

House of Leaves Notes:
!!!FULL OF SPOILERS!!!

Note to Self:

“In the house man finds his identity”-Gaston Bachelard

Author page:

- the page with Mark Z Danielewski's name is not bound with the rest of the pages, and is actually falling out in my edition
- font of title page is in Dante, the same as Pelafina's letters

Introduction:

xii:

- “Who knows where his name really came from”
- character named Zampano in La Strada film by Fellini
- see pg 545 for possible reference to Fellini “fell in. Aye.”

“nom de plume...nom de guerre”:

- first reference to Zampano as a soldier
- see also pg 31 rifle

xiv:

“Hey Hoss”

- Hoss is Lude's nickname for Johnny
- could be a reference to the character from Bonanza (meaning big and friendly)
- also a slang term for “horse” (see pg 564, part quoted from Apollinaire is a poem called Horse)

xv:

- first reference to cats, MZD loves cats, his other series The Familiar is about a cat
- see also pg xviii: “Of course curiosity killed the cat”
- cats go missing after Zampano's death
- also referred to as shades pg 77
- reference to Black Cat by Rilke pg 87

xvi:

“and—to use one of those big words I would eventually learn in the ensuing months—deracinated details of Zampano's life”

- “deracinate”: to pull up by roots, to force people from their homeland, to liberate or be liberated from a culture or its norms
(Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida:
Divert and crack, rend and *deracinate*,
The unity and married calm of states
Quite from their fixture”)
- learns this word from pg 145

xxii:

“prolix”

- having great length or dwelling on trivial details
- also see Pelafina's letter pg 633
- beginning of strange words used in P's code and JT's notes

names: Beatrice, Gabrielle, Anne-Marie, Dominique, Elaine, Isabelle, and Claudine

-names of the hills in the Battle of Dien Bien Phu in the first Indochina war, the prelude to the Vietnam war, 13 March-7 May 1954, French Foreign Legion

xxiii:

“you might try scribbling...maybe even in the margins of this book”

-we add another level to the work by adding our own thoughts and notes to it

Epigraph:

“Muss es sein?”:

-German for “Do I have to?”

-could be from the Unbearable Lightness of Being (man debates whether to follow his wife to Prague, says es muss sein, meaning he has to, he is fated to follow her)

-or from Beethoven's String Quartet No 16 in F major, Op 135, last movement is called “The Difficult Decision”, 3 notes are marked as “muss es sein”, rumoured to be Beethoven's feeling of encountering what he called the great eternal

Chapter I:

3:

“I saw a film today, oh boy...”

-”but I just had to look having read the book”

-A Day in the Life by the Beatles (we are reading a book about a film, meta)

“radioactive isotopes, or even laughter over a Simpsons episode”

Simpson's reference: the Isotopes are the name of the baseball team

4:

“There's nothing there. Beware.”

-if there's nothing external, then the thing to beware must be inside

5:

“Blood on the kitchen floor. One shot of a child (Daisy) crying.”

-see pg 11 Daisy playing with scissors

-see pg 91 Daisy picking at scabs on her wrists

-see pg 606 Pelafina says in Spanish “I broke my doll/wrist” also could mean “I slit my wrist”

-Johnny also has scars on his forearms

Chapter II:

8:

epigraph from Frankenstein, creation of a man/monster

11/12:

- both Daisy and Johnny's friend Lude have scissors
- coincidence, or another thing pulled from Johnny's life and put in text or vice versa

13:

“falling into the rhythm of the story”

- MZD disrupts the normal rhythm of stories with all his footnotes and formatting

16:

“vituperative”

- bitter and abusive
- also used in intro by Johnny
- unusual words used by both JT and Zamp and Pelafina may lead to theory of there being only one author instead of these 3

17:

“No one had any idea who she was or why it was she haunted his thoughts and conversation like some albatross.”

- in reference to Delial
- Delial is the starving girl in picture shot by Navidson, she died shortly after.
- reference to the Rime of the Ancient Mariner: bird shot vs photo shot, something that Navidson has to carry around with him causing suffering

“What's in a name?”

- Navy is a shade of blue (like the House)
- Delial sounds like denial
- Truant means running from responsibilities
- Zampano is from a film by Fellini La Strada
- Pelafina means thin strips, like the pages of a book, in Spanish
- Lude sounds like lewd or crude

18:

“Succoth”

- also Sukkot
- ancient Jewish festival celebrating Autumn harvest and commemorating the passage through the wilderness
- means booth from the temporary dwelling covered with plant materials (eg leaves)

Chapter III:

19:

epigraph: Dorothea Lange.

- Another quote from her essay, On morality of Photography Profession: “For in his natural zeal to master the craft, he has too long relied upon the technical to engage his energies. Now the technical has relaxed its challenges, he is often left with the feeling that there is

nowhere to go. He is lost; he is confused; he is bewildered. Accustomed to discover, now suddenly he is obliged to interpret.”

“Exodus 3:11”

- Moses questions God about who he is, God's response is “I will be with you”
- juxtapose with Matthew 27:46 “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

21:

“Alicia Rosenbaum”

- birth name of Ayn Rand

“amaurotic”

- total loss of vision, occurs without pathological changes to the eye
- see also Johnny's use of the word pg 43

- death of Johnny's parents at age 10 (father) and 19 (mother)

“Shakespearean mother”

- Hamlet's mother Gertrude married husband's killer
- calls into question who Johnny's real father was eg Zampano or Donnie

Chapter IV:

24:

“Diedrich Knickerbocker”

- fictional character from A History of New York by Washington Irving
- another story by Irving, the Legend of Sleepy Hollow, ends with a postscript questioning the authenticity of the story

26:

“something's really off”

- writes Johnny as Navidson discovers the hallway
- crossover between Navidson's, Zampano's, and Johnny's story

27:

“camera lucida”

- a device that allows the artist to see both the scene and their drawing at the same time allowing them to duplicate key points
- we are getting dual stories here with key points being duplicated

28:

“Orpheus, Eurydice, Hermes” by Rilke

- read the poem
- reference about bringing loved one back from the dead and failing
- not the first or last reference to Orpheus, Eurydice, Hermes, or Rilke
- important line: “She was inside herself. And her being dead filled her like tremendous depth”

29:

pain in Navidson's feet/toes

-see pg 587 Love resides in the big toe

-also see pg 72 Johnny hurts his toe

-see pg 526 Navidson's foot condition is cleared and him and Karen are happy

31:

“the battered shotgun bearing the initials RLB under [Zampano's] bed”

-RLB stamped rifles were gov't issued to military in WWII, Ithaca* Model 37 (*home of great journeyer Odysseus)

-the gun was blue and also marked with a “P” and an exploding bomb

-could P stand for Pelafina?

-see pg 554 for more on the gun

“but I've come to believe errors, especially written errors, are often the only markers left by a solitary life”

-pay attention to the errors in the text, misspellings.

-see pg 137 and 547 for “bald gnome, Error” see notes for Appendix I B

32:

“God for all intents and purposes is an equal sign” and “Conte's 'All Things Being Equal”

-search leads to this website: <http://plaza.ufl.edu/tasker87>

-hint click the doorway under the entertainment heading, beware of spoilers

33:

“Answers provide bright moment of comprehension perfectly suited for children who still inhabit a world where solutions are readily available”

-we're not going to get the answers to all our questions in this book

“To read' actually comes from the Latin *rerī* 'to calculate, to think'...”

-it's not just the job of the writer to give answers, the reader has to be a participant

“Aside from giving us 'reason', *arariskein* also gives us an unlikely sibling, Latin *arma* meaning 'weapons'.”

-Doctor Who quote: Books—the best weapons in the world!

35:

“a certain coed taught me that”

-Coed could mean female student

-which we probably assume at this point

-but could also allude to the Comprehensive Oxford English Dictionary

-given to Johnny by Pelafina, see pg 594

38:

“Les jeux sont fait. Nous sommes fucked”

-French “The game is done. We are fucked.”

-Roulette/gambling term meaning “no more bets” (not including “nous sommes fucked”)

-Sartre book of same title translated sometimes as “The chips are down”

-may also mean “the dice are cast”

“Fred de Stabenrath”

-was a real soldier killed at Dien Bien Phu (see note for pg xxii)

Chapter V

41:

epigraph

-from the Guide

-about a tour guide/prisoner who gets mistaken for a Swami, a spirit guide, and becomes a Swami, lives in an abandoned temple and only gains identity through the perception of others

“tears her to pisces”

-same mistake on pg 599

43:

“amaurotic”

-total loss of vision, occurring without pathological changes to the eye

45:

“davhar” “logos”

-should be “dabar”, word used in old testament, oral wisdom of the existence of God

-logos, words used in new testament, formal word

48:

“Samuel O'Reilly”

-patented first electric tattoo machine in 1891

-fell while painting his HOUSE and died

“Other loss”

-perhaps Mother (later mentions on same page the “coming of that great Whale”)

“Spanish gold”

-see page 626

48-49:

“X marks the spot”

-Unable to Proceed

-see page 582 for guide to weird symbols found throughout text

49:

“miscreated Changeling”

-see pg 594,

-is Pelafina responding to Johnny's writing posthumously?

50:

“collar bone tracing a shadow of (--can't write the word--)”

-key?

-Collar Bone, aka Clavicle, from Latin Clavis meaning key

51:

“cinnabar, lemon, celadon, indigo”

-see pg 61, Tom's keys are red, yellow, green, and blue

53:

“Nice to meet you,' she said in a way that almost sounded like a psalm...leaving me to ponder and perhaps pray”

-reminded me of Romeo and Juliet meeting l.v.94-110: “let lips do what hands do. They pray...thus from my lips by thine my sin is purged”

“Rabbit tattoo”

-could be reference to Alice in Wonderland

-Matrix: “follow the white rabbit”

56:

“Oliver North's annulled conviction”

-Vietnam war vet

-Iran-Contra affair (illegal sales of weapons to Iran to encourage release of American hostages and then used money to fund Contra-rebel groups in Nicaragua)

-was granted immunity to testify before congress in 1991

58:

“aphonia”

-loss of ability to vocalize

“pyritic prize”

-pyrite is fool's gold

62:

footnote 73: “Broken Daisy-Chains”

-alluding to broken Daisy Navidson?

64-67:

footnote 75:

-first letter of each surname:

-A LONG LIST OF VISIONARIES, SHE SAID MEMORIES MEAN ALL BUT THEY ARE ALL DEAD, WHO YOU, I WAIT NOW FOR ONLY THE WIND

-could the wind be reference to Donnie as a pilot and Pelafina's mentions of “the wind under your wings” 599

70:

“my tendency to drift and moither”

-Moither: to bother or bewilder, to talk in a rambling or confused manner

-also similar to Mother

"I start filling caps with purple, concentrating on its texture, the strange hue, imagining I can actually observe the rapid pulse of its bandwidth. These are stupid thoughts, and as if to confirm that sentiment, darkness pushes in on me...Extremely long fingers"

-Purple is associated with Pelafina

-Johnny often has panic attacks around purple things

-The long fingers may be a reference to Pelafina's long purple nails (pg 630)

71:

"Known. Some. Call. Is. Air. Am?"

