

THE LAST HISTORIAN

Novel Planning

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Setting:

Los Angeles, California the not too distant future.
Tijuana, Mexico (fugitive)

Logline: A young girl living in a sterile society tightly controlled by an oppressive government heads out on an adventure with her friends to discover her ancestors' past culture and customs in an effort to find her own identity.

Concept

The world has conformed, one government, one people, one leader, one language. The Unity Alliance of Nations was formed to merge every country into the Unity Government. Into that world, a young girl wants to know her ancestry, her family history and the people of her past but that is forbidden. The law is clear; there are no more cultures, no more histories of people and nations. The Federal Bureau of Language (FBL) is responsible for eradicating the old languages and instilling purity in basic speech, the official language of the world - a form of what was once called English but even that is an outlawed term. Those who violate the law are sent to rehab facilities where they must get their minds straight. Then the young girl is shown just a hint of the rich heritage of people's history and rediscovers the need to find herself in her past.

Characters

Kiki Luhon (16) is a typical teenager trying to discover who she is under a government regime that stifles individuality and rewards conformity. She has the desire to be different in a culture where that is prohibited. Like a teen who does not like her current family situation, she revolts against the status quo and goes in search of her roots. Her real crisis begins when her father arrests her mother and she is then forced to live with him when her mother goes to jail. Then she discovers that she is in possession of information that can tell her who she is, tell her about her family's past. Like any teen, she does not see the ultimate danger so is up for an adventure along with her friends. Her arc as a character is to grow from a teen into a young adult willing to "speak truth to power".

Manuel Luhon (36) is a well-respected, Federal Bureau of Language (FBL) special agent who, by neglecting his family and social life, rose through the ranks to achieve the rank of special agent for enforcement with the highest possible security clearance as the head of the enforcement division. Choosing his allegiance to the Unity Government over his family, he has a single-minded goal of eradicating the culture of foreign languages, which seek to corrupt the culture and its way of life. Separated from his wife, he hardly knows Kiki, his own daughter. He begins a believer and just wants to protect the only parent he knows, the Uni Gov. But he learns that he was deceived and grows into a rebel determined to take on the power of the state. He is the antagonist of the story who leaves the antagonistic force to join the protagonist, his daughter, in the end. He learns to love his daughter and rediscovers the love of his wife as the story progresses. His is the biggest arc.

Esmeralda Luhon (34) had sole custody of Kiki her entire life since separating from Manuel when he chose the Bureau over his family when Kiki was born. In fact, he was hired while Esmeralda was giving birth. Manuel gave up his rights and visited his daughter once a year on her birthday but gradually stopped seeing her altogether. She raised a daughter to become a rebel but that was not her intention. However, once her daughter starts down the path toward her destiny as a world-beater, Esmeralda assists her and glories in her development. Though it is hard and dangerous, she learns to trust her husband and love him again.

Jack Sinclair (50s) is the Director of the FBL but as a young agent, he was responsible for bringing Manuel Luhon into the enforcement division. He is a true believer in the purity of the society set up by The Unity Government. Manuel is his pride and joy, one his cadre of trusted agents he has recruited and gathered around himself to protect his power base. He takes the betrayal of Manuel personally. He pretends to be a believer but is a cynic in that he uses his position to make his own life better at the cost of others while justifying his action as doing what is best for the people. It is a lie he lives with because he has deceived himself.

Ling Huang (20s) appears to be a dedicated agent for the FBL on the surface but is in fact an ambitious man who uses his position to gain power and authority, or so he thinks. That causes him to make bad decisions because he is ultimately thinking about how he can achieve his goals. Then his hatred

for Manuel takes over as he becomes obsessed with the man who just would not get out of his way and let him become the division head. That leads him to his own destruction.

The World:

One Land, One Leader, One Language is the motto of the ruling government made up of the ruling class. The government exerts control by erasing individuality from the population. Past cultures and their languages have been outlawed, replaced with a regimented western-style pure and sterile culture and basic speech as the only approved language, a derivative of English. History has been systematically erased; children taught that the past is of no importance. The culture has been sanitized of any of the old cultural influences. Everyone wears the same clothes, maintains the same hair styles and behaves in the same manner. Those who do not conform are sent to rehab facilities to have their minds made right and their families might be shunned.

Treatment/outline:

Preface

A young Manuel Luhon, freshly graduated from agent training school, meets Jack Sinclair, the head of the enforcement division of the FBL and a member of a legendary family in the FBL. Manuel so wants to be part of Jack's team that he refuses to cancel the interview even when his wife Esmeralda goes into labor. Jack is impressed with the newly minted agent's test scores. The division head thinks Manuel has a future in law enforcement and particularly enforcement of the Unity Cultural Standards. While Manuel is at his interview, Esmeralda gives birth to a baby daughter, Kiki. But when Manuel arrives at the hospital to see his wife and new child, he is more excited about his new job.

Chapter: 1

This is Capital City, the headquarters for The Unity Alliance Government. As such, it is the most important city in the world. Cultural purity is vital here as the city must be the model city for the world. It once had a name as other cities have names but no more, it was wiped away because names suggest a past and Capital City is all about the future all pure and unencumbered with a messy, dirty cultural past.

