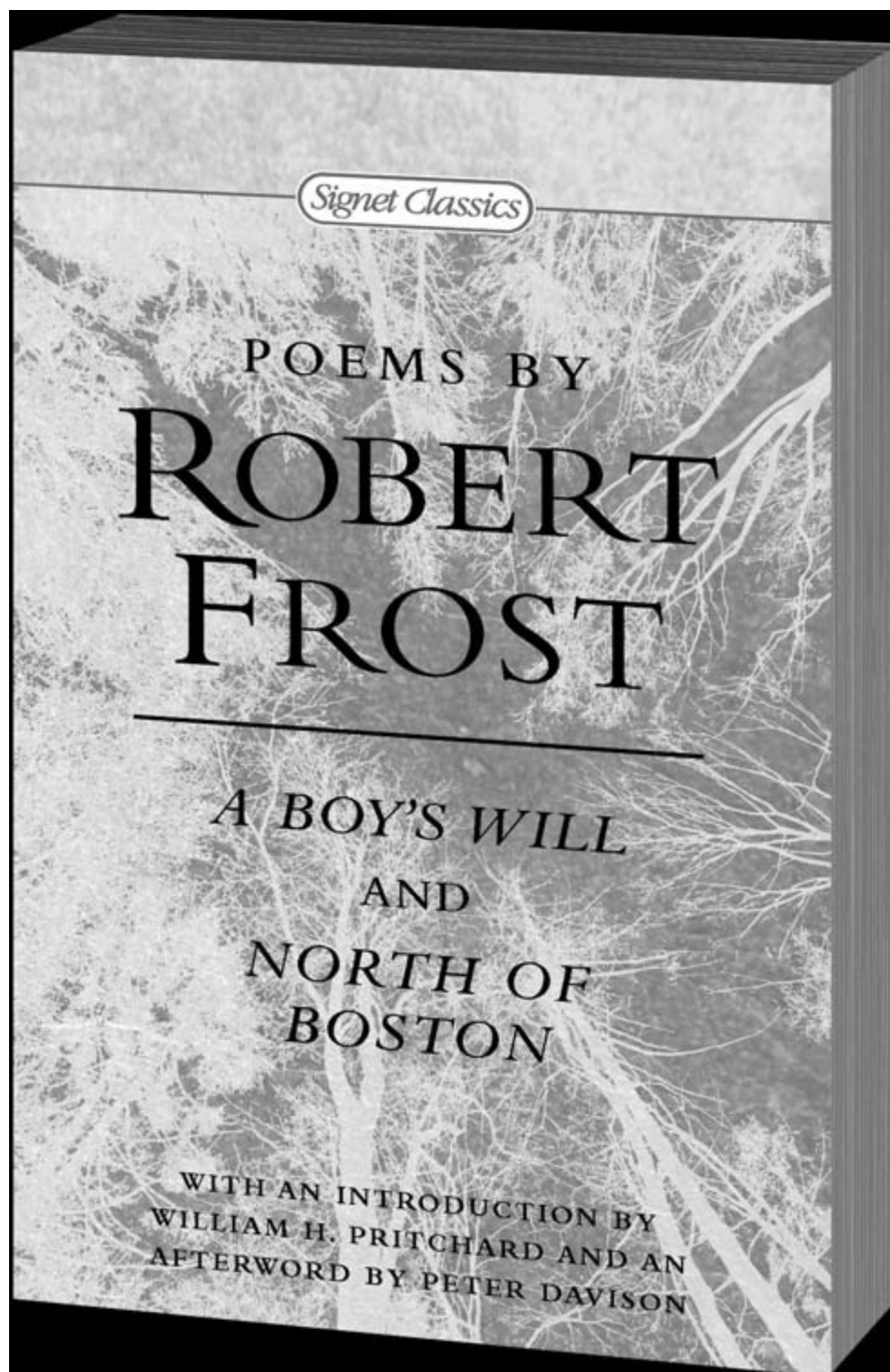


A black and white photograph of the Statue of Atlas, a muscular man standing on a pedestal and holding a large, curved metal structure (the Arc of Reason) above his head. The statue is positioned on the left side of the cover.

AYN RAND

ATLAS SHRUGGED

50
50TH ANNIVERSARY
EDITION



Ed sA **TEACHER'S GUIDE TO THE SIGNET EDITION OF**
I ATLAS SHRUGGED

u **BY AYN RAND**

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* 3

InTroDuCTIon

Published more than 50 years ago,

dents' fears, it helps to emphasize that *Atlas*

Atlas Shrugged, ayn rand's last novel, is as *Shrugged* is a gripping suspense story, con-relevant and stimulating to an active-minded taining mysterious events and unusual but person today as on the day it was written. The purposeful characters who are faced with real reason is not hard to identify. in *Atlas* and difficult problems. tell such students *Shrugged* rand is concerned with timeless, that once they get a few hundred pages into fundamental issues of human existence. the novel, they likely will be caught up in the What is good? What is evil? Who deserves the story's mystery and find the book hard to put title of hero and who the title of vil ain? What down. (in fact, many teachers who teach the is the relation between the spiritual and the novel report that one of their biggest prob-material sides of life, between soul and body? lems is students who read ahead of the should an individual prize the purity of his assigned chapters and give away the mysteries soul and shun the material world of money, to other students.) as a teaching strategy, it is business and sex, should he do the opposite, useful to ask students to write down the or should he do neither? What virtues should mysterious events as they make their way a person practice? What sins should he avoid? through each chapter and then to speculate What is the meaning of life? are justice and on the meaning and solution to each mystery happiness possible in this world, or are man's before they read on to the next chapter. (i'll highest ideals forever beyond his (earthly) say more on this below.) grasp? in what kind of society can an individual live and prosper, and in what kind of but of course *Atlas Shrugged* is not a typical society is he doomed to a different fate?

mystery story. to understand fully its suspense

requires thinking carefully about profound

“my attitude toward my writing,” and once issues. The theme of *Atlas Shrugged*, Rand said, is best expressed by a statement of “the role of the mind in man’s existence—

Victor Hugo: ‘if a writer wrote merely for his and, as corollary, the demonstration of a new time, I would have to break my pen and moral philosophy: the morality of rational self-throw it away.’”¹

interest.”² The widest meaning of the story, in

dealing as it does with important issues, and other words, is that human life is sustained (to often presenting startling new takes on those the extent that it is sustained) by the thought, issues, *Atlas Shrugged* is necessarily a long book. Ideas, values and actions of thinkers and pro-but although it is overflowing with new philo-

ducers who attain an independent, rational,

sophical and moral ideas, it is anything but a purposeful, this-worldly, reality-oriented frame dry, difficult, abstract treatise. It is an exciting of mind. A *proper* moral code should acknowledge mystery story. The profound issues raised in edge and be based on this fundamental fact the story emerge from its specific events and about human existence. (The morality of life, the concrete actions taken by the characters. Which the hero of the story, John Galt, formu-The back cover of the paperback edition has it later and teaches to his fellow strikers, is meant right: *Atlas Shrugged* is a novel both tremen-to be this code.) The conventional approach to

dous in its scope *and* breathtaking in its sus-morality that now dominates in society, Rand

pense. When teaching the novel, it’s helpful to contend in *Atlas Shrugged*, rejects and wars never lose sight of its mystery and suspense.

against this fundamental fact about human

life. It is this clash of worldviews—this clash of

no doubt many students will be intimidated moral and philosophical viewpoints—that by *Atlas Shrugged*'s length. “you want me to forms the context for *Atlas Shrugged*'s story and read a 1,000-page-plus book!?” will often be plot. students will need their teacher's help to their initial reaction. to assuage these stu-draw out these wider ideas.

1 introduction to the twenty-fifth anniversary

2 *For the New Intellectual*

of *The Fountainhead*

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* however, this is best done not by lengthy *the action of the plot*. and real y to understand philosophical discussions disconnected from the content of the speeches, one must see the actual story, but by emphasizing the them as encapsulating and explaining events, characters and events: the things the charac-characters and motivations contained in the

ters say, the problems they struggle with, the preceding events of the story. rip the speeches actions they take, the values they hold, the from this context, and they become very dif-stated and unstated motives that animate ficult for students to grasp. in other words, them, the thinking they do or do not do in one must see the abstract meaning of the the face of their predicaments. al of this is novel, including of its speeches, as emerging richly delineated in *Atlas Shrugged*. although from its specific events.

it is a mystery story, it is not a murky story. it The second error treats the novel as a mystery is a novel about which one can ask “Why?” of story whose specific events have no deeper its events and characters and discover the meaning or significance. at its worst, this answer. Why does the plot progress in the way kind of approach views *Atlas Shrugged* as a it does?

Why does this particular character novel about trains (i've literally heard this take the action that he does? a careful reading said). better, but still flawed, is to view it as a of the story will usually supply the answer.

story about the conflict between some good

because *Atlas Shrugged* is a long novel with a businessmen and some evil bureaucrats who complex and abstract theme, there is an ever-have taken government controls too far,

present danger of either focusing on the sprinkled throughout with some speeches speeches and abstract theme of the novel at about money. There is no doubt, of course, the expense of the story, or of focusing on the that an aspect of *Atlas Shrugged* is about the story's events while losing sight of their nature and desirability of capitalism and abstract meaning. both are errors. The first economic freedom, but this is not its theme.

error basically treats the novel as a propaganda its theme is moral and metaphysical. The vehicle. on this approach, the events of the novel is concerned with the question "in novel are viewed as meaningless melodrama, human life, what fundamentally is *good* and designed to snare the unsuspecting reader so what is *evil*?" (its moral dimension) and with that he sits through some abstract speeches. the question "What *fact* or *facts* of reality The teacher's focus becomes almost exclude-ground the distinction between good and evil

sively on the speeches, as if those speeches and therefore form the base of a proper moral were nonfiction essays. This approach is code?" (its metaphysical dimension). all the counterproductive. it at once robs the story particular actions and conflicts of the story of its actual suspense and makes the speeches revolve around these basic issues.

difficult to understand. The story does not The best way to retain focus on *both* the story exist for the sake of the speeches: the speeches and its timeless, abstract meaning is to never exist for the sake of the story. to appreciate forget the fact that *Atlas Shrugged* is a novel the speeches, one must see them as *advancing* about a strike. let me now turn to this topic.

The Men of The Mind are on sTrike

a good novel often has a basic line of action conflict or ‘situation’ of a story—a conflict in that integrates its story into a whole. For *Atlas* terms of action, corresponding to the theme *Shrugged*, this action is a strike. The theme of and complex enough to create a purposeful *Atlas Shrugged*, we noted, is the role of the progression of events [i.e., to create a plot].”

mind in man’s existence. Connecting a novel’s What is the plot-theme of *Atlas Shrugged*?

theme to its plot is what Rand called a plot-

“The men of the mind going on strike against

theme, which she describes as “the central an altruistic-col ectivist society.”³

3 “basic Principles of literature” in *The Romantic Manifesto* Rand Atlas TG 0816a.indd 4

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The plot-theme of a strike by men of great art (e.g., Richard Halley), and so on. They are intelligence, ability and achievement serves the fictional counterparts of individuals such to convey Rand’s distinct theme. She highlights Socrates and Aristotle, Galileo and

lights her view of the role of the mind in Darwin, Carnegie and Rockefeller, Beethoven man’s existence by showcasing what happens and Hugo. But despite their life-giving when the mind is deliberately *withdrawn*: life role—both as exemplars of what it means to and civilization collapse. The meaning of pursue the goals one’s own life and happiness *Atlas Shrugged* is that the logical, reasoning require and as teachers of what goals one mind is the creator of all the values of body *should* pursue and of how to achieve them—

and of spirit that advance an individual the men of the mind are granted *no moral or* human life and civilization itself.

metaphysical recognition.

The fact that *Atlas Shrugged* is a novel about a What does this mean? it means that man-strike dictates the types of characters the kind's leading doctrines declare that the men story contains. First and foremost, there are of the mind are evil or useless. morally, the the strikers, the earliest of whom are Fran-men of the mind are denounced as selfish,

cisco d'anconia and ragnar danneskjöld, uncompromising, materialistic, exploitive, led by the novel's hero, John galt. second, immoral men, who place the head above the there are individuals that the strikers are heart and flout their unquestionable duty to trying to persuade to join their cause, such as serve others. metaphysically, it is said that ellis Wyatt, hank rearden and dagny tag-certainty is impossible to man, rational

gart. either these individuals eventually join thought is a myth (“*Why Do You Think You* the cause, with dagny being the last to do so, *Think?* ”), new ideas flow out of the “forces of or, as in the case of dr. robert stadler, they production” and amorphous social interac-make terms with the strikers’ antagonists. tion, and physical labor is the source of Third, there are the intellectual, cultural and wealth.

political leaders of society, people such as dr. as John galt tells the people of the world simon Pritchett, dr. Floyd Ferris, balph near the beginning of his radio broadcast: eubank, James taggart, Wesley mouch and

mr. Thompson, who are the strikers’ antago-

all the men who have vanished, the

nists. last, there are the rest of the members

men you hated, yet dreaded to lose, it is

of society, who are not drivers of the action or

i who have taken them away from you.

the conflicts but who have an enormous stake

do not attempt to find us. We do not

in the outcome of the strike and who must

choose to be found. do not cry that it is

(eventually) choose sides. Their most indi-

our duty to serve you. We do not recog-

vidualized representatives in the story are

nize such duty. do not cry that you

such people as eddie Willers, Cherryl brooks,

need us. We do not consider need a

and the members of hank's family.

claim. do not cry that you own us. you

don't. do not beg us to return. We are

if *Atlas Shrugged* is a novel about a strike, the on strike, we, the men of the mind.

basic question is who is on strike and why?

on strike are the men of the mind, the indi-

We are on strike against self-immola-

viduals who discover and teach the rest of the

tion. We are on strike against the creed

members of society *what to value and how to*

of unearned rewards and unrewarded

create it. They are the pioneers in every field, duties. . . .

the individuals who discover new philosophi-

There is a difference between our strike

cal ideas and scientific theories (e.g., *galt*), and all those you've practiced for centu-invent new lines of business and forms of

ries: our strike consists, not of making

production (e.g., *Francisco*, *Wyatt* and

demands, but of granting them. We are

hank), launch new ventures (e.g., *midas*

evil, according to your morality. We

mulligan and *dagny*), produce new works of

have chosen not to harm you any

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* longer. We are useless, according to power of science, while defying man's need of your economics. We have chosen not to thought. *mort liddy* wants the fame and exploit you any longer. We are danger-admiration due to a great artist, while defy-

ous and to be shackled, according to the need to produce anything beautiful.

your politics. We have chosen not to all such people want to be *free from* reality's endanger you, nor to wear the shackles demands, to somehow live in *defiance* of life's any longer. We are only an illusion, requirements. like the political dictators according to your philosophy. We have who ravaged the 20th century, to whom John chosen not to blind you any longer and compares them, they want to live in a uni-have left you free to face reality—the verse where reality is subordinate to their reality you wanted, the world as you see whims, where *their wish is reality's command*.

it now, a world without mind. (Pt. iii, Jim whines to his sister late in the novel, Ch. Vii)

“dagny, i *want* to be president of a railroad.

The legend of John Galt as Prometheus is i *want* it. Why can't i have my wish as you accurate: as leader of the strike John is Pro-always have yours? Why shouldn't i be given

metheus who withdraws his fire (his motor) the fulfillment of my desires as you always and withdraws all the minds able to discover fulfil any desire of your own?” (Pt. iii, Ch. V) how to produce fire (his fellow strikers)—

but reality remains forever unyielding: it

until men withdraw their vultures and bends to no one's wishes or whims. This is the replace them with gratitude and reverence. root of their deep-seated hostility and hatred.

What John seeks is the *freedom to live*, the They hate *reality* because it does not bow to freedom he enjoys in the valley but not in the their whims. and so they hate reality's most outside world.

shining *representatives*, those who function in contrast to the strikers, what do the lead-not by whim but by the mental effort neces-

ers of society want? They want to somehow sary to understand and master reality, indi-exist without thought, without effort, with-

viduals like dagny and hank and John.

out the responsibility of consciousness, The only way to achieve even the pretense of without *mind*. as John puts it in his radio being able to exist in defiance of the require-broadcast, it is “a conspiracy of all those who ments reality sets for man is to harness and seek, not to live, but to *get away with living*, control the individuals who eagerly meet those who seek to cut just one small corner of those requirements, i.e., to harness and con-reality and are drawn, by feeling, to all the trol the men of the mind. but it is a precari-others who are busy cutting other corners.” ous pretense. to get away with living, a Jim (Pt. iii, Ch. Vii)

taggart must exploit the dagny taggarts,

such men want to possess the life-bringing Francisco d'anconias and hank reardens of products of the mind and receive the esteem the world. but he dare not admit his physical that is a thinker's due, while defying the need and spiritual parasitism to himself, because it to engage in the rational thought and action would reveal the evil and abject worthlessness that achievement demands. They want the of his own soul. how can he, the spiritually contradictory, somehow, made real. orren superior person, be dependent on that which boyle wants the recognition and rewards due is inferior? so he advocates and flocks to any to hank rearden for inventing rearden doctrine that declares that he is not a parasite metal, while defying the need to invent any-but an enlightened promoter of the “public

thing. Jim taggart wants the prestige and good” and protector of the “public safety”—

monetary benefits due to the person who whose safety consists in being protected from actually runs taggart transcontinental, while the evil men of the mind. but branding the defying the need to engage in the actions that men of the mind as evil does not erase his dagny does in running the railroad. dr. dependence on them. so he advocates and Floyd Ferris wants to

harness and wield the flocks to any doctrine that dismisses the men Rand
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of the mind as useless and their accomplish-

the nature of the leaders of his society and men as illusions—and that
preaches the their method of functioning. in witnessing final absurdity that
they don't even exist. but the starnes heirs implement the moral slogan even
this abstract veneer eventually wears "from each according to his ability to
each thin. and so he must seek to wipe the men of according to his need" at
the twentieth the mind out of existence. he becomes a Century motor
Company, John grasps that killer: of man's spirit, of his mind, of life.

such mentalities are the essence of evil: haters

John identifies the nature of the strikers' of reality, of life, and of all
rational, produc-antagonists in his radio broadcast; it is the five men. he
grasps that such creatures mentality of a mystic who pits his wishes cannot
be reasoned with; negotiation is *against* reality and who therefore comes to
futile. in fact, it is worse than futile because relish "the spectacle of
suffering, of poverty, what the leaders of John's corrupt society
subservience and terror; these give him a count on is that their victims, the
men of the feeling of triumph, a proof of the defeat of mind, will negotiate
and *compromise*.

rational reality. but no other reality exists. to exist, evil people like the
starnes heirs no matter whose welfare he professes to require a blood
transfusion from the good.

serve, be it the welfare of god or of that dis-

For the good willingly to submit to this

embodied gargoyle he describes as ‘The abuse, the good must fail to recognize evil as People,’ no matter what ideal he proclaims in evil and itself as good. This is dagny and terms of some supernatural dimension— *in* hank’s plight through most of the novel.

fact, in reality, on earth, his ideal is *death*, his dagny and hank fail to recognize that they craving is to kill, his only satisfaction is to are surrounded by evil. instead, they believe torture.” These mentalities “do not want to that people like Jim and lillian and Philip are own your fortune, they want you to lose it; mistaken and misguided, incompetents who they do not want to succeed, they want you mean well. if dagny and hank could just to fail; they do not want to live, they want show with sufficient clarity the errors of Jim you to die; they desire nothing, they hate and his ilk’s ways, the stupidity and impracti-existence, and they keep running, each trying cality of their ideas and policies, the leaders not to learn that the object of his hatred is of society would change course. hank, for himself.” (Pt. iii, Ch. Vii)

instance, thinks the demonstration they’ve

it is this fact about the nature of his own soul given with the first run of the John galt line that Jim comes face to face with when he is will sweep away the rot in Washington. until watching galt be tortured, the sight of which that happens, dagny and hank will save the causes his psychological collapse. Jim realizes country from the ruin that Jim and his ilk’s that he never had any purpose but to kill, policies are bringing. and not only do dagny that his fraudulent wish to see the contradic-and hank fail to grasp the evil that confronts

tory and irrational somehow made real is not them, they fail fully to grasp their own virtue.

a goal, that he desires John’s death even if it although they know they are the competent means that his own will follow. his is a soul ones, the individuals capable of understand-that hates the good for being the good and ing and mastering reality, they do not grasp kills for the sake of killing. When Jim that they are paragons of morality.

glimpses his true nature, moans, and col-

The consequences of these errors of knowl-

lapses, John's words to him are: "i told you edge are that dagny and hank give to the that on the radio, didn't i?" (Pt. iii, Ch. iX)

hatred-filled souls of Jim and lillian the

it is this gruesome fact about the state of soul benefit of every doubt, while simultaneously of her antagonists that dagny cannot fathom. depriving themselves of the title of the mor-and until she does, she cannot be free of ally good and of the righteousness of soul them. John is free of them—and launches the necessary to fight a battle between good and strike—precisely because he has identified evil (this is especially true of hank). This is Rand Atlas TG 0816a.indd 7

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* the meaning of the principle of the sanction

Then, one night at a factory meeting, i

of the victim. The men of the mind have

heard myself sentenced to death by

sanctioned their own victimhood by granting

reason of my achievement. i heard three

undeserved respect, the status of human

parasites assert that my brain and my life

beings, to the souls of Jim and lillian and

were their property, that my right to Philip and the like—and by refusing to exist was conditional and depended on demand the moral respect that they have so the satisfaction of their desires. The pursuit abundantly earned. The intellectual, political pose of my ability, they said, was to serve and cultural leaders of society—the Floyd the needs of those who were less able. i Ferrises, simon Pritchetts and Wesley had no right to live, they said, by reason mouches of the world—count on this moral of my competence for living: their right sanction. deprived of the cloak of moral to live was unconditional, by reason of respectability granted to them by the men of their incompetence.

the mind, and instead faced with a morally Then i saw what was wrong with the righteous and indignant opposition from the

world, i saw what destroyed men and
men of the mind, they would collapse in
nations, and where the battle for life had
their own incompetence. by depriving them
to be fought. i saw that the enemy was an
of the moral sanction of the men of the
inverted morality—and that my sanction
mind, John causes their collapse.

was its only power. i saw that evil was
John launches the strike because he, for the
impotent—that evil was the irrational,
first time, identifies the depth of evil of his
the blind, the anti-real—and that the
antagonists and what they are counting on:
only weapon of its triumph was the wil -
blood transfusions from those like him who
ingness of the good to serve it. Just as the
strive to live to those who seek to get away
parasites around me were proclaiming
with living. John tells the world during his

their helpless dependence on my mind

radio broadcast:

and were expecting me voluntarily to

i am the man whom you did not want

accept a slavery they had no power to

either to live or to die. you did not want

enforce, just as they were counting on my

me to live, because you were afraid of

self-immolation to provide them with the

knowing that i carried the responsibility

means of their plan—so throughout the

you dropped and that your lives

world and throughout men's history, in

depended upon me; you did not want

every version and form, from the extor-

me to die, because you knew it. . . .

tions of loathing relatives to the atrocities

of collective countries, it is the good, the

like the man who discovered the use of

able, the men of reason, who act as their

steam or the man who discovered the use
own destroyers, who transfuse to evil the
of oil, i discovered a source of energy
blood of their virtue and let evil transmit
which was available since the birth of the
to them the poison of destruction, thus
globe, but which men had not known
gaining for evil the power of survival, and
how to use except as an object of worship,
for their own values—the impotence of
of terror and of legends about a thunder-
death. i saw that there comes a point, in
ing god. i completed the experimental
the defeat of any man of virtue, when his
model of a motor that would have made
own consent is needed for evil to win—
a fortune for me and for those who had
and that no manner of injury done to
hired me, a motor that would have raised
him by others can succeed if he chooses

the efficiency of every human installa-
to withhold his consent. i saw that i
tion using power and would have added
could put an end to your outrages by
the gift of higher productivity to every
pronouncing a single word in my mind. i
hour you spend at earning your living.
pronounced it. The word was “no.”