-Non sum qualis eram.

-I am not as I was.

-see also pg 602, Pelafina used this phrase in correct Latin

"Another Maldon, or no Maldon"

-see also pg 601, Pelafina quotes Old English from Battle of Maldon

72:

-Johnny loses the floor

-previously the floor was the only thing that Navidson could rely upon when he entered the Hallway

-but now the floor has fallen out from Johnny

-Johnny only exists in contrast to Navidson, his actions mirror Navidson's

-also they both have problems with their feet

Chapter VI:

Epigraph:

-from Concept of Space, an essay on architecture.

-the epigraph of that book reads, "Like the spider with its web, so every subject spins out, like the spider's threads, its relations to certain qualities of things, and weaves them into a solid web, which carries its existence" -Jakob von Vexkull.

-the essay is about what constitutes a creature is not just the pieces which make up the physical body but also the surroundings the creature perceives.

77:

"sun a star on a nothing's back"

-sun-a-star=sinister?

-playing around with acronyms/anagrams:

-sasoanb: "sans oba" which is Croatian for "without both"

-see note on Kilkenny poem

"Kilkenny-disappear"

-There once were two cats of Kilkenny

Each thought there was one cat too many

So they fought and they hit

And they scratched and they bit
Till (excepting their nails
And the tips of their tails)
Instead of two cats there weren't any

“Where Have I Moved? What Have I Muttered? Who Have I Met?”

-all spell out WHIM

-see pg 78 “Everything whimsical has left”

-pg 79 “Worse, it knows nothing of whim.”

78:

“Where I Left Death”

-WILD

-also while making notes on the cat section, my cat began running up and down the hallway making a lot of noise and creeping me out

Chapter VII:

80:

Epigraph:

-from a story about a man named “Man” in an inhospitable environment

-in the 1902 version of the story Man dies, but it was changed in the 1905 version where Man lives but has frostbite

“chechaquo”

-also spelled Cheechako

-means new to Alaska/Yukon, esp for the Gold Rush

-Johnny worked in Alaska, survived a boat crash and watched someone die

“Holloway Roberts”

-sounds like hallway, or hollow-way, also hallowed-way for religious reference

-see Holloway Tapes for more plays on his name

81:

“cwm”

-steep sided hollow at the head of a valley or on a mountainside

-unusual word also used by Pelafina, pg 633

83:

“light fantastic toe”

-to “trip the light fantastic”=to dance nimbly to music

-used by Milton in L'Allegro, calling on Euphrosyne (graces, goddess of good cheer)

“come, and trip it as ye go,

on the light fantastick toe”

-used by Tennessee Williams in The Glass Menagerie

“This is our FATHER WHO LEFT US a long time ago. He was a telephone man who fell in

love with long distances; he gave up his job with the telephone company and skipped the light fantastic out of town.” (see footnote 90 and reference to “oedipal anxieties”)

-Noam Chomsky on the phrase: “opaque because it is impossible to construct a meaningful literal-scene from the formal structure”

84:

“the house is encoded as ‘the patient’”

-Pelafina was also a patient

85:

“they’ve found a staircase in the center which is over two hundred feet in diameter and spirals down into nothing...”

-pg 633 spirals down like a staircase and seems to mean nothing

87:

“as Rilke wrote...” (from Rilke’s poem Black Cat)

A ghost, though invisible, still is like a place
your sight can knock on, echoing; but here
within this thick black pelt, your strongest gaze
will be absorbed and utterly disappear:

just as a raving madman, when nothing else
can ease him, charges into his dark night
howling, pounds on the padded wall, and feels
the rage being taken in and pacified.

She seems to hide all looks that have ever fallen
into her, so that, like an audience,
she can look them over, menacing and sullen,
and curl to sleep with them. But all at once

as if awakened, she turns her face to yours;
and with a shock, you see yourself, tiny,
inside the golden amber of her eyeballs
suspended, like a prehistoric fly.

“aegis of Mars”

-lots of references to Greek/Roman myths, Iliad

-Athena wore an aegis that “produced a sound as from a myriad of roaring dragons”

-to be under someone’s aegis means doing something under the protection of the powerful, knowledgeable, or benevolent source

-see pg 496 as well for Johnny “in allegiance with Mars”

88:

“Kyrie”:

-Kyrie Eleison=Lord, have mercy

-or ValKYRIE: Norse mythology, “chooser of the slain”, chooses who dies and lives in battle

89:

“hers in many languages, mine in the off color of my only tongue”

-Johnny can only speak one language, but Pelafina says he's fluent in Latin pg 631

91:

“Daisy...picking at tiny scabs on her wrists”

-pg 5, pg 11, pg 606, Daisy hurts herself a lot

“Chad turns out to be the most problematic...and that afternoon returns home from school with a bruised eye and swollen nose”

-similar to Johnny getting into fights while in foster care, see footnote 104

Chapter VIII:

Epigraph:

“G.G. Blake”

-George G Blake, History of the Radio Telegraphy and Telephony, 16 Chapters and 4 appendices on the history of wireless communication written in 1926

-table of contents:

http://bvbr.bib-bvb.de:8991/exlibris/aleph/a23_1/apache_media/YTFNI586JR78RT2U59D41PN6VJ7Y7B.pdf

whole chapter:

-the dots on the page separate paragraphs into long/short and translate to SOS 7

pg 97:

“...---...”

-morse code for SOS

checkmark on page

-see pg 609, direction from Pelafina to Johnny

“compasses twitching to the odd polarities in the house”

-when magnetic polarities shift or disappear the earth is not protected from solar radiation

-the sun or the son can cause damage

98:

“Confining us to the comforts of a well-lit home gives our varied imaginations a chance to fill the adjacent darkness with questions and demons”.

-The house is filled by the imagination of those in it.

“like a volcano born on some unseen plate in the Pacific”

-where Zampano fought in IndoChina war

-also see pg 596 "your pacific father"

99:

"fuck"

-footnote 117 divided into short and long passages spells out FUCK in morse code

footnote 115, reference to computer game Myst

-a game where you enter into other worlds through books

pg 102:

"--..."

-7 in morse code

-the 7th circle of hell is guarded by the minotaur

-the next chapter is about the minotaur.

106:

"a stranger place where letters let alone visits never register"

-Pelafina at the Whalestoe, she sometimes doesn't remember Johnny visiting or getting his letters

"in a German homonym for the whispered Word"

-English word for whispered word "mutter"

-"Mutter" in German means mother.

Chapter IX:

Epigraph:

"Ascensius":

-Jodocus Badius/Badius Ascensius, pioneer in the printing press industry

"Nicholas Trevet":

-Dominican friar, quote comes from his commentary on City of God by Augustine

"Virgil":

-author of Aeneid

-about finding a new home for the Trojan people

-in book 6 Aeneas goes to the Temple for Apollo built by Daedalus (who also built the labyrinth for the minotaur)

-next to the temple is an entrance to a maze of caves that lead to the underworld

-he sees an urn showing Pasiphae's copulation with the bull and the birth of the minotaur

-This urn is guarded by the Cumaen Sibyl (see pg 642) and she tells him not to look at the urn saying "this moment doesn't require your sightseeing".

108:

"etymology of 'labor'"

-latin "laborare": to labor, strive, exert oneself, suffer, be in distress, to work out.

-French "labourer": to plough, cultivation

109:

k symbol

-see pg 582, indicate direction to proceed

JL symbol

-see pg 582, not understood

110:

footnotes are out of order

111:

¶ symbol

-also called a Pillcrow or Blind P

note inserted randomly by me but has no reference to something on the page:

J=10	Z=26
O=15	A=1
H=8	M=13
N=14	P=16
N=14	A=1
Y=25	N=14
-----	O=15
86	-----
	86

-86'd, like in restaurants meaning gone/non-existent, not on the menu anymore

113:

“endolymph, amppullary, ampulla, semicircular duct, maculae, utricle and saccole”

-all terms for inner ear organs

“certain centres are externalized...In many legends the 'centre of the world' is concretized as a tree...”

-see Pelafina's letter where LOVE is at the centre of that page but not in the book, ie externalized

-or see pg 709, Yggdrasil tree.

115:

“Anfractuosity”

-a winding channel or crevice, one of the fissures separating the convolutions of the brain.

-“At this moment, the Sun sympathizing with these thoughts of love or of the future has cast on the tawny side of this rock an ardent light; some mountain flowers called attention, the calm and the silence enlarged this ANFRACTUOSITY, sombre in reality, coloured by the dreamer...” (A Drama on the Sea Shore by Moncure Daniel Conway)

“this new discovery has left me practically beside myself, by which I mean priapic”

-Priapic is from Greek meaning erection, phallic, male sexuality, excessively male

-if Johnny is beside himself being male, than does that mean that this is really a female writing

-beside himself, outside of himself he is masculine, so she's beside herself, not feeling herself, feeling male not female

-could the she be Pelafina?

116:

"I finally walked outside, I had no idea where I was...We stumbled to a corner"

-when did I become we? Is Johnny not alone?

"that's when the car pulled over, a white car? VW Rabbit?"

-another reference to the white rabbit

121: "five points of architecture:"

1. pilotis (replace supporting walls by a grid of reinforced concrete columns)
2. absence of supporting walls means house is unrestrained in its internal use
3. separate exterior from structural function, set facade free
4. horizontal window (cuts facade along entire length and lights rooms equally)
5. roof gardens, flat roof serves domestic purpose

"polypod"

-having many feet"

"polyolith"

-prehistoric monument consisting of many stones

"polylithic"

-having a massive changing structure that permits individual variations

"In my Father's house are many rooms..."

-John 14:2-6 "In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know and the way you know.' Thomas said to Him, 'Lord we do not know where You are going and how can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'".

122:

"atrabillious"

-from Latin Black Bile

-Melancholy, cantankerous, malevolent.