Kiki Luhon prepares for school. Secretly, in her room, she hides a medallion under her clothes, her plain Unity Cultural Standard school clothes. She picks her backpack up and hurries into the kitchen where Esmeralda has her breakfast but Kiki is in a rush and grabs just a small part of it on her way out of

the Unity Government approved apartment in the Fed Gov apartment building. Kiki uses her Unity ID take public transportation to school with all her similarly dressed classmates. They sit in sterile classrooms in a sterile school with teachers who teach the ABCs as well as conformity to Unity Cultural Standards. But there are those teens, students who clandestinely hide trinkets of their individuality. However, the kids do not know what the trinkets they hide under their clothing or in their backpacks mean. They merely see them as a means to defy authority but Kiki is curious. Her mother gave her the medallion, it was their little secret. Kiki wants to know the real history, the real meaning of the medallion but her mother asked her just to keep it safe and not to tell anyone. There are two types of students; those who conform and those who pretend to conform. The conformists are despised by those who do not. They mock them behind their backs but always in secret with code words and hand signs.

Kiki has her posse. Eito thinks his ancestors were Japanese Samurai warriors, whatever they were. It sounds adventurous and mysterious. Raji believes she was the descendent of royal nobility. Jonathan wonders if his family came from King Arthur's Knight's of the Round Table. They quietly call themselves historians.

School bores Kiki and her friends. Part of the curriculum is conformity to the culture of the Unity Government (Uni Gov). Students are taught to conform for the good of society and their peers. Independent identity is frowned upon.

Meanwhile, Esmeralda Luhon slips out of her apartment and flows with the morning commuters only she is not going to her job. She has a meeting. In a secret location, the historians gather. Historian is the slang term those engaged in cultural crimes use to describe themselves. They are those who want to piece together their ancestors' history. They do not believe the Unity Government has the right to censor the past. They want to know who they are as people. In the room behind the bland restaurant they call a history library, the group meets to share information, write down what they have learned in books (Printed books are no longer legal only electronic books that can be manipulated to fit the Fed's view on life.) and they store their icons, pieces of their lost cultures collected from those who defied the law by keeping them hidden away. They practice speaking dead languages (those forbidden as only basic speech is permitted). They have a new member, Ling Huang. He seems hungry to discover from where his family came and their culture.

Chapter: 2

Special Agent Manuel Luhon arrives at work early as he does every day. The special agent is a believer as his mentor Jack Sinclair was and is a believer. The Unity Government has given him everything and, in return, he gives it his complete loyalty. He and his team are on the trail of a group in possession of old reading material that has been outlawed. He has been tracking the group for a while but they somehow seem to always be one step ahead of the agent and his team. But not today. Today Manuel has an informant on the inside.

Under Manuel's supervision, the FBL SWAT team hits Esmeralda's history library and everyone is arrested and placed in jail including Esmeralda. Manuel is so caught up in the overall details of the raid that he does not pay much attention to the individuals apprehended and stuff in the back of the collection vehicle.

Ling Huang is the informant. He is an agent trained to infiltrate cultural violators. Manuel compliments the agent on a job well done but he does not realize how ambitious Ling is.

Later, a confident Special Agent Manuel Luhon enters the interrogation room and discovers that his wife is one of the prisoners. He is angry at her, especially when he learns that they are still married. Esmeralda never divorced Manuel after he left them, or as he sees it, she left him. He has not seen his wife in at least six, maybe seven years. Nevertheless, he shows no favorites and she is taken directly to the judge who sentences her to a rehab facility to get her mind straight. Esmeralda is immediately taken away.

Afterward, Manuel discovers that he is Kiki's only approved relative and must either live with him or she becomes a ward of the government. Jack Sinclair suggests that it would look bad if Manuel abandoned his daughter. Reluctantly, the special agent accepts that he will have to take his daughter under his care.

Manuel has Kiki picked up at school by agents under him and brought to his apartment. She is upset first because she could not ride public transportation with her friends and that the agents took her to this horrible man's apartment. She wants to know what happened to her mother but is told very little.

Chapter: 3

Kiki stays in her new room and refuses to leave until she learns about her mother from the news on the viewing screen. She is upset that she cannot go back to her home but the government confiscated the apartment and everything in it. Manuel will sign-out Kiki's personal effects tomorrow. Nevertheless, father and daughter fight. Kiki cannot believe that Manuel would lockup her mother. Manuel's point is that

someone who breaks the law is a criminal and deserves to be punished. If Kiki's mother gets her mind straight, she will be released to be a conforming citizen. The fight continues on conformity. Manuel believes in it. For the good of a well-ordered society, everyone must conform to Uni Gov standards. His daughter is appalled at the idea. Kiki cannot believe that her mother was ever married to such a creep. She fingers the medallion and remembers her promise to her mother to keep it safe.