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A Teacher’s Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand’s *Atlas Shrugged* **9**

i quit that factory. i quit your world. i
code that has taught you to count on
made it my job to warn your victims
our *guilt*. you expect us to feel guilty of
and to give them the method and the
our virtues in the presence of your vices,
weapon to fight you. The method was
wounds and failures—guilty of succeed-
to refuse to deflect retribution. The

ing at existence, guilty of enjoying the

weapon was justice. (Pt. iii, Ch. 7)

life that you damn, yet beg us to help

John is able to take this profound stand—to
you to live.

challenge the moral and philosophical views

did you want to know who is John

entrenched in the minds of the people of the

galt? i am the first man of ability who

world (as, for example, the opponents of

refused to regard it as guilt. i am the

slavery once challenged the moral and philo-

first man who would not do penance for

sophical views entrenched in america)—

my virtues or let them be used as the

because he is convinced of the moral

tools of my destruction. i am the first

righteousness and justice of his stand. “in

man who would not suffer martyrdom

order to deprive us of honor,” he tells the

at the hands of those who wished me to
people of the world,
perish for the privilege of keeping them
that you may then deprive us of our
alive. i am the first man who told them
wealth, you have always regarded us as
that i did not need them, and until they
slaves who deserve no moral recogni-
learned to deal with me as traders,
tion. you praise any venture that claims
giving value for value, they would have
to be non-profit, and damn the men
to exist without me, as i would exist
who made the profits that make the
without them; then i would let them
venture possible. you regard as “in the
learn whose is the need and whose the
public interest” any project serving those
ability—and if human survival is the
who do not pay; it is not in the public

standard, whose terms would set the
interest to provide any services for those
way to survive. (Pt. iii, Ch. Vii)

who do the paying. "Public benefit" is For the first time, a man of the mind grasps anything given as alms; to engage in the destructiveness of compromising with his trade is to injure the public. "Public antagonists, who have *nothing to offer him* and welfare" is the welfare of those who do whose only weapon is philosophical doctrines not earn it; those who do, are entitled to that attempt to induce unearned guilt. Thus no welfare. "*The public,* " to you, is who-John refuses to negotiate with the leaders of

ever has failed to achieve any virtue or society, even after they capture him. he value; whoever achieves it, whoever understands that there is nothing to negotiate provides the goods you require for sur-with men who want you dead. he also under-

vival, ceases to be regarded as part of the stands that the leaders will be eager to negoti-public or as part of the human race.

ate and compromise (their cal s for negotiation

What blank-out permitted you to hope and compromise go out right after they learn that you could get away with this muck of the strike from John's radio broadcast) of contradictions and to plan it as an because the only way they can continue to get ideal society, when the "no" of your away with living is if the men of the mind victims was sufficient to demolish the transfuse some of their life blood. Thus, as whole of your structure? What permits John says, his is a strike of a peculiar nature: any insolent beggar to wave his sores in he is not making demands but granting them.

the face of his betters and to plead for he has rid the world of that which it consid-help in the tone of a threat? you cry, as ers evil and exploitative: the men of the mind.

he does, that you are counting on our The men of the mind wil exist without the pity, but your secret hope is the moral world—and the world can discover if it can exist without the men of the mind.

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essential y, the strike is between the men of

bility of choice. but the man in the

the mind and society's leadership, but obvi-

middle is the knave who blanks out the

ously the remainder of the people have an

truth in order to pretend that no choice

enormous stake in the outcome of the strike.

or values exist, who is willing to sit out

as a result of the strike, they face a stark the course of any battle, willing to cash

choice: either to cast their lot with their lead-

in on the blood of the innocent or to

ers, and perish as their society disintegrates, or

crawl on his belly to the guilty, who

to cast their lot with the strikers, and them-

dispenses justice by condemning both
selves go on strike (which is what John urges
the robber and the robbed to jail, who
them to do toward the end of his radio broad-
solves conflicts by ordering the thinker
cast). no middle ground exists any longer.
and the fool to meet each other halfway.
on John's view, for far too long most of these
in any compromise between good and
people have sought to exist in the middle,
poison, it is only death that can win. in
neither willing to side *completely* with the any compromise between good
and evil,
leaders of their society, although often sup-
it is only evil that can profit. in that
porting their ideas and schemes, nor willing
transfusion of blood which drains the
to *break* with the dominant ideas of their good to feed the evil, the
compromiser
society and side completely with the strikers.
is the transmitting rubber tube. (Pt. iii,

The strikers do not regard this position tena-

Ch. Vii)

ble. as John tells them in the radio broadcast:

in the immediate aftermath of the broadcast,

The fence you have been straddling for many people choose in whatever way open to two hours—while hearing my words them to join the strike, while of course other and seeking to escape them—is the people do not.

coward's formula contained in the sen-

as a teaching strategy, this is a useful perspec-

tence: “but we don't have to go to tive from which to teach the novel: students extremes!” The extreme you have always are in effect in the position of those listening struggled to avoid is the recognition to John's radio broadcast. Would they join that reality is final, that a is a and that the strike? do they think that John's analysis the truth is true. a moral code impos-and arguments are correct? as readers, they

sible to practice, a code that demands have witnessed the events that the people of imperfection or death, has taught you the country have witnessed. They have seen to dissolve all ideas in fog, to permit no what effort it took from dagny and hank firm definitions, to regard any concept and others to build the rail line to save Colo-as approximate and any rule of conduct rado. They have seen the policies and as elastic, to hedge on any principle, to responses advocated by the leaders of society, compromise on any value, to take the from the looting of the Phoenix-durango middle of any road. . . .

that precipitated the crisis to the anti-dog-

The man who refuses to judge, who eat-dog legislation to the directives strangling neither agrees nor disagrees, who Colorado to directive 10-289 (the morato-declares that there are no absolutes and rium on brains). They have seen what the believes that he escapes responsibility, is leaders of

society have said about the men of the man responsible for all the blood the mind: how rearden metal was denounced that is now spilled in the world. . .

by the state science institute, how Francisco

d'anconia, ellis Wyatt, hank rearden and

There are two sides to every issue: one dagny taggart are continually attacked and side is right and the other is wrong, but morally and philosophically denounced.

the middle is always evil. The man who They have seen what ideas Jim taggart, is wrong still retains some respect for lillian rearden, balph eubank, eugene truth, if only by accepting the responsi-lawson, dr. simon Pritchett, dr. robert

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stadler, dr. Floyd Ferris and others espouse sacrifice one's life and happiness. each of and act on. They have heard (read) John's these worldviews is premised on a certain explanation for why the world is in crisis: the view of the role of the mind in man's exis-view of morality that the world accepts has tence. The striker's worldview is based on the come to full fruition. They must now decide idea that the individual, thinking, rational whether John is right or wrong. is he right mind is the source of all mankind's knowl-about the nature of the leaders of society and edge and life-promoting values and must be the ideas they profess? is he right that nego-cherished as such. The mystical worldview is

tiation is futile? is he right that the strikers based on the idea that the mind is unneces-are due moral recognition, which they have sary because reality bows (or should bow) to earned but never received? is he right that his

one's own or to society's wishes. to teach the morality is proper and the moral ideas advo-novel is to teach the ideas and values that the

cated for centuries are wrong and corrupt? is two sides hold, and how these cause their he right that no stable middle ground exists, actions. Why do the strikers go on strike?

that you are either on the side of the strikers What must individuals like ellis and hank or you are a road-paver for evil? These are the and dagny see and understand for them to questions that John has made the members decide to join the strike? What view do soci-of his society face—and which any reader of ety's leaders have of the strikers? What, for *Atlas Shrugged* faces.

instance, is Jim's view of his sister, lillian's of

more broadly, what i am stressing is that her husband, and dr. stadler's of his former *Atlas Shrugged* is a novel about a strike and student John? Why do they take the actions should be taught accordingly. in the name of they do take against the strikers? What view what are the strikers on strike? a moral-phil-do the people in society have of their leaders

osophical worldview that proclaims the real-

and of the strikers? What kinds of actions

ity and absolutism of this world and the does this produce. What, for instance, is their individual's moral right and moral responsi-response to rearden metal or to the starnes

bility to pursue his own life and happiness heirs implementing their new scheme at the within it. against what are they on strike? a twentieth Century motor Company? to mystical worldview that subordinates reality teach the novel is to teach the central conflict to whims and preaches the moral duty to that runs through the novel.

***AtlAs shrugged* Is a MysTery sTory**

Atlas Shrugged is not just about a strike, it is a on in the story: James taggart counting on novel about a hidden, underground strike. dagny as he rises to president of taggart This fact generates much of the mystery and transcontinental, and more broadly count-suspense of the story. to focus on the strike ing on individuals like dagny and hank to when teaching the novel therefore requires give meaning to the title of president of a that one also focus on the story's mystery; large industrial company; orren boyle and doing so will of course also help intrigue and Wesley mouch looting rearden's mills; capture the attention of your students.

robert stadler expecting that others will

Why is the strike hidden from public view? provide him with a free laboratory and scien-because John knows that the leaders of soci-

tific research facility; directive 10-289 freez-

ety will seek to chain the men of the mind to ing productive men to their jobs; mr.

their jobs, so that they keep producing the Thompson and his gang trying to force John values that sustain a corrupt society. The only to become economic dictator, who some-way for the leaders of society to try to get away how will reignite the nation's productivity.

with living is to exploit those who choose to moreover, John knows that any potential live. We see the looters doing this from early striker who is not yet ready to strike (or who Rand Atlas TG 0816a.indd 11

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* refuses to strike) poses a danger. such an cast). or are the strikers correct that to individual will naturally view the strike as a remain in the world, even while trying to threat to civilization itself and will try to stop battle the leaders of society, is to make terms it; this of course is dagny's attitude

toward with evil? are the strikers correct that what the man who is draining the brains of the the leaders of society are driven by is, ulti-world, whom she vows to shoot on sight.

mately, a metaphysical lust for destruction,

John therefore must be careful to reveal the the defeat of rational reality? are the strikers strike and its reasons only when he thinks he correct that a man's motive power is the quest will be able to convince the person of the to achieve what is good, and to cede the justice and morality of the strikers' actions. realm of philosophy and morality to the to reveal the strike too early, even to poten-mystics, and allow them to write the world's

tial strikers, threatens the strikers and their moral code, is to have lost the battle before success. notice that John *publicly* reveals the one has started? (as Francisco passionately strike only after hank goes on strike. at this tells dagny: "this is not a battle over material point, all the strikers are safely out of reach of goods. it's a moral crisis, the greatest the the leaders of society. only John remains in world has ever faced and the last. our age is the outer world, in danger, but he chooses to the climax of centuries of evil. We must put do so to win dagny from the world.

an end to it, once and for all, or perish—we,

the men of the mind. it was our own guilt.

The fact that the strike must be hidden gen-

We produced the wealth of the world—but

erates both mystery and suspense. it gener-

we let our enemies write its moral code." (Pt.

ates mystery because the story contains ii, Ch. Viii) characters who deliberately conceal their

actions and motives. like dagny and Who is right—the strikers or dagny and rearden, the reader is trying to figure out hank? This is the basic conflict of

the story, what these characters are doing and why. which generates its suspense, a conflict finally What, for instance, has become of Francisco resolved only after John's radio broadcast and and what is he doing? is he an aimless play-subsequent torture at the hands of the leaders

boy or does he have a purpose? it generates of society.

suspense because a basic question runs notice further that most of the mysterious through the novel, whose answer determines events of the story revolve around the strike.

the resolution of the conflict. Who is right Who is the brakeman that dagny hears about the nature of society and about the whistling on the train? a man on strike.

leaders of society and their basic ideas—

What is he whistling? a score of a composer

dagny and rearden or Francisco, John and who is on strike. Why won't owen Kellogg the other strikers? Who is making the right take the better position dagny offers him?

fundamental choice? Whose actions will suc-

he's on strike. Who manufactures the ciga-

ceed and whose will fail? Why?

rettes not made on earth? a striker. What has

For instance, are dagny and hank right to happened to Francisco d'anconia? he's on remain in the world and to try to fight the strike. Why must he remain in the world, looters by producing the values that keep the under the guise of a playboy? because it is the world afloat? are they correct that the leaders only way he can openly destroy the fortune of society are basically inconsequential oppo-made by his mind and the minds of his

nents, at root either irrational people, who illustrious ancestors and thereby deprive a will defeat themselves, or misguided individ-corrupt world of it. and so on.

uals, who will learn and accept the truth notice too that many episodes of suspense—

when they see it demonstrated convincingly episodes where the reader wonders “What (e.g., as hank thinks will happen after the will a character choose to do?”—revolve success of the John galt line or dagny around the moral-philosophical issues that thinks will happen after John’s radio broad-generate the strike. For instance, near the

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beginning of the story, will dan Conway society, the women and the parties he’s sup-choose to fight the national alliance of posed to be obsessed with. are hank and railroads, which is trying to destroy the dagny right to feel uncertain about him?

Phoenix-durango because Conway’s railroad What does Francisco actually believe and has proved too competent, or won’t he? he what is he after? What will happen to hank chooses not to fight, because he thinks the if he gets too close to Francisco? does Fran-alliance has right on its side. is his choice cisco hurt those closest to him, as dagny correct? does the alliance have morality on warns hank? The suspense of the scenes its side? and why then does doing what’s involving Francisco, dagny and hank stem morally right leave Conway demoralized? from the choices these characters face com-Why does he give up and retire?

bined with the differences in their knowledge

or: What choice will hank make with his and convictions.

family? it is clear they don't share his attitude or: hank is passionately in love with dagny, towards his mills. is this because they resent yet when he reflects on his desire for her and how often his work takes hank away from his actions, he cannot justify them. he's his family? hank assumes that his family trapped in what he regards as the formula of members' causes and projects must mean to depravity: he has no desire to do what he them what his mills mean to him, so he sup-believes to be morally right and has a pas-

ports them in pursuit of their goals, for sionate desire to do what he believes to be instance by giving Philip money for Friends morally wrong. Why does hank feel this of global Progress. is hank making the right way? and what should he choose to do?

choice? do his family's goals have the same What is the source of his view of himself, of status in their lives as his mills do in his? sex, of material pleasure? are the flesh and What is it that they actually think and the spirit inevitably in conflict, as the mystics believe? but even if they don't share hank's and leaders of society teach? dagny laughs at view of life, doesn't morality demand that hank's insults. Who's wrong and who's hank be non-judgmental? isn't the essence of right—and where will their relationship lead?

family relationships unconditional love? or: dagny is in a passionate quest to find the Would it be right for hank to choose to act inventor of the motor and to find who is against these moral ideas?

draining the brains of the world. When she

or: When hank refuses to deal with the discovers that it is the same person, she has a state science institute, he senses some kind terrible conflict. how will she choose to of panic on the part of the government offi-resolve it? how should she resolve it? Why is

cials. What is the cause of this panic? is hank John so sure that he is right and she is wrong right to refuse a sale to the government? when she chooses to return to the world and Would it really be a sale? Why does hank not go on strike? should she have gone on think it is the same issue as dagny

choosing strike? What will happen when she returns to deal with Robert Stadler? Why does he love the world? Should John follow her?

think that she shouldn't have chosen to deal with Dr. Stadler? What is Hank starting to choose and provides much evidence for why learn, with Francisco's help, about the importance of the characters choose what they do choose,

tance of sanction?

with the reasons revolving around the pro-

or: both Dagny and Hank have an ambiva-

found reasons that generate the strike. teach-

lent attitude toward Francisco, thinking they are in *Atlas Shrugged* as a novel about a strike should condemn him but finding themselves requires that one simultaneously focus on the unable to do so. How should they choose to mystery of the story and the suspense of its act toward Francisco? From Francisco's perspective and plot.

spective, he seems to have more of an interest

in Hank and Dagny than in the leaders of

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Plot Summary

"Who is John Galt?" so opens Rand's *Atlas* none dares exhibit his ability.

Shrugged. to be in a position to answer this "a morality that holds *need* as a claim," John Galt's question fully is to understand the essence of will go on to tell

a dying world, “holds the novel’s action, for although John himself
tiness—non-existence—as its standard of existence in the shadows until Part
iii, he drives value; it rewards an *absence*, a defeat: weak—all the story’s
events. set in a fictionalized, mess, inability, incompetence, suffering, dis-
mid-20th-century America, *Atlas Shrugged* is ease, disaster, the lack, the
fault, the flaw—the story of the strike led by John Galt.

zero. Who provides the account to pay these

John, a former student of physics and philoso-

claims? Those who are cursed for being non-

phy, is a brilliant young engineer working at zeros, each to the extent of his
distance from one of America’s leading firms, the twentieth that ideal.” (Pt.
iii, Ch. VII) The twentieth Century Motor Company of Starnesville, Century
Motor Company’s cannibalistic Wisconsin. When the Starnes heirs take over
world could have endured for much longer and propose to transform the
company by than it did had men of ability not deserted it.

imbuing it with a *moral* purpose, namely, to had John remained and allowed
his motor to create an environment where everybody reap the financial
rewards it no doubt would work according to his ability and is paid have
reaped, there would have been much, according to his need, only one man
dissents. much more to devour. but John refuses to

“This is a crucial moment in the history of play his part. as he will later tell
the world, “i mankind!” Gerald Starnes yells to a crowd of quit that factory. .
. . i made it my job to six thousand employees. “remember that warn your
victims and to give them the none of us may now leave this place, for each
method and the weapon to fight you. The of us belongs to all the others by
the moral law method was to refuse to deflect retribution.

which we all accept!” “i don’t,” John declares. The weapon was justice.” (Pt.
iii, Ch. VII) Walking out of the meeting, he promises to by withdrawing the
products of his mind, he

“put an end to this, once and for all ” by stop-

leaves the Company to experience the undi-

ping the motor of the world. (Pt. ii, Ch. X) so luted consequences of its chosen ideal. Thus, begins the strike by the men of the mind.

the beginning of John's strike spells the end

at the opening of the novel in Part i, Chapter for twentieth Century motor Company.

i, the strike has already begun. america (and both these causes are operative in the nation-the rest of the world) is decaying economi-

wide decay we witness at the opening of Part

cally and culturally. The cause parallels the i, Chapter i. america (and the world) is suf-cause of the collapse of the twentieth Cen-

fering from the enactment of policies based

tury motor Company. as Jeff allen relates on the moral idea that need is a claim, that (Pt. ii, Ch. X), the company is destroyed the passkey to the moral elite is lack of value, precisely *because* of what it regarded as a that the non-producers should rule over the moral purpose. The company strove to producers, that the zeroes should dictate and implement fully what John calls in his radio the non-zeroes should obey. (The political broadcast the morality of death, a view of manifestation of this moral ideal, rand holds morality that declares that the passkey to the in *Atlas Shrugged*, is political dictatorship: moral elite is *lack of value*. The result of incompetent, unthinking men like Wesley implementing this view of morality at the mouch, mr. Thompson and Cuffy meigs twentieth Century motor Company is that hold a gun to the heads of competent, think-men who are in fact vicious devour men who ing men like hank rearden and John galt.) are in fact virtuous, the unwilling and unable moreover, there are fewer men of ability to to work devour the willing and able, and deflect retribution—galt is convincing them, everyone seeks to demonstrate his need while in the name of justice, to go on strike (as Rand Atlas TG 0816a.indd 14

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owen Kellogg does in the first chapter). This Putting this another way, the basic conflict of leaves the citizens of the nation to experience the story is this. The leaders of society erect the undiluted consequences of the world's scheme after scheme against the men of the chosen moral ideal. between this starting mind in the attempt to get away with living, point in Part i, Chapter i, and when John fundamentally driven by the attempt to goes on the radio in Part iii, Chapter 7, more prove their metaphysical superiority over and more legislation is passed to implement reality, i.e., to defeat rational reality. The men the moral ideal of need and, simultaneously, of the mind who are not yet on strike are more and more individuals choose to strike. ready to pay any price and bear almost any The result is accelerating rot. John asks the ignominy in the name of their love for life audience near the beginning of his radio and for man's existence. unable to under-broadcast, "Why do you shrink in horror stand fully either their own virtue or the from the sight of the world around you? That depravity of the mystics, they think that the world is not the product of your sins, it is the irrational ideas of the mystics will defeat product and the image of your virtues. it is themselves and that in time everyone will your moral ideal brought into reality in its grasp the senseless destructiveness of their full and final perfection." (Pt. iii, Ch. Vii) in policies. These individuals are therefore ready this sense, the twentieth Century motor to remain working in the world to save it.