-"but the torch of taste has for the moment fallen into the hands of little men, anaemic and atrabillious, with neither laughter nor pity in their hearts" Prose Fancies by Richard Le Gallienne

F symbol:

-see pg 582 "require food and water"

123:

"I call architecture frozen music"

-see notes on grand staircase pg 633

-Garnier said "The opera is the staircase", importance of architecture to sound

"curmurring"

-to murmur or rumble, to experience indigestion, to fart

-the house is eating them

125:

"Jhunisdakazcriddle"

-John is the cat's cradle

-Kurt Vonnegut novel

-kid's string game

-song by Harry Chapin about father and son: "I'm gonna be like you dad" / "When you coming home dad? I don't know when"

128:

"rapping incessantly against the floor"

-reminded me of "rapping on my chamber door...quoth the raven NEVERMORE"

-Wax and Jed may be Nevermore if they aren't rescued

129:

"silentiary"

-religious silence

Johnny talks about his scars from the burning oil

-an accident he sees as his fault

-see pg 627 Pelafina was the one who burnt 4 year old Johnny

131:

"acoustic dynamics in that hall"

-like the whispering gallery where whispers can be heard clearly in other parts of the hall

-also an effect that can be detected in caves

133:

ll symbol

-see pg 582, means require medical supplies

"I've never been to Texas"

-see pg 297. Johnny misheard Tex's as Texas

135:

sideways footnote: "Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Young Goodman Brown"

-story previously mentioned by Pelafina pg 599

138:

"in the PXXXXXX Poems"

-the Pelican poems, pg 573-580

140:

“mise-en-scene”

-setting the stage, stage design and arrangement of actors

-6 steps:

1. composition
2. production design
3. lighting
4. costuming, hair, makeup
5. film texture/film stock
6. aspect ratio (see design of pages)

143:

“aporias”

-an expression of deliberation with oneself regarding uncertainty or doubt as to how to proceed

-an insoluble contradiction in a text's meaning; a logical impasse suggested by a text

“sclerotic”

-of or relating to the eye,

-hard, insular, resistant to change

W symbol in footnote

-see pg 582: require engineer

144:

“Chandler's Marlowe”

-cannibalized or published fix-up, novel created from several short stories previously published, edited for consistency, and adding new material

-see also Christopher Marlowe and the theory that he was Shakespeare

-ties into who is the real author of House of Leaves

-also MZD using his own previous works in the book, Redwood and the Pelican Poems

footnote with chemistry symbols

-see pg 582 require firearms/ammunition

149:

“Connaught BNS Cape”

-Cannot Be An Escape

“Purple Rain”

-by Prince

-Purple Rain is a deep longing or desire that will likely not be met

-has a panic attack on the next page, reference to Pelafina

“Doctor Drew”

-host of Loveline

pg 151:

|>

-see pg 582, means will attempt to take off

Chapter X:

153:

“Dagobert Frey”

-Nazi

-stole valuable art from Krakow and Warsaw during Nazi occupation of Poland

155:

“The Great Hall feels like the inside of some preternatural hull designed to travel vast seas...”

-like a whale, Jonah and the whale (Whalestoe letters)

158:

“I should sue the bastards who designed this house,” Reston shouts after him. “Haven't they heard of handicap ramps?”

-Reston's name has rest in it

-he provides comic relief, or rest from the horror

162:

“It looks like it's impossible to leave a lasting trace here,” Navidson observes. “The woman you never want to meet,” quips Reston...”

-NO TRACE IN THE CROWD, from Pelafina's letters pg 620

165:

“solipism”

-from solus (alone) ipse (self)

-only one's mind is sure to exist, knowledge outside of one's own mind is unsure

-some of the citations (sources of knowledge) are fake, some are real. This creates an uncertainty of existence in the outside world.

169:

footnote 205:

-book about Japanese architecture

-see pg 545, this was a book that Zampano couldn't get a hold of but evidently did

170:

-see above note

179:

“Dr Ogelmeyer”

-anagram of Dr Mel O'Geery see pg 371

-a petrologist who studies the origin, composition, and structure of rock

“Ten flakes of chalk-blue”

- blue is significant in reference to House
- maybe also the Matrix
- blue pill is to stay in the Matrix
- Pelafina also refers to her pills by colour (pg 615)

“secret braille”

- see pg 423

181:

“Maginot Line”

- France vs Germany in WWII
- line of defense from the French comprised of extensive and interconnected bunker complexes
- the Germans just went around it
- now means an expensive effort that offers a false sense of security
- military term associated with Zampano
- see also pg xx

189:

description of houses drawn by children

- see also pg 313, Chad/Daisy drawings

193:

“Zapruder film”

- captured JFK's assassination

231:

“muntin”

- one of the separators between panes of glass in a composite window

241:

“has marooned him”

see pg 136-137

- Hudson's men get marooned
- maroon: to abandon someone in a remote place

Chapter XI:

Whole Chapter:

- which brother represents which brother?
- Will and Tom vs Esau and Jacob
- Jacob means “heel” and Will has problems with his feet

Epigraph:

-translation:

“The poet in the dungeon, bedraggled, sickly

Rolling a manuscript under his convulsive foot,
Measure of a look that terror enflames
The dizzying staircase where his soul is an abyss”

-Charles Baudelaire: coined the term “modernity” meaning fleeting, ephemeral experience of life in urban metropolis and the responsibility of the artistic expression to capture that

246:

“Ya'aqov”

-means heel or opportunist or having/taking the advantage

-eventually Jacob further tricks Esau as adults and shoots an arrow into his chest killing him

247:

“yip paredu”

-this word disrupts the poetic rhythm of the verses that come before it in the Bible

-further signify strife

248:

“Va-yachol, Va-yesht, Va-yakom, Va-yelech, Va-yivaz”

-I couldn't find a reliable translation. May mean:

-yachol: can

-yesht: will drink

-yakom: universe

-yelech: oil

-yivaz:??

251:

triple bar with line through

-triple bar without line is a symbol of identity or an equivalence relation

-used to show that two figures are congruent or identical

252:

“Genesis 27:24” “

-Are you really my son?”

-Isaac to Jacob, but could be Zampano to Johnny

“Genesis 27:29: “

-May nations serve you and people's bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed.

-see pg 543 “I could create a son...And those who value him shall prosper while those who would destroy him shall perish.”

“Genesis 25:27”

-The boys grew up, and Esau became a skilful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents.

“Torah of atzilut”

-Kabbala, the Torah of Souls.

-Opening line is "Eliyahu opened, it is written. The secret of God is for those who fear Him (Psalms 25:14). This verse refers to the idea that even if a Jew learns Mishnah, Gemara, and yet has no awe—for naught does he splash in the great waters of Kabbala, he toils entirely for nothing. Everyone who fears God should actively pursue the hidden aspects of Torah..."

-akin to how we need to delve into the hidden aspects of this book and maybe fear or stand in awe of it

footnote 246:

quote is from The Rung of Redemption by Martin Buber: "that does not mean the tears which the people or the earth weep and you do not weep; they are the tears that all human beings weep when they ask something for themselves and pray for it. And truly, Messiah, son of David, will not come until such tears have ceased to flow until you weep because the Divine Presence is exiled and because you yearn for its return."

"Caduceus"

-staff of Hermes

-wakes the sleeping and sends the awake to sleep

-if applied to dying will result in a gentle death, when applied to dead will return them to life

-often confused with the Rod of Asclepius, the medical symbol which has only 1 snake

257:

"Bird of Paradise"

- see pg 15, Johnny's story about the Birds of Paradise

260:

-footnote 138 on pg 114 references Tom's story and "antithesis of labyrinth—that which contains work—is Noah's ark—in other words that which contains rest"

-Here we see Tom making a bunch of animal hand shadows

-reference to Noah's ark

262:

"concertina wire without a hand grenade"

-WWI reference to no-man's land

-another military reference similar to Zampano

"Novem nine and all mine November"

-Johnny's obsessed with the number 9 (see pg 267, 503)

-in numerology, 9 represents completion, the last of the cardinal number, a culmination of wisdom and experience, energy of both endings and new beginnings

-in Norse Mythology, the universe is divided into 9 worlds, all connected by the world tree Yggdrasil (see pg 709), Odin hung himself on an ash tree for 9 days

-there are 9 circles of Hell in Dante's Inferno

263:

"YN"

-see pg 582, means Y=Yes N=No

264:

“blissful bower”

-From John Milton's *The First Love of Adam and Eve*:

“Thus talking, hand in hand alone they passed

On to their blissful bower. It was a place

Chosen by the sovereign Planter, when he framed

All things to Man's delightful use”

266-269:

“Johnnie”

-could Johnnie be reference to Pelafina

-Johnnie: “nails as long as kitchen knives” vs Pelafina: “long ridiculous purple nails”

-Johnnie: “knotted fingers” vs Pelafina: “my hands resemble some ancient tree” (ie full of knots).

-Johnnie could also be Lilith from the bible.

-She says she's 6000 years old

-Hebrew calendar says earth was created 5780 years ago.

-mother of strays could be mother of monsters as Lilith is sometimes referred to

267:

“Novem ovum nine and all mine”

-nine eggs

-see pg 262 and 503

Chapter XII:

275:

“three boys had vanished...”

-The lost boys of Hannibal

-three boys went exploring Murphy's Cave and disappeared

-have never been found.

-Billy Hoag 10, Joey Hoag 13, Craig Dowell 14.

284:

“Reston lights a green flare”:

-Great Gatsby's green light, a symbol of hope

297:

“I'd been to Texas”

-on pg 133, Johnny tells Ashley he'd never been to Texas but had misheard her. She said Tex's, not Texas.

“ignis fatuus”

-aka Will o the Wisp, something deceptive

-literally “foolish fire”

-see also pg 488

298:

story of the Atrocity

-see pg 545 Zampano's notes on "an atrocity sinking"

"chthonic"

-dwelling within the earth

-spirits of the underworld

299:

"maternal Hand reaches up from the darkness"

-see pg 629, like Pelafina strangling her son

301:

"kermantle cord"

-a rope constructed with an interior core protected by a woven exterior sheath designed to optimize strength, durability, and flexibility

312:

-Joyce wanted to include a big dot in Ulysses but publishers made it small

-supposed to represent QED, marking the end of a logical argument

-QED for syllogism

-3 parts, the third syllogism contains or connects the first 2

-3 authors which 1 connects the first 2?

-Ulysses : House of Leaves

-Bloom and Zampano both lost sons

-Stephen and Johnny are replacement sons?

-could be an endnote referencing you to pg 709, the Yggdrasil poem

-the black spot in pirate stories (pronounce a verdict of guilty, signalled mutiny, overthrowing leader. In Treasure Island the black spot was on a page torn from the Bible, specifically the Book of Revelations "without are dogs and murderers")

-used in The Lottery by Shirley Jackson to select the annual victim for the ritual human sacrifice

Chapter XIII:

313:

Epigraph:

-poem is called "The Other Tiger" by Borges

-I strongly suggest you read it as the poem and ideas in it are referenced throughout this chapter. Link:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/books/archive/2021/01/poem-jorge-luis-borges-other-tiger/617885/>

/

-The Other Tiger references date August 3

-see Pelican Poems pg 576 dated August 3: "Pelican transpires by his cup of tea and

decides to try his hand at conjuring”

-MZD wrote these poems and he conjured up this tiger of a book

-another quote from Borges: “I am withdrawing to write a book. And another time: I am withdrawing to construct a labyrinth. Everyone imagined two works; to no one did it occur that the book and the maze were one and the same thing.”

“cadmium”

-from Cadmus

-first Greek hero

-from qdm meaning to come, also means foot

314:

“ba. dah. ba-ba.”

-opening words to Haunted by Poe, MZD's sister

-title song of the album in collaboration with her brother on this book

-link to song: <https://youtu.be/CgyRQheHgaU>

315:

“Daisy's Spanish doll”

-see pg 606,610

-Spanish doll phrase meaning “broken wrist”

-Pelafina owned a Spanish doll as well

p316:

“a small hand mirror”

-pg 58, Karen's perfectly practised smile

-pg 615, Pelafina practices her smile in a mirror

320:

“Daisy—her forearm acrawl with strange scratches”

-like Johnny's own scars

“[Chad] apparently bolted from the house when he heard some kind of murmuring, something about a walker in darkness, then a bang, like a gun shot, and the sound of a man dying.”