Later that night, Kiki escapes out of the apartment but, like an impulsive teenager, she does not have a plan. She tries some of her friends but their parents will not allow her to sleepover without her mother's permission. Which Kiki does not want to tell the adults that her mother was arrested. Eventually, Kiki ends up on the street and gets a taste of life for Off-Gridders, those who do not conform completely so they are punished by not having the ID required to pay for basic services. It is a terrifying experience for her.

People are given credits for what the government thinks they need to live at the quality of life Uni Gov considers adequate based on their contribution to the society. Social equity is the catch phrase but there is nothing equal about it.

Kiki is eventually picked up by the street police and returned to Manuel out of courtesy to a fellow law enforcement officer. Actually, they fear Special Agent Luhon, the protégé of FBL Director Jack Sinclair. They did Manuel a favor in hopes that, should they ever need it, he might reciprocate.

After the police leave, Manuel and Kiki have another argument. It is late and Manuel is upset. But he has a job to do in the morning, or in a few hours, and Kiki has school to attend. But for safety's sake, Manuel locks Kiki in her room. Kiki is definitely not happy.

Chapter: 4

Manuel is up early, as usual, and makes breakfast using Uni Gov standards for a breakfast the net say that a teenager should eat. He checked the Internet for instructions and follows them to the letter, what does he know about raising a teenager. Anyway, he is confused when Kiki does not want it. He drops Kiki off at school and endures the silent treatment from his daughter who is upset that she is not allowed to take public transportation. She argues that it is a waste of resources. He does not understand her desire to be with her friends. When he was young, he was a loner. Then he goes on to the office where he has a surprise visit from Jack Sinclair.

The director discovered that Esmeralda was part of the raid as a report filtered up the chain of command. What Manuel does

not know is that Ling Huang is angling for quick promotion by slipping innuendo into his report. There is the suggestion that Manuel might not be as loyal to Unity Government as he pretends. Ling questions how Manuel could still be married to a cultural criminal unless he had sympathies toward her goals to disrupt the orderliness of the society. Jack cannot tell his protégé who filed the report as the government protects citizens who inform on their fellow citizens. It would make gathering information more difficult. However, Jack still wants to believe in Manuel so he advises him off the record to watch his back and pursue the historical society of which Esmeralda was involved until the special agent finds all the conspirators. Jack suggests that Manuel interrogate his daughter more closely. The girl might know something only he should do it discreetly. Young people are more honest when they are carefully tricked into revealing information.

At school, Kiki endures the harassment by the other students as word that her mother was arrested for culture crime violations spreads around school. Her only defenders and supporters are Eito, Raji and Jonathan as even the teachers and school administrators punish her in their own adult ways. Her treatment demonstrates the way the family members of cultural criminals are punished for the sins of those family members.

Before leaving for the day, Manuel goes to the property office and signs to get Kiki's personal items take from Esmeralda's former apartment. There are several plastic containers with Kiki's belongings in them. The file clerk makes a mistake and places a package that has an old book inside, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García Márquez. To have the book, any book in his possession is a crime even though Manuel does not know he has it. He takes the belongings with him hoping to soften Kiki and then pump her for information.

He picks a reluctant Kiki up from school, takes her home and proudly shows her all of the containers. His daughter is unimpressed. She hides away in her room while her father tries in vain to coax her out with food and friendly chatter to no avail. Kiki initially ignores the containers with her stuff thinking she is punishing the man then decides she wants to see what the brutes at the FBL are allowing her to keep and unpacks. That is when she discovers the book.

Chapter: 5

Kiki did not know that her mother had the book. She caresses it. She also did not know that her mother was a historian. With her father making noise in the other room, Kiki skims through the book. She had never read anything like it in school; the story of seven generations of the Buendía Family in

the town of Macondo, Colombia. She flips back to the inside cover page and discovers it was originally written in Spanish. Spanish! It was written in the language of her ancestors. She was not supposed to know that; it was not taught in school. She learned about it as an amateur historian.

She has to pass it on, that's what historians do, so she begins to copy the first chapter of the book. She has to scrounge for paper. Paper is a controlled commodity in the Unity Alliance of Nations, expensive. The Unity Government does not want citizens creating anything that is not stored digitally. Very little is put on paper, most everything is done electronically. But there are tricks to getting paper and she has a stash of it. Then she hides the original.

Another day and Manuel drops his non-communicative daughter off at school then goes on to the office. There he reviews the list of the inventory confiscated from the history library on his computer. He snorts at the name the cultural criminals give their rat nest. Crime scene, cultural crime scene is what the agents of the FBL call it. Most of evidence will be destroyed. Some of it will be kept for further review and analysis. The lab will dissect it looking for clues that will assist them in tracking down more illegals. Printed books are swept for evidence, fingerprints, DNA and other trace evidence then automatically destroyed. Then Manuel realizes that one book is missing. His inventory sheet and the actual inventory do not match. This is a big problem. If one of his agents is stealing evidence, it means he has a potential cultural illegal in his department. Panic, Manuel's first impulse is fear that his perfect record will be blemished by it. He already has one ding with his wife's offense. How foolish that he never divorced her.