Company's collapse is a microcosm of the The men of the mind who are on strike are world's collapse. (and this is a good point to no longer ready to pay any price: they emphasize when teaching the novel.)

demand full *moral* recognition for their to reach the point of John addressing a dying efforts (and moral condemnation of their world over the radio, starting from the state of enemies). Thanks to John's philosophical the country in Part i, Chapter i, three types of discoveries, they now grasp the nature and action take place. The strikers, led by John, virtue of their way of life and the nature and actively but surreptitiously convince the cre-depravity of the cultural and political leaders

ators and sustainers of civilization, the men of of society, of the mystics of spirit and muscle.

the mind who create the values that make life and they grasp that the only reason the possible, to go on strike. second, the leaders notion that it is possible to get away with of society, the mystics of spirit and of muscle, living has endured for centuries is that men pass more regulations and directives in the of the mind have sanctioned the mystics'

name of realizing the world's moral ideal; all view of life and have been willing to pay the the while, their lust for destruction bubbles price for their own lives *and* the lives of the closer and closer to the surface. Third, the mystics. to stop the mystics, they must stop men of the mind who cannot yet be con-sanctioning the mystics' irrational ideas and

vinced to strike work arduously to keep the schemes—and they must convince other world afloat, sensing that the task is growing men of the mind to do the same.

hopeless. as they struggle, unrecognized, Consider how this plays out throughout the unrewarded, and actual y punished for their novel's story, after John quits the twentieth efforts, unable to realize their vision, unable Century motor Company and goes on strike, to win a place for their kind of men and their by considering the main events of the novel, kind of world, and incapable of finding the progressing chapter by chapter (obviously, kind of joy they expected to reach, they there are many events and some characters, wonder whether the struggle is worth it. important to the full story, that i don't have eventual y, and with the help of John and his space to describe).

fel ow strikers, they wil grasp that they are enabling their own destroyers.

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Part one

I.1 – The Theme

for Hank Rearden, but she cannot identify it

or its source. nor can she understand why it

at the beginning of the story, Eddie Willers is so hard to find competent people; she confronts Jim Taggart about the decrepit wants to promote Owen Kellogg before he is state of the Rio Norte line. Taggart trans-completely ready, yet he refuses the promo-

continental, the nation's leading railroad, tion. but this is simply one more obstacle she cannot afford to lose the line, as Colorado is will have to overcome to rebuild the Rio the last booming area of the country. but Jim Norte line.

is more concerned with who they will get the

rail from—his buddy Orren Boyle, not Hank **I.2 – The Chain** Rearden—and expects his sister, Dagny Taggart, to somehow still successfully handle Hank Rearden too cannot fathom the oppo-operations. besides, to compete effectively sition he faces. When we first meet him, it is with the Phoenix-durango requires demand-at the personal climax of ten years of unre-

ing effort. Jim wants to succeed without lenthing effort: the first pouring of an alloy effort. The San Sebastián project in the Peo-superior to steel that he's invented, Rearden

ple's state of Mexico is just such a scheme: metal. he wants to celebrate, but finds no Jim and his buddies want to ride on the coat-one with whom to celebrate. he's grown

tails of Francisco d'Anconia's productive accustomed to being berated by his family for genius, without the need even to judge the his passion for his mills, but feels no guilt for project's commercial viability. morally, the that

passion. They belittle the meaning of his project is justified by helping an “underprivileged” nation that does not respect property expressing their concern and love for him.

rights, to develop. but despite its non-commercial justification, Jim and his gang expect bracelet of rearden metal, but she cheapens that Francisco will somehow still be able to its meaning. yet at this point in the story, extract a profit from the venture.

hank believes that the causes espoused by his

daggy, by contrast, works unrelentingly to family members have the place and meaning keep taggart transcontinental profitable. in their lives that his mills do in his, and so unwilling to take the commercial viability of out of feelings of benevolence and generosity the san sebastián mines on faith, and know-he agrees to his wife’s anniversary party and

ing it is probable that the People’s state of contributing to his brother’s organization, mexico (as so many other People’s states have Friends of global Progress.

done) will nationalize the mines, she has both hank and daggy support those who pulled most of taggart transcontinental’s attack them. hank in effect gives a platform assets out of mexico to minimize the loss. she and security—his household—to family knows that the rio norte line must be rebuilt, members who speak with moral contempt and to Jim’s horror daggy is going to do it about his work. and in an action representative-with a never-before-tried alloy, rearden metal.

tive of the actual role accorded to men of the

in trying to save taggart transcontinental mind in the world, hank even contributes to and the continued industrial production of an organization that actively opposes his Colorado—and so the whole country—

work, Friends of global Progress, while not

Dagny cannot understand why she faces such even being granted the recognition that he is opposition. She senses that there is some-one making Philip Rearden's action pos-

thing personal and evil in the constant strife (Hank can't put his name on the don't-obstacles Jim creates and his seeming hatred toward him he gives his brother because it is "a very Rand Atlas TG 0816a.indd 16

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progressive group" that would be embar-

I.3 – The ToP and The boTToM

passed to have Hank on its list of contribu-

tors). Dagny, we learn from the account of meanwhile, Jim and his temporary allies are her rise in Taggart Transcontinental to Vice-Chairman another scheme like the San Sebastian

President in Charge of operation, has made this project as they continue to seek to get it possible for Jim to remain president of the away with living.

railroad. Jim's first major project, the San Sebastian line, is proving a failure. After the Jim reaches an agreement with Orren Boyle, board unanimously votes Dagny to vice-President Paul Larkin and Wesley Mouch. Jim will use

president, she is the one able to complete the his influence in Washington to help pass the San Sebastian line for Jim.

isolation that will force Hank to divest some of

both Hank and Dagny are experiencing a his business enterprises. Paul will "buy"

split between spirit and matter. For Hank, Hank's ore mines and ship ore to Orren using the split is internal: although it does not taggart transcontinental, even though ship-cause him to experience guilt, he shares to ping by boat is cheaper. In return, Orren will some extent the world's moral judgment of use his influence with members of the his mills and his career in business (the mate-national alliance of railroads to pass a rule

rial realm) as at best morally insignificant and that will kill the Phoenix-durango, taggart at worst morally evil (the spiritual realm). transcontinental's competition in Colorado.

When he and Dagny later watch the first rails Wesley, the man in Hank's employ who is of rearden metal being loaded on the freight charged with looking out for Hank's business cars, he tells Dagny, without guilt, that freedom in Washington, will get Jim and they're a couple of blackguards, but it is Nev-Orren's help in landing a government

ertheless they who keep the world going. appointment (assistant Coordinator of the Hank has also come to regard his sexual bureau of economic Planning and national desire as a lowly, unclean, material urge, unfit resources) in return for not informing Hank for the exalted realm of the spirit, and strug-of the harmful schemes in the works.

gles against it.

but Jim and Orren's prior scheme fails to bear

Dagny does not have such inner splits. she its unearned fruit. The People's state of has a profound spiritual dedication to the act Mexico nationalizes the San Sebastián mines.

of material production, i.e., to the business of Francisco and his investors lose an enormous running trains (Hank has the same spiritual amount of money. Jim and Orren are incred-dedication to his mills, but he doesn't know it ulous that Francisco would al ow himself to yet and would deny the classification). she be robbed so easily, and are convinced that has a vision for the kind of life and world she Francisco has figured out some kind of

way to can create, but is increasingly puzzled, some-stil make a profit, but cannot find out how

times despairingly, of her inability to bring because Francisco refuses to see Jim. Jim does that spiritual vision into material existence. manage to save face at taggart transcontinen-as the obstacles mounted by people like her tal, however, by taking credit for dagny's brother only increase, and as her kind of man action of downgrading operations on the san inexplicably vanishes (e.g., John galt con-sebastián line to minimize losses from the

vinces the contractor she's counting on to foreseeable nationalization. dagny does not repair the rio norte line, robert mcna-protest because she thinks that she has so

mara, to strike, we learn in Part i, Chapter clearly demonstrated that taggart transconti-iV), she wonders what is making her spiritual nental's and so Jim's continued success rests vision unachievable in material reality.

on her being free to operate, that Jim from

now on wil leave her free to operate.

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* **I.4**
– **The IMMovable Movers I.5 – The ClIMax**

of The d'anConIas

Jim and his allies' new scheme is beginning to

unfold. The national alliance of railroads The aftermath of the san sebastián national-passes the anti-dog-eat-dog rule, which will ization contains a disturbing fact. The mines kill the Phoenix-durango in Colorado in are worthless. dagny decides to confront nine months. The passage startles

dagny, Francisco. as she walks to his hotel, we learn who knows the rule will actually make suc-that she and Francisco were childhood

cess more difficult for taggart transcontinen-

friends and then lovers. We learn of Francis-

tal—and Jim's gloating also surprises her, as co's supreme ability and dedication to though the passage is his victory over her.

knowledge and business and of the incredible

dagny urges dan Conway, the founder of promise he represented. We learn of Jim's the Phoenix-durango, to fight the ruling, budding resentment of Francisco and his but he refuses. although sensing the injustice ability, of Francisco shrugging Jim off, of of the rule, dan does not have the will to Jim's newfound moral superiority after he fight because he would be in the wrong: he comes back from college, and of the first agrees that the alliance had the moral right cracks of despair in Francisco's seeming to do what it did. dagny wonders what has invulnerability after he's been in the business had the power to defeat a productive man world for a few years. and we learn of dagny like dan Conway, knowing the answer and Francisco's last night together, and of his cannot be her brother, Jim taggart.

warning to her.

but she has more pressing concerns: if she is When dagny asks Francisco whether he is in not able to rebuild the rio norte line in town to witness the farce that is the aftermath nine months, Colorado will be left without of the san sebastián nationalization, he transportation and ellis Wyatt and many admits that he is. The mexican government is other leading industrialists will collapse, and screaming that *Francisco* defrauded *them*, along with them the nation's industrial pro-because his mines that they seized have

duction. ellis warns her that if taggart proved worthless. Jim and his gang are whin-transcontinental's rotten stunt of destroying ing that Francisco has betrayed their trust in the Phoenix-durango ends up destroying his him, since he's failed to make money effort-business too, he (unlike dan

Conway) will lessly for them. The injustice of seizing Fran-take the rest of them down with him. and cisco's property registers with no one, nor dagny faces an even harder task, because the does anyone feel sympathy for Francisco, best contractor in the country, the contractor should it turn out that Francisco simply she is counting on, mcnamara, has suddenly messed up his business. but it does not seem quit and vanished, walking out on contracts that Francisco has simply messed up, as a that were worth a fortune.

playboy devoid of purpose may wel have.

doubt is even cast on the stories that Fran-

dagny asks hank if he can supply the rail he cisco is a woman-chaser, and it seems that the was to supply over a period of a year in nine san sebastián project was intentional on months. hank agrees, and as they watch the Francisco's part. mysteriously, he tel s dagny first rails of rearden metal being delivered to that it is she he must fight, not looters like taggart transcontinental, they discuss the Jim. Francisco seems to relish the fact that the near limitless possibilities for industrial san sebastián project has helped deplete tag-progress that rearden metal makes possible.

gart transcontinental, destroy the Phoenix-

durango, and endanger el is's oil business.

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I.6 – The non-CoMMerCIal

I.7 – The exPloITers

and The exPloITed

The second phase of Jim and his allies' new

scheme is now imminent, as passage of the The rebuilding of the rio norte line is not equalization of opportunity bill threatens to faring wel . The contractor replacing mcna-damage hank's business operations.

mara, ben nealy, is a mindless incompetent,

alone in his dressing room, motivated by his and public opposition to building rails with an (spiritual) devotion to his work and the untried metal, rearden metal, is mounting.

important tasks and problems that must be Jim, fearful of the public's reaction, wants addressed now, hank thinks he should return dagny to debate bertram scudder on the to his mills. but he also thinks it is his moral radio over the question "is rearden metal a duty to attend his anniversary party, because lethal product of greed?" she indignantly lillian wants an existence unrelated to busi-refuses. a supplier to taggart transcontinen-

ness. he attends the party.

tal, mr. mowen, of amalgamated switch and

lil ian has invited the intel ectual and cultural signal Company, decides he will not com-leaders of the nation to his home, such people plete dagny's order for switches made of as balph eubank, mort liddy and dr. simon rearden metal.

Pritchett. For philosophical and moral reasons, The state science institute fears the use of they al support passage of the equalization of rearden metal for a different reason, and dr.

opportunity bil . Francisco, however, does Potter asks hank to keep it off the market for not: he is the only one at the party to offer his a few years, even offering to buy the rights to gratitude to hank. (his recruitment of hank rearden metal with government money, to join the strike of the men of the mind has intimating that there will be harmful legisla-begun.) he cautions hank that his opponents tion passed if hank does not cooperate.

have a terrible weapon against him, which Hank refuses. The state science institute Hank has never grasped (Hank has allowed issues from the office of Dr. Floyd Ferris a them to write the world's moral code and then non-committal, unscientific statement smear-sanctioned that code in numerous ways).

ing rearden metal as possibly unsafe. in the

unlike Hank, who dismisses the importance ensuing uproar, Ben nearly quits. The of the current intellectual and cultural leader-national brotherhood of road and track

ship, content to leave the whole spiritual Workers forbids its members to work on the realm to Lillian and her cocktail-party crowd, Rio Norte line. Jim leaves town.

Dagny does not dismiss it. although she does Dagny goes to see Dr. Robert Stadler, head of not understand the nature and motivations the state science institute and by far its of these people, she's outraged that there are greatest scientific mind. Dr. Stadler is pleased so many "intellectuals of the looter persua-to interact with another person of intelli-

sion" at Hank's party. she came to the party gence (Dagny), but is unconcerned that the to celebrate her and Hank's achievement. state science institute's statement has When she hears Lillian belittle Hank's great-stopped construction of the Rio Norte line,

est creation by offering to exchange the hid-

despite how crucial its completion is to the

eous bracelet of rearden metal for a common country's continued industrial production.

diamond necklace anytime, Dagny can no Dr. Stadler knows rearden metal is a bril-longer stand it. she must defend the spiritual liant technological achievement, and even meaning of her kind of world, and exchanges plans to make use of the metal in his scientific her diamond bracelet for Lillian's

bracelet. research, but he won't publicly speak the facts hank, although he does not and cannot in rearden metal's defense. When dealing understand what his wife lives for—the ques-with people someone must always be sacri-

tion of why lillian married him now haunts ficed, he tells dagny, and he won't sacrifice him—takes lillian's side and not dagny's.

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* the state science institute and the world of hank too is facing growing difficulties. his theoretical science to defend a mere material, supplies of copper are proving erratic. after technological product like rearden metal. much patchwork to get the copper he needs The government officials who vote for the immediately, he proceeds with a plan to buy institute's funding demand results, and dr. a copper mine in Colorado. unconcerned stadler dare not let the public know that a with hank's pressing problems, his mother private company and not the institute's met-takes this time to ask him to give his brother

allurgical department has revolutionized the Philip a job he doesn't deserve at the mills.

science of metallurgy. he tells dagny that she hank refuses, knowing it would be a betrayal must stop expecting the rational when she of his mills. his mother morally denounces has to deal with people.

his decision, and hank grasps that his mills

dagny gives Jim an ultimatum. she wil take represent a holy temple of some kind.

a leave of absence from taggart transconti-

hank's difficulties mount further when the

mental to complete the rio norte line, legislature passes the equalization of oppor-forming her own company, serving as her tunity bill, which means that he must cancel own contractor, and obtaining her own his plans to buy the copper mine and must financing. When she completes the line, she divest himself of other businesses he already wil turn it over to taggart transcontinental owns. he can see no way to fight the bill or and return to her job. meanwhile, she will the forces that produced it: they did not even unofficial y continue to run taggart trans-have to consult him in taking his property

continental through eddie Wil ers, who will away from him. but he knows that he cannot be appointed acting Vice-President. Jim in let his pain and despair stop him, the John return must keep his Washington boys off her galt line must be built, although he wonders long enough for her to finish the line, neutral-what the use of all his effort is.

izing al the legislative obstacles to the line's but he revives himself when he contemplates production. Jim agrees, but tel s her that if his life's work and its meaning to him—and she fails to complete the rio norte line, she the possibility of a new kind of bridge for the won't be able to return to her old job.

John galt line made of rearden metal. his

dagny feels an odd excitement at the pros-

love for and dedication to production return,

pect of facing an enormously difficult task sweeping from his mind as insignificant the but with, for once, an unobstructed path, looters and their machinations.

and decides to rename the line the John galt

line in open defiance of the fear, despair and **I.8 – The John Galt lIne**
futility that the slang phrase “Who is John

galt?" connotes and which seems to be dagny, now hidden in exile from taggart engulfing the country.

transcontinental, works to complete the

dagny needs to raise fifteen million dollars to John galt line. in a moment of longing, she complete the John galt line, but her stock in thinks she'll never reach the world she has taggart transcontinental is only worth seven wanted and her vision of the man at the end million. she begs Francisco to buy the eight of the rails. as she sits alone in her office, a million in bonds. he asks her not to beg him man (John galt) paces in the shadows, as if and tells her he cannot tell her what has hap-debating whether to enter, but then leaves.

pened to him—it's an answer she must discover her work to build the John galt line grows on her own. he, at once both seemingly despair-still more difficult. dwight sanders, a bril-

ingly and tenderly, refuses her request. but liant young engineer from whose firm she dagny is able to raise the money from indus-had planned to order ten new diesel engines,

trialists in Colorado and in a few other states, retires and vanishes.

and hank himself invests a million dollars.

rearden, meanwhile, in compliance with the

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equalization of opportunity bill sells his ore cessful completion of the John galt line, and mines to Paul larkin and his coal mines to despite the board's praise of Jim, Jim is Ken danagger. and in the final phase of Jim dejected. Frightened to be alone and to face and his gang's scheme, Wesley mouch resigns his self, he needs a different kind of experi-as hank's man in Washington, appointed ence from the celebratory one dagny and two weeks

later to the position of assistant hank enjoyed together. Jim finds it in his Coordinator of the bureau of economic encounter with Cherryl brooks.

Planning and national resources.

Cherryl is a young woman of spirit, ambi-

but despite all the obstacles placed in their way, and personal integrity. Thinking day-path, dagny and hank near completing the country's achievements are Jim's, she worships John Galt line. denunciations of both of him. she's indignant when she learns Jim is them mount, as do predictions of catastrophe unhappy on the night of his greatest triumph on the first run of the line, with some people and tells Jim he's too good for people. Cher-like Jim seemingly half hoping for disaster. The ryl's idolizing of him allows him to pretend union of locomotive engineers tries to stop he's not the non-entity he is feeling himself to its members from participating in the first run be at the moment—while simultaneously but dagny asks for volunteers, and every engi-giving him a sense of superiority and triumph

neer at taggart transcontinental volunteers.

over her (his enemy in spirit), precisely

dagny and hank give a press conference because he knows he's defrauding her. his before the first run of the John Galt line, in encounter with Cherryl leaves him feeling "as which they both announce that they'll be if he had taken his revenge upon every person riding on the first run. The run is a triumph. who had stood cheering along the three-during it, dagny and hank experience the hundred-mile track of the John Galt line."

exhilaration of realizing their vision of exis-

The success of the John Galt line and the

tence, the spiritual quest of conquering relative economic freedom that Colorado nature, conceived and produced by their enjoys is leading many companies to move to minds and then brought into full material the state. People like Mr. Mowen don't form by their actions and their unwavering

approve of this and think there should be commitment. They celebrate with Ellis—

laws preventing this kind of economic dislo-

who despairs that this great achievement cation; Mr. Mowen is encouraged by a bill won't be permitted to last—and then, as giving wider powers to the Bureau of Eco-physical Expression of the same exhilaration nomic Planning and national resources, they felt on the first ride of the John Galt where Wesley Mouch has just been appointed line, Dagny and Hank make love.

assistant coordinator.

