

The Disappeared by JD Adler

- Chapter Outline

Book 1: Lost

Where the audience learns who and where

Nulian Science Vessel, 07.78.153 GCT

- We meet 1 of our 3 protagonists, Benjamin Reeves, as he awakes to discover himself imprisoned in alien surroundings. This is actually a look forward in the timeline, the audience will discover later. The numbers in the chapter heading are a calendar system: the 7th hour (of 30/day) of the 78th day (of 2000/yr) of the 153rd year of Galactic Confederation Time (GCT). When in space the calendar is GCT, when on Earth it is the Gregorian Calendar, local time.

Where Do The Monsters Go?

- lyrics by Nessa Greene, wife of Ben and 2nd of 3 protagonists. We have not met her yet.

New Jersey, March 2022

- We meet Cronus Bushkill, reporter and 3rd of 3 protagonists. He is on the trail of missing persons cold cases, of which there are thousands annually. He believes he has found a pattern which will lead to a massive organized trafficking syndicate. We see him uncover some small groups but the larger pattern remains elusive.

Still Jersey, March 2022

- We learn about the methods of abductors. Foreshadows future events.

Florida, September 2022

- More adventures with Cronus catching traffickers but the mega-pattern he is searching for remains hidden. More insight/foreshadowing into abductor behavior and explanation of his methods.

Athens, April 2023

- Present time for Ben and Nessa storyline. A young couple traveling America by van and making money as a singer/songwriter duo. We see Ben abducted by grey aliens (“Nulians”) as Nessa watches, helpless. Not the first time her loved one was taken by forces beyond her control. Her mother was arrested for being a con-artist when she was a child, and she met Ben “in the system” years later when they were both teenagers. He was a crack baby abandoned at birth. They married when he was 19 and she was 18. They are now 24/23.

Mechanicsburg, March 2023

- We meet Sheila, truckstop/bar owner and hobbist mechanic when Cronus arrives for a meal. We learn Cronus backstory; that he was found at an abandoned campsite as a baby in Bushkill Park, PA with an anklet that had the word Cronus on it. So the state named him “Cronus Bushkill.” A random seeming bar patron named Herbie takes an inappropriate interest in Cronus’s work.

Morning in Indiana, March 2023

- After spending the night at Sheila’s, recovering from the beating Herbie gave him as warning from “them” to drop his investigation, Cronus reports in to his editor at the New York Herald.

Still Mechanicsburg, March 2023

- A fleet of trucks with fake company marketing pull into Sheila’s and Cronus discovers Herbie is somehow connected to them.

This Spot Here

- Lyrics by Nessa Greene

Back in Wayne National Forest, April 2023

- Cronus’s predictive algorithm based on past abductions brings him to Nessa the day after Ben’s abduction. Law enforcement is treating her like a crazy person, assuming Ben just ran off. Cronus listens to her, and after a suspicious start, they get along.

Walland, April 2023

- We meet Herbie's employers; 3 anonymous old white men in grey suits and coats, to discuss general plans and Cronus. We meet their assistant Yolanda; an amoral and clever woman of opportunity.

Equality, April 2023

- Nessa and Cronus become friends and make plans

All Alone

- lyrics by Benjamin Reeves

Nulian Science Vessel, 8.80.153 GCT

- We revisit Ben's horrific situation. We learn the Nulians (grey aliens) collect species from all over the galaxy.

Old Man Shadow

- Poem found hand written in book found adjacent to baby Cronus

Garden of the Gods, April, 2023

- The hunt for aliens begins, Cronus and Nessa are on the road. They get closer than expected. Herbie shows up with a gun.

Old Shawneetown, April, 2023

- Herbie takes Ben and Ness to his leader. The bad guys try to convince the good guys to join them. They refuse. Executions are ordered.

The Ohio River, April, 2023

- Herbie and Yolanda take Nessa and Cronus to the river to kill and dispose of them on orders from the old men. Herbie ends up dead and Yolanda is taken prisoner.

Chicago, May, 2023

- Jake Stenjmeyer, publisher of the paper Cronus works for (the New York Herald), finds himself in a meeting with the three old men. We learn some of their names and positions of power. He is extorted into dropping Cronus.

Aliens

- lyrics by Benjamin Reeves

Nulian Science Vessel 23.134.153 GCT

- Ben begins to acclimate to his surroundings. He discovers music is truly a universal language. Starts to communicate with the various species of alien around him.

Sheila's Good Spot, May 2023

- Cronus and Nessa return to Sheila's with their prisoner, Yolanda, to regroup.