Manuel freezes the inventory so that it is not touched by anyone but himself then begins a quiet investigation on his own. He cannot risk Jack finding out until he knows for sure.

Meanwhile, Kiki shares the first chapter with her posse in their secret meeting place at school. They determine to become real historians and will make copies of the book. They will start their own library. Eito, Raji and Jonathan begin to scrounge for paper.

Chapter 6

A distracted Manuel picks Kiki up at school and she wants to visit her mother. That brings Manuel out of his thoughts. It is not good to visit cultural criminals in rehab facilities even though the law permits it. He know there is a division of the FBL that watches the friends and families of cultural criminals. And although he does not tell his daughter, Manuel

does not want Kiki's name showing up on a visitor's registration list. Father and daughter fight about it. Manuel forbids Kiki from seeing her mother. That is final.

Kiki sneaks out of the apartment while Manuel is working from home on his computer, uses her Unity ID to take public transportation and tries to visit her mother only to learn that the rehab facility will not allow her in without her legal guardian's permission. She is distraught. Why did her mother give her the medallion? She wants to know about the medallion, why it is so important and only her mother can tell her.

She returns to Manuel's apartment and her room where she copies the next chapter. It is the only thing she can think to do. She and her posse will move on with their plan while she figures out how to see her mother.

Chapter 7

Manuel continues his secret investigation but he does not know that Ling Huang is also quietly investigating him. Ling is so ambitious and unwilling to wait to move up the chain that he determines to find something on Manuel and use it for a big promotion, maybe even win the support of Jack Sinclair. Ling is watching Manuel and is curious why the head of the division quietly froze the inventory from the raid. Ling starts out as an investigator then becomes a man obsessed with catching Manuel in the act as a criminal and arresting him.

At school, Kiki meets with Eito, Raji and Jonathan. They are all getting paper wherever they can and copying the first two chapters.

When Manuel gets her after school, Kiki decides to try to be friendly with him and starts by not complaining that she could not travel home with her friends on the bus. She wants to convince him to allow her to see Esmeralda and she figures being nice to him is the best way. Manuel is surprised by it and warms up slowly to his daughter. He has never dealt with kids before so he is in strange territory. Kiki learns that her father is a strict conformer to Uni Gov Standards and she thinks that she will have to pretend to be one as well to gain his approval. When her father halfheartedly calls her to eat, she surprises him and goes out to the table. It is a forced conversation but she makes her best effort. She even manages to take a few pieces of paper from his briefcase when her father was cleaning up the dishes.

That night, Kiki copies another chapter of the book and fingers the medallion. She has to find a way to talk with her mother about it.

Chapter 8

The days and weeks move along. Kiki and Manuel start to grudgingly grow closer. She does not like that her father is a conformist but she is beginning to like him as a person and she reluctantly starts to like him as a father. Manuel is discovering the joy of having a daughter. But that also means the slight pain of knowing what he might have missed in watching her grow up. He thinks that she will become a wonderful lady. Nevertheless, he does not tell her, that adult pride thing. Kiki's secret is the medallion. She considers telling her father but her instinct says that he will take it from her. It is not government approved jewelry.

As this is happening, Manuel is baffled by the missing book. He has searched everywhere for it using all his abilities as an investigator but it just vanished. Then, being a good investigator, he figures out how the book left the building, the only way it could have. He had to have taken it out himself. He eliminated all the other possibilities so that had to be the answer. At his level of security, he, his vehicle and briefcase are not searched. It had to be in the stuff he took Kiki. That means that either his daughter does not know that she has the book or, and he does not like this option, she knows and did not tell him. He rushes from the office.

Kiki, Eito, Raji and Jonathan have managed to make four copies of the book and stashed them away in a secret hiding place right there in the school building.

Manuel hurries home and tears Kiki's room apart looking for the book. He finds it hidden but not very well hidden. His daughter is thankfully not very good at it in his experience as the trained investigator, especially one who searches for the things that people try desperately to conceal. She is not as good as her mother, that's another good thing. But now he has a dilemma; what does he do with the book? For the moment, he is the only one who knows that it is missing. The question is how he gets the book back in the inventory. But then he realizes that Kiki would find it was missing and he did not know what she would do about it. While he considers what to do, he leaps through several pages then finds that he is sitting on the floor reading the book. He is horrified when that realization hits home. What is he doing? It is a violation even for a special agent with the enforcement division. He feels dirty, as dirty as the culture criminals he arrests all the time. Finally, he decides to put the book back and cleans the room. He at least knows that he does not have to find a culture criminal in his division. But he does have to think.

When Kiki returns home with her father that evening, she panics. Her room is cleaner than it was when she left for the day. She panics and goes directly to her hiding place but is

relieved to find that the book is still there. It must just be her imagination. Of course, her father employs a maid to clean the apartment.