Hank, however, thinks it's clear track ahead:

I.9 – The saCred

with the concrete demonstration that he and

and The Profane

Dagny gave the world in successfully com-

pleting the John Galt line, he expects that in

but after they make love, Hank and Dagny's reason the equalization of opportunity bill evaluations of their act differ markedly. Hank will be scrapped and the looters will be swept condemn as depraved his desire for Dagny aside. He and Dagny talk of a transcontinent-and hers for him, but tells her he'd give up tal track built of rearden metal. But their everything he owns in order to continue to immediate plan is to take a well-earned vaca-have her. Dagny laughs at him and tells him tion together, where no one knows them and what he regards as depravity she regards as they can go out together in public. Hank asks her proudest achievement.

her to wear the bracelet of rearden metal.

despite the prospect of enormous profits for on vacation in Wisconsin, they are startled by Taggart transcontinental because of the suc-the economic

disintegration and de-industri-

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alization they encounter. at the gutted factory he had promised hank. hank
scrambles to of the twentieth Century motor Company, find a new,
underground supplier.

they make an even more startling and difficult more fundamentally, even if
hank saw a way to fathom discovery: the remnants of a motor to fight the
looters, he could not do so while that would have revolutionized industrial
claiming the innocence of righteousness: he production. dagny vows to find
its inventor too is guilty of fraud, deceit and injustice and discover why it
has been left as scrap: the through his affair with dagny. This guilt is
factory's most valuable possession is the only driven home to him when he
now experi-thing that has not been looted.

ences revulsion when lillian touches him,

and hank despairs that although he doesn't

I.10 – WyaTT's TorCh

understand her purpose in marrying him,

she'll never want to leave him and he'll have

in search of the inventor of the motor, dagny no right to leave her.

and hank meet various individuals, many

unsavory, associated with the twentieth dagny too feels defeat. her two
goals, to find Century motor Company. When she tele-the inventor of the
motor and to somehow

phones back to her office during her vacation, prevent Colorado's destruction, both go eddie desperately asks her to return at once unachieved. her chain of leads about the because they're trying to kill Colorado.

identity of the motor's inventor lead dagny

to the viciously evil starnes heirs and their What she discovers on her return is a plethora schemes for the twentieth Century motor of pressure groups proclaiming the right to Company, then to a cook in a roadside feed off Colorado. a group led by boyle, for dinner, the distinguished professor of philos-example, is demanding passage of a Preserva-

ophy dr. hugh akston, one of Francisco's

tion of livelihood law, which would "limit teachers. mysteriously, dr. akston cautions the production of rearden metal to an dagny to give up her search: the secret she's amount equal to the output of any other steel trying to solve involves something much mill of equal plant capacity." a group led by greater than the motor.

mr. mowen is demanding passage of a Fair

share law "to give every customer who meanwhile, Wesley mouch issues new direc-wanted it an equal supply of rearden metal." tives, among which are a moratorium on dagny sees no way to fight such irrationality payments of interest and of principal on all and tells Jim this is his battle: he has to keep railroad bonds (including those of the John Washington out of her way so that she can galt line) and a special tax on the state of rebuild taggart transcontinental and fully Colorado "as the state best able to assist the save it and Colorado. he tells her she's always needier states to bear the brunt of the national predicting disaster at the passage of every emergency." dagny, sensing this will be the progressive social measure that impedes pro-final straw for el is—the courageous and

duction, but the disaster never comes. she productive bondholders of the John galt line replies that it has not because she's bailed betrayed so that Jim and taggart transconti-them out each time—but she won't be able to nental could receive the unearned—rushes to do so this time. she thinks to

herself that she el is. but dagny's too late. he's set fire to his has to count on Jim acting on his self-interest, oil fields and vanished. unbeknownst to her, but dimly wonders if self-interest is Jim's the strikers have got another man.

actual motive.

rearden too sees no way to fight the irrational laws that are being proposed. besides, he faces the even more pressing problem of Paul larkin's betrayal. Paul has sold iron ore to orren boyle rather than to rearden steel, as

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Part Two

II.1 – The Man Who

motor helps sustain her. she tries to find a **belonged on earth**

scientist with a mind powerful enough to

attempt to rebuild the motor, but can't. she

because of Wesley mouch's directives and decides, as a last resort, to see if dr. stadler ellis's response of setting fire to his oil der-can help her. he eagerly accepts her meeting

ricks and vanishing, Colorado is dying. as a request. because dagny, who esteems the result the american economy takes a step mind, still regards dr. stadler as the leading backwards, toward the past, as people try to scientific mind of the country, she helps him shift from using oil back to using coal; no pretend to himself that he remains on the one can match ellis's production of oil.

side of the mind. dr. stadler desperately

needs this pretense now, because the state

andrew stockton, who runs the best foundry science institute has just released a book that in the country, and stands to make a fortune resembles the incoherent and illogical public from the switch back to coal, retires and statement slandering rearden metal, only vanishes. soon after, lawrence hammond, writ larger: dr. Ferris's *Why Do You Think You* the best manufacturer of automobiles, also *Think?* This book attacks the mind as such.

retires and vanishes. The only reliable source but in return for receiving "public" funds, of fuel left is Ken danagger of danagger dr. stadler will not speak out against the Coal in Pennsylvania. meanwhile, in Wash-book, as he did not speak out against the

ington dr. Ferris says that bastards like institute's statement on rearden metal. he stockton and hammond are vanishing does, however, complain about the puzzling somewhere and warns that something will lack of heating at the institute, evading the have to be done about it. leaders in Wash-fact that the statement attacking rearden

ington make a deal with d'anconia Copper metal and the taxes levied on Colorado to to pass directives that will kill the u.s. copper pay for the likes of his "free" research labora-producers, leaving d'anconia Copper and its tories have helped destroy ellis and Colorado, stockholders (which includes said leaders) the nation's leading energy producers.

with a near monopoly in copper.

on seeing the motor, however, dr. stadler

in the face of al this economic destruction, reacts with admiration: a spark of good still Jim boasts that the past six months have been resides in his soul, and he points dagny to a taggart transcontinental's most profitable. scientist who would not take a government he's obtained subsidies from Washington for job but who might be able to help her, Quen-every (empty and unprofitable) train run as a tin daniels. yet dr. stadler must simultane-service of "public equality," and taggart trans-

ously wish that a man with a brilliant mind

continental doesn't have to pay any interest or that he used to know, named John galt, has principal to its (mostly Coloradoan) bond-to be dead.

holders. This is Jim's proof of the superiority

of his money-making skills to dagny's.

hank's work too has become more difficult

after the completion of the John galt line.

a new profession arises in Washington, a pro-

The Fair share law cripples his ability to

fession which produces no new wealth. They make business decisions. Washington appoints are the “defreezers,” individuals who possess a deputy director of distribution (Tony, the the political connections to get Washington to Wet nurse) to “interpret” the legislation that lift the moratorium on interest and principal is impossible to objectively interpret. The Wet payments on selected bonds, in the name of nurse arbitrarily decides which customers the bondholder’s need. Dagny is beginning to Hank must sell rearden metal to and in what feel ashamed of Taggart transcontinental.

quantities. men who had earned the right to

but Dagny’s quest to find the inventor of the purchase rearden metal by standing with Rand Atlas TG 0816a.indd 23

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Hank when others would not, like Ken Dan-Their wedding is a who’s who of cultural y and

aggr, must go without the metal.

political y powerful figures and the list of

The only emotional release Hank feels from attendees represents Jim’s current standing in his problems is when he learns of Ellis setting Washington. notable for his absence is Wesley Fire to his oil fields—and now Hank thinks to Mouch, who apparently has more important himself that he must constantly be on guard matters to attend to. Hank’s presence at the against himself and this feeling. he senses wedding (Lillian’s wedding gift to Jim), how-that the feeling has some connection to what ever, is a coup because it implies that Hank he feels when he refuses to sell rearden metal either respects or fears Jim, either of which is to the state science institute

for Project X, an indication of Jim's power. Francisco identifies because he will not help manufacture weapons

defines the nature of the men who've taken over

weapons for his own enemies. The "traffic cop" controls the world, the aristocrats of pulp, and in asking Hank to sell the institute rearden speech actually directed at Hank, Francisco realizes he is afraid when Hank won't help. He pre-explains that the world's choice is between the

tend that it is a voluntary sale rather than the power of the whip or the power of the dollar government simply seizing Hank's property. and why the phrase to "make money" captures Hank grasps that this is an important issue

the essence of morality.

that his enemies need some sort of sanction Hank is attending the wedding despite his fear of him—and that it is the same issue as desperate desire not to see Dagny in public. Dr. Stadler needing some sort of sanction with his wife. but he attends because his fear is from Dagny, his victim.

the guilt and Lillian is in the right in demand-

but though Hank's work is growing more interesting he attends. Lillian for her part seems dissatisfied, he is finding a new joy in his personal appointment that she has not caught Hank in life as his relationship with Dagny deepens. an affair.

For the first time, he's enjoying material pleasures-

at work Hank has just made a secret deal to

sure, since with Dagny they seem to carry a sell rearden metal to Ken, who's in turn deep spiritual meaning, as a celebration of trying to prevent Taggart Transcontinental's what they both have made of their souls and collapse should it be unable to obtain the lives. and he's beginning to grasp that his coal it needs. both Hank and Ken are ready sexual desire for Dagny

and hers for him come to go to jail for their action. Hank senses that from the best within each of them.

there is a deep connection between the fact
that he must hide his business deal with Ken

II.2 – The arIsToCraCy

and the fact that he must hide his romance

of Pull

with Dagny, a connection which, if he could
identify it, would answer all the unanswered

Jim and Cherryl's developing relationship questions of his life.

contrasts sharply with Hank and Dagny's. Dagny also doesn't want to attend the wedding-Cherryl's unable to understand Jim or what's going on. She has more pressing work. She's just he seeks in their relationship, but she soldiers hired Quentin to try to unlock the secret of on out of loyalty to what she thinks he is. Jim the motor and she now thinks, as more of periodical y and abruptly breaks down in Colorado's industrialists, like Robert Marsh, front of her, confessing his pain, his resent-retire and vanish, that there is an actual

ment of Dagny and Hank, his supposed destroyer loose in the world, extinguishing superiority to them in the spiritual realm (the the lights of the country. This is her real realm of the heart) and his desire for unearned enemy, with whom she is in a race: by the respect, all the while seeing the pain of ten-time she rebuilds the motor, will there be any

derness and expression of worship in her world left to use it? but she attends because it glance at him. Jim asks Cherryl to marry him.

is her brother's wedding.

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at the wedding dagny and hank learn that, wrong when dr. Ferris tells him he's broken despite the failure of the san sebastián proj-one of their laws by selling rearden metal to

ect, Jim and his gang expect that, like a law of Ken danagger. dr. Ferris demands that nature, Francisco will somehow keep making hank sell the state science institute rearden money, from which they will extract their metal for Project X or else face prosecution.

unearned cut. They all hold shares in hank notes that dr. Ferris too doesn't seem d'anconia Copper. Francisco, saying he's troubled that one of the country's laws has committing treason, mysteriously warns been broken—"What do you think they're hank not to deal with d'anconia Copper. for?" dr. Ferris asks him. What dr. Ferris and he then announces that tomorrow there will the other looters want is to cash in on the emerge numerous accidents and problems at guilt experienced by the lawbreaker. hank d'anconia Copper because of the playboy's tells dr. Ferris that there's a flaw in his system, mismanagement. hank, Francisco and which he'll discover when they put hank on dagny, like three pillars in the room, watch trial for the illegal sale.

Jim and his gang scurry away in panic at the news of the indictment sends Ken to his news of the impending collapse of d'anconia breaking point—it's not that he won't have Copper's stock.

the strength to fight, it's that he'll refuse to

submit to the injustice. dagny is now con-

II.3 – WhITe blaCkMaIl

vinced there is a destroyer in the world,

whom she'll shoot on sight because he's tar-

as dagny and hank's affair continues to getting the pillars of the economy when they deepen, hank is grasping the joy that is pos-near their breaking point (Ken is the last

sible to two human beings. he is starting to competent coal producer left). she quickly think that he was lying to himself when he goes to see Ken to warn him against the damned both himself and dagny in the destroyer, but she's too late. as she enters morning at ellis Wyatt's house. but he con-Ken's office, another man is exiting, and Ken

tinues to castigate himself for the affair, on informs her that he has decided to retire.

the premise that he has wronged lillian.

hank, alone in his office, thinks about the

lillian discovers that hank is having an affair course of action Ken has taken and why, and assumes that what he seeks from it is given the love each man had for the other, meaningless, physical sex with a floozy. she they never sought, as they did in their mills tries to drive home to rearden the "animalis-and mines, to build the kind of world among

tic," "materialistic" nature of his urges and men that they actually wanted.

how he must now constantly stand in guilt

before his own eyes and hers. she hammers Francisco comes to see hank (in the hopes away at his self-esteem and the idea that he that hank is now himself closer to going on could regard himself as morally perfect. but strike, a direction in which Francisco will try she does not want to leave him. she vows that to move him even further). Francisco explains she'll never divorce him, that she can't be to hank why hank's mills and life are the bought with money or anything material, embodiment of morality and that, in and that he'll have to face her presence daily, response to hank's enormous virtues, he's as a reminder of his guilt. hank notes that being

rewarded with pain: rearden metal has lillian does not seem to feel pain at his infi-actually made hank's life harder not easier.

delity and senses that there is some flaw in Francisco tells hank that the worst sin is to her scheme of punishing him, but cannot accept undeserved guilt and pay blackmail identify it. but he realizes, after she leaves, not for one's vices but for one's virtues. he that his greatest victory over himself was let-tells hank that hank's implicit moral code is

ting her leave his hotel suite alive.

a code of life. What then, he asks hank, is

the nature of his opponents' moral code?

hank, however, does not think he is in the What are they after?

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* but at this point, hank doesn't really think denunciations of him by half-accepting and the question matters because hank can't be never challenging their moral code.

stopped by the looters; he won't break as Ken as the trial approaches, taggart transconti-did. Francisco wonders how hank can con-

nental's main line is falling apart. dagny has

tinue to carry the injustices he does and think been able to obtain permission to buy enough he won't break, but learns the answer to his steel rail to patch the worst parts. Though unasked question during the accident at the hank does not expect to be sentenced to jail, furnaces of the mills, during which hank he tells dagny that she will be getting rail of saves Francisco's life. Precisely because of rearden metal instead of steel; he has a

reli-hank's enormous ability and moral courage, able source of copper (d'anconia Copper).

he doesn't think anyone or anything can stop hank makes dagny promise that she will him. Francisco leaves (he knows that hank is never admit that she knew of this illegal still not yet ready to strike).

transaction; hank's doing it so that he can

continue to bear his work.

II.4 – The sanCTIon

at his trial, hank offers no defense, for he **of The vICTIM**

does not view himself guilty of any wrongdo-

ing. he tel s the court—and the public at

in the lead-up to hank's trial, hank's family large—that he works for himself and is proud continues to throw insults at him for his life of the fortune he's earned. he explains the devoted to business, hoping that he won't moral code behind his work and says he take a stand in the courtroom and that he'll needs no one's permission for his right to make a deal to avoid jail time.

exist. he wil not pretend, by acknowledging

but this time hank actively notes Philip's that his trial is a proceeding of justice, that pleasure at the newspapers attacking hank moral right lies on the side of the government and lil ian's attempt to dismiss the notions of and its laws. if they want to seize his metal right and wrong and the idea that anyone can and throw him in jail, they must do so openly, achieve moral perfection. For the last three without the cover he would be granting them months lil ian has been droning on about by acknowledging that they have a moral hank's guilt because of his affair, but he only right to do so. The judges don't know what to feels indifference at her accusations. he now do. They dare not acquit hank and they dare names the flaw in her scheme

of punishment. not send him to jail. so they suspend his she is unconcerned with herself doing what is sentence and fine him five thousand dol ars.

right, but needs hank to be immensely con-

The crowd applauds hank, but he knows

cerned with doing what is right. hank must they will support the looters' schemes the view his own action as wrong and feel guilt next day, because they've been told all their for not living up to the right—according to lives that that within them which made them lil ian's moral code of what is right. but cheer hank is evil. hank wonders why hank rejects that code. he's left wondering people are so willing to accept what they've whether lil ian consciously knows the nature been taught and thereby damn the best of her scheme of punishment—but does not within themselves. he realizes that the actual hate her enough to believe that she does.

sentence his trial has imposed on him is to

When confronted with Philip's naked moral figure out the answer to this question.

criticisms of him, however, hank tells Philip anxious to know what Francisco thought of he'll throw him out on the street if he ever his speech, hank goes to see him. Francisco says anything like that again. hank notes asks hank if he is actual y practicing ful y that none of his family will stand openly in what he preached in his courtroom speech.

defense of their moral code, and knows that hank, desperately wanting to find a man he the essence of the issue is the sanction of the can respect and admire, asks Francisco how victim. he has allowed them to spout moral

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he can be a woman-chaser. Francisco explains and more control over economic affairs, to hank the meaning of sex as a celebration under Wesley mouch's orders, and are impos-of virtue and achievement, and the similarity ing more and more sacrifices. accidents are between those who seek an unearned stature becoming more frequent, including the col-in matter (money-chasers, like Jim and lapse of the atlantic southern's mississippi boyle) and those who seek an unearned stat-bridge, which leaves only taggart transconti-

ure in spirit (woman-chasers). hank recog-

mental's bridge linking the country. and a

nizes that he's led a split life: he never accepted pirate, ragnar danneskjöld, roams the seas, the looters' view of money but he did of sex.

sinking aid vessels of plundered wealth and

in their conversation, it emerges that Fran-

the copper-carrying ships of d'anconia

cisco's position as a chaser of women is cam-

Copper. The whole country is in desperate

oufrage for a purpose of his own. Francisco need of copper and hank must obtain coal tells hank that, because of impatience, he's on the black market.

revealed too much to hank. seeing this as a a Washington man, mr. Weatherby, is now confession of trust, hank tells him of the present at taggart transcontinental's board trust he's put in Francisco: hank has secretly meetings. taggart transcontinental's business made d'anconia Copper his supplier of decisions must now meet with Washington's copper. hank is willing to be branded a (favor-based) approval. railway unions are criminal so that he can outlast the looters' demanding a raise in wages and shippers a system and keep in existence the kind of drop in rates. Jim is losing the magical title of productive men who must be kept in exis-

“the public” that he’s enjoyed for so long, and

tence. hank’s first order of copper left him so losing the role of receiver of other people’s Juan by ship on december fifth. Francisco is forced sacrifices. mr. Weatherby wants Jim’s in a state of despair at the news, yelling at help in breaking the national alliance of hank that he warned him not to deal with railroads, in return for preventing shipping d’anconia Copper. Francisco picks up the rates from being ordered to be cut. Jim telephone—and stops. he seems to have the expects dagny to find some way to make it all power to prevent something, but does not still work, as the whole board of taggart exercise it, swearing to hank in the name of transcontinental expects dagny to somehow the only woman he’s ever loved that he is return the railroad to profitability. dagny tells hank’s friend.

them that their policies have brought taggart

Three days later, hank learns that ragnar transcontinental to its present desperate danneskjöld has sunk the ships carrying the state, but they ignore her and any suggestion copper.

to ease the regulations strangling business.

They know that the rio norte line must be

closed to (temporarily) halt taggart transcon-

II.5 – aCCounT overdraWn

tinental’s bleeding and that its closure will be

the final death blow for Colorado, but they

The inability to obtain copper causes rearden want it to be dagny’s decision, because she steel’s first-ever failure, as it can’t deliver the has the ability to somehow make the unwork-rail promised to taggart transcontinental. able work. but dagny refuses this time, and but it hardly matters, as the whole economy the board eventually decides to kill the line.

is collapsing. Danagor Coal is decaying after Mr. Weatherby reminds them that they need Ken's retirement. The shortage of fuel is requiring the government's permission to close a line interfering with Taggart Transcontinental's line and also threatens to require repayment ability to provide transportation, causing a loss of Taggart Transcontinental's frozen bonds.

cascade of other business failures. Intellectual-

so Jim agrees to approve the union wage

also like Bertram Scudder and Dr. Pritchett increases and in return Mr. Weatherby allows welcome and justifies the new hardship. The closure of the Rio Norte line.

government and the looters are seizing more

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* Francisco, knowing that the Rio Norte line Wesley and the others don't care that conditions will be killed, comes to Dagny, both to help things could therefore never improve. They help cope and, unbeknownst to her, hoping only want to somehow stay in power and not against hope that she's closer to being ready be swept away in the collapse they're causing.

to strike. She's not: her plan is to begin tear-

They want to get away with living. Under the

ing up the Rio Norte line that she created, in directives workers will be prevented from order to try to save the rest of Taggart Trans- leaving their jobs and businessmen from clos-

continental.

ing their doors, inventing anything new or

and so, along with hank, dagny, who is changing their production schedules. Wages, denounced as a greedy profiteer by the crowd, prizes and profits will be frozen at current rates on the last run of the rio norte line.

levels and everyone will be forced to continue

to spend what they have been spending. Pat-

Knowing that his power is slipping in Wash-

ington, Jim sees lillian in the hope that she and the unification board will

settle all disputes again "deliver" hank to him as she did at the meeting concerning the new laws.

his wedding party, because hank is a valuable

commodity that Jim could trade in Washing-

The only question is: Can they get away with it?

ton. both lillian and Jim are pleased by the but the country has been prepared for these destruction of the rio norte line, but not dictatorial policies by the same ideas that the

they know how to bring hank back in line meeting's participants offer to one another, after his trial.

with an iota of sincerity and much evasive-

lillian sees an opportunity, however, when hank, to justify their schemes. on the premise she realizes hank is on board the Comet she sees that every problem's solution is to give under an assumed name. she meets him at the government's wider powers, that industry-the train platform and discovers that dagny's allies are greedy creatures lacking a social conscience. she's

shaken by the knowledge spirit, that need counts but profits do not, that his mistress is not a floozy and under-that the heart is superior to the head, and

stands, more than hank does, that this rela-

that individual intelligence and individual

tionship has helped hank discover the value minds are superstitions, directive 10-289 is that is his self and freed him from the guilt passed. The only major obstacle left is unco-she's been trying to inculcate. lillian operative individuals like hank, who stood demands that hank stop seeing dagny, but up to such unjust laws at his trial. he may he tells her he would continue the affair even refuse to sign the gift Certificate, voluntarily if it took lillian's life. hanks sees, in lillian's handing over the patent to rearden metal to denigration of dagny's desire for hank as the government. but in exchange for being animalistic and depraved, the ugliness of that allowed to raise railroad rates, Jim promises which had been his own view. he is now that he can deliver hank.

completely free of lillian.

