

Muddle Town:

A Self Help Guide for Those Struggling Through the Tribulation

Synopsis:

Set in a world on the brink of societal collapse, Asher Radezlav, a mentally ill, drug addict punk-rocker, believes he is witnessing events in both the media and his dreams that will culminate in the end of the world as dictated by the prophecy of the bible. His female counterpart, Abigail Sutchter, is a self professed retro 80's art-punk who is drawn into Asher's demented world. Asher and his urban cowboy brother, Danny Radezlav, both run and operate The Eighth Plague, a series of bars, eateries, and living establishments that cater to the outlandish and rejected, as well as a toy factory left to them by their deceased parents called B.A. Toys, Inc. Asher's charm, influence, and unique sense of humor call an additional cavalcade of freaks and ne'er-do-wells into a booze and drug fueled end times rebellion warring against the governmental machine lead by politician and Antichrist, Louis Moodreaux. Replete with flowery, poetic, and highly personal accounts of the author's life, this semi-autobiographical fiction is sure to create controversy.

Characters:

- Asher Radezlav: A mentally ill, drug addict, punk rocker that spends his time wandering the streets, drinking, drugging, and pontificating.
- Abigail Sutchter: A run-away, “emo” teen, seeking her purpose in the big city. Born on a small town farm, she feels hemmed in by a small town life.
- Danny Radezlav: An urban cowboy and eternal skeptic that is constantly overshadowed by Asher's larger than life persona.
- Aughblood Sutchter: A farmer, biblical scholar, archeologist, and survivalist.
- Louis Wormwood: A career politician whose aim it is to tie all governments into a one world system.

Chapter Breakdown

Chapter One: I Fall Down ▶ Asher 24 years old

Introduction to Asher, Danny, Wormwood, Asher's dream world, drug-use, and psychosis. Danny is Asher's brother and half owner of The Eighth Plague bar, located in the industrial zone of Muddle, California. A Biblical theme is established through Asher's dreams.

1.) Nightlife

- Drug use, alcohol use, mental illness
- Street people and the neighborhood
- Dreams and black outs

2.) Danny

- Co-dependent relationship
- Hints to their past
- Brotherhood established

3.) Wormwood

- Biblical theme established through Asher's dreams
- News and media clips
- Set up Wormwood as a politician

Chapter Two: My Crippling Headaches ▶ Asher 11-18 years old

Asher feels the best way to combat both his physical and mental problems is through destructive night life activities, while his first coping mechanisms, art and music, take a back seat.

1.) Further dictionary info

- Psychosis of words
- Headaches lead to OTC medication
- OTC leads to drug experimentation

2.) Counseling as a child

- Ostracized by peers as a freak
- Opened to mental techniques and introduced to medication
- Danny becomes legal guardian after parents die
- Asher runs away from home

3.) Art and Music

- History as an artist and musician
- Little to no support or recognition
- Total defeatist mentality sets in

Chapter Three: The Eighth Plague Bar ► Abigail 16 years old

An environment where anything goes; rife with drugs, prostitution, and often, raw and honest culture. Runaways and transients pay cheap rent in the levels above. Abigail is introduced as a tenant.

1.) Ownership

- Where capital came from
- Partners and conceptual design of space
- Cultural acts of artists and musicians establish legitimacy

2.) Abigail

- Asher introduced to Abigail as “tenant”
- Asher suspects her a virgin (kicked out of home for promiscuity)
- Physical description and spirituality
- Survivalist tendencies balanced with naivety, reference Aughblood

3.) Rape

- Asher and Abigail have a fist fight
- Make up in alley
- Rape averted, Asher kills a transient

Chapter Four: Danny and I ► Asher 14, Danny 18 years old

Asher and Danny growing up together, fighting and boozing and drugging. Mom (cancer) and Dad (heart attack) die and the brothers learn to fend for themselves. Danny sobers up after he almost dies in a fire that he caused in their home, but is saved by Asher who continues down a dark path.

1.) Their past

- Parents (1948 coup d'état Czech migrants) are toy manufacturers
- Grown up in a suburban lifestyle
- As children, obsessed with gritty, punk rock, drug culture

2.) Mom and Dad die

- Conservatorship goes to Danny who is 18 years old
- Money is too plentiful
- House is burnt down during wild party

3.) Brothers split paths

- Asher saves Danny from fire
- Danny sobers and changes appearance
- Asher goes solo as a homeless, high school drop out

Chapter Five: Me and Abigail ► Asher 24, Abigail 16 years old
Asher and Abigail start to get close and eventually move in to the toy factory. Their relationship grows and Abigail becomes pregnant.