Chapter 9

The evening meal together, Manuel asks Kiki what she learned. She tells him about math and science, she is a smart kid with potential and pays attention, but then when she starts talking about history, he feels depressed inside. She is repeating the same thing he learned in school the same way he learned it. It is as though she were telling him about a math problem she solved, boring with nothing but cold hard numbers involved. While she speaks, Manuel can only think about the book and the first few chapters of the Buendía Family. Manuel's father never talked about the family's past, his grandfather and great-grandfather. He wonders what it is like to know his family, his past like the author of the book. He knew nothing more than his grandfather's and great-grandfather's name. What else was there to know? They lived then died in this pure, sterile world of the Unity Alliance of Nations.

The next day, Manuel takes Kiki to school then heads to the office. But he turns around and returns home to the book. Hidden away, in Kiki's room with the drapes pulled, Manuel reads the entire book. He is embarrassed by his obsession with the book. He must stop this right now, get Kiki to admit she has the book and give it to him on her own. He needs a plan. The first step is to show his daughter the price of not conforming.

At school, Kiki, Eito, Raji and Jonathan dream about what it would be like to be real historians.

At the FBL office, Ling Huang notices that the boss has not showed up for work. For a man who never takes a day off, this is unusual behavior. He has tracked Manuel's movements and even traced his division head's searches in the computer. The special agent is searching for something. Something to do with the raid that netted his wife.

That night, Manuel tells Kiki that he will take her to see her mother. He figures that, if she sees her mother in rehab, Kiki will repent.

Chapter 10

Special Agent Manuel Luhon knows that he is taking a risk having his name logged in on the rehab facility registry but, while he does not tell Kiki this, he thinks he can explain it to Jack if necessary as following up on the case and educating his daughter on the evils of the culture criminals. He makes a note to the fact on his electric tablet while they wait to enter the visitor's room. Kiki is just happy to be seeing her mother.

Esmeralda is surprised to see her daughter and even more confused to see Manuel. She hugs her daughter but is very formal with Manuel. They talk, superficially. But Esmeralda sees Kiki touch her chest where her mother knows she keeps the medallion. They make eye contact. Kiki knows that her mother wants to tell her about the medallion. Esmeralda suddenly has a nervous motion with her hand. She places it palm down on the table then turns it over and flexes it. She makes the motion a couple of more times and then looks deep into Kiki's eyes. Her daughter nods ever so slightly.

Their visiting time over, the guards gave them a little extra considering that Special Agent Manuel Luhon was the visitor, Manuel and Kiki leave. Kiki is grateful to her father. She does not know that it is part of Manuel's plan to get his daughter to confide in him, like a good citizen should.

Kiki wants to hurry to her room but in the spirit of fostering her relationship with her father, she watches the very boring news report on the viewing screens with him and pretends to be interested. But the news is sterile, mostly reports about how great the world is since The Unity Alliance of Nations was formed. Kiki could only think of the world in *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and how unsettled that world seemed, how adventuresome.

Finally, the news ended and Kiki retired to her room with the excuse that she homework to do. Once in her room, she studied the back of the medallion. She discovers that there is a hidden compartment in the back and inside is a map with code words. The map is to a place called La Gran Biblioteca and the directions on the map are in a strange language. Kiki is understandably excited.

In the other room, Manuel tries to work but wonders if he has elicited the response he hopes for from his daughter. He will have to wait and see.

Chapter 11

Kiki can hardly wait to get to school where she shares the map with her posse. The map shows them the area but not the country. The kids were thrilled, they had a mystery to solve.

At the same time, Manuel had forgotten about his investigation into the theft of the book. He not only has to figure out how to return it to the evidence room but also cover his tracks on the investigation. He cannot have anyone know that he suspected a crime was involved in the missing book or he will have to explain why and that would lead back to the book, the book that Kiki still has hidden in her room and did not tell him about. Being the daughter of a cultural criminal, Kiki would almost certainly be sent to a youth rehab facility. He

wipes his computer tracks where he is able and hides others by adding new queries for information. His few queries on the book will be lost in the myriad of other searches. He is not only a skilled investigator but learned a lot of tricks along the way from criminals on hiding their crimes. It was all part of his skill sets that allowed him to ascend to the head of the division.

Ling Huang is watching from his desk and his computer. What is his division head doing? Ling is close to discovering the missing book.

Kiki takes Eito, Raji and Jonathan with her to talk with Aunt Angela, Manuel's older sister and the one who introduced him to Esmeralda. They discover that she is a closet historian like her sister-in-law and recognizes the language as Spanish. However, Angela does not speak Spanish. No one in North America the nation state of The Unity Alliance of Nations has spoken any language except basic speech for more than three generations. She sends the teens to a secret library where they meet an old, old man. He gives them a handwritten dictionary of rudimentary Spanish translated to basic speech.

Away from the library and any prying eyes, the four teenagers begin translating the map. For Kiki, it is like looking into her past, her family's past history. They determine that the place on the map is in nation state of Central America and specifically the province of Mexico. They decide to go on an expedition to find the location on the map.

Chapter 12

Kiki convinces Manuel to go on another visit to the rehab facility. Manuel agrees as he felt a little of the old attraction he had for his wife. Kiki signals to Esmeralda that she is going on an adventure and her mother is quietly thrilled. Manuel notices something happening between mother and daughter but does not ask.