Francisco calls dagny to see if directive

but he tells lillian that no one is to discuss 10-289 is the final straw for her, but she dagny or their affair—and lillian grasps that hasn't seen the news yet. When she learns of her scheme to undermine hank still has a the moratorium on brains, she resigns, refus-crack through which it could succeed.

ing to work as a slave or as a slave-driver. she

leaves for a mountain cabin, to contemplate

what to do next. hank remains, however,

II.6 – MIraCle MeTal

because he still has a way to fight them: he

won't sign the gift Certificate and pretend

as the nation's economy collapses, Wesley that theirs is a civilized system.

and the others plot the passage of directive

10-289. This set of directives attempts to dr. Ferris meets hank in his office, telling freeze the economy in its present state. hank he will sign. The blackmail this time is Rand Atlas TG 0816a.indd 28

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to expose hank's affair with dagny and **II.7 – The MoraTorluM**

watch dagny's name dragged through the **on braIns** gutter. hank cannot bear the thought. in a

ruthless act of thinking, hank contemplates although orren had made plans to start how it is that his life has come to this manufacturing rearden metal once hank moment, where his two greatest values, had signed the gift Certificate, the pirate dagny and rearden metal, are now in con-ragnar danneskjöld lays waste to his fur-

flict with one another. he grasps that he has naces. as hank walks home on a lonely given his enemy its weapon.

night, ragnar confronts him—to return

The idea that his affair with dagny is low and some of his wealth and to give hank hope in dirty, a vile secret that must be hidden from his time of despair.

respectable people's eyes, was hank's first esti-

ragnar represents the opposite of directive

mate of his and dagny's desire for each other. 10-289: whereas the directive commits the although he no longer holds that view, and massive injustice of attacking the mind and now realizes that he's loved dagny from the human ability, ragnar defends these. hank first time he saw her, the error was his. he, and can neither condemn ragnar's illegal actions nor dagny, must now pay for it. dr. Ferris's nor approve of them. but when he hears that scheme rests on the affair having deep meaning ragnar will not permit anyone to manufac-to hank, yet hank being unable or unwilling to rearden metal, hank wants to laugh—

to proclaim its nobility. although hank could but hank knows that if he laughs this time, now publicly defend his affair with dagny, as as he laughed at the news of ellis's fire and at he did defend his mills at his trial (and as the crash of d'anconia Copper stock, he will dagny later does on the radio), the price will never see his mills again. he pulls back. but still be paid by dagny, not him; it is she that when the police come looking for ragnar, everyone will be whispering about.

hank is ready to defend ragnar with his life.

but hank is a man who pays his way. by The result of directive 10-289 is that the best splitting mind from body, spirit from people at taggart transcontinental and else-matter—by devoting himself to his mills but where are quitting their jobs (as dagny has never acknowledging the spiritual nobility of done) and becoming “deserters,” unwilling to money-making and by sleeping with dagny live as serfs. They are being replaced by men but damning the spiritual happiness that his who do not exhibit personal integrity, effort or sexual desire for her brought him—hank has competence. at taggart transcontinental Clif-allowed the spiritual realm to destroy his ton locey has replaced dagny. he seeks to hold achievements in the material realm. he real-her job yet not allow any decisions to be pinned

izes that this, the soul-body dichotomy, is on him, all the while trying to copy what what leads people to damn as evil their mate-dagny has done on any issue of importance.

rial life on earth (and so the whole noble

realm of business) and to damn the very fact The practical result of directive 10-289, the of their existence as a sexual being, as he moratorium on brains, is the tunnel catastro-himself had done in regard to his sexual phe. in defiance of dagny's strict policy, desire for dagny. he's now answered the Clifton locey orders that the backup diesel question that he was left with after his trial, engine at the Winston, Colorado, tunnel be the cause of all the pain in his life. in given to Chick morrison from Washington, exchange for keeping his affair with dagny who's speaking around the country to try to secret, he signs the gift Certificate surrender-boost morale. Kip Chalmers, another person

ing rearden metal.

with connections in Washington, demands

transportation. The people now running tag-

gart transcontinental, like Clifton locey and

dave mitchum, exist by always shirking the

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* responsibility of judgment and decision at taggart transcontinental, Jim, unable to (another form of trying to get away with locate dagny, has prepared his resignation living). responsible, competent individuals letter. but he withdraws it upon dagny's like dagny and bil brent are always their return. somehow, he believes, she will again victims. When such individuals desert (or are manage to save him and taggart transconti-destroyed), there is no one left to deflect retri-

mental. he tells her she was responsible for

bution. The train is ordered into the tunnel—

the disaster—because she quit.

and all the passengers are killed. When they to save taggart transcontinental, dagny were still alive, these passengers had voiced or rerouted traffic to the days before the tunnel supported ideas that contributed to the just-when it was built. she'll next travel to Colorado to see

fiction for and passage of directive 10-289.

the state of taggart transcontinental's line.

II.8 – by our love

dagny learns that hank has signed the gift

Certificate. When she telephones him, she

When the tunnel is destroyed, dagny is at a loss that they've both given in and they're in the cabin. she has nothing left to live for; she both paying ransom for their love of the can find no purpose to pursue. she can neither earth and for keeping production and human

they remain at taggart transcontinental intelligence alive on it, but that price is no simultaneously as slave and slave-driver, nor object any longer. They'll go down with the find any other course of action that would last wheel and syllogism.

help build the kind of world she loves and

wants to see made real. she would be betray-

II.9 – The face WITHOUT

ing taggart transcontinental by remaining in **Pain or fear or Guilt**

the world and working under the looters'

directives and yet seems to be betraying it by alone in her apartment, dagny thinks of deserting it. she can find no answer.

what she is working for—for her vision of

Francisco comes to her, thinking that she has existence and of creating a world for her kind chosen to strike. he confesses his love for her, of man—but that she will never reach her that he's given up d'anconia Copper and is vision. Francisco comes to her, hoping that deliberately destroying it because of his love there remains a chance he can convince her for it, that he's one of the first men to have to strike. he tells her he has not given up the quit. he tells her it's an age of moral crisis future and that she'll stop when she discovers and that the guilt is their own: "We produced that her "work has been placed in the service, the wealth of the world—but we let our not of that man's life, but of his destruction."

enemies write its moral code." They then until then, they're enemies: Francisco is willingly paid ransom for the privilege of trying to destroy taggart transcontinental to living by their own code while keeping man-put it beyond the looters' reach. she grasps

kind alive. What their enemies count on is that he's one of the destroyer's agents.

Francisco and dagny's love of virtue, which When hank enters dagny's apartment, he makes them bear every burden so long as confronts Francisco for his betrayal (his they can keep working and producing. to be refusal to prevent the sinking of the ships of free of the enemy, dagny must learn to d'anconia Copper). hank learns that dagny understand them. until she does, she will is the woman Francisco loves—and slaps continue to prop up men like Jim and feed Francisco. restraining himself from killing and empower them. she must withdraw her hank, Francisco leaves. hank learns from mind, the fount of her productivity. but dagny a question that has haunted him: dagny cannot. When she hears of the tunnel Francisco is the first man she slept with. hank disaster on her railroad, she rushes back to realizes that by stating this fact, Francisco save taggart transcontinental.

could have beaten him, but chose not to. his

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love and respect for Francisco remain, but he's named John Galt, who promised to stop the loss of the right to Francisco's friendship.

motor of the world in response to the star-

Dagny receives a letter that Quentin is quit-

ses' implementation of the moral slogan "from

ting because of directive 10-289. she tele-

each according to his ability, to each accord-

phones him and he promises that he won't ing to his need."

disappear until she reaches him in person in The crew abandons the train
Dagny's on—one Utah and has a chance to convince him to of many
"frozen" trains—and the passengers continue his research for her. Dagny
leaves demand that she do something (hers is the for Utah and Colorado,
with plans for Hank's ability, theirs the need). setting off with Owen to join her
in a week.

Kellogg, whom she happens to meet onboard

(he's headed to Galt's gulch in Colorado),

II.10 – The sIGn

she goes to find help and to continue her

of The dollar

effort to reach Quentin. in the course of their

conversation, Owen asks Dagny why she

dagny senses that the world is slipping away thinks ivy starnes's purpose is life—to which and that there's no one left who's worth run-dagny has no answer.

ning trains for. she must reach Quentin and dagny manages to find an airfield and a resume the quest for the motor, even though dwight sanders monoplane and heads for it is no longer clear what the motor could afton, utah. When she lands and discovers help her achieve. on board the Comet head-that Quentin has just left in a stranger's

ing to utah and Colorado, dagny meets the plane, she realizes he's been taken by the tramp Jeff allen. she learns from him the destroyer and sets off in pursuit. unable to story of the collapse of the twentieth Cen-abandon a mind like Quentin's and her quest

tury motor Company and of its cause: the for the motor, dagny crashes in the moun-moral ideal that they tried to implement tains of Colorado.

fully. she also learns of the young engineer

Part Three

III.1 – Atlantis

another form of existence, but John tells her

it's the other way around. This is not a utopia

Dagny crashes her plane in the valley hidden for the dead and departed, but for the living.

behind a ray screen. When she awakes, and sees she learns that of the stories about John Galt, the sunlight, green leaves and face of the man the one that is literally true is that he was the kneeling beside her, she feels that this is the young engineer at the twentieth Century world as she had expected it to be, but had never motor Company. He tells her that he has been able to reach before. The stranger is the stopped the motor of the world—by doing destroyer, John Galt. They are attracted to each other. When she asks John, “What is it other, and he seems to know much about her.

that you're all doing here?” he answers simply,

as John carries her from the crash site, he “living.” Dagny thinks to herself that she tells her of some of the valley's residents, such never heard this word sound so real.

as Richard Halley, Francisco, Ellis, Lawrence John shows her all the men he's taken away Hammond, Dwight Sanders, Judge Narramore. She discovers that in the valley,

Gansett, Dick McNamara. She meets Midas whose currency is gold, she's penniless; it's a Mulligan and Dr. Hugh Akston, who tells place, Ellis tells her, where they trade in Dagny that John is the inventor of the motor achievements not failures, values not needs.

and his third pupil. Dagny feels as though John is deliberately making it as hard as possible—she's died and gone to heaven, attaining bliss for Dagny to leave

this place.

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dagny wants to see the powerhouse contain-tion—only by the grace of those
men

ing John's motor, and he takes her there. she

did the rest of them learn to experience

learns the oath she must pronounce to unlock

moments when they caught the spark of

the powerhouse's doors—and the door to the

being human, and only the sum of such

val ey: "i swear by my life and my love of it

moments permitted them to continue

that i wil never live for the sake of another

to exist. it was the man of the mind who

man, nor ask another man to live for mine."

taught them to bake their bread, to heal

to her, the powerhouse is a temple, and they

their wounds, to forge their weapons

both struggle against their desire for each
and to build the jails into which they
other. John repeats the oath, and dagny
threw him. he was the man of extrava-
knows that this solemn act contains the core of
gant energy—and reckless generosity—
al that's happened to the world in the twelve
who knew that stagnation is not man's
years since John first took it, at his last meeting
fate, that impotence is not his nature,
at the twentieth Century motor Company.
that the ingenuity of his mind is his
in the evening dagny attends the dinner at
noblest and most joyous power—and in
midas's home. John tells her that they are all
service to that love of existence he was
on strike. They are the men of the mind,
alone to feel, he went on working,
who've carried the world on their shoulders,
working at any price, working for his

been tortured for it, but have never before
despoilers, for his jailers, for his tortur-
walked out.

ers, paying with his life for the privilege
of saving theirs. This was his glory and
John names the types of injustices the men of
his guilt—that he let them teach him to
the mind have faced:

feel guilty of his glory, to accept the part
Through all the ages the mind has been
of a sacrificial animal and, in punish-
regarded as evil, and every form of
ment for the sin of intelligence, to
insult: from heretic to materialist to
perish on the altars of the brutes. The
exploiter—every form of iniquity: from
tragic joke of human history is that on
exile to disfranchisement to expropria-
any of the altars men erected, it was
tion—every form of torture: from

always man whom they immolated and
sneers to rack to firing squad—have
the animal whom they enshrined. it was
been brought down upon those who
always the animal's attributes, not
assumed the responsibility of looking at
man's, that humanity worshipped: the
the world through the eyes of a living
idol of instinct and the idol of force—
consciousness and performing the cru-
the mystics and the kings—the mystics,
cial act of a rational connection. yet
who longed for an irresponsible con-
only to the extent to which—in chains,
sciousness and ruled by means of the
in dungeons, in hidden corners, in the
claim that their dark emotions were
cells of philosophers, in the shops of
superior to reason, that knowledge
traders—some men continued to think,

came in blind, causeless fits, blindly to
only to that extent was humanity able
be followed, not doubted—and the
to survive. Through all the centuries of
kings, who ruled by means of claws and
the worship of the mindless, whatever
muscles, with conquest as their method
stagnation humanity chose to endure,
and looting as their aim, with a club or
whatever brutality to practice—it was
a gun as sole sanction of their power.
only by the grace of the men who per-
The defenders of man's soul were con-
ceived that wheat must have water in
cerned with his feelings, and the
order to grow, that stones laid in a curve
defenders of man's body were concerned
will form an arch, that two and two
with his stomach—but both were
make four, that love is not served by

united against his mind.

torture and life is not fed by destruc-

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and John explains that for such a system and The following day, Francisco finally arrives.

world view to endure, the men of the mind he had been searching for the wreckage of had to willingly choose to keep the system dagny's plane. he confesses his continued and its proponents afloat. beginning with love for her and his acceptance of the fact John, the men in the valley no longer make that he's lost her to hank. everything he's that choice.

done since leaving her is to enable her to

she learns of the particular reasons for dr. reach her kind of world, the world she akston, midas, Judge narragansett, richard, deserves. but dagny knows that she's now in dr. hendricks, ellis, Ken, Quentin and John love with another man, John (as he is in love going on strike, and of the different rules and with her and has been from the moment he moral code that govern life in the valley.

first saw her, ten years ago). and later, when

they are alone, John tells dagny of the first

dagny knows she will have to make a time he saw her at the passenger platform of choice—to join John and the strike, or return the taggart terminal, not wanting to let their to her battle in the world. being a scab in the moment of intimacy pass.

valley, both she and John recognize, will

make her choice harder not easier—because at dinner at dr. akston's house, dr. akston she now sees, concretely and in the flesh, the wordlessly gives dagny the title of John's kind of man and the kind of existence for wife, which John acknowledges. but dagny which she wants to win the world.

begins to wonder whether John will sacrifice

their love for the sake of not hurting Fran-

cisco, when she learns that John sent Fran-

III.2 – The uToPIa of Greed

cisco to see her at the cabin in Woodstock

(just after she had quit taggart transconti-

The next morning dagny, as she fixes break-

mental because of the passage of directive

fast for herself and John, meets the third 10-289). When Francisco asks that dagny pupil, ragnar. both ragnar and John don't stay with him for the last week in the valley, know why Francisco is not here to join them she wants the decision to be John's. to her for their annual breakfast. she learns of the relief, he refuses Francisco's request.

gold account ragnar is collecting and hold-

ing for her. like hank, she cannot condemn later, when she sees hank's plane and his ragnar—she knows his course of action is continued, desperate search for her, dagny just—but she also cannot accept his money.

feels the pull of the courage of men like

hank, still fighting for their world so long as

John decides that dagny is going to stay the they see even one chance left.

whole month in the valley, as the rest of the

strikers do; after the month is up, she must she then decides to return to the world decide whether she will remain or go back to because a chance of success still exists. she the outside world. she declares that she will thinks the looters cannot refuse to see the pay her way for the month—by being his truth forever, when their very lives will cook and housemaid, something she wants to depend on them grasping the truth. dr.

do more than anything else in the world.

akston tells her the last premise for her to check is whether her enemies do in fact desire

The next day she meets owen and learns that to live. he says “that the answer was the hard-the outside world believes she died in a plane est thing for any of us to grasp and to accept.”

crash. he relayed her last instructions, to get

a job for Jeff allen and to telephone hank John also decides to return to the world should anything happen to her. Though she despite the dangers he’ll face—and Francisco wants to fight hank’s battle with him, she grasps the reason: John’s in love with dagny.

does not ask John for an exception to the it’s a fact Francisco acknowledges and tells valley’s policy of no outside communication them both that he accepts.

for the month of their vacation.

before dagny leaves the valley and parts with

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* John, he tells her that if she finds her quest to establishment of Galt's gulch, a haven for men achieve her kind of world hopeless, she must of the mind; Stadler's chosen path has led to a recognize her error and not commit the sin of war against the mind and the rule of brutes.

thinking human ideals are unreachable and and the growing rule of brutes is what Dagny then damning the earth, life and all of existence returns to find when she rejoins Taggart

tence, as past thinkers have done. she must transcontinental. Cuffy Meigs—a man with instead question her premise.

a gun in one pocket and a rabbit's foot in the

other—is the Washington man in charge of

III.3 – anti-Greed

the railroad unification Plan (another

scheme of “from each according to his ability,

Dr. Stadler is precisely a man who has com-

to each according to his need”). Cuffy does

mitted the sin John warns Dagny about: Dr. Openly what Jim and Lillian and their cock-Stadler has damned the world as an irrational tail-party crowd did in a more veiled fashion: realm in order to justify his own irrationality he plunders the railroad while dispensing and his choice to abandon the fight for the favors. Cuffy's power at the railroad consists ideal. “What can you do when you have to of having final say over what constitutes that deal with people?” he constantly tells himself.

mysterious thing called the “public welfare.”

at the demonstration of Project X, Dr. Stadler Jim conveys to Dagny the attitude that in confronts the result of his policy: his life and disappearing,

she betrayed a duty she had to mind have been placed in the service of evil.

him. he also wants her to appear publicly;

Project X, made possible through dr. stadler's Jim and the Washington gang need her to research and the name he's given to the state reassure the public that she still accepts and science institute, turns out to be the develop-will continue to work under their system (as

ment of a weapon by which the government hank's signing of the gift Certificate is being can control an unruly populace. and to con-used to show that he supports the current

trol the populace, to keep them at bay, has system). dagny senses panic and a new level been stadler's unstated but life-long policy. of open irrationality in Jim. There is no way his view, which he rationalizes to himself, for Jim to pretend that looting the atlantic has been that "materialistic" people, con-southern, by means of the railroad unifica-

cerned with making a living for themselves, tion Plan, will enable taggart transcontinen-cannot be reasoned with. What dr. stadler tal to endure (as Jim may have once been able now discovers is that dr. Ferris (the valet of to pretend to himself when he helped destroy science) and his gang in Washington are no the Phoenix-durango). and dagny senses longer minions doing dr. stadler's bidding that Jim knows his policy is irrational, but (such as providing him with a research labo-has some means of escaping that knowledge.

ratory) but are instead his masters, who tell dagny refuses Jim's request to appear on him where to stand and what to say. and bertram scudder's radio program to help even if he wanted to, stadler now has nowhere reassure the nation. but lil ian comes to see left to turn but the government, since he's dagny, to inform her that she wil comply—

helped destroy private scientific research.

or else lil ian wil expose dagny's affair with

at the demonstration of Project X, a young hank. lil ian is counting on dagny thinking reporter pleads with dr. stadler to tel the of herself as a whore, who dares not face the truth to the world about who is trying to rule public's knowledge of her sin. lil ian takes it, but dr. stadler instead turns against the pleasure—the faint, flickering pleasure possi-young reporter—as he turned on John galt ble to a dead soul, one devoid of the desire for many years ago when John damned him for gain—that for once dagny wil have to act on helping establish the state science institute. lil ian's wil , not her own. dagny agrees to John's chosen path led to the strike and to the appear on the radio and declares to the world, as hank declared in his courtroom speech

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about the creation of rearden metal, that she before, they can build a rail track and he can regards her affair with hank a product of break it, just like breaking a spine. This is the virtue not vice. she informs the world of the kind of pleasure and celebration Jim seeks real reason hank signed the gift Certificate.

tonight—to be himself, fully for once—yet

alone in her apartment that evening, hank without the responsibility of knowing what is comes to see her and tells her that he knows his self. When Cherryl had whispered to him, the source of all his pain—accepting that trembling, “you want to break spines?” he mind and matter, soul and body form two screamed back at her “i haven't said that! . . .

separate, conflicting worlds. and he tells i haven't said that!” The danger involved in dagny here, at the end of their relationship, going home tonight is that Cherryl is starting what he should have told her at the start: of to see that which is the self that Jim's created.

his love for her as the embodiment of all that Cherryl's yearlong marriage to Jim, who is in which he cherishes in life.

spirit and soul a killer, has destroyed Cheryl.

