Drew is a believer. Last fall, he was one of the diehards passing out leaflets in Washington Square and registering students to vote. (*What kind of person do you think Drew is?*)

In high school, you’d (Rob) get into fights when you felt like this, but no one will fight with you now – the fact that you hacked open your wrists with a box cutter three months ago and nearly bled to death seems to be a deterrent. (*What kind of person do you think Rob is?*)

The wall are covered with Bix’s collection of Last Judgment posters – naked, babyish humans getting separated into good and bad, the good ones rising into the green fields and golden light, the bad ones vanishing into the mouths of monsters. (*This is a cultural reference that foreshadows other parts of the chapter. Do you think things will end well? What might happen?*)

Lizzie’s parents are visiting from Texas, which means Bix, who’s black, is spending his nights in the electrical engineering lab where he’s doing his PhD research.

“How’s the bigot?” you ask.

Lizzie turns to you, flushed. “Are you referring to my mother?” (*Why do you think Bix isn’t staying in his apartment with Lizzie?*)

They took a Greyhound (bus) to Washington, DC, for the inauguration and said they felt the world change right under their feet. You (Rob) snickered when Sasha told you this, but ever since, you find yourself watching strangers’ faces on the street and wondering if they feel it, too: a change having to do with Bill Clinton or something even bigger. (*When do you think this chapter takes place?)*

In high school, back in LA, she’d (Sasha) run away with the drummer for a band, left the country, traveled, never even graduated. Last week, her father told her he was hiring a detective to make sure she “toed the line” on her own in New York. (*How do you think Sasha feels?*)

In Naples, when she ran out of money, she stole things from stores and sold them to Lars, the Swede, waiting her turn on his kitchen floor with the other hungry kids holding tourists’ wallets, costume jewelry, American passports. (*Who do you think “she” is and why?*)

Come on, pull this all together, act like someone normal for a change, (Rob thought), but you (Rob) were too scared to put your lust to the test, not wanting to ruin it with Sasha if things went wrong*. (What do you think the relationship between Rob and Sasha is like and why?)*

The Conduits have been big on college campuses for years, but Sasha is convinced their new album is pure genius and will go multiplatinum. *(Who do we know who is in the Conduits?)*

As you (Rob) flail, knowing you’re not supposed to panic – panicking will drain your strength – your mind pulls away as it does so easily, so often, without your even noticing sometimes, leaving Robert Freeman, Jr. to manage the current alone while you withdraw to the broader landscape. *(What do you think is happening? Hint – think about the name of the chapter)*

“The days of losing touch are almost gone,” Bix says, “I picture it like Judgment Day. We’ll rise up out of our bodies and find each other again in spirit form…” Bix knows, you think, he’s always known, in front of that computer. (*What do you think Bix is talking about? Do you think he views this as a positive or negative thing? Hint – think about the theme of the book*)