- 1.) Courting
 - Abigail is too young
 - both flirt with each other but respect space
 - Abigail moves into factory
- 2.) Abigail's interest in factory
 - Abigail pushes Asher's art
 - Abigail pushes Asher's music
 - both condone wild parties at the factory
- 3.) Abigail becomes pregnant
 - Abigail withdraws from Asher, doesn't tell him
 - Abigail sobers, does not change appearance
 - Abigail tells Asher he will be a Father

Chapter Six: B.A. Toys, Inc. ► Joshua in utero – birth
Asher and Abigail get the old factory running and resume business in the toy industry. Abigail shows a knack for management and business which spills over into Asher's propensity toward art and music. Their new family prospers and wants for nothing.

- 1.) Preproduction
 - Art is abound
 - Hiring
 - Finance
- 2.) Grand Re-opening and Prosperity
 - Ceremony
 - Partners present
 - Joshua is born
- 3.) Concerns
 - Loss of some financial backing
 - Signs of mental stress in Asher
 - Abigail takes over among growing concerns, asks Danny for help
 - Danny has BA in Business Operations Management

Chapter Seven: I Put My Left Arm in the Right Arm Hole

► Asher 25, Abigail 17 years old, Joshua months old

Asher has crippling night terrors that begin to erode his relationship with Abigail until their new family unit breaks apart and their thriving business can no longer operate under Asher. Asher runs off to live the old life.

- 1.) Asher erodes
 - Night terrors
 - Seeks medical treatment
 - Supplements with street drugs
- 2.) Asher gets it together
 - Hands on father and engaged in business
 - Changes appearance
 - Displays coherent normal speech, asks Abigail to marry him
- 3.) Lost again
 - Old ways revisited
 - Bad haircut and old attire
 - Continued mental erosion

Chapter Eight: All My Dreams Come True

Asher's dreams start syncing up with his waking life. Newborn Joshua distracts Asher from "what's really important".

- 1.) News media
 - Advertising strangely familiar
 - Asher able to predict the news
 - Dreams begin foretelling tomorrows events
- 2.) Coincidence?
 - Asher builds a map of world events, constructs an end times timeline
 - Begins to target world leaders
 - Suspects Louis Wormwood as antichrist
- 3.) Threats against heads of state
 - Asher sends threatening letters
 - Investigated by the FBI and added to terrorist watch list
 - Asher goes missing

Chapter Nine: Again, I Unhinge From Reality

The psychological effects of drug abuse and current events cause Asher to have a complete mental breakdown.

- 1.) Family worries
 - Danny cares for Abigail
 - Danny assumes head of operations at the factory, and closes bar
 - Abigail accepts Danny's help in Asher's absence
- 2.) Investigation continues
 - Police search
 - Abigail informed of manslaughter, body found in adjacent factory
 - Danny tells Abigail about Asher's past (drug charges, battery, threats).
"When Asher was a teenager he escaped from the Juvenile Hall. He was a ward of the state and they didn't even look for him. It's like his files just disappear!"
- 3.) Asher on his own
 - Where Asher sleeps
 - How he procures drugs
 - Mental state is at its worst

Chapter Ten: Justice is Served ► Asher 26, Abigail 18, Joshua 1 year old
Asher re-appears and is incarcerated for manslaughter. He is found to be largely mentally unstable and is placed in a high security mental facility.

- 1.) Clarity
 - Asher sobers after being abandoned by street dwellers
 - Life forces sobriety, misses Joshua's 1st birthday
 - Haircut and appearance change to conservative
- 2.) Confession
 - Asher shows up in a precinct
 - spends time in jail
 - Family informed he is found
- 3.) Incarceration
 - Trial by jury
 - Full disclosure of crimes to family
 - Sentenced to facility for insane in the Arkansas Ozark Highlands

Chapter Eleven: The Kenites and the Zadok

While in the facility Asher hones his theology and begins amassing his sermons. He becomes delusional believing he is a great spiritual guide and leader of an end times resistance army.

- 1.) Welcome home
 - Asher meets the inmates
 - Introduction to staff
 - Regimented medication, able to concentrate and write coherently
- 2.) Writing
 - Studying his dictionary
 - Studying his bible
 - Honing the craft
- 3.) Counseling
 - Diagnosed as delusional
 - Heavily medicated and considered dangerous
 - Staff take away his books as they're determined to aid in delusion
 - Word headaches increase, heavily medicated for months

Chapter Twelve: The Coming Out of Zerubabel

A localized societal break down causes Asher to awake alone in an abandoned facility. An explosion has breached the walls, but Asher elects to stay feeling that he too has been abandoned. He writes, draws, has access to medication, and has available to him all the amenities one could need to survive for years.