Hank learns from Dagny where she was for but in stark contrast to Jim, she wants to dis-the past month and that there is a John Galt, cover what has happened to her; it's her only who is the inventor of the motor and the remaining want, her last hold on life. she destroyer. but like Dagny, Hank can't abandon-could not understand Jim and set out to learn

don his fight for the world, not so long as about him and to learn "everything Mrs.

there is still some hope of victory.

James Taggart is expected to know and to be."

What she learned is that Jim wants her to fail at her quest, to remain socially awkward and

III.4 – anti-life

Jim's inferior, dependent on him (as he is dependent on her for some unnamed thing).

The progress of Hank's life and his relation-

When she finally achieved a state of poise,

ship with Dagny led him on a path of self-

social grace and enjoyment, Jim tells her he

discovery, which he eagerly pursued. but she wished she would learn to keep her place and progress of Jim's life and his relationship with not embarrass him. at that moment, she first Cheryl lead him on a path of self-discovery, feels she is in the grip not simply of the inex-which he resents and seeks to avoid.

plicable, but of evil. When she grasps that

Jim is afraid to face that which is his self, not Jim's circle of intellectuals are phonies, and wanting his years to sum up to anything, yet tells him that he's been taken advantage of by finding that they have. he has just put the con men, he shows a flash of amusement. it's final touches on his greatest scheme, the for-she who's been taken in by him.

mation of the interneighborly amity and When Cherryl came to doubt that Jim is the development Corporation, which will operate heroic leader of taggart transcontinental, as

ate all the industrial properties of the People's she had assumed, she went to taggart trans-states of the southern hemisphere, and the continental to find out. she learned the whole impending nationalization of d'anconia truth from eddie Wilers. When she con-Copper. Jim wishes to celebrate, yet simulta-

fronted Jim about his deception and his let-

neously not to know what he wants to cele-

ting her believe he was a hero, he blamed her.

brate or why. it is not money or greed, he he wants to be loved by someone who knows reluctantly admits to himself, that moves him.

that love is earned, as Cherryl knows, without

he goes home to Cherryl, sensing that this is the burden of creating any reason why he dangerous, yet evading that momentary deserved to be loved. he wants a universe in knowledge, as is his habit. he boasts to her of which nothing has to be earned or paid for. in the big scheme he's hatched, of its non-profit, exchange for her hero worship, he offers, as public spirited nature, and of being greater his only claim to value, the fact that he suffers than dagny and hank and Francisco because suffers. That this is the nature of the universe—a he's beaten them all. as he's said to Cherryl universe in which Jim taggart stands at the Rand Atlas TG 0816a.indd 35

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—is unbearable to Cherryl. it is not a hank's honor—the only words they
exchange realm in which a spirit such as hers can live.

are “mrs. rearden”—a celebration of the tri-

her only remaining wish had been to dis-

umph of impotence over life.

cover what destroyed her and what she dis-

Cherryl returns home to discover Jim's infi-

covers, tonight when Jim comes home, is that delity. she confronts him and
learns that he she is facing a looter of the spirit.

married her because she was ambitious and

all of you welfare preachers—it's not struggling to rise—it was this kind of
soul unearned money that you're after. you that he had to simultaneously
lord over and want handouts, but of a different kind. be worshipped by. he
chose her because she's i'm a gold-digger of the spirit, you said, good—to
torture the good because it's good.

because i look for value. Then you, the she runs out, but finds there's
nowhere to go welfare preachers . . . it's the spirit that to escape Jim. it's a
world made in the image you want to loot. i never thought and of Jim's ideas
and soul; dagny is only a lone nobody ever told us how it could be and
doomed exception in a universe in which thought of and what it would mean
—

actual virtue is deliberately met with pain.

the unearned in spirit. but that is what Cherryl can find no words to make
sense of it you want. you want unearned love. you all; she just senses that
there is no escape and want unearned admiration. you want no exit. When a

social worker castigates her unearned greatness. you want to be a for thinking of herself and her own enjoy-man like hank rearden without the ment, Cherryl screams, “not your kind of necessity of being what he is. Without world,” and throws herself into the river.

the necessity of being anything. With-

out . . . the necessity . . . of being.

III.5 – TheIr broThers’

“shut up!” Jim screams back at her. neither **keePers** one of them can face the full sight of what

Jim’s self is.

The looters’ policies are bearing their fruit, as in effect a last act, a settling of debts, Cher-with almost no one left to deflect justice, i.e.,

ryl goes to see dagny to tel dagny she now with almost no one left to save them from the knows that it was dagny’s ability not Jim’s consequences of their policies. The economy that she worshipped. dagny tel s Cherryl that nears collapse, but the looters still think that she must not think, as she is now thinking, dagny and hank and people like them will that the fact that people like Jim exist means always be around to somehow do something it is their kind of universe. but Cherryl is to prevent total collapse—and they need paralyzed, unable to ful y understand Jim’s dagny and hank to reassure them of this world, unable to fight it, and unable to con-allegedly unalterable fact.

ceive of a real alternative. dagny senses Cher-

but the fact is that copper is scarce and tag-

ryl’s precarious state and tel s Cherryl she gart transcontinental is being looted by doesn’t want her to return home tonight, but Cuffy and his cronies. as things break down Cherryl tel s her not to worry.

across taggart transcontinental and across

at Cherryl's home, Lillian has come to see the entire country, the burden is continually Jim in the hope that he can use his pull in shifted from one person's shoulders to Washington to prevent Hank from divorcing another's because that other is (temporarily) her. But Jim can't. When Lillian smiles at the able to carry it. But there are fewer and fewer news of Jim's scheme to destroy Francisco such people to shift the burden onto.

and d'Anconia Copper, Jim knows that this is The railroad unification Plan, which what he had wanted to celebrate. What attempted to shift the burden of maintaining unites the two of them is a desire to bring Taggart transcontinental in existence onto down great men. They sleep together to defile other railroads' shoulders, is failing. mean-Rand Atlas TG 0816a.indd 36

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while, Taggart transcontinental's schedule is the other looters need Hank's. They tempo-no longer fixed or reliable; trains are run at rarely suspend some of the regulations hand-the whim of Cuffy and his pals, who sell cuffing him, hoping he will continue to

"transportation pull" in the name of national produce, while offering their "friendship." in emergencies and the public welfare. a new the works is the steel unification Plan, and class of men, hit-and-run businessmen wield-they need Hank to reassure them that, some-

ing political pull, emerge like jackals and are how, it will work.

heralded by society's leaders as progressive Philip is sent to Hank's mil s to keep a watch businessmen. Taggart transcontinental, like on him—they can't afford Hank vanishing—

the rest of the economy, is becoming a corpse and Philip pleads that Hank should give him consumed by maggots. and it makes no dif-a job because he's his brother. When Hank

ference, dagny thinks to herself about what explains why he is refusing, Philip says, “since she’s witnessing, whether the maggots exhibit when did you take to abstract philosophy?

the charity-lust of the humanitarians or the you’re only a businessman, you’re not quali-gluttony of a Cuffy meigs.

fied to deal with questions of principle, you

at the same time, Jim wants to gloat over ought to leave it to the experts”—but hank, Francisco’s destruction, the very kind of man having learned all that he’s learned, cuts him Jim needs in order to continue existing. The off. hank realizes Philip genuinely believes nationalization of d’anconia Copper is justi-that hank feels nothing because hank doesn’t

fied by the moral slogan that man is his suffer. hank grasps that throughout his years brother’s keeper, but Francisco refuses to play and his long struggle, his enemies have been his part. at the moment of nationalization, men who worship pain—pain as proof of Francisco blows up what remains of his their own virtue, as a claim to moral entitle-company. moreover, all the men of outstand-

ment, to the effort and help of those not in

ing ability, whom the People’s states had been pain. They’re men who worship pain.

counting on to run the nationalized property, When hank gets his divorce from lillian, by have vanished. “brother, you asked for it!”

bribing officials who need to pretend theirs is

The people of new york City understand still a tribunal of justice, he feels divorced wordlessly, at some level and to some com-from the whole of the human society that

promised degree, why Francisco did it—and supports such a tribunal. aside from dagny, that he has avenged them. hank knows it the last element of the human left in hank’s was an act of avenging not only Francisco, personal life

is the Wet nurse, who respects but also himself. But Hank thinks he's lost
tively asks Hank for a job and warns Hank the right to accept Francisco's
friendship. He that the Washington boys are up to some-learns from Dagny
that Francisco and Ragnar thing. They've been slipping real goons into too
are agents of the destroyer.

Hank's mills via the unification board.

With no prospects for achievement and no but despite Hank and Dagny's
efforts, min-long-range goals left, Hank is now bored to Nebraska col apses. In
the kind of event playing death at work. The only thing keeping him at out
across the Taggart system and the econ-work is the image of men like those
in min-

omy as a whole, freight cars to carry the

Nebraska, who despite all the hardships have wheat harvest have been diverted
from min-managed to produce a bumper crop of wheat. Nebraska by order of
Cuffy. It seems that every-he's been selling metal "il egal y"—legality is one
but Dagny knew of the looming now an outdated notion—to the manufactur-
catastrophe in Minnesota, but no one but she

ers of farm equipment. But both he and Dagny is left to assume responsibility
for averting the expected col apse, if not this year, then the next.

disaster. She tries, but she cannot save min-

yet just as Jim needs Dagny's reassurance that Nebraska. The state descends into
chaos. and somehow things will continue to work, so the manufacturers of
farm equipment, whom Hank had been dealing with, go bankrupt.

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Finally, when a copper wire breaks at the are making it look as though Hank

is refusing taggart terminal, there is no other brother wage demands made by the steel workers'

on whose shoulders can be shifted the burden union. The newspapers keep reporting that of production: the terminal goes dark. When they fear an outbreak of violence at the mil s.

this happens, dagny is at a conference with to accomplish the first aspect, of hank not the looters, who are seeking her reassurances. vanishing, the government freezes hank's she sees that they are content to return to a bank accounts, while apologizing that it's only pre-industrial age, like a "fat, unhygienic a bureaucratic mix-up. They schedule a confer-rajah of india" who will rule impoverished ence with him, at the exact time and date they hordes with a club, on the unstated premise plan to manufacture an armed riot at his mil s.

that their subjects will produce enough for hank's family knows he is close to quitting there to be something to loot.

and vanishing, and schemes to somehow

and it is to a pre-industrial age that the make him stay and continue providing them nation is headed. to keep the trains running, with an unearned livelihood. hank goes back dagny must resort to manual signaling by for the last time to what had once been his lanterns. she wonders, in trying to save tag-home, and notices that his mother is al owing

gart transcontinental and so the country for lil ian to stay there. he sees that this is his the next moment, why she's doing it, what's mother's and lil ian's common revenge against in it for her. she sees John in the crowd of him. his family pleads for mercy and forgive-taggart transcontinental workers. as the ness, and is met with his indifference, with his reward for all her days—and his reward for unwil ingness any longer to grant status to any all of his—she must have him, now. she goes other standards or code but his own, and with down an abandoned tunnel, and he follows his sense of justice, which would forgive and makes love to her.

innocent errors but not conscious evil.

but John knows that given their consciences in a last effort to wound his pride and self-interests, they remain enemies. He knows Lillian throws at him the fact that the price of his action may be his life, and he, his wife, slept with Jim Taggart. He willingly chose to pay it for this moment. He doesn't care, and she collapses into the non-duality that has the capacity to recognize John for existence of her own soul. As he leaves, he what he is; she can deliver him to his enemies telling his mother that he would have forgiven and will do so if she continues to serve them, them, had they, who know the hopelessness as she is currently serving them. John warns of his situation, urged him to quit and vanish.

her that she must not try to see him.

Hank goes to the conference with the looters.

He's met with moral slogans and philosophi-

III.6 – The Concerto

cal justifications that he has heard all his life

of deliverance

in justification of the looters' public policies.

in the midst of the conversation, he grasps

The looters are preparing to spring the steel why going on strike is the only way to fight unification Plan on Hank. They cannot risk the looters.

Hank vanishing, so they must persuade him he realizes that the steel unification Plan is that he can still exist under the plan (and he so irrational that not even they can pretend must, at a deeper level, persuade them that he that it will work. What then makes them can). but they also cannot risk him staying and propose it? What are they counting on? "oh, taking a public stand against the Plan, similar you'll do something!" Jim cries to him. in to what he did at his trial, so they have to show that sentence, which Hank has heard all his the country that unrest at his military's required life, he now sees the source of all the suffering the government to step in and seize control.

he's endured at the hands of his enemies. it is

to accomplish this second aspect, the looters hank who has given them cause to pretend Rand Atlas TG 0816a.indd 38

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that the universe is a place where the irratio-

shooter and organizer is Francisco, who's

nal can somehow be made to work.

been working at the job hank once offered

if he had accepted the equalization of him, furnace foreman. Their friendship is opportunity bil , if he had accepted sealed. Francisco tells hank the things hank directive 10-289, if he had accepted the is now ready to hear. hank is on strike.

law that those who could not equal his

ability had the right to dispose of it, that **III.7 – "ThIs Is John GaIT**

those who had not earned were to profit, **sPeakInG"**

but he who had was to lose, that those

who could not think were to command, dagny laughs at the news that hank and his but he who could was to obey them—

best men at the mills have quit. but when

then were they il ogical in believing that Jim pleads with her to bring hank back they existed in an irrational universe? because she's the only one who can reach he had made it for them, he had pro-him, her smile vanishes. she sees an aspect of

vided it. Were they il ogical in believing what John has told her: the looters' route to that theirs was only *to wish*, to wish with the strikers is through her.

no concern for the possible—and that

his was to fulfil their wishes, by means dagny thinks that hank has been liberated—

they did not have to know or name? yet she also thinks that she should remain in They, the impotent mystics, struggling the world because there's stil a chance to win.

to escape the responsibility of reason, she desperately wants to see John, whose had known that he, the rationalist, had address she's found, but dares not.

undertaken to serve their whims. They With hank's disappearance, the country is in had known that he had given them a a panic and descending into the chaos of civil blank check on reality—his was not to war. mr. Thompson promises to address the ask *why?* —theirs was not to ask *how?*
—

nation on november 22 and speak about the

let them demand that he give them a world crisis.

share of his wealth, then al that he Jim tricks dagny into attending the radio owns, then more than he owns—impos-broadcast, to show that at least she still

sible?—no, *he'l do something!*

remains and supports the government. but

he has sanctioned their irrationality. to end mr. Thompson's broadcast does not take it, he must withdraw his sanction by with-place. John takes over the radio waves and

drawing his ability.

proceeds to offer the nation a true report on

he leaves the conference—too early—to the world crisis.

return to his mills for the last time.

in his speech, he announces that the men of

as he approaches, he sees the mob trying to the mind are on strike. he states their rea-storm his mil s, and takes a side road, where sons: the code they live by is the morality of he sees the Wet nurse, tony, on the slag heap. life and the strikers are through making con-tyon had wanted to warn hank and was shot cessions to the opposite code. The world, he because of it. When he dies, hank feels a tells them, is suffering from a moral crisis, desire to kil the boy's teachers, who had caused not by people failing to practice what thrown him into the world after crippling the the world regards as moral, but by people boy's only means to live: his mind and its practicing it consistently. The strikers are no ability to distinguish right from wrong.

longer there to deflect the consequences of

the world's view of morality. The world's

as hank walks to his mills with the dead boy moral code, he explains, is the morality of in his arms, he sees that someone has orga-death—a morality that preaches sacrifice for

nized a defense of his mills. but then a goon the sake of sacrifice. The preachers of this clubs hank—and is himself shot. The morality, the mystics of spirit and the mystics Rand Atlas TG 0816a.indd 39

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* of muscle, who now rule the world, seek a across the nation, however, John's radio universe in which their wishes supersede real-broadcast is having an effect. The best men

ity. if the people of the nation want the left in the system are going on strike, with-strikers to return, they must make the most drawing their minds. Pleas from Washington difficult choice of their lives. They must grasp go out that mr. Thompson is willing to the evil of the morality of death and of its negotiate with John. They're unable to locate preachers, and reject both. They must him. rearden steel, after a few months of embrace the code of the strikers, the morality nationalization, shuts down. The economy of life—and then themselves go on strike, in has collapsed.

whatever fashion is open to them.

mr. Thompson summons dagny to find out

The knowledge that John presents in his if she knows where John is. she tells him to radio broadcast is the cause of the events of start decontrolling, but he says that's out of the past twelve years—including all the the question. mr. Thompson then hints that events in all the preceding chapters of the John might be dead, and that he can't control book. equipping the men of the mind, like the Ferris-lawson-meigs clique that would Francisco, with the knowledge contained in want him dead.

the broadcast is precisely what has led to the now desperate, dagny goes to see John, to strike. The result is that the world is collaps-make sure he's still alive, and learns how he's

ing because of and into its own evil. only a been living for the past twelve years. John tel s radical change in ideas can change its fate.

her not to regret her decision of coming to see

him—it wasn't indifference that brought her

III.8 – The eGoIsT

here—but that she must now decisively

choose a side, the looters' side. if they discover

The looters refuse to accept the reality of what she means to him, they will torture her. John's broadcast, though tinkering away to win his compliance. Should that happen, remarks that "we seem to have heard it." In the last action left to him to preserve his dignity tells them to give up and get out of the values, John will kill himself.

way and leave free the men who know what

to do, but they refuse. Her advice, however, is. When the government agents arrive, dignity the birth of Mr. Thompson's plan to make a turn John in. The looters want John to deal with John Galt, the man who knows become economic dictator of the country what to do. Dr. Stadler screams that it's John and somehow return it to prosperity. Mr.

or them, and that they must kill John. And it Thompson and a succession of looters try to is Dr. Stadler, who still has enough memory persuade John to accept their deal, but they of the homeland he's betrayed, who tells Mr. discover that their moral slogans have no Thompson that if they want to find John they effect on him: he answers and rejects them all.

must have dignity followed, since she is obvi-

They discover that they have nothing to offer

ously one of John's kind.

John. When Mr. Thompson tells John that

he's got John's life to offer him, John answers,

dignity learns from Eddie that Eddie's been softly, "it's not yours to offer." The looters are giving John—the nameless Taggart transcon-discovering that they cannot make a mind

tinental worker he's been talking to for think and serve them if it chooses not to.

years—information about Taggart transcon-

continental. eddie wonders whether he was mr. Thompson hopes there is someone John helping to protect the railroad or betray it, wants to see, to use threats to the life of that and dagny answers “both. neither. it doesn’t person to blackmail John, but the only matter now.” but she warns eddie not to look person John asks for is dr. stadler. dr. stadler for John. eddie tel s her that she’s going to pleads with mr. Thompson not to have to see quit one of these days, but she stil holds out John, but loses. Face to face with John, dr.

the dim hope that the looters wil give up.

stadler pleads that he couldn’t help it, that he’s not to blame.

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meanwhile, dagny col ects her reward for force and no mind, Cuffy meigs, has beaten turning John in. Faced with the choice dr. stadler to the site.

between John’s destruction or the world’s, she The one drunk, the other hysterical with chooses the world’s: she lies to mr. Thompson terror, Cuffy and dr. stadler battle for con-that John wil give in if they treat him wel . trol of the weapon and in the struggle end up and when eddie tel s dagny no transconti-setting off the weapon and destroying them-

mental trains are able to leave san Francisco, selves, the facility and its environs, including she won’t leave new york City. eddie wil go the taggart bridge, the country’s last trans-instead: dagny can rebuild taggart transcon-continental link.

tinental wherever she goes, but eddie cannot;

he wil act in defense of taggart transconti-

meanwhile, dagny overhears the looters

mental, in the only way left to him. They part.

plans to torture John, to take him to the

grounds of the state science institute and to

dagny is now close to going on strike. as she the Ferris Persuader. she telephones Fran-watches the looters' responses to John, and cisco. back at her office, when she hears that their still-growing evasiveness, she questions the taggart bridge has been destroyed, whether she is correct in believing that they dagny seizes the phone and feels the last pull want to live. her mind is made up when they of the looters' world and of the burdens she try to pretend to the country that they've should never have had to carry. she puts made a deal with John galt by parading John down the phone. she's on strike.

on television. seeing the visceral hatred of

John in the faces of men like her brother Jim, dr. Ferris, Wesley and Jim torture galt, she finally grasps the depraved state of their somehow hoping the pain they inflict can souls, the sight of which had been too much make him choose to think and to save for Cherryl to bear. dagny is finally free of them—which is the naked essence of their the hold the looters' world had on her.

schemes and policies over the last twelve

years. When the generator breaks down, John

John—giving the world a visual demonstra-

mockingly reveals to them their utter impo-

tion of what he had told them on the radio tence: they even need John to repair the about the kind of sanction the looters' system generator powering the machine they are needs from its victims but would no longer using to torture him. Jim stands before John get from the strikers—exposes the gun that is and comes face to face with his own self for the source of his “voluntary compliance.” the first time: he wants John dead even if that

standing straight and facing the camera, he means his own death is to follow. Jim says, “get the hell out of my way!”

killer “who destroyed values for being values,

who killed in order not to discover his own

III.9 – The General

irredeemable evil.”