She-Shed, May 2023

- Sheila has an idea for a device to temporarily cancel the Nulian's energy weapons/tools.

Upstairs, May 2023

- Questioning of Yolanda, uncovering some details about the old men and the SPC which they lead. The SPC (Solar Planning Commission) is a clandestine organization working with aliens (Kentauran) to gain control of colonizing the system for economic gain. This is when we first hear of the Kentauran who are alien allies of the SPC but different than the Nulians. It is unclear to the protagonists if anything she says is true.

Nulian Science Vessel 11.172.153

- The Nulians put the prisoners through physical exercises. The method of which gives Ben an idea for a plan of escape.

More She-Shed, May 2023

- Sheila demonstrates her device. Nessa and Sheila have girl time. Stenjmeyer shows up, gives Cronus the bad news in person. Yolanda escapes. Our heroes decide to continue regardless of setbacks.

Return of the Herd

- lyrics by Nessa Greene

Bixby, May, 2023

- Cronus and Nessa and Sheila take on the Nulians. They fail spectacularly.

Enough

- Lyrics by Nessa Greene

Back in Indiana, April, 2024

- A year has passed. Nessa has gained an internet following based on alien stuff while living at Sheila's, working, and maintaining her search for answers. Cronus has continued to work his algorithm, which has brought him some law enforcement acclaim. During their last encounter with the Nulians, Nessa stole one of their hand held devices and has finally made it's personal cloak work. She decides to stream a video of her using it to her hundreds of thousands (soon to be millions) of world wide followers.

St. Louis, Missouri, April 2024

- FBI agent Special Agent Eddington is tasked with investigating this claim of a personal cloak. He discovers Nessa and her followers to be difficult to deal with. Her arrest, streamed online, increases her fame.

Book 2: Alone

- Where the audience discovers what and why

Nulian Science Vessel 18.350.153 GCT

- Ben's long developed plan for escape based on tactics his television fandom had taught him unfolds. It is a bloody, messy success. Two aliens of two different species, Deru-Ti and Mresheem, escape with him. Once free, Mresheem "gives" Ben com-bots; a nano-robot that enters the body like a fluid-born virus then implants in the brain and facilitates language translation between any sentient species. Invented by the Nulians before anyone remembers, they do not translate Nulian native tongue.

Fluid Fabric of Foci

- Lyrics by Benjamin Reeves
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Opanu 03.403.153 GCT

- Its been several months since the escape, we find Ben and friends are traveling around in the stolen shuttle they escaped in, making money as a band of musicians. Ben desperately wants to go home, he has the ability go anytime he wants, but has no idea where Earth is on a star chart or how to figure that out.

Missouri, May 2024

- Nessa and Cronus, having escaped from the FBI, steal a new ride and head for the next location Cronus's revised algorithm. Nessa goes on social media and invites her followers to join them, as protection from FBI and SPC. Cronus is furious she put them at risk by advertising their location without even speaking to him.

Our Star

-lyrics by Benjamin Reeves

Nowhere, Milky Way Galaxy 22.438.153

- The shuttle is in danger due to being overworked. The fugitive crew is in danger because Ben got drunk and made a scene and now the Nulians may have a location on them. They decide to seek help from an exiled Nulian named Edgo the Outcast.

Oxi Prime, 11.439.153

- gathering intel

Axun in orbit of RetnaQua, Retna System 19.440.153

- A frozen moon where we meet Edgo the Outcast. He is able to repair their engine but in so doing tricks them into needing to take him with them.

Nothing in Between

- lyrics by Benjamin Reeves

Between the Stars, Somewhere in the Galaxy, 01.445.153

- After fleeing Axun to empty space in order to pause and plan, Edgo suggests a way he can help locate Earth for Ben. In exchange for his own travel plans. The plan is dangerous and stupid, with little chance of success. So they go for it.

Iowa, May 2024

- While en route to the next probable abduction location, Nessa and Cronus stumble upon the same trucks with fake logos that Cronus saw outside of Sheila's a year earlier. They wait for Sheila to drop off a 2.0 version of her anti-Nulian device, and then Cronus and Nessa follow the trucks who are going in the same direction they had been planning on heading.

Nulian Science Vessel, 11.515.153

- Ben and company sneak onto a Nulian ship, Deru-Ti and Mresheem free the abductees which serves as a distraction while Ben and Edgo raid the database. Edgo's knowledge of Nulian tech makes the operation go far smoother than their first escape plan, but it is not bloodless.