-could be Holloway committing suicide pg 337

321:

joke about bullfighters in Madrid

-see pg 576, MZD writes a poem in Madrid after watching a bullfight

-fighting the minotaur

322:

“cauchemar”

-nightmare

-cauche: to press, from calx meaning HEEL

-mar: evil spirit, from mer meaning to die

325:

“words to find me, my mother's words”

-see pg 599-601

326:

“this thing has created me”

-is Johnny real?

“Agape”

-the love of God for mankind

327:

“King of Hearts”

-called the suicide king

-looks like he's stabbing himself in the head with his sword

“the darkest angel of all, the horror beyond all horrors, sits at last upon my chest”

-could reference this painting: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Nightmare

331:

indented section

-this whole section refers to Pelafina and her suicide.

-“oral stage”, Pelafina constantly referenced her mouth, tongue, kisses, licking

-“regressively identifying with the object”: Johnny is the object

332:

“Rock Island East”

-Cambodian Campaign in Vietnam war

-Zampano also fought in that war

333:

“Gaston Bachelard”

-“For a house that was final, one that stood in symmetrical relation to the house we were born in, would lead to thoughts—serious, sad thoughts—and not to dreams. It is better to live in a state of impermanence than one of finality.”

-Gaston did architectural analysis based on lived experiences with a focus on the personal, emotional responses to buildings, both real and fictional.

fonts referenced

-Zampano=Times New Roman (academic font)

-Johnny=Courier (messenger, Hermes, possibly the Bald Gnome Error)

-Pelafina=Dante (Dante's Inferno)

-Editors=Bookman (obvious)

-Navidson's letter=Book Antiqua

-Karen=Helvetica Neve

-Tom=American Typewriter

334:

“Floyd Collins”

- got trapped in a cave after getting stuck and knocking over his lamp
- he was in darkness
- the reference to “angels in chariots and liver and onions and chicken sandwiches” is a hallucination he had
- he was still in contact with people on the outside trying to rescue him, unfortunately he died before they could

336:

“Begone! Relieve me from the sight of your detested form.”

- quote from Frankenstein

“Androcles”

- man befriends lion after sheltering in its cave and pulls a thorn from its paw
- the lion is then supposed to kill him in the Arena, but recognizes him and doesn't
- Androcles is set free by emperor for his display of friendship.

shape of text on page:

- looks like a person

337:

“redwood”

- story written by MZD
- given to his father who said MZD would never make it as a writer

“Ce ne peut...”

- French, it can only be the end of the world, moving forward

338:

“John Hollander”

- from Poems Bewitched and Haunted: “Poetry in general might be said to be full of the stuff of haunting and witchcraft. Poetic language itself, indeed the very nature of metaphor, has its own spells and magic and metamorphoses...Early in the history of modern literature, witches, goblins, ghosts, and demons of various sorts were simply part of nature for both poets and their readers...Candlelight spawns millions of strange shadows (TOM'S STORY) pregnant with ghostly possibilities; draughty houses produce momentary chills. Better heating and brighter illumination dispel not only ghosts, but beliefs as well.”

The poem cited is “Oedipus and the Riddle” by Borges

“Khumbu icefall”

- head of the Khumbu Glacier and the root of the Western Cym on Mount Everest
- one of the most dangerous stages on route to Everest's summit
- passage of constantly falling ice

339:

“rebarbative”: irritating, repellent, from rebarber to oppose
-from barb meaning beard, literally means to stand beard to beard

“he comically clicks his heels”
-should be heels
-alluding to the healing of feet coming at the end of the story

344:
“Lhotse Face”
-another reference to Mount Everest

Chapter XIV:

347:
“Enkidu”
-from Gilgamesh
-the quote is from him cursing a woman, until he's reminded of the good she did him and then he blesses her
-Enkidu is a wild man, may be the “BULL-MAN” depicted in Mesopotamian art
-opposite of the city man, Gilgamesh.
 -see ch XI about Esau (wild man) and Jacob (home/city man)
-together, Enkidu and Gilgamesh, kill the Bull of Heaven.
 -Enkidu is punished and dies because of this.
 -Tom dies in the House
-Enkidu was also a night herd keeper, his role is the measurement of the passage of time at night.
-Enkidu was half brother to Gilgamesh
-he was sent to the underworld by Gilgamesh and broke every rule while there
-one of the rule was no purple clothes or makeup.
 -purple associated with Pelafina

“Her whole affair with Fowler”
-Fowler sounds like foul-her

348:
“der absoluten Zerrissenheit”
-“the absolute turmoil/brokenness”
-George Bataille's reaction to Hegel: “The spirit obtains its truth only by finding itself in the heartbreak of absolute brokenness.”

350:
“Paul de Vos”
-Flemish baroque painter
-painting of deer hunt (dogs attacking stag)
-also see “Still Life with Servant”, deer at centre of table full of dead animals

list of locations:

-see Pelican poems

-Johnny's journey seems very similar to MZD's European trip

351:

“Even today I won't consider its monetary worth”

-Johnny does end up selling it, pg 410 after his bad dream

Chapter XV

353:

“Heine”

-quote from Book of Songs Poem LVIII

“This world, this life are fragments unconnected,

But I, a German teacher, have selected

The scatter'd fragments he together tags,

In an intelligible combination:

And with nightcap's rags,

Stops all the holes up and completes creation.”

-also see the poem before it: LVII

“I have lied to thee so fondly,

That I've lied my heart away;

That my own deceit has snared me,

And to earnest turn'd my play.

So that when, with perfect reason,

Lightly now from me thou turnest,

Powers of darkness seize their victim,

And I shoot myself in earnest.”

footnotes:

-Johnny and the Editors have a conversation with each other

Who's a real and not real person in Karen's “What Some Have Thought”

-Leslie Stern (may be real she is a real life Neurosurgeon, not a Psychiatrist)

-Jennifer Antipala (not real) (Antipala comes from Greek meaning enemy or opponent)

-Douglas R Hofstadter (real)

-Byron Baleworth (not real)

-Andrew Ross (may be real but is actually a professor of sociology at Princeton)

-Camille Paglia (real)

-Anne Rice (real)

-Harold Bloom (real, cited throughout House of Leaves, particularly pg 547)

-A Poe t (may be reference to MZD's sister, real name Anne, goes by Poe on stage)

-Stephen King (real)

-Steve Wozniak (real)

-Jacques Derrida (real, also neat that MZD worked on movie about him)

-Walter Mosley (real)

-Kiki Smith (real)

- Hunter S Thompson (real)
- Stanley Kubrick (real)
- David Copperfield (real)

355:

“Jennifer Antipala”:

- antipala, from Greek meaning enemy or opponent

356:

“Achilles and the Tortoise”

-paradox

- Achilles can never catch up to the tortoise in a race because he has to keep reaching where the tortoise is first

“St. Sebastian”

- actually died from being shot by a bunch of arrows
- can't find the playwright he is quoting though

359:

possible printing error: box after the word uncanny

- probably should be a footnote reference for footnote 330
- more printing errors, boxes and missed boldings on pg 360 as well

360:

“procrustean”

- enforcing uniformity or conformity without regard to natural variation or individuality, nonsense

361:

“Ahab's whale was also just a whale”

- WHALEstoe letters, are they significant of something or just some letters?

364:

What is the House? A riddle, the feminine void, horizontal eight (infinity), pretty darn scary, texture, unheimlich, electrical current, dark, the other/no other

366:

“nicht allzu glatt und gekunstelt”

-from Shakespeare's Memory by Borges

- “I wrote down another discovery. Shakespeare's apparent mistakes, those absence dans l'infini that Hugo apologetically mentions, were deliberate. Shakespeare tolerated them, or weaved them into his plays, so that his discourse, destined to the stage, would seem spontaneous and not too polished and artificial.”

368:

footnote 336 is real

- there is a real photograph taken of a starving child.

- Why did MZD use a real photograph with such a tragic story? Is this morally right?
- Why couldn't he just have made up a picture to reference?

Chapter XVI:

Epigraph:

- from Einstein's Geometry and Experience
- math can't describe reality because numbers can't adequately describe, mimic, or interpret perception

371:

"Mel O'Geery"

- see pg 179, anagram of Ogelmeyer, the psychiatrist Johnny was apparently seeing

-all the X's made me think that MZD didn't know enough about geology to fill in the pages he wanted

373:

"nucleosynthesis"

- creation of new atomic material
- the Big Bang was a nucleosynthesis

374:

"HERMES"

- frequently referenced in HoL,
- see also note on Bald Gnome Error

"HERA":

- mother of gods
- Pelafina? Or is she Eve? Mother of mankind? Johnnie=Lilith, mother of strays/monsters.
- could this be Navidson's mother?

"Wave Origin Reflection Data Series"

-W.O.R.D.S.

378:

"ratiocinations"

- the process of exact thinking/reasoning
- unusual word used by Johnny on pg 380, and in the Pelican Poems on pg 577

379:

"verbigeration":

- obsessive repetition of words/phrases, especially as a symptom of mental illness
- Pelafina's odd words and phrases keep popping up throughout the rest of the text, or even just alluded to

"Kurt Schneider or Gabriel Langfeldt..."

- all pioneers in the study of schizophrenia
- interesting note that Langfeldt wrote a book about Quisling
 - see pg 577, 633, and many others

383:

Glossary contains definitions for things about language and rocks
-what the house is made of

“the tree providing a place for words”
-see pg 709, tree made of words

“D-structure”:

-deep structure: refers to concepts, thoughts, ideas, feelings, what you wish to express

“S-structure”:

-surface structure: words and language we use to represent deep structure, how you express it

Chapter XVII:

384:

“We du auch seist...”:

-Name of poem is Entrance or Entering

-it continues from footnote translation:

“With your eyes, which in their weariness
barely free themselves from the worn-out threshold,
you lift very slowly one black tree
and place it against the sky, slender, alone
And you have made the world, And it is huge
and like a word which grows ripe in silence.
And as your will seizes on its meaning,
tenderly your eyes let it go”

385:

“Kellog-Antwerk”

-KA: Kick Ass

“Bister-Frieden-Josephson”

-BFJ: Big Fucking Joke

“Haven-Slocum”

-HS: Horse Shit

387:

“That house answers many yearnings remember in sorrow”

-THAMYRIS

-see also pg 514 “even the encoded appearance of Thamyris on page 387”

-see also pg 77 “thinking, has another missing year resolved in song?”

-Thamyris, from Greek myth

- challenged the muses to a contest and lost
- he was blinded as a result and stripped of poetic ability

“Thanatos”

- son of night (Nyx) and darkness (Erebus)
- personification of death, twin of sleep
- guide of the dead (although this role was sometimes filled by Hermes as well)
- term used to refer to Freud's Death Drive, the drive to self-destruction

“Lazlo Ferma”

- anagram of “maze for all”

388:

“Noli me tangere...”

- from John 20:17, “touch me not”
- original Greek better translates to “stop clinging to me”
- said by Jesus to Mary Magdalene after the resurrection
- see poem by Petrarch, Rima 190:
<https://www.siue.edu/~ejoy/eng208PetrarchSonnet190.htm>
- could this be a reference to Pelafina's deer shaped locket that she left for Johnny
- the necklace on the deer in the poem says “Noli me tanger, for Caesar's I am”

“Non enim videbit...”