Dr. Stadler, panicked by John’s defiance and Jim cannot bear the sight of his self—and by Mr. Thompson’s personal threats, must collapse. Dr. Ferris and Wesley help Jim out now face the (material) world he has helped of the room, saying to the universe that create: a world in which the mind is unnecessary—they’ll be back, afraid of suffering the same

sary and brute force rules.

fate as Jim and for the same reason.

afraid of being killed by Mr. Thompson if **III.10 – In The name of John** refuses to give in, and by John himself if

John does cooperate, Dr. Stadler drives in **The best WITHIn us** terror to the site of Project X. He must seize

control and rule—there is no other way to The men of the valley come to the grounds of life on earth (he pretends to himself). But his the state science institute to try to rescue progeny, the “materialistic” man of brute John. Dagny shoots a guard in her way who seeks to exist without the burden of deciding

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* what is true and false, right and wrong. Hank down in the middle of a desert in Arizona.

takes a bullet during the rescue. But he, The men abandon the train, but Eddie Dagny, Francisco and Ragnar manage to reach cannot let go of the irreplaceable value that is John. He is unharmed. They leave the grounds industrial civilization and that which makes of the state science institute and return to the it possible, man's reasoning mind. He collects as they fly over New York City, and the lapses on the rail.

Lights of the city go out, John and Francisco in the valley, the strikers prepare to end their and Ragnar know that their strike has accomplished and to begin rebuilding the world,

plished what it had to accomplish.

their world. "The road is cleared," John tells

meanwhile, Eddie has been able to get one Dagny. "We are going back to the world."

train to leave San Francisco. But it breaks

learnInG sTraTeGies To use before readInG:

suGGesTed ToPICs and assIGnMenTs

Atlas Shrugged is a story about the nature of many questions of this kind that you could morality. The strikers are on strike against the ask students, and even for the questions listed moral code that rules their world and seek to you may have to reformulate a particular live by the new moral code that John Galt question so that you are confident that your teaches them. An excellent kind of question to students, given their age and existing knowledge to students before they begin reading the edge, are able to understand and grapple with novel is a question that asks them to reflect the question. But I think it will usually be carefully on their own current moral views, possible to revise one of the listed questions i.e., on their present understanding of right in order to make it appropriate for your class.

and wrong, good and evil, as well as on what the world seems to regard as good and evil.

Questions focused on individual

you could then ask students to revisit the **people:** question and their answers once they've finished reading *Atlas Shrugged*. ask the students 1. name a person you know that you think to state whether they would change their

exemplifies what it means to be moral,

answer in any way and make them explain

i.e., to be good, and then explain what it

the reasons why they would or would not

is about the person that makes you clas-

make changes.

sify him as moral.

or you could have students revisit the ques-

2. Choose a person from history that you

tion, but this time ask them to answer it not

think is a moral hero, i.e., who exempli-

from their own perspective but from the per-

fies what it means to be morally good to

spective of one of the characters in the story

an exemplary degree, and then explain

(e.g., dagny taggart or her brother, Jim). ask
what it is about the person that makes
them to explain how they think dagny or Jim
you classify him as a moral hero.

would have answered the question and why. 3. do you think bil gates is a
moral person?

This type of exercise helps students realize
explain why or why not.

that there exist different moral views, differ-

ent views of right and wrong, and there also 4. industrialists of the late 19th
and early exist reasons and arguments that give rise to

20th centuries, individuals like rocke-

these different views. your students, as they

feller and Vanderbilt, were denounced as

develop into adults, are going to have to

robber barons. do you think these indi-

decide for themselves what they think is right

viduals were good or bad? explain.

and wrong and their reasons why.

5. Who do you think is more moral, galileo

listed below are just some examples of the

or mother teresa?

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Questions focused on the nature

Questions focused on specific aspects

of morality as such:

of widely held moral views (especially

those aspects that play a significant

6. imagine that your fourteen-year-old **role in the story of *Atlas shrugged***:
cousin asks you, "What is morality? What

does it mean to be moral?" Write a letter 13. many people say that mercy is
superior to your cousin stating and explaining your

to justice. What do you think this claim

answer.

means? do you agree with this claim?

7. imagine that your fourteen-year-old

Why or why not?

cousin asks you, "What is good and what 14. in shakespeare's *The Merchant
of Venice*, is evil?" Write a letter to your cousin stat-Portia says that mercy
"is twice blest: it

ing and explaining your answer.

blesseth him that gives and him that

8. Throughout your life, your parents and

takes.” do you agree with this? What do

teachers have no doubt often told you

you think mercy is? does it conflict with

that you should be good. What do you

justice? What is justice? is mercy more

think they mean by “being good”? in

important than justice? Why or why not?

contrast, what does it mean to do some-

15. many people say that being selfish is evil.

thing wrong?

if you pursue your own happiness as your

highest goal in life, does that make you

Questions focused on specific

selfish? does it make you evil? explain

accounts of the nature of morality:

your answers.

16. many people say that you are your

9. a famous moral slogan from marx’s *Cri-*

brother's keeper? What do you think this

tique of the Gotha Programme is "From means? do you agree with this idea? Why

each according to his ability, to each

or why not?

according to his needs." do you think

that this moral slogan is correct or incor-

17. many people say that in today's increas-
rect? explain.

ingly interdependent world, no man is an

island and independence is a luxury one

10. one moral idea, given expression to in the

cannot afford. do you agree with this

bible and many other works, is that blessed

sentiment? What is independence? is it

are the poor in spirit. What do you think

desirable? explain.

this means? do you agree with it? explain.

18. in matters of love, many people say that

11. in matters of morality—of right and

the heart is superior to the head. What

wrong, good and evil—many people say
do you think this saying means? do you
that the heart is superior to the head.
agree with it? explain.

What do you think this view means? do
you agree with it? explain.

19. in today's world, most people say that
compromise is a virtue. What does this

12. many people say that being good is dif-
mean? do you agree with it? Can you
ficult because, to use the biblical wording
compromise and still be a person of
of this idea, the spirit is willing but the
integrity?

flesh is weak. do you agree with this
idea? What do you think this idea even
means? explain.

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learnInG sTraTeGies To use durInG readInG:

suGGesTed exerCIses and QuesTIons

Atlas Shrugged is a novel that contains many **I.1 – The TheMe** characters who face significant and often difficult choices. as a result of the choices these **Some of the main developments:** characters make (or fail to make), they • eddie Willers confronts James taggart undergo significant growth or decay through

about the decrepit state of taggart

the story. a useful strategy to use while stu-

transcontinental's rio norte line

dents are reading the novel is to have them

servicing Colorado

track the characters' progression and to ask

them to think about and evaluate the choices • dagny taggart tells Jim that they are the characters are making—and what impli-going to use rearden metal, not steel,

cations those choices may have.

to save the rio norte line

you could even have students formal y debate • owen Kellogg quits some of the decisions the characters make, for **Some mysteries:** example, whether hank rearden is right to • What does the phrase “Who is John refuse to sel rearden metal to the state sci-galt?” mean? What does it convey?

ence institute, which after al is a government

organization, or whether dagny taggart is • Why is a prosperous street one on which right to leave the valley and go back to the

only one in four stores is closed?

outside world, when most of the individuals • Why does eddie Willers feel like “your she admires are already in the valley, on strike.

days are numbered”?

Atlas Shrugged is also a mystery novel and • What is the brakeman on the train who builds intrigue. it would be useful to have

him? is it halley’s Fifth Concerto?

students track some of the mysteries and • Why does the brakeman watch her tensely, unanswered questions that the characters

as dagny whistles the theme she overheard

themselves (and the students, as readers)

him whistling, as she leaves the train?

encounter throughout the story. you could • Why does owen Kellogg quit? Why is he even assign a particular character, for instance,

not open to any deal?

hank rearden or dagny taggart, to different **Some questions:** groups of students and have them track and

discuss the mysteries and unanswered ques-

• how do dagny and Jim’s attitudes toward

tions that surround their particular character.

business and solving problems differ?

students will have fun looking for mysteries • Why does the president of Taggart Trans-Action pay attention to

continental, James Taggart, seem so oblivious

as they read further into the novel.

ious to the company's problems?

In what follows I list in the form of bullet points some of the main events of the novel, **I.2 – The Chain** chapter by chapter, then some of the mysteries that arise in that chapter (in the form of **Some of the main developments:** questions that could be posed to students, • First pouring of rearden metal and the thought of course not every chapter contains

bracelet of rearden metal

mysteries), and then some further questions

that you could ask students at the end of each • The reader's first exposure to Hank's chapter. Of course the list is not exhaustive,

family life

but it should help you get started if you want **Some mysteries:** to give your students this kind of assignment.

- What does Paul Larkin's warning to Hank

about Hank's man in Washington mean?

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- What exactly is a "man in Washington"?

- The San Sebastián mines are nationalized

Some questions:

and Jim takes credit for dagny's achievement of minimizing taggart transcontinental

- Why does hank want a neon sign "rearden mental's resulting loss

life" above the days in the past that have led him to this present moment?

- The anti-dog-eat-dog rule is passed, which will put the Phoenix-durango out

- What does hank want to celebrate and of business

why does he find no one with whom to celebrate?

- ellis Wyatt gives an ultimatum to dagny

- how would you characterize hank's relation-

- First rails made of rearden metal for tag-

ship with his family? What does their view of

gart transcontinental are being loaded

him seem to be? What is his view of them?

and sent for delivery

Some mysteries:

I.3 – The ToP and The boTToM

- Why does mcnamara retire and vanish?
- Why is dagny so lonely?

Some of the main developments:

- Why does Conway say that he will not
- a meeting between Jim, orren boyle,
fight the anti-dog-eat-dog rule?

Paul larkin and Wesley mouch

- Why does hank call himself and dagny a
- The reader learns of dagny and Jim's rise
couple of blackguards? What does he feel
in taggart transcontinental
about this accusation? Why?
- dagny and Jim's disagreement about the

Some questions:

san sebastián project

- What does dagny seem to want from life?

Some mysteries:

and judging from his relationship with

- What agreement is reached by Jim and Betty Pope, what does Jim seem to want his friends in the cellar-like barroom? from life?

- Why are Dagny and the newsstand owner

- Why does Conway not fight the anti-concerned about what is happening to dog-eat-dog rule?

people? What is happening to people?

- Why does Hank think the anti-dog-eat-

- Why does Eddie like talking to the tag-dog rule doesn't matter ultimately andgart transcontinental worker he often that Conway will be back?

talks to and who is he? Why does the

- Why does Hank tell Dagny not to waste worker like talking to Eddie?

time trying to figure out men like her

Some questions:

brother?

- how would you describe the differences between Jim taggart's rise and current posi-

I.5 – The ClIMax

tion at taggart transcontinental and dagny's?

of The d'anConIas

- What do you think is the basic cause of Jim and dagny's disagreement over the

Some of the main developments:

san sebastián project?

- The san sebastián mines turn out to be worthless

I.4 – The IMMovable Movers • dagny confronts Francisco d'anconia about the project

Some of the main developments:

- The reader learns of dagny and Francis-
- robert mcnamara, taggart transcontinen-
- co's childhood friendship, romance and
- tal's contractor on the rio norte line, retires
- last night together

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Some mysteries:

- What does it mean to say that Hank is a
 - Why does Jim dislike Francisco?
- materialist and most of Lillian's guests are spiritual people?
- Why does Jim feel armed after he goes off to college?
 - Why must Dagny trade Lillian for the bracelet of Rearden metal?
 - Why does Francisco leave Dagny? What is he talking about, in their last night together?

I.7 – The exPloITers

- What has happened to the Francisco

and The exPloITed

Dagny once knew?

- Why is there a discrepancy in Mrs. Gilbert

Some of the main developments:

Vail's story about her relation to Francisco?

- Dagny is having trouble with the rebuild-

- Was Francisco trying to accomplish anything of the rio norte line

thing through the san sebastián project?

- The state science institute wants hank to

- What is it that Francisco thinks dagny

withdraw rearden metal from the

will one day have enough of?

market, but hank refuses

Some questions:

- The state science institute smears

- Why does dagny have a mixed reaction

rearden metal

toward Francisco?

- dagny meets with robert stadler

- What is the meaning of the san sebastián

- because of the fear surrounding the use of project?

rearden metal, dagny must leave taggart

transcontinental to form a separate cor-

I.6 – The non-CoMMeRcIal

poration and complete the rio norte

line (now renamed the John galt line)

Some of the main developments:

- desperate, dagny asks Francisco to buy
- The rearden's anniversary party

bonds in her new company, but he refuses

- dagny trades for lillian's bracelet of
- Passage of the equalization of opportunity

rearden metal

bill, which rips from hank part of his

- hank and lillian alone: the reader learns

business empire

of their romance

Some mysteries:

Some mysteries:

- Why does hank lie to dagny about flying
- What does the legend about John galt mean?

back to new york?

- Why does Francisco want to talk to hank?
- Why does the state science institute want

rearden metal off the market? Why does

- Why does hank have such a strange reac-

it want the rights to rearden metal?

tion toward dagny?

- What does Francisco feel for dagny?
- Why did lillian marry hank—and why does this question haunt hank?
- Why is Francisco shocked when dagny renames the line the John galt line?

Some questions:

Some questions:

- Why does hank sit paralyzed in his dressing room?
- Why are people so fearful of using rearden metal?
- What are the opinions of most of the guests about the equalization of opportunity?
- Why does dagny refuse to debate bertram scudder? Why does Jim want her to?

- Why does dagny go to see dr. stadler?

What is his reaction to her? Why won't he speak out on behalf of rearden metal?

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- Why does dagny agree to leave taggart

I.9 – The saCred

transcontinental, perhaps never to return?

and The Profane

Why does Jim agree to their arrangement?

- Why is the bum in the diner in such a

Some of the main developments:

state of resignation? What are his views

- hank denounces himself and dagny for about life and morality?

their desire for each other, but he will

- Why does hank not sell the rights to continue the affair

rearden metal?

- Jim meets Cherryl Brooks
- How does Hank cope with the passage of the Equalization of Opportunity Bill?
- Companies are moving to Colorado
- Hank and Dagny go on vacation—and

1.8 – The John Galt Line

discover the motor

Some mysteries:

Some of the main developments:

- Why does Hank have the evaluation he does of his affair with Dagny?
- Dwight Sanders quits
- Hank is forced to sell his ore mines
- Why is Jim interested in Cherryl (to Larkin) and his coal mines (to Ken Danagger)?
- Why does Hank want to know the first man Dagny slept with?
- The first run of the John Galt line
- What has happened to Starnesville?

- hank and dagny sleep together
- Who invented the motor?

Some mysteries:

- Why was the motor abandoned?
- Why does dwight sanders quit?
- Why is owen working the odd job that
- Why is dagny so lonely?

he is working?

- Who is pacing in the shadows outside of

Some questions:

dagny's office and why?

- Why are companies moving to Colorado?
 - Why does ellis have such a mixed reac-
 - Why does hank expect the country's
- tion to the success of the John galt line?
- political situation to improve?

Some questions:

- Why does hank want dagny to wear the
 - Why does mouch get a job in Washing-
- bracelet of rearden metal?

ton? What was the agreement that he reached with Jim, Boyle and Larkin?

I.10 – Wyatt's Torch

- What do Dagny and Hank experience on

Some of the main developments:

the first ride of the John Galt line? What does this achievement mean to each of them?

- Dagny and Hank search for the inventor
- What are Jim's and Philip Rearden's reactions to the John Galt line?

with Dr. Hugh Akston, a cook in a diner

- Why do Dagny and Hank sleep together?
- Directives are passed by Washington that will effectively kill Colorado
- Wyatt sets fire to his oil fields when the directives are passed

Some mysteries:

- Why is Dr. Akston working as a cook in a diner?

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- Where does the cigarette he gives dagny

- The Fair share law is crippling hank's

come from?

ability to make business decisions, and

- What does dr. akston know about the

Washington appoints a deputy director

inventor of the motor?

of distribution (tony, the Wet nurse) to

“interpret” the un-interpretable legislation

- Why does he tell dagny to give up her

search?

Some mysteries:

- Why does he tell her the secret she is

- Why is stadler disturbed that Ferris is late

trying to solve involves something much

for their appointment and disturbed by

greater than the invention of the motor?

Ferris's manner in their meeting?

- Who was dr. akston's third pupil and
- What is Project X and why isn't stadler too

why is he proud of his three pupils?

concerned about discovering what it is?

- What happened to ellis Wyatt?
- Why is Ferris upset that people like ellis

Some questions:

Wyatt and lawrence hammond are van-
ishing, since these people are denounced

- Why do both dagny and hank feel inca-
by the likes of Ferris?

pable of battling against the people who

- What young face does stadler remember,
are trying to kill Colorado?

and why is this man the person stadler

- What is the nature or natures of the vari-
most longs to see but has to hope is dead?

ous people dagny meets in her search to

- Why do more of Colorado's industrialists

find the inventor of the motor?

vanish, after Wyatt does?

- What are the justifications given for the

- Why does d'anconia Copper make a deal

directives that are passed?

with the boys in Washington?

- What has hank learned about lillian and

- What is the trail that hank feels that he has

about his attitude toward her?

glimpsed, during his encounter with the

- What does dr. akston mean when he

representative from the state science institute?

says to dagny, "Check your premises"?

- Why does dagny feel that stadler is the

- Why does ellis do what he did?

one person she must not call? Why does

hank say dagny is stadler's victim and

II.1 – The Man Who

what does hank mean when he says that

belonged on earth

these people depend on some kind of
sanction, which dagny and he should not

Some of the main developments:

give them?

- The American economy is disintegrating
- Who is the John Galt that Stadler once
and people try to switch back to coal
knew?

from oil, now that Wyatt has vanished

Some questions:

- Thanks to subsidies from Washington,
 - What is Hank's attitude toward people?
- Taggart Transcontinental is profitable, a
Why?

fact which Jim is proud of and about

- What is Stadler's attitude toward people?
- which Dagny feels ashamed
Why?

- Ferris's *Why Do You Think You Think?* has

- Why won't Stadler speak out against

just been published

Ferris's book?

- in her quest to find the inventor of the

- Why must Washington appoint the

motor, Dagny meets with Stadler, who

Wet nurse? What does this say about its

points her toward a young scientist

directives?

named Quentin Daniels

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- What is the Wet nurse's attitude toward

- What is the meaning of the wedding and

Hank?

guests in attendance, to men like Orren

- What is Hank discovering about his affair

Boyle?

with Dagny?

- What is Lillian's wedding gift to Jim?

Why is it so valuable to Jim? What is Lil-

II.2 – The aristocracy

Lillian after?

of Pull

- Why can't Lillian imagine that Hank and Daisy are having an affair?

Some of the main developments:

- Why does Francisco mean by "the aristocracy of pull"?
- Daisy meets and hires Quentin Daniels
- Hank makes a secret deal with Ken Danziger

II.3 – White blackmail

- Jim asks Cheryl to marry him

Some of the main developments:

- at their wedding party, a gathering of many powerful figures, Francisco speaks
- Lillian discovers that Hank is having an affair
- the meaning of money and the power

affair

of the whip vs. the power of the dollar

- hank refuses to sell rearden metal to Ferris

- Francisco warns hank not to deal with

for Project X, even though Ferris threat-

d'anconia Copper, and then lets out the

keys to expose his illegal deal with Ken

information that d'anconia Copper will

- Ken retires and vanishes after the news of

suffer numerous accidents tomorrow

his indictment

Some mysteries:

- afterwards, Francisco comes to hank's

mills, asking hank why he chooses to

- Why can't the man at the cigar stand dis-

carry the burden he carries

cover where the cigarette with the dollar

sign was manufactured?

- during an accident at the mills, hank

saves Francisco's life

- is lillian joking when she says she wished she caught hank having an affair?

Some mysteries:

- What does Francisco mean when he says
- Why does hank wonder whether there is that John galt claimed the John galt line? a flaw in lillian's scheme to punish him?
- Why does Francisco warn hank not to
- What is the flaw in the looters' system that deal with d'anconia Copper and why hank thinks he's discovered, and which they does he say he's committing treason in will discover too if they put him on trial? telling hank this? treason to what?
- Who was the man in Ken's office, and
- how does Francisco know that there will why is Ken retiring? be accidents at his company and why does
- Why is there a cigarette with a dollar sign this not bother him? What is he after? in the ashtray on Ken's desk?

Some questions:

- Why does Francisco come to see Hank,
- Why must Hank and Ken make a business deal in secret? What does this say of the system in which they are operating?
- Why does Cheryl find Jim so difficult to understand? What does Jim want from

Some questions:

their relationship and marriage?

- Why won't Lillian leave Hank? What is she after?

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- Why does Ferris say that the laws are
- What is the flaw in Lillian's scheme to

meant to be broken?

punish hank, which he now realizes?

- Why is dagny now convinced there is a

- What is the actual sentence that hank

destroyer loose in the world?

thinks the trial has imposed on him?

- What is Francisco trying to explain to

What is he trying to figure out?

hank when he comes to the mills?