NYC, New York, June 2024

- Yolanda is forced upon Stenjmeier by the SPC. He is going to be made to publish tabloid style propaganda about Cronus and Nessa designed to make them look silly with her name on the byline. When she leaves the room, Agent Eddington appears from the shadows, he is also manipulating Stenjmeier to his advantage. Attempting to use him to track both Cronus and Nessa, and the SPC.

Lake Manawa, June 2024

- Nessa and Cronus take on the Nulian's again. It goes badly. Help arrives from the tree line. More shocking than the Nulians, several Bigfoot charge out and attack the Nulians, saving the humans. We learn Bigfoot are the Kentauran aliens the SPC have been working with all this time. A brief outline of the relationship is explained in the aftermath of the fight. A tentative date is set for a future meeting. Meanwhile dozens of Nessa's fans parked nearby have witnessed the entire event. One of whom, Eric, joins the team.

Book 3: Found

- Where the audience finds out how

Space

- Lyrics by Benjamin Reeves

Somewhere in the Milky Way, 08.516.153 331

- Earth is located, a route home is planned. Ben is elated, gets drunk and passes out.

Breaking News, 07.13.2024

- Cronus and Nessa's activities are getting noticed by the media. Dismissed as "weird."

NYC, New York, July 2024

- Stenjmeyer is unhappy about being handled, decides to rebel, gets behind Cronus again.

Plains States, July 2024

- As Nessa's fame grows, she has encounters with the public.

Jendu, 08.548.153

- As the shuttle limps toward Earth, we meet Deru-Ti's people and learn a little more about the Nulians.

Tennessee, July 2024

- We see inside the SPC and Kentauran relationship as our heroes' activities create pressure. FBI agent Eddington is found sniffing around their secret HQ.

Wandering

- lyrics by Benjamin Reeves

Pirate Bay, 14.558.153

- We meet Mresheem's old friends, Ben is able to call home. Edgo makes arrangements for the future.

Chillicothe, July 2024

- After the startling events at Lake Manawa, the team finds a motel to bed down. Cronus writes up the next article, Eric develops his film photography.

St. Louis, MO, June, 2024

- Eddington is met by his superiors and members of the SPC and congratulated for closing the case, offered him a commendation, and they all looked forward to what he did next. He understood the message to stop what he was doing, and promptly ignored it.

Mechanicsburg (again), August, 2024

- Nessa and Cronus and Eric show up at Sheila's place with the now busted device. They explain the Kentauran want to see her work because nobody ever beats the Nulians. Nessa and Sheila have emotion time about Ben's call.

Waiting in Indiana, July 2024

- They invite Yolanda and a couple of Kentauran over to see Sheila's work but use hidden cameras to stream it to the world, exposing the SPC and the Kentauran.

Trending in America, August 2024

- As the online videos and Cronus's journalism begins to gain more and more traction, Nessa makes a new video informing the world that Ben is returning home on an alien space ship on a date and location TBD soon, so stay tuned. This gets immediate world wide cyber space attention. Her online followers grow exponentially as a result of all these recent events.

Pirate Bay, 28.451.153

- The crew prepares to leave, Edgo gets caught in a compromising position and is forced to reveal some things about its self and the Nulians. Edgo suggests the universe is a simulation built by the Nulians as an experiment. Ben's companions do not believe most of what it says. It remains behind when they leave.

Megoon, Helithium System 09.506.153

- Last stop for the ship before Earth. The band plays one last gig together.

Walland Warehouse, August 2024

- Eddington organizes a multi-agency raid on Walland under false pretense. Resulting in dozens of local, state, and federal officers witnessing Kentauran and SPC agents working together.

Chicago, August 2024

- Cronus appears on a national evening news show to discuss the events of the last two years.

Sol System, 24.508.153

- Ben and crew reach the outer solar system. He calls Nessa again.

Home Again

- lyrics by Nessa Greene

Earth, Sol System, 08.510.153 GCT/ 4.9.2024 08:00 am MST

- Ben returns to Earth. Nessa has organized a gathering of thousands of supporters, plus other members of the public, plus the military and law enforcement. They use the ship's cloak to land unseen. They play music for the gathering for a few hours, then drop Ben off, re-cloak, and leave. Eddington demands they stay but they don't care. He tries to arrest our heroes, but the President of the United States invites them to dinner instead.

Earth, 5.9.2024, 6:00 pm

- The president gives a speech spilling the beans about aliens to the world. The SPC is exposed and absorbed into the government who has now made their own deal with the Kentauran. He ends by announcing there will be a terraforming and settling of Mars, and everyone will be welcome to go if they want to be pioneers on a one way trip with no support available.

Stay tuned for book 2: Project Mars