditions of the three woes. He describes the hail mingled with fire that accompanies the swarms of meteorites that is beginning to take place around them, planetary machining, a mountain of fire that will slam into the ocean, the magnetic interlock and finally, the explosion of a huge celestial that enters the atmosphere and explodes over one of the continents.

All Hail Breaks Loose

One Line Summary: Destruction in Salt Lake – falling hail and an earthquake.

Characters: Adam Mitchell family (David's brother): Adam, Janet, Bryce, Jason and Abby.

Setting: The family is hunkered down in their home, hoping and praying they will survive.

Conflict: How in the world do you deal with increasing violence from the heavens above?

Resolution: Like a capricious tornado, some neighbor's homes around them are destroyed.

Timing: This takes place concurrently with several other chapters during the bombardment.

Note: Struggling with the placement of this chapter. **How do you write simultaneous scenes?**

Words: 2,646

Synopsis: In this chapter we learn how the Mitchell family had prepared themselves to wait out a long-term attack from the elements around them (**Need to modify the chapter** to describe their house in greater detail. It is built up against a cliff and has a deep, protective basement built into a cave). They have food to last almost a year, fuel to power their generator for several weeks, weapons with plenty of ammunition. They even had an internet connection for the first few days until the ISP generators failed.

The falling dust turned to gravel, then pebbles, rocks and an occasional boulder-sized piece. They were shielded from the majority of the larger pieces because of the angle at which they arrived. Some of their neighbors were not so lucky. Coming out of their home at the end of the bombardment, they witness a scene of massive destruction around them. Some homes have been completely obliterated while others right next door had hardly a scratch. Capricious, just like a tornado. **The ending has a surprise twist.**

The Long Trek Home

One Line Summary: A new character and a devastating California earthquake.

Characters: Mike, his co-worker Gary and a crowd of undesirable drunk hoodlums.

Setting: Southern California, home of rock and roll (earthquakes).

Conflict: How do you get home through massive destruction when you work fifty miles away?

Resolution: You take a car and a gun, go as far as you can and then walk the rest of the way.

Timing: This takes place sometime after the initial bombardment, but before the planet arrives.

Note: **This is a throw-away chapter.** It does nothing to advance the story of our main characters.

Words: 2,413

Synopsis: Mike, working at a Southern California airport, rides out a massive earthquake that seems to have occurred right under him. Feeling lucky to be alive, he struggles to drive home but immediately encounters opposition from the neighborhood drunks down the road from his workplace. He is forced to use his weapon to scare them off. He gets on the freeway only to encounter a downed overpass. We will never find out if Mike gets home because I never finished the story as it will take several chapters.