- actual translation: “for no man shall see and live” (Exodus 33:20, God to Moses)
- the footnote is not an actual translation but was used in an essay by Blanchot called Literature and the Right to Death:
<http://users.clas.ufl.edu/burt/deathsentences/blanchotliteraturerighttodeath.pdf>
- “Literature begins at the moment when literature becomes a question”
- Blanchot also wrote an essay called The Essential Solitude about writing and writers:
-In speech what dies is what gives life to speech; speech is the life of that death. It is
“the life that endures death and maintains itself in it”

389:

Blue X

- see pg 582 unable to proceed
- also see pg 625 used by Pelafina

391:

“And I miss Hansen...”

- Myrna Hansen actress in this movie with character named Latigo, Man Without a Star “many men follow a star to set their destination”

“Miserette”

- female miser?

“Carl...Benton”

- Carl Benton Reid, actor in Little Foxes

-“Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines; for our vines have tender grapes”
Song of Solomon 2:15

“Regio”

-in astronomy, a large area of a planet that is strongly differentiated in colour

-in red and crossed out is a reference to Minotaur

-could be a reference to USS Minotaur, fought in Pacific during WWII and then Korean War

-could be a reference to “On Getting Out of Vietnam” by Howard Nemerov:

“Theseus, if he did destroy the Minotaur
(It's hard to say, that may have been a myth),
Was careful not to close the labyrinth.
So After kept on looking like Before:
Their quota of kids to Knossos, confident
They would find something to die of, and for.”

394:

“Larry Burrows”

-real life photojournalist in Vietnam War

396:

“tangentiality”

-mental condition in which one tends to digress from the topic under discussion

397:

third paragraph

-how does anyone know this happened?

398:

“Super Kamiokande Detector”

-a neutrino detector in Japan

“Cherenkov Light”

-type of radiation that emits a blue light

“www-ski.icrr...”

-real website about the Super Kamiokande Detector, website in Japanese

-neutrinos can move through normal matter unimpeded and undetected

-for every neutrino there is also an anti-neutrino to balance it

399:

“Huis Clos”:

-French, No Exit by Sartre

-origin of phrase “Hell is other people”

“Doctor Dolittle”

-1967 movie

-search for the Great Pink Sea Snail, used as a sea vessel

400:

“Bachelard”

-frequently referenced, at least 8 times by name

footnote 382:

-see A Linguistic and Aesthetic Analysis of Visual Art in Melanesia by Giancarlo M Scoditti:

-“*The Nautilus pompilius is an example of the concept of perfection accomplished in nature...By choosing the Nautilus pompilius as a symbol of imagination and the ability to produce concepts, the carver makes man and nature equal*”

-“the process of growth of a nautilus is judged to be similar to the process by means of which a man produces concepts and non-verbal signs. That is a concept develops from a given point and grows just like a nautilus”

-“The Nautilus pompilius' characteristic of preserving its form unaltered thus expresses a value of 'norm' and also symbolizes unalterability...At the same time the asymmetry of the growth of the Nautilus pompilius introduces alongside the principle of rigidity in the formal structure, that of 'dynamism’”

-“The importance attributed to the doka on the formal level (execution of a perfect curvature) has a synchronic counterpart on the content plane. The carver must express to the outside world an ensemble of principles that enclose aesthetic philosophy of the group to which he belongs, such as the principle of harmony...Nautilus pompilius expresses this principle just because its whorls are progressive 'additions' to an initial point and respect the latter's structural form”

-see also the cover of HoL

-see this Reddit post about Paris and snails:

https://www.reddit.com/r/houseofleaves/comments/spbb9r/concerning_page_633

401:

“anamnesis”:

-the ability to recall past events

-medical history of patient

-quotation of exemplary authors from memory to establish one's authority

“the form of an ear”

-see page 113, inner ear terms, affects balance

“concha”

-means shell in Spanish

402:

“C'est en escargot enorme”:

-I prefer the translation from the Poetics of Space itself:

“It's a giant snail

Descending the mountain

With at its side

The brook's white foam

Very old, only one horn left

Which is its short, square belfry”

-the poet adds: "Le chateau est sa coquille" (The manor/house is its shell)
-The snail is the size of a village

403:

"3:19":

-March 19

-see page 629

-letter from Pelafina where she explains how she tried (or did she succeed) to strangle Johnny

-this event led to her being placed at Whalestoe

"raphe nuclei"

-produces serotonin

"plum-colored"

-Pelafina's colour is purple

"Topha Beta":

-Topha is not a Greek letter, could be "to pha"

-pha meaning Sky in Vietnamese (the sky is blue, to the blue?)

-also Pha Din is a place in Vietnam, to get to Dien Bien Phu (battle where Zampano fought) you have to go through Pha Din, so to Pha, could allude to Zampano

404:

"violet bows"

-purple and ribbons associated with Pelafina

Johnny goes on a tangent

- introduced to "tangentiality" as a psychiatric disorder experienced by Chad, see page 396

"towards my shoulder":

-clavicle as key, see pg 50

406:

"Jonah"

-Jonah fell asleep on a boat during a storm

-offered himself as sacrifice to calm the storm

-then was swallowed by whale

-Navidson is sacrificing himself to calm the house

-after he enters, the PEER symptoms stop.

Ch XVIII:

408:

epigraph:

-Hariot went on an expedition with Raleigh to Roanoke before it disappeared

-this text also tells a story of a native man who arose from the grave to tell people about the

underworld

“something otherly”

-Motherly?

409:

“the curse tree”:

-not a tree but a whole forest, called Old House Woods

-location of Frannie Knight house

-rumoured to have set itself on fire only to put itself out

-then finally burned to ground

-possible hidden treasure, ghost pirate ships

-the Storm Woman who warns off sailors from entering the woods

“Evelyn Byrd”

-died of a broken heart after her father forbade her from marrying a Catholic man

-apparently a friendly ghost

-portrait of her in a blue dress.

“Lady Skipwith”

-had an argument with her husband while out

-broke the heel of her shoe stomping off

-rumoured to have committed suicide after finding out her husband was having an affair with her sister

-her sister was a well-known book collector

“Ghost Alley”

-a section of Fort Monroe with lots of ghosts

-supposedly haunted by a cat named Greta and Abraham Lincoln

-Edgar Allan Poe enrolled in the army at Fort Monroe, visited a nearby hotel, and died a month later

410:

“Lacuna Rare Books Library at Horenew College”

-fake

-Lacuna=unfilled space, missing portion in a book

-Horenew=anagram of Nowhere.

“Harold Robbins”

-part of his book was plagiarized by Acker, who used literary appropriation deliberately, aka bricolage

-fragments of pre-existing works combined with original writings to create new literary works

footnote 395:

-possible anagrams (thanks to MZD forums for this):

1. Regard what lingual walls are arranged by little efforts; lust usurps blind chance if whim is over.

2. A wild bullet reaches his mouth, its tearing call awfully preserving danger's final burst forward.

3. Full anagrams that decrypt her vague life harbour rubric walls, faint windows, still legends rise.

412:

"Then you and I are going straight to Vegas to love it all on red"

-see pg 38, "Les jeux sont fait. Nous sommes fucked."

-gambling term, followed by "we are fucked"

-Lude dies before he can sue Gdansk man and gamble

-his die was cast and all bets were off

413:

"Jacaranda...Me, they only unsettle, filling me with dread..."

-purple flower/tree

-Pelafina associated with the colour purple

414:

"omphalos"

-from Greek meaning "navel"

-ancient stone religious artifacts used to denote the centre of the world

-theological proposition that the world was created with signs of history that had not actually occurred.

416:

"the evening of May 4th, when surrounded by candles, Karen suddenly beams brighter..."

-see pg 643, May 4, 8:45 pm, Pelafina found dead

417:

last sentence continues on page 522

Ch XIX

418:

epigraph:

-Sontag: photography has established within people a "chronic voyeuristic relation" to the world around them

-all events are levelled and made equal because of photography

-one who seeks to record cannot intervene, one who intervenes cannot record

420:

"proscenium"

-stage area immediately in front of the scene building

"seven stages to accomplishment"

-My very rough idea of assigning stages to characters:

1. explorer/courage: Navidson
2. surveyor/vision: Karen
3. miner/strength: Zampano
4. refiner/patience: Johnny
5. designer/intelligence: Pelafina
6. maker/experience: MZD
7. artist: the reader

Ch XX:

423:

“No one should brave the underworld alone”

-not Edgar Allan Poe, but Poe, MZD's sister

-her song called Hello

-Significant line: “I can't see your face/you left a trace/on a data back road”

-A FACE IN A CLOUD, NO TRACE IN THE CROWD, data back road could be the cloud back up

-“Mothers are trails on stars in the night/Fathers are black holes that suck up the light”

-“I can't believe the guy could be entirely dead”

“Braille”

-is almost entirely accurate

-except “You will never find a *mark* there” should be “You will never find a *Mark* there”, as in MZD

432:

“just fly off into darkness”

-reminded me of this quote from Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy: “There is an art to flying, or rather a knack. The knack lies in learning how to throw yourself at the ground and miss.”

-of course it helps if the ground just disappears

433:

text formatting resembles a tripod

434-435:

“Into Thin Air”

-about 1996 Mount Everest Disaster

-12 people died that season, 8 on this one expedition

-deadliest season to that date

436:

“There was just this terrible emptiness reaching up for me”

-see pg 491 epigraph

-also reference to “call of the void” or “appel du vide”

437:

“bartizan”

-bartisan: a parapet with battlements projecting from the top of a tower in a castle or a church

footnote LL:

“Hermann Broch puts it very aptly in the inscription for a house that he wrote once, which sets one thinking:

'In the centre of all distance
stands this house,
that is why I love it.'

The stated reason for its being loved, that is for its human value, is that it stands in the centre of all distance. This means, first of all, in the sense discussed here, that the house stands in the middle of the world. It defines the area of the near and dear, which is encircled by the distance. The house itself is contrasted with the distance, as that which most belongs to us, and that is why it should be loved. But the phrase 'centre of all distance' at the same time has a profound double meaning: it can mean, at the same time, where the distance is densest, most 'distant', in the actual heart of the distance. Our own house, apparently the nearest and most familiar thing to us, is in reality the most distant, and because, in dwelling in the house, one is oneself already in the distance, it is vulnerable and needs to be loved.

Admittedly man today, if he regards his house as the centre of the world, is at a distinct disadvantage with regard to the mythological world image. For mythological man, the centre of the world was objectively rooted with reference to the fixed centre of space as a whole. Dwelling was therefore no problem to him. But since this objective centre has been lost, the anchoring in an objective system is also lost. Man is then in danger of being uprooted. He becomes homeless on earth, because he no longer has special ties to any place in particular. He becomes an eternal fugitive in a world that impinges menacingly upon him. This is in fact the danger that threatens man today. But from this, conversely, his task is also created. If it is important for man once again to find a centre for his space, if, as is still to be shown, the fulfillment of his nature is linked to the existence of such a centre, then he will no longer find this centre as something taken for granted, but must create it himself, consciously base himself in it, and defend it against all external attacks. The creation of this centre thus becomes a decisive role for mankind. And he will fulfil this task in the making of and dwelling in his house. But the mere outward ownership of one's dwelling- place is not enough. Rather it is one's inner relationship with it that enables it to fulfil its achievement of providing security. This is what Heidegger means when he says that man needs to learn how to dwell.' The problem of the house and of dwelling now takes up the central position in our discussion of experienced space.”