On the way back from the rehab facility, Kiki convinces her father that she wants to take public transportation to school again with her friends. Manuel is fine with the idea. He had decided to sneak the book back into the evidence room and will retrieve it from Kiki's hiding place.

With the new day, Kiki places an extra change of clothes in her backpack. She considers taking the book but does not want to risk a routine security check in the transit stations. Carrying a book would result in automatic arrest.

Manuel bids her goodbye as he thinks she is leaving for school then hurries into her room and takes the book that he hides carefully in his briefcase inside a file folder marked extremely secret. Only a guard with his level of security could

open the folder if Manuel were to run into one of those rare situations where there was a search on even someone as high up the ladder as himself. He has decided to take the risk or returning it since Kiki has been slow to come around to telling him. Maybe after she discovers it is gone, she will confess and they can start her rehab to a good citizen. Still, he does not understand why he feels guilty about it. What has this idiotic book done to him?

Chapter 13

Kiki, Eito, Raji and Jonathan meet at the train station. Eito, Raji and Jonathan send their parents e-mails telling them that they are going on an excursion as part of a school assignment and not to worry. Then they are off on their adventure and must use their wits as well as the very sterile nature of society against itself. They have their IDs and use their Uni Gov credits to travel. But they also have to sneak onto some trains because they are limited in resources and want to cover their tracks.

At the same time, Manuel is slipping the book back into the evidence room on a pretense of looking at a completely different case. He has difficulties as it does not go as planned but he finally succeeds. Or so he thinks. What he does not know is that Ling Huang is watching him. In any event, he feels confident that he is in control of his life.

Manuel arrives at home to find that Kiki is not there. He is concerned and uses his authority to tap into the local police in search of her. To his horror, he finds traces of her on the trains heading south.

Meanwhile, Ling goes to Jack and presents his case for Manuel as a criminal. Jack is dumbfounded and has a hard time believing the charges but the images Ling took of Manuel putting a book back in the evidence room is hard to dispute. He cannot order his protégé arrested but issues a warrant for Manuel to be brought in for interrogation as a potential witness.

Manuel decides that his wife has to know something about what their daughter is doing. He has to convince her to help before their daughter becomes a criminal. He hurries out of the apartment not knowing that he is minutes ahead of the team sent to pick him up. Jack was giving him the benefit of the doubt so the team was sent in low-key to escort Manuel back to the FBL headquarters.

Chapter 14

It is late when Manuel arrives at the rehab facility and he bullies his way in using his position as a special agent in the enforcement division not wanting his name to show up on the

computer list. The guards acquiesce to him but the head of the night staff is angry at the pompous special agent.

Manuel at first tries to find out what Esmeralda knows but she is not inclined to tell him. Esmeralda is proud of her daughter because she figures out from what her husband told her that Kiki is going to La Gran Biblioteca. She does not trust that the husband who walked out on her for his career will do anything but arrest their daughter. However, Manuel is secretly convinced that his wife knows.

In a quirk of fate, while leaving Manuel stops at a guard station and signs in on the rehab facility computer where he discovers the warrant for his apprehension as a witness. He mentally runs over his options. He knows what will happen if he is taken into custody for questioning, he has seen it happen hundreds of times. He is trapped and has to prove that he is not a cultural criminal but how? On the spur of the moment, he uses his authority to release his wife into his custody. He needs her to find his daughter and stop her from doing whatever the girl is planning. But the offended head guard has sent a message over the net that eventually ends up with Jack and the director of the rehab facilities communicating on the strange behavior of a special agent. Jack now has the proof he did not think he would get and sends a SWAT team to the facility. Manuel and Esmeralda barely make it out of the facility when the team arrives.

Note: The story line was kept to just the family. However, the author could expand it to show Jack as part of the controlling authority and have him interact with a supreme leader discussing the danger of having even a few dissidents out there sabotaging the purity of the culture.

Chapter 15

Kiki, Eito, Raji and Jonathan arrive in Mexico City where they must use the Spanish dictionary to trace the clues on the map. To their surprise, they find a small group who speak Spanish. They are initially suspicious of the teens but grow to like them because of their enthusiasm and especially Kiki's.

Manuel and Esmeralda are on the run. It is a strange position for Manuel who is accustomed to always playing by the rules so he is a fish out of water. He must trust his wife but she is suspicious that this is a trap of some kind and he is a mastermind of using her to arrest their daughter. Manuel plans to find his daughter before she causes more problems; hopefully he can salvage his career and return Esmeralda to the rehab facility. The last one he would definitely keep to himself to assure her help. Manuel's ID is locked down so Esmeralda takes

him into the underground society that exists to secure IDs with which they can use to travel.

Ling Huang learns from Jack Sinclair that the team missed Manuel at the rehab facility and he released his wife. Jack does not want the betrayal of Manuel to get out yet so he sends Ling back to his regular duties which upsets the agent. He decides to continue the investigation. Because he has been looking into Manuel, he knows about Kiki. On a whim, he checks on the girl and finds that she took a train south. Ling is becoming obsessed with proving Manuel is a cultural criminal and bringing him to justice. He fabricates his work log to show that he was out investigating one of his cases and leaves the office. He takes the train south to track down Manuel's daughter. He figures that, where the daughter is, there the parents will also be found. He is young, inexperienced and has visions of Jack Sinclair rewarding him for unmasking a major criminal hiding deep within the bureau.