II.5 – aCCounT overdraWn

II.4 – The sanCTIon

of The vICTIM

Some of the main developments:

- because of its shortage of copper, rearden

Some of the main developments:

steel suffers its first failure: it can't deliver the

- taggart transcontinental's main line is

rail promised to taggart transcontinental

falling apart, and dagny arranges with

- more widely, the whole american econ-

hank to obtain rails of rearden metal

omy is further disintegrating

- hank goes on trial and refuses to offer a

- a Washington man, mr. Weatherby, now

defense because he does not think he is

attends taggart transcontinental's board

guilty of any wrongdoing; he gets a sus-

meetings and must approve its decisions

pending sentence

- The board votes to close the rio norte

- hank goes to see Francisco after his trial,

line, and Francisco comes to see dagny

a meeting in which they discuss whether

afterwards

hank is fully practicing what he preached

- after the last run of the John galt line,

in his courtroom speech and whether

lillian discovers that it is dagny with

Francisco is a woman-chaser

whom hank is having his affair

- hank tells Francisco that d'anconia

Some mysteries:

Copper is his supplier of copper, and

- Why does Francisco come to see dagny?

Francisco seems to have the power to

avert a future disaster at d'anconia

- Who is the man to whom Francisco has

Copper—the sinking of ships by the

given his life?

pirate ragnar—but Francisco does not

Some questions:

exercise this power

- Why does the fact that hank is having an

Some mysteries:

affair with dagny shock and disturb lillian?

- Why do the judges only fine hank five

- What is the connection that lillian sees

thousand dollars, thus not really declaring

between rearden having an affair with

him either innocent or guilty?

dagny and his actions at his trial?

- Why has hank made Francisco feel impatient?
- What is the change that lillian glimpses?

when hank tells her that no one is to dis-

- Why does Francisco want to be known as cuss dagny or their affair?

a playboy when he is not one?

- Why is there now a Washington man
- Why is Francisco dismayed when he present at taggart transcontinental's board meetings?

d'anconia Copper? Why does Francisco think he could prevent attacks on his

II.6 – MIraCle MeTal

ships by the pirate ragnar?

Some questions:

Some of the main developments:

- Why does hank's family hope he will cut

- directive 10-289 is debated and passed

a deal rather than go to trial?

- dagny quits after learning of its passage

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* **51**

- Ferris visits hank at his mills, telling
- Who is the friend to whom ragnar refers?

hank that if he does not sign the gift

- What is the gold-standard bank that

Certificate handing the patent on

ragnar is referring to? Where is the mul-

rearden metal to the government, they'll

ligan bank, if not in Chicago?

expose his affair with dagny and drag her

Some questions:

name through the gutter

- rearden discovers his full love for dagny
- What does ragnar the pirate believe in?

and signs the gift Certificate

What does he mean when he says that he is trying to destroy robin hood? Why

Some mysteries:

has he become a pirate?

- Why does Francisco call dagny to see
- Why does hank think that if he permits what her reaction is to the passage of himself to laugh, he will never see his directive 10-289?
- mills again?

Some questions:

- What events led to the tunnel catastro-
 - Why is directive 10-289 passed? What phe? What is the cause of those events? justifications for it are offered? What is it
 - Why are the passengers on the doomed meant to accomplish? Why is one of the Comet mentioned at the end of the chapter?
- questions: “Can we get away with it?”
- Why does dagny quit?

II.8 – by our love

- What does Hank learn about himself and the looters when he contemplates signing

Some of the main developments:

the gift Certificate? What does this have

- Dagny is at the cabin in the woods, trying to do with his courtroom trial and the to figure out what to live for: it seems sentence he thought it actually imposed impossible to live with Taggart Transcontinental on him?

tinental and impossible to live without it

- Why does Hank sign the gift Certificate?
- Francisco comes to her and she learns he still loves her and that he's one of the first

II.7 – The Moral

men who quit

on brains

- Dagny rushes back to Taggart Transcontinental when she hears of the tunnel disaster

Some of the main developments:

- Jim was about to resign but does not
- as rearden walks home alone from his
because dagny has returned
mills, ragnar comes to see him and offer
- dagny phones hank, learns that he too
him a bar of gold from the large account
has given in by signing the gift Certifi-
he is holding for hank
cate, and says that they'll both go down
- across the country, some of the best,
with the last wheel and syllogism
most competent people are quitting,

Some mysteries:

- refusing, like dagny, to work under
directive 10-289
- What was Francisco whistling?
 - Clifton locey replaces dagny at taggart
 - Who told Francisco where dagny was?
- transcontinental

Some questions:

- a catastrophe occurs at taggart transcon-
- Why does dagny feel it is impossible to
tinential when a coal-burning engine is
remain at taggart transcontinental and
ordered into the tunnel
impossible to live without it? Why then

Some mysteries:

does she go back?

- Who is ragnar?
- Why does Francisco think dagny is
wrong to go back?

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- Why does Jim call eddie a traitor to the
- When dagny reaches afton, utah, she
people for not revealing where dagny is?
learns that Quentin has just left in a strang-

er's monoplane, and sets off in pursuit,

II.9 – The faCe WIThouT

only to find herself on the verge of crashing

PaIn or fear or GuILT

Some mysteries:

- What happened to the John galt that Jeff

Some of the main developments:

allen speaks of?

- Francisco comes to see dagny at her apart-
- Where is Kellogg headed?

ment, hoping he can persuade her to quit

- Why has daniels left, after promising not
- hank enters, Francisco learns of dagny

to, and with whom?

and hank's affair, and hank learns that

Some questions:

dagny is the woman that Francisco

loves—and that Francisco is the first man

- What is the meaning of the twentieth
- she slept with

Century motor Company's collapse? Was

- Quentin writes to dagny to tell her he's theirs a noble theory that failed in practice? or was the theory itself evil?

Some mysteries:

- What is happening to the whole country? Why is it on the verge of collapse?
- Who was in Ken's office, if it wasn't Francisco?
- Why is dagny so desperate to reach daniel's cisco? and prevent the destroyer from taking him?
- Why is the taggart transcontinental worker upset when he learns about Quentin daniel's

III.1 – aTlanTIs

iel's, and about dagny and hank's affair?

Some questions:

Some of the main developments:

- Why does Quentin quit? are his reasons
- dagny crash lands in the strikers' valley and

similar to Francisco's?

is shown around the valley by John Galt

- Why does Francisco not want to beat

Some mysteries:

Hank, when he could have by telling Hank

- mysteries resolved:

he slept with Dagny before Hank did?

- many of the industrialists like Ellis Wyatt

II.10 – The sign

who vanished are in the valley, on strike

of The dollar

- The destroyer and the inventor of the motor are the same man: John Galt

Some of the main developments:

- John Galt is Akston's third pupil
- Dagny meets Jeff Allen aboard the Comet

Some questions:

headed west, and learns of the fate of the

- What does John mean when he answers twentieth Century Motor Company

dagny's question, "What is it that you're

- When its crew abandons the Comet,

all doing here?" simply: "living"?

dagny meets owen Kellogg aboard and

- Why are the strikers on strike? against

they set off for help

what? in the name of what?

- What is the meaning of John's oath?
- Why is dagny conflicted about the valley and the strike?

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* **53**

III.2 – The uToPIa of Greed

Some questions:

Some of the main developments:

- What is the meaning of Project X? Why won't stadler speak out against it? What
 - dagny meets ragnar
- does the Project reveal about stadler's

- Galt decides that Dagny will remain in
own life and policies?

the valley for a month, and then she must

- Why does Dagny think that Jim is going
choose whether she will stay or not
to pieces?

- Francisco arrives late and learns that

- Lillian tells Dagny that she, Lillian, is
Dagny is alive

devoid of greed? What does Lillian mean?

- Francisco realizes and accepts that Dagny

- In what ways are Dagny's and Hank's atti-
and John are in love with each other

tudes toward life and its spiritual meaning

- Dagny decides to return to the world

different from Lillian's and Stadler's?

Some mysteries:

- Why does Hank think he is the richer,
even though he's lost both Rearden metal

- resolved:

and dagny?

John was stadler's third pupil

Some questions:

III.4 – anTI-life

- What is the nature of dagny's conflict, as she tries to decide whether she should go

Some of the main developments:

back to the world or not?

- Jim, who has helped arrange the imminent

- Why does Francisco accept the fact that nationalization of d'anconia Copper, dagny and John are in love with each other?

wants to celebrate, but fights with Cherryl

- What last premise does akston tell dagny
- Cherryl goes to see dagny as a last act, a she must check? What does he mean?

settling of debts

- What is the meaning of John's words to
- lillian comes to see Jim in the hope that dagny, just before she leaves the valley?

he can help stop Hank from divorcing her

- Lilian and Jim sleep together, to spite Hank

III.3 – anti-Greed

- Cherryl returns and discovers Jim's infidelity and his true nature—and commits

Some of the main developments:

suicide

- Stadler attends the demonstration of Proj-

Some questions:

ect X and refuses to speak out against it

- What at root does Jim want to celebrate?
- Dagny returns to Taggart Transcontinental
- Why is Jim afraid to face the true nature of his self?

the Washington man in charge

- What does Cherryl learn about Jim's motivation and their relationship and show that she still supports the system;

marriage? What was Jim after from their
she initially refuses but changes her mind
marriage?

when lil ian tries to blackmail her to appear

- Why does Cherryl commit suicide?

- on scudder's radio program dagny

proudly speaks of her affair with hank

- hank confesses his love for dagny, here at

the end of their relationship

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* **III.5**
– **TheIr broThers'**

- tony, the Wet nurse, tried to warn hank

keePers

and was shot because of it; he dies in

hank's arms

Some of the main developments:

- Francisco saves hank's life, and hank

- The american economy nears full col-

learns that Francisco has been working at
lapse, as there are only a few great minds
his mills and is the man who organized
left in the world to shoulder the burden
his men against the government goons
of carrying it

Some questions:

- at the moment of d'anconia Copper's
- Why does the gang from Washington need
nationalization, Francisco blows up what
hank to accept the steel unification Plan?
remains of value in his company
- What does hank grasp about the nature
- hank is bored to death, but the vision of
of his enemies and his sanction of them?
trading with men in minnesota is a last
Why does this lead him to strike?
thread causing him to care about his business
- Why does hank say he would have forgiven
- but despite hank's and dagny's efforts,

his family if they had urged him to quit?

minnesota collapses into chaos

- What is the meaning of the Wet nurse's
- dagny and John make love in the tunnels

fate?

of taggart transcontinental—and he

warns her that she must not try to see

III.7 – “ThIs Is John GaIT

him again

sPeakInG”

Some questions:

- What is the meaning of the idea that you

Some of the main developments:

are your brother's keeper? What are the

- John galt takes over the airwaves and
- consequences of this idea? Why does
- gives an accurate report on the world

Francisco reject the idea?

crisis, explaining that the men of the

- What do hank and dagny learn about

mind are on strike

the motivation of their enemies? What do

Some questions:

hank and dagny still find difficult to

understand about them?

- Why does John go on the radio?
- Why does John choose to sleep with
- What does he say is responsible for the dagny now?

world crisis?

- What does he mean by the morality of

III.6 – The ConCerTo

life?

of dellIveranCe

- What does he mean by the morality of death?

Some of the main developments:

- Why does he tell the people of the world
 - hanks meets his family one last time at his
- that they must choose between the two

former home, where they plead for mercy
moralities and that there are reasons why
they are frightened to make a choice?

- hank attends the meeting with the gang
from Washington about their proposed
steel unification Plan—and leaves when

III.8 – The eGoIsT

he realizes that he has made possible their

Some of the main developments:

whole irrational view of the universe

- hank returns to his mills, to discover a
- many of the best people left in america
government-staged riot in progress

heed John's call to go on strike, further
hastening the collapse of the nation

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* **55**

- Worried about vague threats directed at
- Why does Jim collapse when they are tor-

John's life, dagny goes to see John—and
turing galt, and why are Ferris and
leads the looters to him
mouch likely to share the same fate?

- The looters try in vain to make a deal
with John

III. 10 – In The naMe

- They parade John on television, but he
of The besT WITHIn us

exposes to the camera the gun at his back

- in their visceral reaction to John, dagny

Some of the main developments:

grasps the deepest motivation of men like

- The men of the valley, led by Francisco,
her brother—and is ready to strike
ragnar, hank and dagny rescue John

Some questions:

- The lights of new york City go dark
- Why do the looters want to find galt?
- eddie has managed to get one train to

- Why do they think he will be open to a
depart from san Francisco, but the crew
deal? Why isn't he?
abandons it and eddie collapses on the
rail

- What explains stadler's reaction to galt?
Why does he want galt to die?

- John decides that the road is cleared and
that the strikers will return to the world

- What does dagny grasp about men like
her brother in this chapter?

Some questions:

- What is the meaning of eddie's fate?

III.9 – The GeneraTor

- What has John accomplished through his
strike? in what way is he the leader of a

Some of the main developments:

moral revolution?

- stadler flees to Project X, where he strug-
gles with Cuffy meigs for control of the

weapon; together they destroy themselves
and the surrounding countryside, including the taggart transcontinental bridge

- dagny overhears the looters' plan to torture John, telephones Francisco and then goes on strike

- Ferris, mouch and Jim torture John
- as they torture him, Jim must face the fact that he wants galt dead even if it means his own death, and Jim collapses at the sight of his true self

Some questions:

- Why does stadler flee to Project X? What are the similarities between his views and actions and those of Cuffy meigs?
- Why are the looters torturing galt? What do they want galt to do? What does this reveal about their whole system and way of life?

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A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Edition of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*
learnInG sTraTeGies To use after readInG:

suGGesTed QuesTions and ToPICs

1. Why does John Galt go on strike when the other, popular views of the nature of love?

Starnes heirs take over the twentieth Cen-

10. Why does Francisco assume the disguise

tury Motor Company? Do you think he is

that he does? Why does he think he is

right or wrong to start a strike? Explain.

safe, that his enemies won't discover what

2. Whose side are you on in the strike? The

he is up to?

strikers? The leaders of society? Neither? 11. Suppose that instead of meeting Ken Dan-Explain.

agger in his office and urging him to strike,

3. Many find in *Atlas Shrugged* a celebration John Galt had written him a letter. What

of business. Yet the story contains both

do you think the letter would have said?

businessmen who are heroes, like hank 12. ragnar says he loves that which has rarely rearden and dagny taggart, and busi-been loved, namely, human ability. What

nessmen who are vil ains, like orren boyle

do you think this means? how does it

and James taggart. What are the differ-

relate to the idea: “From each according to

ences between these types of businessmen?

his ability, to each according to his need”?

is the story a celebration of business?

13. do you think the twentieth Century

4. hank rearden says that the killer tenet

motor Company had to collapse once it

which destroys a man is the soul-body

implemented the moral slogan “From

dichotomy—that this wrong idea has

each according to his ability, to each

been the source of his life’s pain. What do

according to his need”? how do you

you think this dichotomy is? how has it

think this relates to the collapse of the

wreaked havoc in Hank's life?

Soviet bloc and the Iron Curtain at the

5. Ragnar Danneskjöld tells Hank Rearden

end of the 20th century?

that the man he must destroy in men's minds 14. John Galt says in his radio broadcast that is Robin Hood. What does Ragnar mean?

this is an age of moral crisis—but that the

do the events in the story support Ragnar's

world is made in the image of its virtues

view? From the perspective of the real world,

and not its vices. What does this mean? do

do you agree or disagree with Ragnar?

you think the preceding events in the story

6. Are some laws made to be broken? how

confirm or disconfirm John's diagnosis?

does this idea relate to the whole story of 15. Jim and Cheryl's relationship destroys *Atlas Shrugged*?

Cheryl. Why does she find her husband

7. Dagny is the last to go on strike. Why do

so hard to understand? What does she

you think this is? Why did Francisco tell

eventually discover about him? Why is

John that she would be the last to hold

the discovery too much for her to endure?

out? What does she grasp that finally 16. in his radio broadcast John Galt tells the convinces her that she must strike?

people of the world that they must learn

8. to put it mildly, Hank has a rocky rela-

to stand at reverent attention at the

tionship with his family? how and why

achievements of man's mind or they

does that relationship change over time?

won't be long for this earth. What do you

What is the difference between Hank's

think he means? do you think preceding

view of and dealings with his family at

events of the story show people who regu-

the start of story and at its end? how

larly fail to stand at reverent attention at

does this relate to the novel's theme?

the achievements of man's mind?

9. What is the view of love that emerges in 17. hank rearden learns in the story that the *Atlas Shrugged*, both of familial love and

issue of sanction is a crucial y important

romantic love? how does it contrast to

issue. What do you think the issue is?

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how does it play out in hank's life and 24. Why does John galt say that dr. robert what are the things that he comes to grasp

stadler, his former teacher, is his worst

about the whole issue and its importance?

enemy? do the events of the story illus-

18. What does Francisco mean by an aristoc-

trate this? explain.

racy of pull? What is the relation between 25. after seeing the valley, learning of the this issue and Francisco's claim that the

strike and falling in love with John galt,

phrase "to make money" contains the

why does dagny nevertheless return to

essence of morality?

the outside world? how does this relate

19. What is the form of punishment that lil-
to the whole meaning of the story?

lian wants to inflict on hank when she dis-

26. What do you think eddie Willers's role is
covers that he's having an affair? What is the

in the story? how does he help convey

similarity between this and the state sci-

the novel's theme? Why do you think his

ence institute's attempt to blackmail hank

fate is left open in the last chapter?

through his illegal deal with Ken danagger?

27. galt in his radio broadcast says that "the

20. What is the meaning of money to Fran-

noblest act you have ever performed is

cisco? to James taggart?

the act of your mind in the process of

21. What explains, at the deepest level, the

grasping that two and two make four."

tunnel catastrophe?

This is a startlingly different account of

what it means to be moral from those

22. What are John Galt's arguments for his accounts usually given. What does John claim that the moral code that dominates mean? How does this issue connect to the world, the morality of death, is a strike, to the rest of the story's events and mystical code of morality—i.e., a code of to the novel's theme?

morality that exempts itself from rational

scrutiny and the need to offer rational 28. What does it mean to love your life? Why arguments in its defense?

Does John Galt say that he is a man who

loves his life, that individuals like James

23. What are the opposing views of love of

Taggart and Lillian Rearden do not love

Cherryl Brooks and James Taggart? Which

their lives, and that the people of the world

do you think is correct? Which have you

only do so sporadically and inconsistently?

heard proclaimed around you more often?

furTher resourCes

There do not yet exist many good secondary sources on *Atlas Shrugged*. i list below what i think is by far the best book, in which you can explore in much greater depth the themes and characters contained in the novel, the meaning of the novel's individual part and chapter headings, rand's process in writing the novel, the reception the novel received, literary aspects of the novel, analyses of some of the speeches, and much more. i should note, however, that i am a contributor to the book, so this is not a recommendation from a neutral person!

- *Essays on Ayn Rand's "Atlas Shrugged,"* edited by robert mayhew, lexington books (2009).

about The auThor of ThIs Gulde

Onkar Ghate is a senior fellow at the ayn rand institute in irvine, California. he special-izes in rand's philosophy of objectivism and is the institute's senior instructor and editor.

recent publications include "The Part and Chapter headings of *Atlas Shrugged*" and "The role of galt's speech in *Atlas Shrugged*," both in *Essays on Ayn Rand's "Atlas Shrugged,"* ed. r. mayhew (2009). he received his Ph.d. in philosophy in 1998 from the university of Calgary.

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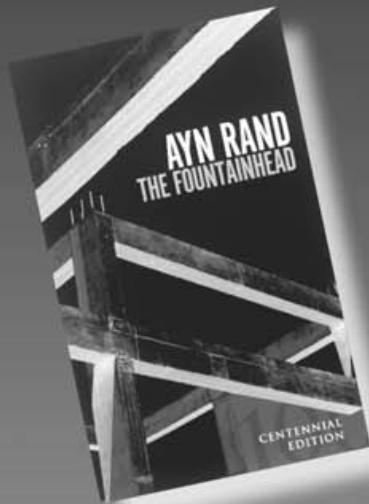
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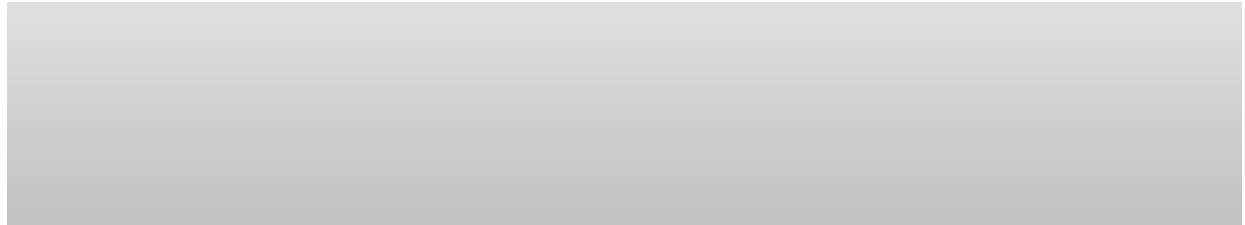
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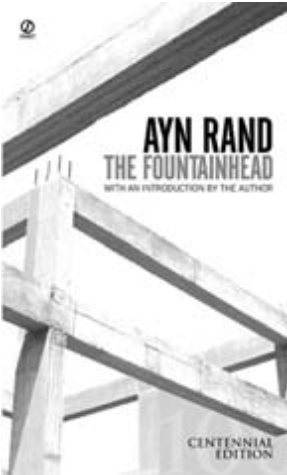
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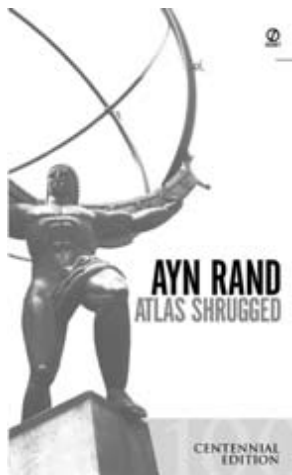
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