-from Human Spaces by OF Bollnow

-page format resembles a hammer

438:

-page format resembles a nail

441:

footnote:

-interesting I stumbled on this quote and put it on page 434 myself

-I found it in Existence, Space, and Architecture by Christian Norberg-Schulz, who is cited

frequently throughout HoL

-Erich Katsner was a Nazi

-this is the second Nazi quoted in HoL

-first was Dagobert Frey, pg 153

464-465:

-these pages remind me of pyramids, houses for the dead, often containing maze like corridors and traps

466:

“fuit Ilium”

-Troy has been, is no more

-also used by Pelafina, pg 597

footnote L

-page 582, require fuel and oil

-presumably to start a big fire like the one that burned down Troy

“goraks”

-Tibetan word for a type of bird found on Mount Everest

-a scavenger, like a vulture

467:

-if Navidson reads at one page per minute and the book is 736 pages, he spent 12 hours and 16 minutes reading.

-if the edition he's reading was 736 pages and ours is only 709 what happened to those extra 27 pages? Or has Navidson already read them for us, as he has read 26 pages already?

468:

“stubbed toes”

-like Johnny did, see pg 72

476:

“Now I find I changed my mind..”:

-lyrics from Help by the Beatles

-“I need somebody/Not just anybody.../Help me if you can, I'm feeling down/And I do appreciate you being 'round/Help me get my FEET back on the ground”

477:

“Daisy, Daisy”

-HAL sang this song in 2001: A Space Odyssey as he was being deactivated

479:

“bar of music”

-from “When Johnny Comes Marching Home”

-Check out remake of this song by the Clash called English Civil War:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxQ_8xMa3u8

484:

page formatted like a plane

-could this be a reference to Donnie?

-Johnny's father who was a pilot

-also see Pelican Poem August 1, 1988: "the turning forms what/a bird, a plane, no.../the paraclete"

-paraclete is the name St John gave to the Holy Spirit,

-St John's Day is June 21, which is Johnny's birthday

"empty stanza"

-stanza is Italian for room, so empty room

488:

| footnote symbol

-see pg 582, means "require doctor, serious injuries"

"Ignis fatuus"

-previously used by Johnny, pg 297

-see also pg 527 "her will-o-the-wisp smile"

Ch XXI:

491:

Epigraph:

-Hornbein and Unsoeld tried to climb Mount Everest via the difficult West Ridge

-didn't succeed and Unsoeld lost his toes to frostbite.

-another quote from Hornbein: "The night was overwhelming empty, the black silhouette of the Lhotse Mountain was lurking there, half to see, half to assume, and below of us. In general there was nothing. We hung in a timeless gap, pained by an intensive cold air-and had the idea not to be able to do anything but to shiver and to wait for the sun arising."

493:

"I cannot close that fraction of space"

-see page 356, the Achilles and Tortoise paradox

"Possess"

-comes from Proto-Indo-European

-potis=master, husband

-sedeo=to hold firm

-means "to inhabit/occupy"

494:

"We jetzt kein Haus hat...":

-from Rilke's Autumn Day.

"If you have no house now, you will never build one.

If you are alone now, you will always live alone.

Reading late in the fading light. Writing letters with no end.
Wandering dark alleys.
Restless and uneasy. A leaf on the wind.”

496:

“some wicked family tree” “allegiance with Mars”
-see pg 87: “ancient bloodlines colluding” “the very aegis of Mars”

498:

“I've just found a stack of Polaroids”
-see pg 572
-are these of the Ash Tree Lane house or are these of Whalestoe?
-we are told of Johnny's visit to Whalestoe.
-could the two be the same?
 -both are surrounded by 8-foot high fences, see pg 503, 550.

500:

“Peyton Randolph House”
-the most haunted house in America
-ghost of boy who fell out of tree: Chad?
-ghost of girl who fell out of a window: Daisy?
-see pg 552, author note about killing both children

501:

“purple, I hyperventilate”
-Pelafina associated with the colour purple

“the soft clicking of Billy Reston's wheels...”

-how does Johnny know what they sound like if he's never seen the Navidson Record?

502:

“Great Faults and Splendidly Wicked People”
-real lecture
-can be found in Evil After Postmodernism
-quote: “Evil is easy; its forms are infinite; good is almost unique”

“Andrea Palladio's I Quattro Libri”

-(Dell'Architettura)
-Italian book on architecture

“Another holy Other”

-could be another holy Mother
-Lilith vs Eve
-Lilith as the mother of monsters vs Eve as the mother of man
-see pg 611: “My darling J, I remain your only Mary”

503:

“May 4...Nine Years”

- nine year anniversary of his mother's suicide
- see note for pg 262 for all the 9 references

“I say it with a German accent”

- Nein in German means no

“Whatever the fuck will be will fucking be sang momma D-Day”

- reference to Que Sera Sera sung by Doris Day
- D-Day was June 6, 1944, the day of the Normandy Landing in WWII
- see also A-bomb used in WWII

“chain link fence. Eight feet high”

- see pg 550, Ash Tree Lane house also has an eight-foot high fence

505:

“Oceanus”

- in the Iliad
- Oceanus from who the gods are sprung

“Circe”

- sister of Pasiphae, mother of the minotaur

“Nilemud”

- mud of Nile is said to have healing powers
- according to Egyptian mythology, the first man was moulded from mud from the Nile

506:

“licking its teeth, incessantly flicking its long polished nails”

- reference to Pelafina's long nails and her obsession with oral things (licking, teeth, kissing)

507:

“Encircled by Douglas fir”

- not actually a fir tree
- also called Douglas-pine, Douglas-spruce, but is also not a pine or spruce tree
- first indication that this part of the story is a lie

“the story of Dr Nowell”

- see pg 518

511:

“phantasy”

- the power or process of creating especially unrealistic or improbable mental images in response to psychological need

“ecdysiast”

- stripper

-word also used by Pelafina, pg 622

“The Happiest Place on Earth”

-reference to Disneyland

-Thumper as a Disney character

512:

“some very weird lyrics spiked through our conversation...I live alone at the end of a Five and a Half Minute Hallway”

-song by Poe

515:

“differance”:

-also misspelled this way on pg 48

516:

“Like a child, I gather up the finished book in my arms and climb out the window”

-Daisy, child rescued through a window (see pg 345)

517:

“my little eye sack”

-eye sack = Isaac, the sacrificed son

“Brahma lamb”

-Brahma in Hindu mythology is the creator

-he created his children from his mind

“those five and a half minutes”

-how long Pelafina attempted to strangle Johnny

-also length of first Hallway

518:

“what I'm remembering now”

-written in purple and crossed out

-could this be Pelafina sneaking into Johnny's text and then trying to erase her evidence?

-this comes just before the dead baby story.

519:

“curled like sea shells”

-see pg 400, Nautilus sea shell is perfect

520:

“etch a poo air”

-Ecce Puer, Look Boy in Latin.

-Poem by James Joyce: <https://poets.org/poem/ecce-puer>

CH XXII:

522:

epigraph: "Ino"

-"of the beautiful ankles"-Homer

-a maenad, known for tearing their children limb from limb

-Killed her son by boiling him and then committed suicide by jumping into the sea

-then made into a goddess

-Ino never said this, may be "I know"

523:

-see pg 550 for a missing/cut scene from this section

CH XXIII:

Epigraph:

-actual photograph

-see it here: <https://i.redd.it/hfag63zq4oa11.png>

526:

-Navidson's feet are healed and he and Karen are married

-love resides in the big toe, pg 587

527:

"her will-o-the-wisp smile"

-see pg 488, the light Navidson sees in the house

triangle footnote

-see pg 582, probably safe to land here"

-the Navidson Record ends on October 31, the same day Johnny's journals end in chapter 20

BITS:

542:

"Captain Kittinger"

-first man to solo cross the Atlantic Ocean in a gas balloon

-first man to see the curvature of the earth

-pilot and POW in Vietnam war

October 31, 1968: "The finest cenotaph"

-possibly referring to Black Power salute at 1968 Olympics

-occurred October 27 1968

"Tirer comme des lapins":

-French slang to fuck like rabbits

-OR "se faire tirere comme des lapins": to be shot like rabbits (eg very easy to shoot) like the battle at Dien Bien Phu, see pg xxii

543:

September 21, 1970: "I could create a son"

-dated 9 months before Johnny's birth

April 29, 1975: "It is 105 degrees and rising"

-this is when Johnny is 4 years old and burned by his mother

December 15, 1974: "As often as I have lingered on Hudson in his shallop..."

-see pg 136-137

544:

March 18, 1989: "M.A.s in the bush or amidst the maize":

-MA=military action

545:

October 11: "Norberg-Schulz"

-Modernist Movement Architect

-architectural phenomenology

-philosophical study of the structures of experience and consciousness

-reject the concept of objective research, analyzing human behaviour will give a greater understanding of nature

"Glas"

-written by Jacques Derrida

-quoted on pg 112 "its form and content invite a reflection on the nature of literary genre and of writing"

-Mr Leavey Jr and Mr Rand translated Glas

April 22: "An atrocity sinking into waters of darkness"

-Atrocity from atrox (terrible, cruel) and ater (matte black)

-see pg 298-300, Johnny told story of sinking ship called Atrocity

May 26: "Kutch Dekta? Kutch Nahin, Sahib"

-Hindi for What are you watching? Nothing, sir.

-common in Indian gangster movies to ensure that witnesses to a crime will say they saw nothing.

May 30: "fell in. Aye."

-Fellini, film maker

-La Strada features a character named Zampano

-Fellini said that this movie was "a complete catalogue of my entire mythological world, a dangerous representation of my identity that was undertaken with no precedent whatsoever"

546:

November 11: "Defend a stray's hun"

- defenestration see window in the text pg 119 and following
- defend a stray son, Johnny is a truant, a strayer, a runaway

547:

“the bald gnome Error”

-from *The Anxiety of Influence: A Theory of Poetry* by Harold Bloom.

-“Critics in their secret hearts love continuities, but he who lives with continuity alone cannot be a poet. The God of poets is not Apollo, who lives in rhythm of recurrence but the BALD GNOME ERROR, who lives at the back of a cave, and skulks forth only at irregular intervals to feast upon the mighty dead in the dark of the moon...Hermes ages into a bald gone, calls himself Error, and founds commerce.”

