

# The Marrow Thieves



*Journal by: Brooke W*



May 16

May 15

My contribution - I have come across a few moose before in the wild and they are huge and very majestic. They are quite calm but also scary to be near because of the aggression they are capable of.

From group discussion - Xander had a really awesome poem that I think really exemplified how we are looking at story though art.

I really like how descriptive the writing is in these chapters about their camp because I really enjoy camping and am looking forward to spending a lot of time out in the wilderness this summer. The fear that the characters have of being captured by the recruiters is similar to the fear that indigenous people had of being captured and taken to residential schools.



May 19



The descriptive language in this book has created a vivid movie of this story in my mind. I can clearly see the rooms, the outside of the hotel, the people, the forest outside. Especially during the emotionally expectant scenes like when Rose climbed into bed with Frenchie or during Wab's coming to story, the writing portrays the setting and feelings in ways that create very captivating scenes.

The candles at the Four Winds



May 23



Frenchies' view from the pine tree

Miig telling Frenchie about everyone's rough past was very important because it helps to understand the pain and suffering that those you love went through in order to save them and be a leader. After hearing everyone's harsh past from Miig and seeing the new school construction site, Frenchie takes on a new understanding of the burden of being the chief and why one would keep information secret to protect others. The last two chapters let us get to know Miig better and why he is the way he is. Also super cool that he's gay.



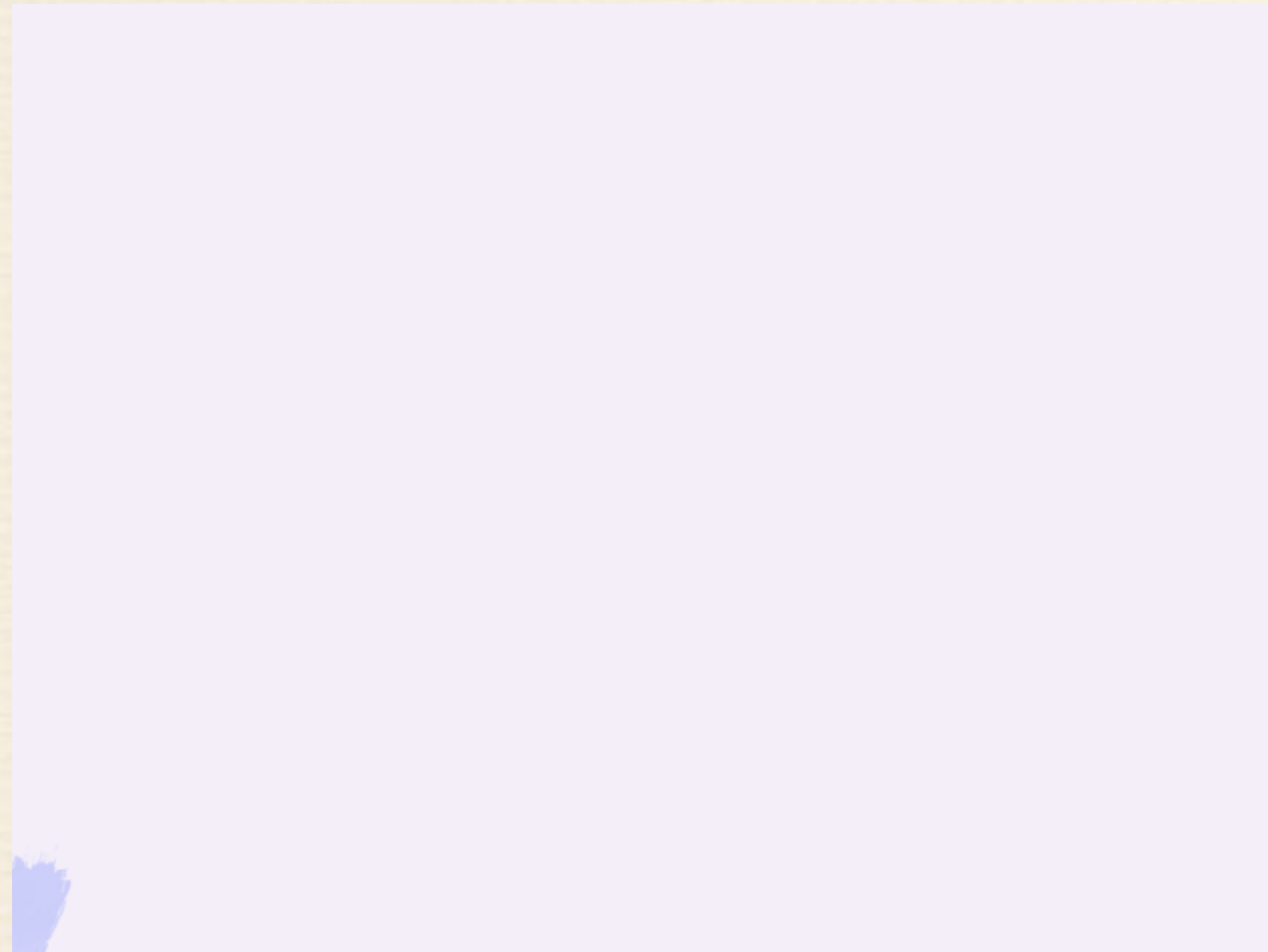
May 26

Connection to the numbers on the tubes of bone marrow Miig finds in the truck similar to the numbers tattooed on Jewish people in the holocaust and Indian status cards.

I was honestly quite surprised that Frenchie was able to shoot Travis. I guess with all of the adrenaline and high emotions it is more understandable. But still a very big thing to take someone's life.



May 30



This is my abstract animation of Minerva's dreams coming out in her song and destroying the facility

Minerva having dreams in their native language made her dreams more powerful.

Minerva harnessed the power of her culture and ancestors when singing her songs and releasing her dreams, being too powerful for the bone marrow extractor thing to hold. I think the spectators may have smudged themselves with the smoke for two reasons, one being because they probably haven't had many opportunities with smoke to smudge in the past years during this apocalypse, and two being that it is a scared activity and the ash from the burning building probably was more important because of Minerva and her dreams and songs that were released and now are in the smoke.



## End of Book

- ❖ Where do you think they will go from here? What's going to happen?

Wow shocker of an ending with Issac and Miig being reunited. I could feel the emotion running through the characters and into me. The characters in the book experienced loss of family and chosen family just like indigenous people did during the time of residential schools and the sixties scoop. I cannot imagine the pain of losing a family member and not knowing if they are still alive or not. This type of pain is felt heavily even to this day because of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada.



# Reflection

The Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline reflects Canada's treatment of indigenous peoples and the genocide that the indigenous peoples of Canada had to face and still face to this day. In the chapter "Frenchie's Coming-To Story", Frenchie's father says this;

"Miigwans says the Governors' Committee didn't set up the schools brand new; he says they were based on the old residential school system they used to try to break our people to begin with, way back."

Showing directly that the "schools" in this book are based off of the residential schools in Canada's history. In both cases, these schools were set to commit genocide in one way or another, stripping the First Nations peoples of their culture and their lives. The characters in the book experienced loss of family, both chosen family and biological, just like indigenous people did during the time of residential schools and especially the sixties scoop. They were unable to know if their loved ones were alive or where they were taken, a heartbreaking type of pain to feel that was felt by a whole race of people. This type of pain is felt heavily even to this day because of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada. The ramifications of the colonizers' treatment of indigenous peoples in both the book and real life have long lasting consequences that will not be forgotten.