Chapter 16

Esmeralda's contact sends them into the underground culture which exists beneath the sterile society. In this world, people had their own personalities. It is eye-opening for Manuel. He never thought to question what he was taught or the wisdom of the government imposing one culture on everyone. Unity Government said that it was best for all and that is what the schools taught so that is what Manuel Luhon believed. What he read in the book was beginning to make sense and it was confusing to him. They travel without the use of public transportation, riding in trucks and other delivery vehicles. The people driving and unloading and doing other jobs at the lowest level of the society were not as interested in the Uni culture. They are simple people interested in their own lives and the lives of those around them. They have mini cultures that both offend Manuel and intrigue him. They even use words that he does not understand, words not in the basic speech dictionary.

Kiki and her posse follow the map to a village near Mexico City on route to an ancient city out in the middle of the jungle. It is overgrown with vegetation, at least, on the surface it looks that way. The Unity Government closed it down and expected the jungle to reclaim it. The bureaucrats forgot about them. Vacations to ancient sites were forbidden. Everything associated with form cultures that did not fit into the Uni culture were destroyed, covered over or removed from the cities. In the countryside, sites of ancient cultures that were not destroyed were made off-limits to visitors. The hope was that, eventually, nature would take its course and bury them.

The teenagers have made many friends and, with their help, they hike out into the rainforest in search of it. The one building dominating the old city is a pyramid temple. And at the top of it waits a very old man..

Ling arrives in Mexico City two days behind Kiki and the other teenagers. Because his prey had to take alternative transportation on a couple of the legs of the trip it took time for Ling to pick their trail up. They are already in the jungle when the agent begins looking for them in the city. It will take him time to find their trail again.

Chapter 17

Kiki, Eito, Raji and Jonathan mount the steep steps of the temple to where Gustavo waits. He takes the teenagers inside the cold stone building. Deep within the ancient temple, the historians from around the world have sent material and objects to be stored in La Gran Biblioteca (The Grand Library). The teens are in a wonderland of knowledge about cultures and languages originally barred to them. Many of the books are hand copied from the original printed ones. Just like the book they copied, these books are on all types of paper from color to size to what is printed on the other side. The teens learn that historians have for years, since the passage of the culture laws restricted information, made copies of any and every book they could find and even wrote their own books from their research. The Unity Alliance of Nations forced all written material into digital form that the government could manipulate. Gradually, the cultural references were deleted or edited out in difference to the Uni culture. Like children in a candy store, the teenagers gobbled up everything. The books were copied in their original language and also in basic speech so that anyone reading the book could understand it.

Ling's search of the city is heavy-handed and he learns about a little village kilometers from Mexico City but when he got to the little village, the villagers were not interested in cooperating with an agent of Uni Gov. Ling tries to be the tough agent but runs into brick walls as far as the villagers helping him.

It takes Esmeralda and Manuel longer than Ling to reach Mexico City because they are traveling the back routes. But they are beginning to rediscover each other in the process, falling back in love. However, they deny their feelings to each other because they fear the other person might not feel the same way. Once in the village, they are hidden by the villagers because Ling is prowling around. The underground culture knows they are the parents of one of the teens. That is when Manuel realizes that he has a real problem. The FBL is following him.

He does not know that Ling is on his own and has not reported in his real purpose.

Chapter 18

Manuel and Esmeralda dodge Ling and are finally able to sneak out the village with their guide to the ancient city hidden away in the jungle.

Kiki, Eito, Raji and Jonathan have been learning about their heritages. They knew that each of them came from different cultures but what they knew up to this point was a drop in the bucket compared to what they learned. Apart from the others, Kiki is obsessed with finding her family in the past.

To Kiki's surprise, Manuel and Esmeralda arrive. She never expected her father to follow her and seeing her mother out of rehab was unexpected. Excitedly, Kiki shows them everything she has learned about her culture and she has even discovered their families in the handwritten books.

Arousing his anger, Manuel learns how there were other cultures that tried the same type of cultural sanitation and they were always evil, wicked cultures. One of the most evil of them all was one called Nazi Germany. He reads a book at night while the others were involved in their own studies on the Nazis and how they attempted to completely control a culture and eventually wanted to control the world. Even though Manuel had been taught in school that the Unity Government was good and pure, all he could see was how immoral it is in stealing the past of its citizens. Esmeralda, Kiki, Eito, Raji and Jonathan were in their glory learning so much but Manuel is in agony at the betrayal of all that he believed in and worked to accomplish. He came down to Mexico to prevent his daughter from harming the Uni culture and now he wanted to crush it. Quietly, Esmeralda notices the change in her husband.

