

# The Marrow Thieves



*Journal by:*

## Quote:

“I knew I’d never see my family if I were captured; we wouldn’t be reunited at the school. I had to get down from this tree safely and keep moving. Mitch had sacrificed himself so I could live, so I had to live. It was the only thing left I could do for him.”

Excerpt From *The Marrow Thieves*

Cherie Dimaline

## Reflection:

I found this quote intriguing and it caught my attention because the author has made it sound like you can hear the emotion in Frenchie's thoughts during a life-or-death scenario. The quote puts emphasis on family, the fear of never seeing his family ever again and the sacrifices his brother made for him so he could live and now it was his one goal to honour those sacrifices, keep moving and live.

These first 2 chapters have been a prologue explaining the back story and how Frenchie has gotten into this position, I’m interested to see what happens later in the book, will he reunite with his family? Will the sacrifices be worth it?

## Quote:

“But, nevertheless, they are dying. Mostly killing themselves, mind you. And so they are motivated by the need to be able to survive. And they see that solution in us.”

“Wab was on her knees now, listening so hard she was leaning towards each speaker. “So, we’re the same?””

“In a way.”

This quote shows the theme of desperation and survival of the group, Rose shows the idea that the group are motivated to run and keep going because of the Recruiters, and the Recruiters are motivated to run after us because of the schools. Miig adds on that both sides are only motivated by one thing: survival.

Despite their differences, they share a common thread of humanity. The response, "In a way," suggests that although their circumstances may be different, they are all similar by the desire to survive

## Reflection:

One of the people at my group talked about this quote “Do you think circumstances make people turn bad? Or that people make circumstances bad to begin with?”

I found this question very interesting not just looking at the book but looking at life in general. The question explores the complex relationship between individuals and their environment. It delves into the nature versus nurture debate and considers the influence of external factors versus personal agency in shaping behaviour and creating negative situations.

## Quote:

- ❖ “Easy money,” he said, drooling onto the back of his hand. “Nothing serious,” he lied, handing over Danishes in advance as payment. I should have known right then.”
- ❖ “I limped home to my Dumpster, to my mother, to Freddie the Malaysian. There was no more running. Instead, I hid.”

## Reflection:

These 3 quotes caught my eye in explaining Wabs coming to the story, The first quote looks at the theme of betrayal and backstabbing, Wab just thought it would've been an easy ordinary job but she was set up the customer set her up. The second quote looks into Wabs mother and how Wab was ignored and neglected throughout her childhood and had to survive on her own. Her personality now with the group is acting tough, hard and a little bit secretive because she'd been betrayed and abandoned

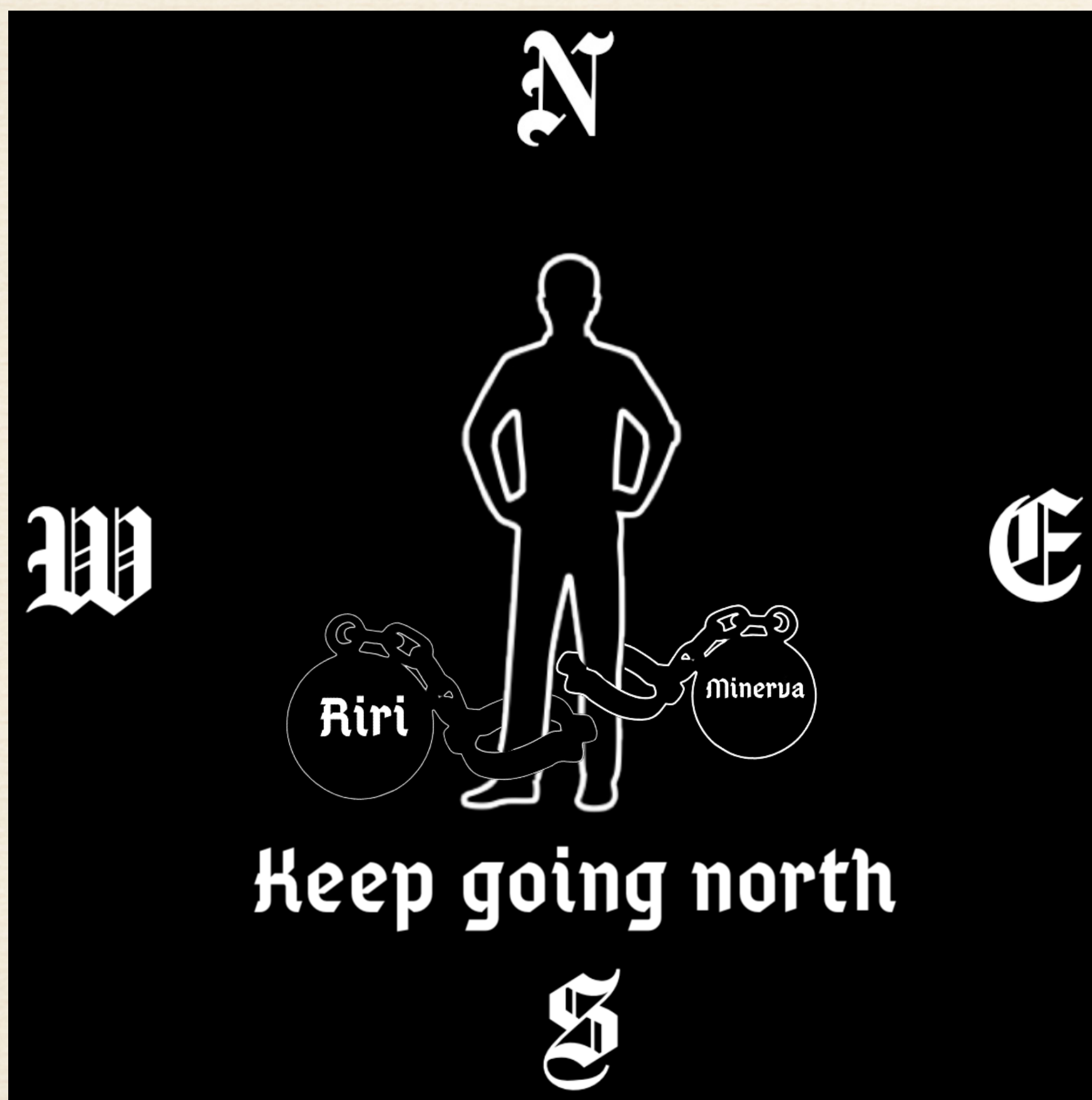
## Quote:

- ❖ “Sometimes, French, you gotta trust that people are making decisions for the better of the community based on things they know that you don’t.”

## Reflection:

- ❖ The quote shows that trusting decisions made by others are in the community's best interest, even if you don't fully understand their reasoning or disagree with it. It highlights the importance of recognizing that people may know more or different things than you, that they are making the right decision, and that you must trust them. It would help if you remembered that some decisions are for the greater good and are out of your hands.

## Artwork:



## Reflection

I found Mateo's quote very interesting this week, his quote was "Recruiter #1 slouched off to sleep at his desk behind the storage closet with its cages of balls and padding; he didn't find this part interesting. The chase was the crux; after that, who cared how the savages screamed or cried?"

Quote from Marrow Thieves, Miracle of Minerva (chapter)

When reading this quote you could sense the feeling of having no empathy or mercy towards the indigenous people coming from this recruiter. He didn't care about any of the screaming or pleading and referred the indigenous people as savages, this shows how harsh and ruthless the government was in this book and how the family was always on a everlasting run and the only option being to survive.

## Connection

- ❖ The end of the book suggests that preserving and connecting with ancestral language, cultural tradition, and the power of dreams is the key to building change. They say that Issac was a new way to take down the schools because he knows Cree; this connects to today as the only way to heal cultural assimilation is by passing on and continuing knowledge and teachings

- ❖ “How does the Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline reflect Canada presently and historically?”
- ❖ Cultural Assimilation and Resurgence were the main themes I took away from The Marrow Thieves. When the book starts, you are instantly introduced to how French and his group, who are First Nations characters, are running for something at the time; the book does not provide much context. All you know is that in the futuristic and apocalyptic setting of the book, the Indigenous people have no power. As the book progresses, you slowly get introduced to the backstory explained by each character coming to stories. The people hunting the First People are "recruiters," They aim to send them the schools to harvest the Indigenous dreams as everyone else except for the Indigenous peoples have stopped dreaming. As the story progresses, French and his "family" go through numerous obstacles like traitors, sneak attacks from recruiters and conflicts between them. Minvera, one of the elders in the family, was a quiet old lady; she was the only one in the group who could fluently speak the native Cree language since the language was diminishing over the decades from Indigenous always being in danger on the run.
- ❖ Some time passes, Minvera gets captured by the recruiters, and the family finds a whole community of indigenous people hidden away. They plan to save Minvera as they hear she has broken the machine harvesting dreams and could be the only way to stop the schools. The rescue attack gets carried out, and sadly, Minvera dies; hopes are lost. Nevertheless, French and one more person from his group keep venturing north. As they are leaving, a group of people from the community inform them that unknown people are setting up camp near the community, they investigate and find that another one of these people speaks fluent Cree, and they discover that knowing the language and culture can take down the schools, this could be the only way to save them.
- ❖ In reading this book, I found a couple of metaphors and connections to the tragic events that happened in our past toward First Nations people. First, we can see a connection from this book to Residential Schools. The "dreams" the recruiters seek is the First Nations culture. Capturing the Indigenous people and sending them to these schools takes the culture, language and traditions out of them, in short, Cultural Assimilation. That is why when they find someone who knows the language, it is so exciting as then cultural Resurgence can happen, and they can recover from the schools.
- ❖ This book is written beautifully; how the Author can make the situation feel like such a dystopia, but in the past, something very similar happened when you realize how it has connected to the past, it helps you realize how vital reconciliation and culture Resurgence is towards the indigenous people.