

Style Sheet
The Ageless
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General Style Rules

The book follows *The Chicago Manual of Style*. When in doubt or not covered below, put a comment and follow CMS.

Spelling

Everything should be American spelling, but in some cases Scrivener seems to revert to British spelling, so please correct those to American. When regular and irregular forms are both accepted (e.g. dreamed/dreamt, kneeled/knelt, sneaked/snuck), I prefer to use the regular form (dreamed, kneeled, sneaked), as I think they have a longer shelf life than the irregular forms.

Capitalization

Races such as Changeling, Joey, etc. are capitalized. Their subcategories, such as transmelder and mystic, are not.

Numbers

Should follow CMS.

Grammar

Check speech.xlsx for narration styles. Nyr often speaks in fragments, including in narration. Korreth and Jorrim's tapping code should always be in present tense, with added phrases to indicate past (e.g., *yesterday she is*) or future (e.g., *she kills us one day*). Please

question the tapping when it seems too complex to be communicated as such. Other grammar within dialogue shouldn't be adjusted unless it sounds out of character.

Punctuation (ellipses and em dashes will be fixed during formatting stage)

Commas: Maintain commas between independent clauses joined by a conjunction, especially when the clauses have different subjects. Always use serial commas.

Hyphens: Used for stuttering within dialogue. Generally used for complex adjectives, e.g., four-legged predators. For prefixes, etc., refer to CMS and correct where needed.

Possessives: Add the s after the apostrophe on singular possessives of nouns ending with *s* or *x*, such as *Ti'rros's* (but avoid *Ti'rros's* through restructuring where possible).

Special Display

Direct, first-person thoughts are italic. All mental communication, regardless of whether one-way or two-way and regardless of the source, is italic. (Transmelders vs. mystics vs. communicating via necklaces are all italic.)

Mentally yelling into another person's head is italic in all caps.

People

See speech.xlsx, Names tab and Ageless tab

Places

Tribelands:

Omdecu

Hellsworth

Zhour

Rozle

Rushore Nation - once tried to conquer the Omdecu Tribe

Cities, towns, villages:

Mapleton

Searchtown

Cabuda

Terms

See speech.xlsx, Speech tab for more (left-most column shows a generalized term, headers are who says it)

Advisor - with an *-or* not *-er* refers to Kaia

All-Seeing Eye - the piece of the aliens' mothership, as Dalan's tribe calls it (also, Fragment)

amplifier - the device the Wizard uses to control the necklaces

Ancient - noun and adjective for people living or things created before the Catastrophe

Ancient Teachings - the code of laws Dalan's tribe believes in

bandoleer - crosses one shoulder and one hip, across the chest, with pouches or containers

birth form - human form for transmelters like Dalan

borderlands - the lands between grasslands and drylands that have sad little trees and

bleached grass

Catastrophe - the apocalyptic event that happened centuries ago

clan master - leader of a Hellsworth Tribe clan

Clan Master - title for the leader (follows normal Mom/my mom rules)

clanmates - people from the same clan, like classmates

cyborg - what Zen has become

de-age - Ageless power (do you think this should have a hyphen?)

dingars - mutated four-legged predators

disc - the sacred objects Dalan's tribe uses to attract a dragonfly

drylands - characterized by little flora or fauna, very desert-like

force field - the Wizard's technology (do you think this would be better as one word?)

Fragment - the piece of the aliens' mothership, as most everyone else besides Dalan's tribe calls it

grasslands - open fields and prairies

homeworld - where the aliens came from

hoofbeats

lab - the V-shaped building in Searchtown

LEC6 - Dalan's handgun

littermates - feline Changelings of a similar age, like classmates

meld - noun, a form a transmelter can turn into

nanotech - Soledad's technology

omdecu - furry creature Dalan's people can all turn into, their secondary form, the original alien pets

Omdecu - Dalan's tribe name

Prophet - the man who split the Ageless and their technology up

Purebreeds - noun form for those without mutations

Purebred - adjective form for those without mutations

SCL - Ancient rifle

scrub - knee-high or shorter vegetation

secondary form - omdecu form for transmelters like Dalan

tail-horse - one of Dalan's melds

transmeld - generally a verb (meld should be the noun)

transmelder - a Changeling whose mutant power allows them to shapeshift

tribemates - people from the same tribe, like classmates

unwinded - not winded by running (feel free to think of a better way to describe it)

wind mill - alternate for wind turbine

wind turbine - alternate for wind mill; only used by Ageless

Wizard - direct address; for third-person references, use "the Wizard"

Special Notes

These terms have been eliminated and should not appear anywhere in the text. If they do, please mark them.

- Transcendent
- 'Dent
- Kangas
- Unstained
- Outcasts

- Exiles (capitalized as a term for a specific group of people)
- Dernex (should be Dalan)
- Ri'twau (should be Ti'rros)
- Sa (should be Saquey)
- Sorreth (should be Korreth)

I'd like to keep paragraphs short because I believe more and more people read on their phones. Of course, I also need help with consistency.