Chapter 19

Manuel finds a book among the collection of printed books written by a man who foretold the dangers of a sterile culture like that the Unity government. Manuel is stunned to discover that the author was Jack Sinclair. In his research, he learns that the writer was the great-great-grandfather of Director Jack Sinclair.

Note: This is a place where the story goes back to Capital City and the struggle within the Uni Gov about these people and the dangers they pose. Jack meets with the Dear Leader (Stalin or a Big Brother type).

Meanwhile, Ling finds one villager, an outcast, willing to take him to where the criminals can be found and there is a fight. Ling is killed.

Manuel copies the book by Jack Sinclair and determines that he will return to the city and tell his boss what he has learned. He believes that, if Jack Sinclair knew what his great-great-grandfather knew, Director Sinclair would want to get the word out and be willing to help Manuel. Esmeralda thinks her husband is crazy. They have rediscovered love so why not go to another city and disappear into the subculture. They can work from underground to one day free people to seek their roots. But Manuel naively believes that, as he has changed knowing the truth, others and especially Jack Sinclair for whom he has so much respect, will also change when learning the truth. Therefore, Esmeralda insists on going with him and leaves the children in the care of Gustavo and the villagers.

What only he knows is that Manuel also has Ling's ID card hidden away in his shoe along with a fingerprint he can use to access it. He hides the disk with the files of the book in a trinket similar to Kiki's medallion.

Kiki is not happy with this arrangement. She wants to go with them but Manuel and Esmeralda leave in the middle of the night so that the teenagers cannot follow them. However, they really do not understand teenagers.

Chapter 20

Kiki, Eito, Raji and Jonathan convince Gustavo that he will either have to help them travel back to the Capital City or they will do it on their own. The old man tries to talk them into doing what Kiki's parents want. He gives them the unhappy truth that the chances of Manuel and Esmeralda escaping rehab or worse are so very slim. But he also knows there is nothing he can do to stop the teens. So he helps them with fake IDs so that they can travel freely.

Manuel and Esmeralda arrive back in Capital City but they are immediately arrested, their possessions taken away from them and they are placed in separate FBL cells. Jack Sinclair personally interrogates Manuel and Manuel is distraught to discover that, not only does Jack know about his great-great-grandfather, he considers him a traitor to culture. His great-great-grandfather is the reason it is important to purge the past so that fools like him can be forgotten. Just like Manuel and his wife will be wiped away along with their daughter. That is, once they capture their daughter. Manuel discovers that his mentor is a fraud. Sinclair is not concerned about the people having the best culture possible but on keeping the average citizen in their place so that he and others like him in

authority can live their lives as they want while controlling the lives of others.

In his cell, Manuel broods. He is at the point of complete betrayal by the society to which he had given his all including his marriage and his daughter. Within him now is nothing but the desire to tear this monster down for his daughter's sake.

Chapter 21

Kiki, Eito, Raji and Jonathan also arrive back in Capital City and learn that Kiki's parents are in custody. They have learned enough about the underground society that they make contacts with it and are able to infiltrate the FBL building as part of the cleaning crews, the lower level citizens who do the dirty jobs, who are often overlooked by those in the upper levels of society.

The plan does not go exactly the way the teens want because Manuel insists on going to the evidence room where he uses Ling Huang's ID hidden in his shoe to open the door. He tries to send the others on but they refuse to leave him. So they all work their way to the evidence room. Inside, he retrieves the disk with the book files then they escape.

The police will be looking for them so what to do next?

Manuel explains what he wants to do with the information. But Uni Gov and the FBL are looking for him. He can't risk another use of Ling's ID but he suspects they were waiting for him to do just that.

Kiki has the solution. She, Eito, Raji and Jonathan send the files to their friends with instructions quietly read the book but not to post the files on their social media sites. They tell everyone that it is secret stuff on the files.

Manuel definitely does not understand. He is still the person who did everything authority told him to do so he is perplexed. If his daughter tells her friends not to post the files or send them to anyone then how will they get them out there? But Kiki knows teenagers. Telling teens not to post or share something that is a secret will produce the opposite effect. And she is correct as the files go viral on the net.

The group goes into hiding for a few days while the files cause shockwaves across the Unity Alliance. All of the warnings of the book by the late Jack Sinclair have come to pass. The revelations have caused unrest. Citizens begin to question the government and the pure society. The police become preoccupied with keeping the peace. Manuel determines that they can risk leaving Capital City under the cover of the chaos.

At the train station, Manuel, Esmeralda and Kiki attempt to send Eito, Raji and Jonathan to their homes. But the other teens will not go back to their dreary lives in a regulated

society when there is so much history waiting for them to learn back in the stone temple. They are historians.

Epilogue

The world is changing. While still in control, Unity Government is shaky. In country states across the Unity Alliance of Nations, many people are clamoring for the freedom to pursue their own cultures, search their pasts and live as they choose to live.

In the temple of an ancient city concealed in the rainforest, a group of historians work tirelessly compiling the histories of different people, old countries who had lost their pasts. They were carefully writing books. Some day in the near future, when the Unity Alliance of Nations falls apart, they will be ready to help the people rediscover their histories.