-Hermes had feathers on his ankles, but the Bald Gnome Error has “featherless ankles”

April 9: “Paralipomena”

-when a copyist makes deliberate or inadvertent alterations to the text that is being reproduced

-supplementary literary material (eg like this appendix)

Oct 2: “Seven Lamps of Architecture”

1. sacrifice: dedication of man's craft to God as visible proof of love and obedience
2. truth: honest display of materials and structure
3. power: reach forwards sublimity of nature by the action of human mind upon them
4. beauty: aspiration towards God
5. life: should be made by human hands, joy of masons associated with expressive freedom given them
6. memory: buildings should respect the culture from which they develop
7. obedience: no originality for its own sake, conform to values

December 18: “Redwood”

-Redwood was the name of a short story that MZD wrote for his dad

-his father didn't like it and discouraged MZD from writing

Appendix C

549:

top left hand corner:

-almost intelligible, may be same info relayed via Reston interview instead on pg 342

bottom right hand:

-“The last thing anyone hears from Holloway are/three short blasts followed by three long blasts/on the radio/...---/(or)/SO/?????”

-alternative ending to chapter VIII

550:

-additional information regarding ambulance found on page 523

-list at bottom right:

✓ ACTAEON--->MISLOK

- Actaeon surprised Artemis in her bath and got turned into a stag
- and in some versions then devoured by dogs
 - see Paul de Vos pg 350, painting of deer and dogs
- Mislok, mislook, sinful look.

✓ LOVE YOU MOST. BYE.

- see pg 594, P Letter sign off

✓ Mutato nomine de te fabula narratur

- “just change the name and the story is about you”, from Horace
 - meaning this could one day also happen to you

✓ tempres edax rerum

- probably tempus vs tempres
- from Ovid's Metamorphoses “time destroys all”

✓ I'm not always around but I'm never far away.

-on side:

“Pari-daeza [“wall-surrounded”]”

- from Old Iranian, pari=around, daeza=wall, Paradise
- this page describes the eight-foot fence around the Ash Tree Lane House
- see also pg 503, Whalestoe was also surrounded by an 8-foot high fence

551:

largest note

- from page 465

envelope

- braille from ch XX

typed note

chapter XVIII, similar to Tiggs/Verm diary

burned note

- see pg 335

552:

top note:

- infanticide, killing children

bottom note

- see pg 28

right side note

- list of books to be used in the exhibits section that are missing

-typed bit mentions Fellini see pg 545, "fell in. Aye." Zampano named after character in La Strada, film by Fellini

handwritten in corner of note:

-"writing more
sketching that place
to see its darkness
as if to see [illegible]
[illegible]my[illegible]
himself [illegible] the flames of my
[illegible]past"

Letter to the Editor:

-Zampano's gun as seen on pg 31

Poems: Appendix F

558:

"summer love and rootbeer"

-see pg 593, Pelafina writes "may your summer be full of root beer, joy, and play"

559:

"chiaroscuro"

-photographic technique in which one side of, for example, a face is well lit and the other is in shadow

561:

"Natasha"

-see pg 116, Lude said Johnny wrote this for a girl named Natasha

562:

"Wyeth red"

-painter

-piece called The Red House

564:

"Mes durs reves..."

-poem by Apolloniare called Horse:

"My hard, formal dreams will know just how to ride you
My destiny in a gold chariot will be your handsome driver
Who will take for reins, drawn in tight frenzy
My verses, paragons of all poetry"

for full translation of La Feuille:

<https://www.fanpop.com/clubs/house-of-leaves/articles/1693/title/la-feuille-translated-cinders>

-interesting note that in the French translation of House of Leaves, this section was translated

to Vietnamese as a nod to both Zampano and Navidson having fought in the Vietnam War

Appendix II-A:

571:

“20 cubits”

-biblical measurement

-1 Kings 6:2, directions given to King Solomon to build the first Holy House, the Jerusalem temple: 60 cubits long, 20 cubits wide, 30 cubits high

-a cubit is the length of a forearm

-Johnny has scars on his forearms.

bottom right

-footnote from pg 400

Pelican Poems

-poems written by MZD while traveling Europe

-some given to people who were kind to him.

-MZD said they “reveal things about Johnny's background and interests, so one could say they reveal something about me and my own development as a writer”

-had a Bible and Shakespeare's collected works with him

-Pelikan is a type of pen, see pg 638

-font used is Dante, same as Pelafina's

574:

“palimpsest”

-a manuscript that has been erased for reuse of paper, or a memory that has been erased and rewritten (computer term)

“Propsero's speech”

-Act 4, Scene 1, none of this is real, it's all a dream

“Our revels now are ended:

These our actors—,

As I foretold you—, were all spirits and

Are melted into air, into thin air;

And, like the baseless fabric of this vision,

The cloud-capp'd towers, the gorgeous palaces,

The solemn temples, the great globe itself,

Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve

And like this insubstantial pageant faded

Leave not a rock behind: we are such stuff

As dreams are made on, and our little life

Is rounded with a sleep.”

“and raising a sun”

-sun or son?

“and in her passing, my madness passed”
-Pelafina's death clears the path for sanity?

“Metempsychosis”
-the transmigration of the soul, reincarnation

“blind man”
-Zampano

“Gloucester”
-blinded for fathering an illegitimate son in King Lear

575:
“Hyperion”
-he who walks on high
-unfinished poem of Keats
-a personal quest to find truth and understanding
-also the Titan personification of the sun (son)

“A semiotic Eliotic dream”:
-T.S. Eliot
-poem on dreams:
“Can we only love
Something we created in our own imaginations?
Are we all in fact unloving and unloveable?
Then one is alone, and if one is alone
Then love and beloved are equally unreal
And the dreamer is no more real than his dreams.”

-also reminded me of this quote from Edgar A Poe: “All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream”

“This is the way the world ends
Not with a bang but an alarm clock”
-reference to The Hollow Men by TS Eliot
-“This is the way the world ends, not with a bang but a whimper”

“Petitgas 1857”:
-hat store in Denmark

“Easle”:
-could be easel for an artist
- or “izle” meaning spark/hot ash

576:

“1815”

-Battle of Waterloo

“brobdingnag”

-giants from Gulliver's Travels

“ce champ...”

-from Victor Hugo's The Expiation (poem about Waterloo)

-“this sinister field, the flight of the giants”

-“Melonbrick”

-see next two poems, one about a melon, the next about a brick of butter

577:

“Quisling loses himself with a compass”:

-Quisling=traitor

-Holloway got lost in the labyrinth and was a traitor

-Quisling is referenced multiple times, at least 6 times

“transubstantiation”:

-convert one substance into another

-the Doctrine of the Eucharist (the body and blood of Christ)

Tarot cards:

“Hanging Man”

-punishment for traitors, ultimate surrender/sacrifice, being suspended in time

“Moon”

-illusion, deception, something is not as it appears, unusual dreams, release of fear

“The driver grins a la St. John”

-reference to portrait of Salome holding St John's head on a platter

“paraclete”:

-advocate or helper, the Holy Spirit

-see pg 484

578:

“the circling Bacchanal”:

-Bacchanalia, drunken orgy, mystery cult dominated by women

-initiation ritual into cult symbolizes a descent into the underworld and a rebirth

-rumoured to commit child molestation and ritual murder

“There is not enough time to count all the way”:

-How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.

-poem by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

“So Jacob's death...Daily-ho. Esau”:

-whole chapter on brothers in the bible, ch XI, pg 246ff

pg 579:

“can't see

can't hear

can't find”

-see pg 388 “Noli me tangere. Noli me legere. Noli me videre. Noli me.”

-also, not included in HoL but in Whalestoe Letters separate publication, letter dated Mar 9, 1983 from Pelafina: “I can't see you. I don't remember you. I won't you.”

-may also be reference to Amazing Grace “For I was blind and now I see, for I was deaf and now I hear, for I was lost and now am found”

“uxorious man”:

-very devoted and submissive to one's wife

-uxoricide is murder of one's wife

“The catechism followed a violent protest which followed the innocent expression of a wandering idea”

-may be a reference to the 96 Theses of Luther, cause of the Reformation

“Zenethic”:

-zenith

-point in sky vertically above a given position

-highest point in the sky reached by a celestial body

580:

“Elihu”

-critic of Job in Bible (Job 32-37)

-insists divine providence is full of wisdom and mercy

-an angry young man

-disappears at end of Chapter 37

“it was the nail”

-for want of a nail, the kingdom was lost (Richard III)

“He tapped his fingers playfully on the wall—tap! tap! Tap!”

-like Jed tapping out SOS, three taps

Appendix II-C:

582:

red tape that says Yale Laboratories

-see pg 490

project ID 87852[341]

-Karen, see pg 535

Quote: "A room without books is like a body without a soul"

-from Cicero

-also quoted by H Bloom on pg 359

Page with pictures and letters:

-hornbook, a learning primer:

"V=vine, W=whale, C=cat, T=Turk, S=sun"

Picture of Borges winking

583:

article on "Shadows of the Mind: A Search for the Missing Science of Consciousness"

-science can't explain the mind completely

"The Anatomy of Mountain Ranges" by JP Schaer and J Rodgers

table is from "Physiology of Man in the Desert" by EF Adolph

Carthage Must Be Destroyed

-see pg 34

Asian writing

-in both Chinese and Japanese it means "true" "flow" "forever" or "the truth flows forever"

-it is pronounced ma-ra-ku in Japanese, which is how they'd say Mark

The Whalestoe Letters:

587:

"Also remember, love inhabits more than just the heart and mind. If need be it can take shelter in a big toe"

-Johnny stubs his toe and never finds love

-Navidson has problems with his feet but they eventually heal

-the big toe, also Whalestoe = Whale's Toe, a really big but nonexistent toe

-whale could also reference to Moby Dick, chasing some grand yet dangerous/impossible idea

-what is P's white whale?

"shape you with sloppy kisses"

-Pelafina's obsession with mouth things

-see also pg 590 "lick your wounds, swallow your hurt, and with kisses mend you whole"

589:

"nouvelle mere"

-French, new mother

"Then cast no backward glances"

-more references to Lot & Wife, or Eurydice & Orpheus

February 14, 1983, "for an eleven year old"

-we are later told that Johnny's birthday is in June

-so Johnny would've been born in 1971 (1983-12=1971)

-see pg 543

590:

"C'est vraiment triste"

-French, "It is very sad"

591:

"Modicum":

-from modus meaning measure or modicus meaning moderate

-small quantity

-"take appropriate measures"

"Ponce de Leon"

-tried to find the fountain of youth

592:

"Your letter arrived last week...I will wear it like a heart"

-this is the letter that is in the deer locket

-heart=hart, another term for deer

June 21, Johnny's Birthday

-see also pg 543, bit dated September 21, 1970, 9 months before Johnny's birth

-"I could create a son..."

"bambino dell'oro":

-Italian, baby of gold

"Born on the day most suffused with sun"

-longest day of the year

593:

the space between sign off and "Mommy" is growing

"Solomon was a poor man"

-had 700 wives and 300 concubines

-had lots of "love"

"qui patriam potestatem usurpavit"

-who usurped the power of the country/father

-connection between all father figures in Johnny's life is that they were soldiers

-Donnie fought in the Pacific

-Zampano fought in Indo-China war/Vietnam war

-Raymond was a marine

“pugilism”

-boxing

594:

“accouterments of Mars”

-see also “in allegiance with Mars” (pg 495)

-“the very aegis of Mars” (pg 87)

“‘Changeling’--did your COED teach you that one?”