- 1.) Unlimited drugs, TV visible in a locked room
 - All the food and water Asher needs
 - All the drugs Asher wants
 - Asher works feverishly on his sermons
- 2.) Art and music
 - Music therapy room
 - Art therapy room
 - Asher finds the inmate art and writing
- 3.) Finishing the sermons
 - Completes sermons
 - Sees Wormwood taking oath of office on TV through window
 - Decides to leave the facility

Chapter Thirteen: Aughblood

The facility being located in the mountains proves to be a rough journey. Asher gears up and heads out in search of civilization. He wanders into the survivalist camp of a man named Aughblood, who was sent by Abigail to rescue Asher when Asher's predictions start to come true. Aughblood has been watching Asher, waiting for him to leave the facility.

- 1.) Harsh beginnings
 - Asher gets sick right away
 - Asher is stung and bitten
 - No food or shelter
- 2.) Aughblood's camp
 - Asher sees the camp ahead
 - Aughblood hangs Asher upside down
 - Gets to know Asher as would be son-in-law
- 3.) Acceptance
 - Aughblood agrees to guide Asher
 - Asher learns Aughblood is Abigail's father
 - They continue to Aughblood's farm, a few weeks journey on foot

Chapter Fourteen: The Six Winged Butterfly

After experiencing many night terrors and fully detoxing from mushroom poisoning, Asher is taught by Aughblood how to right his mind and survive in the wilderness.

- 1.) Mushrooms
 - Aughblood warns Asher not to eat mushrooms
 - Asher eats Amanita mushrooms (Destroying Angel)
 - Asher gets sick
- 2.) Aughblood saves Asher
 - Milk Thistle as antidote
 - Aughblood cares for and cleans Asher
 - Asher rests and feeds from Aughblood's kills
- 3.) Asher vows
 - Asher vows to quit all drugs for good if he lives
 - Asher gets better, journey through wilderness as training
 - Aughblood's home for supplies, Aughblood burns his home

Chapter Fifteen: An Army in My Living Room ► Asher 30, Joshua 5 years old

Aughblood and Asher reunite with Abigail who by this time has married Danny and has a newborn daughter, Ruby. They have assembled a misfit army that live at both the bar and toy factory. Asher learns of wars and treaties that have tied the world together with Wormwood as US president and leading member of the United Nations.

1.) Reunion

- Aughblood and Abigail reunite
- Asher and kids and Abigail reunite
- Danny and Asher reunite, strife

2.) Danny and Abigail

- Asher's reappearance causes problems in the family
- Asher informed of what took place in his absence
- Asher informed he has been gone four years, unbeknownst to him

3.) The Army

- Danny and Abigail leaders of local chapter
- Asher put to work in menial tasks
- Society slowly crumbling, borders still in tact

Chapter Sixteen: I am Zadok ► Asher 30-33 years old

Asher becomes a spiritual leader and comes to find that his dreams, hallucinations, and beliefs are valid.

1.) The ranks

- Asher works hard
- Rises in social circles
- Gains respect

2.) His Sermons

- Asher practices sermons
- People ask him questions
- Asher tells of dreams and how he predicts events

3.) People listen

- Meetings are scheduled
- Asher named Chaplain
- Decorated and respected among multiple chapters

Chapter Seventeen: The Witnesses Revealed

Asher and Abigail are proclaimed the Two Immortal Witnesses by the New Rebel Army which travels to various separatist movements to teach Asher's sermons at the request of chapter leaders. The travel is too stressful for the children who stay with Danny, which tests their marriage in light of Asher and Abigail's former relationship.

- 1.) Jealousy and ceremony
 - Asher's old appearance back, remains sober
 - Coronation of witnesses, movements take to Asher's teachings
 - Danny confronts and threatens Asher
- 2.) Travel
 - Asher and Abigail on same trip, but separate
 - Asher apologizes
 - They become friends again
- 3.) Marriage stress
 - Danny sends jealous messages
 - Complains of child stresses, newborn Ruby needs Mom
 - Abigail returns home

Chapter Eighteen: I Get Shot Through the Heart ► Asher 33 years old
Asher finds out that he is not one of the Two Witnesses when he is shot through his heart at a peaceful rally. His death creates both doubt and martyrdom in the members of his army. Aughblood does not reveal that he is the second Immortal Witness.

- 1.) Army travels to peaceful rallies
 - Army sites constitution as authority to gather
 - Dreams of dying intensify
 - Asher the happiest he has ever been
- 2.) Asher gets shot
 - At a rally giving a sermon, a policeman is given the order to shoot
 - Shot through dictionary and heart as the factory and bar are raided
 - Aughblood breathes fire on S.W.A.T. at the bar, alone
 - Abigail calls swarm of locust at the factory with Danny and the kids
- 3.) Division
 - "They left Asher's body right where it fell, hoping and believing that he would stand back up three and a half days later, and when he didn't some lost faith, and others became zealots. They reinterpreted Asher's instructions and rebuilt the timeline. After many meetings and much debate we realized that the tribulation had only just begun."