-used by Johnny, pg 49,

-is P replying to Johnny's writings from the future?

-also references COED on pg 35

595:

Old English:

-“Great is the fear of the Lord, before which the world stands still”

-from the Seafarer

-see also pg 605

596:

“Lear”

-reference to blind father

-theme of parent-child love

“your pacific father”

-should that be Pacifist

-is this a reference to battles in the Pacific arena, eg Vietnam (Dien Bien Phu)

597:

“semper fi”

-always faithful

-motto of Marines

“Hecate”

-goddess of magic and spells

-witnessed abduction of Persephone to the underworld and helped search for her

-pillars called Hecataea stood at crossroads and doorways to keep evil spirits away

“Acheron”

-the river of woe

-one of the 5 rivers of the Greek underworld

-the entrance to the Underworld

-in Dante's Inferno, the Acheron forms the border of Hell

“Clytemnestra”

-killed her husband after he sacrificed their daughter

-tried to kill her own son

“Fuit Ilium”

-Troy has been/Troy is no more

“Ira furor brevis est”

-not included “animum rege: qui nisi paret imparet”

-Anger is a brief madness, govern your mind for unless it obeys, it commands.

598:

“Claudius”

-from Hamlet

-killed his brother and married his sister in law

-was killed by Hamlet

-see also pg 21, Shakespearean mother

“Ugolino”

-known as betrayer of kin

-ate his children after they died when being left to starve to death

-referenced in Dante's Inferno

599:

“Hawthorne's faith...pink ribbons”:

-read Young Goodman Brown by Nathaniel Hawthorne

-Brown dreams his wife, Faith, is a witch and his whole world is not what he thinks

-Faith wears pink ribbons in her hair

-“My Faith is gone...There is no good on earth and sin is but a name. Come devil; for to thee is this world given”

-see also pg 523 Karen's pink ribbons

“Apollo”:

-god of archery, music, truth, healing, the Sun

-Apollo's arrows shot the monster Python, a serpent living at the centre of the earth guarding the Omphalos at the Delphic Oracle

-Python was the son of Gaia, Apollo had to kill him to take his rightful place.

“Odysseus”

-hero of the Odyssey

-journey home took ten years

“Hermes”:

-see notes on Bald Gnome Error

-protector of travellers

-move freely between worlds of mortal and the divine

-guides souls to the afterlife

-referenced directly or indirectly multiple times throughout HoL

“pisces”

-should be "pieces"
-same mistake made on pg 41

600:

"double dunk you in the river Styx so neither head nor heel could ever suffer again"

-Achilles mother dunked him into the river Styx to make him invulnerable
-but had to hold onto him by the heel which became his weakness
-both Johnny and Navidson have problems with their feet

601:

Old English

-"Heart must be braver, courage the bolder, mood the stouter, as our strength grows less"
-from The Battle of Maldon
-see also pg 71, Maldon or no Maldon mentioned by Johnny

"Honi soit qui mal y pense"

-Shame be to him who thinks evil of it, said by Edward III of England

603:

Line

-in between the lines Pelafina doesn't sign with her usual "Mommy"

604:

"Orpheus"

-went to the afterlife to retrieve, Eurydice, his wife,
-was told not to look back, but he did and she was sent back to the afterlife
-separated forever

"Si nunca tes fueras"

-Spanish, if you never were/if you never left

606:

"the only son I have"

-"For God so LOVED the world that he gave his ONLY begotten SON that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16)
-do we believe in Johnny or not?

"Rompido mi muñeca"

-Spanish, I broke my doll/wrist
-also a euphemism for I slit my wrists

608:

"Particularly fond of Dishing out Poached Portions Dolloped with Dill sauce"

-P and D alliteration
-P=Pelafina
-D=Donnie

609:

“in your next letter a check mark in the lower right hand corner”

-see page 97

-Johnny replying to P's letters?

-next letter P acknowledges the check mark

611:

“My darling J, I remain your only Mary”

-Jesus and Mary

-Mother Mary or Mary Magdalene, or both?

613:

“Fortes fortuna juvat”

-Latin, Fortune favours the bold

614:

“Mrs Havisham's wedding dress”:

-up in flames

“untie the world”

-untie or unite

615:

“Madder”

-rose madder

-may cause birth defects and miscarriages

“Azure”

-between blue and cyan,

-colour of the sky

-blue pill could refer to the Matrix?

“Celadon”

-pale-green blue

-named after a shepherd who wore green ribbons (Honore d'Urfe L'Astree)

-could be Aripiprazole, antipsychotic used to treat schizophrenia

“Gamboge”

-deep saffron to mustard yellow

-also a laxative

“many years destroyed. Endless arrangements—re. Zealous accommodations, medical prescriptions, & needless other wonders, however obvious—debilitating in deed; you ought understand—letting occur such evil?”

-acrostic code

-My dear Zampano, who did you lose?

“practicing my smile in a mirror”
-like Karen, see pg 316

616:
“la grima!”:
-Spanish “lagrima”, tear drop

617:
“the woman you lingered with was not me”
-possibly Johnnie, mother of all strays
-Eve vs Lilith, pg 266-269

618:
“esprit de l'escalier”:
-thinking of the perfect reply too late, aka **staircase** wit

“Busca me, cuida me, requerda me”
-Spanish, look for me, take care of me, need/require me

620:
“rectopathic”:
-one who is easy to hurt emotionally

“oneiric”
-relating to dreams

“irenic”
-aiming at peace, conciliation

“antinomies”
-a contradiction between 2 beliefs

“Hamlet”
-see pg 598

622:
“taklamakan”
-desert in China

“educible”
-to draw or bring out, to infer or work out from given facts

“ecdysiasts”
-stripper
-reference to Thumper

For coded letter transcribed see:

<https://www.deviantart.com/pyrsin7/art/Whalestoe-Letter-Decoded-308334417>

Another code in the letter, if you pull out the capital letters:

-“A FACE IN A CLOUD. NO TRACE IN THE CROWD.”

623:

“wordms”

-words/worms

624:

“Yo soy una extrana en esta lugar sin ti”

-Spanish, I am a stranger in this place without you.

625:

the blue X

-see pg 582, unable to proceed

-X=Greek literary technique, chiasmus

-eg fair is foul and foul is fair

-the new director is actually the old director

626:

“dell'oro, del oro, deloro”

-Italian/Spanish, echoes of gold

-dell'oro: Italian, of their

-del oro: Italian, of the gold

-deloro: Spanish, of gold

627:

“I never meant to burn you”

-source of Johnny's scars

628:

Head of letter

-could read “DEAD” or “DEAR”

“or free us”

-Orpheus

“you rid a sea”

-Eurydice

-fun fact, Eurydice is a nymph, associated with trees, leaves

629:

“put my hands around your throat...”

-Pelafina tried to strangle Johnny

-this is why Donnie placed her in the Whalestoe

630:

“I had long, ridiculous purple nails”

-colour purple associated with Pelafina

631:

“Cause in Latin he's practically fluent”

-see page 89, Johnny only speaks English “my only tongue”

632-634:

The Grand Staircase too much to explain written, see my video on this page:

<https://youtu.be/0lwO41Og9GU>

pg 633:

“thaumaturgy”

-capability of a magician to work magic or of a saint to perform miracles

“lemoine”

-French surname meaning monk

“vexillology”

-study of flags

“cimmerian”

-ancient mythical people who lived in perpetual fog and darkness

“quisling”

-traitor

“paralipomena”

-things omitted from a work or added as a supplement

“prolix”

-using or containing too many words

“paraclete”

-Holy Spirit, advocate, helper

“cwm”

-steep sided hollow

“lines ostracized virgin evenings”

-acrostic code: LOVE

-if you count words before and words after, this is the centre

-love is at the centre of everything

634:

Line

- after this she goes back to signing letters “mommy”
- see next page, she's back on treatment

636:

“Saint Elizabeth was right to warn us from the rooms of Bedlam”:

- Bedlam was a famous madhouse
- see poem Visits to St. Elizabeth by Elizabeth Bishop
- last verse:

“This is the soldier home from the war
These are the years and the walls and the door
that shut on a boy that pats on the floor
to see if the world is round or flat.
This is a Jew in a newspaper hat
that dances carefully down the ward
walking the plank of a coffin board
with the crazy sailor
that shows his watch
that tells the time
of the wretched man
that lies in the house of Bedlam”

637:

“Victoria Lucas”

- pseudonym used by Sylvia Plath to publish the Bell Jar so her mother wouldn't know she wrote it
- full quote from her journal after being hospitalized for depression: “a time of darkness, despair, disillusion—so black only as the inferno of the human mind can be—symbolic death, and numb shock—then the painful agony of slow rebirth and psychic regeneration.”

“Anaxagoras”

- the universe is made up of a substance that could be divided infinitely or forever, this principle is what he called the mind
- the mind “nous” set unarranged matter into motion and created order from it.

638:

“a Pelican pen”

- see the Pelican poems
- Pelikan is a brand of pen.

640:

“Amethyst”:

- worn by ancient Greeks, to keep one sober
- shade of purple

“Heliotrope”:

- helios (sun or son), trepein (to turn), turn to sun (son)
- Ovid myth: Clytie in love with the sun god, Helios, was betrayed by him and transformed into

this flower
-purple

“Lilac”:
-genus Syringa
-from Greek Syrinx, means tube or hollow branches (like a hallway)
-shade of purple

641:
“I”
-sounds like hell

642:
“Sibyl of Cumae”
-she spurned Apollo's advances and was doomed to live for generations until only her voice remained
-prophesied by writing on oak LEAVES
-guide to the underworld
-foretold coming of saviour (Christ), see pg 606
-From The Waste Land “For I indeed once saw with my own eyes the Sibyl at Cumae hanging in her jar, and when the boys asked her, 'Sibyl, what do you want?'. She answered, 'I want to die’”.
-she dies after this letter

643:
“Pelafina”
-Spanish, thin strips (pages?)

“Lievre”
-French, Hare/rabbit
-Thumper
-sounds like Livre, French for book

pg 644:
“one jewelry”
-see pg 350, locket deer shaped
-contains a letter from Johnny
-see pg 410, Johnny sells locket pendant
-see pg 511, Johnny gives gold chain to Thumper

Appendix III

658:
“The Works of Hubert Howe Bancroft”
-it was determined that much of the work he claimed to have written was actually written by other people

659:

“Tyler Martin”

-a real artist but I can't seem to find an active page for him

-“Magoo-Zine” could be a reference to Mr Magoo, a blind cartoon character

660-661:

-can't find any real life references to them

662:

-actually taken by Poe, MZD's sister

Yggdrasil

709:

-Sonnet to Orpheus by Rilke: https://www.sonnetstoorpheus.com/book1_1.html

“There rose a tree...a shelter of darkest longing”

Yggdrasil:

-an ash tree that splits into every known reality

-translates to Odin's Steed (see pg 564, poem by Apollinaire is titled Horse)

-Odin hung himself for 9 days on the tree in order to acquire knowledge of the Runic alphabet