

Prologue: Pages 1-4

- We learn about Rolly Tambara and Tuure, who is the pirate leader on the condemned ship.
- Tuure has a weird sense of humor and is a snaggle-toothed elderly pirate
- We learn that the main character (or narrator) is a journalist from America, and there are hostages from Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam and more.

Part one: Pages 8-48

- The first part gives background to what Michael is doing there, and he talks with Ashwin, who is an award-winning documentary maker. Michael plans to stay in a nice hotel, and to write a piece on piracy.
- To provide background information on his life, he talks about his father and mother, who met in Germany (where Michael lives). His father and mother met when his father was on a stint in Europe for Lockheed. His father was an aerospace engineer in Los Angeles.
- His father was an alcoholic and smoked a lot, and I think that's why, in the prologue when one of the crew members offers Michael a cigarette, he says no.
- Michael became fascinated with piracy in this day and age, and he researched many stories about the hijackings the Somali pirates did
- He followed a court case about pirates in 2011, and another case (the Hamburg case) and these cases led him to wanting to go to Somalia
- Michael spoke with a Somali government official (President Alin) and he promised he would try to spread the word out that Somalia needs help from abroad because of their collapsing government.
- After some encounters with people who lived in Galkayo, he said the mood there was weary, sarcastic but freewheeling. He compared it to the Wild West
- Hamid, the Mayor of Hobyo's lieutenant tells Michael that there is a rumor going around that the pirate lord wants him kidnapped, and that he is offering a 15 million dollar reward for him. Though, he reassures Michael and says the rumor is probably false.
- Michael and Ashwin were guests of the president, so I think that immediately makes them known around town, and that must be how the pirates found out.
- Khat is mentioned in this book a lot already, and to my understanding it is a plant that is a stimulant that causes euphoria (so basically a drug). Michael tried some.
- They start to get watched by pirates
- Michael and Ashwin get invited to lunch by a Sa'ad family member, and he urges Michael and Ashwin to let others help Somalia
- They meet a real pirate who goes by the name of Mustaf Mohammed Sheikh. Ashwin and Michael interview him and Mustaf claims that white people are attacking Somalia by

dumping poison on their shores. “As soon as they stop leaving poison on our own beaches and taking fish from our seas, we will stop hijacking ships.”

- Michael asks the pirate when his career as a pirate started and he said it was when a Danish ship sunk his boat and his brother was killed ten years ago.
- They get kidnapped by pirates and Michael attempts to fend them off, but they knock him out and it is no use

Part two: Pages 52-84

- Michael is taken to an outdoor camp where he is being held hostage for a temporary time, before getting tossed into the back of a car and moved to a filthy decrepit house where other hostages were kept.
- The pirates gave him a mattress and a cup of coffee and some food, but the beans were cooked in well water, which caused Michael to get sick and throw up.
- Michael says his wrist got broken to the translator, and he replies with “I will submit your request”, so hopefully Michael gets medical attention.
- The guards gave him shampoo, a towel, toothpaste and some mango drinks as well as new clothes. I think that, even though he is a hostage, it is not Michael they are after, they seem to be taking care of him, like they need him alive. That’s why I believe they are doing this for the money, not to just take random people and harm them.
- The FBI informs his mother about his kidnapping
- Michael definitely is more confident than I would be when talking to his kidnapers who are Somali pirates. He told one of the pirates that the coffee was disgusting.
- They got a doctor for Michael’s wrist, and he gave Michael a splint made of bamboo and purple cloth.
- Two days after Michael’s capture, American troops rescued two kidnapped aid workers.
- We get to meet a fellow hostage of Michael’s who ends up being Rolly from the prologue.
- They go into a garden that Michael refers to as “the garden of pointless torture” and a car was waiting for him. Ahmed Dirie, a pirate gets beaten by two other guys and another man, Duulaay orders Michael and Rolly out of the car, and smacks Michael in the head with a flashlight.
- A Somali man noticed Michael was having trouble sleeping, and offers him his coat as a blanket. The man’s name is revealed to be Angelo.
- Rolly tells Michael about a man named Marc who got tortured by the pirates and he says “These men are crazy, we are like the devil, they are like God, Michael. You can’t tell them nothing.”
- We are introduced to another pirate named Abdinasser and he isn’t as bitter and sarcastic as the other pirates. Which is interesting, he does seem kinder than the others though.

- Michael keeps going back to what Boodiin had told him, “You have made a mistake, mistakes are human.” I feel as though this will come up as a motif of sorts for this book.
- The pirates tell Michael that they are calling his family, and Michael must tell his mom he will be up for a 20 million dollar ransom. The pirates threaten that if his mother (who obviously doesn't have 20 million dollars around) doesn't have the money, they will stop giving him food and water.
- The one pirate, Omar, thinks Michael is a spy, but Michael tells him he is not.

Part three: Pages 88-141

- Michael overhears the pirates praying, and reveals that he never saw pirates as religious.
- Angelo and Michael see a helicopter, and Michael has a sudden feeling of hope that he will get rescued.
- Ali's brother and Michael get into a little fight but the other Somali's lecture him quietly, as there is a plane nearby that is circling around, and the pirates think its coming for Michael, and so does he.
- While Michael, Angelo and Rolly are eating, an argument breaks out when a shipment of Khat arrives at the house they are staying in now.
- A riot broke out about food and Michael thinks he is going to die.
- Michael reflects on his dad's death, he committed suicide.
- Michael meets Mohamed, the main negotiator for Michael's kidnapping. Mohamed says he needs a letter from President Obama with an official seal from the White House
- Garfanji another pirate is like robin hood, and this is a connection between my interview with a somali pirate article I read, I think they think they are heroes.
- Rolly and Michael are in a car, and the car (because it's not that sturdy and safe) loses a wheel.
- The pirates hid Rolly and Michael because they saw a NATO warship
- At the end of part three, Michael starts to consider suicide.

Part four: Pages 144-196

- Michael and Rolly are on a ship now with some hostages of Asian descent. They get fed a bigger meal than they had had in months.
- A hostage thought Michael was a pirate because he was white.
- Michael tries ginger oil, a natural supplement that is supposed to heal injuries, because his spine got injured on the skiff.
- Tuure offers Michael whiskey and he accepts the offer

- “Asian and European ships have exploited Somalia’s rich fisheries for decades/this foreign heist of live fish represents a disgusting crime against people who can hardly feed themselves.” This was a very important quote from the book because it really shows why they are so keen on protecting the oceans.
- A pirate tells Michael that they have to go because helicopters are surrounding the ship.
- Michael considers leaping off the boat.
- The pirates tell Michael and Rolly that, in three days, if the money isn’t paid, they will die.
- One of the pirates tells Michael that tomorrow he will get his plane ticket home (I think this means that if the money is paid, he will go home).
- Dag, a pirate, tells Michael that if his family doesn’t send the money he will be sold to al-Shabaab
- Rolly is getting beaten with a bamboo cane because he will not say he is Israeli.
- Michael is getting sold to al-Shabaab within three days if they don’t get the money

Part five: Pages 196-

- Michael made five “I am alive” videos in Somalia and one of them were published on a website that became a well-known clip as him as a hostage
- Michael reminisces about time with his family and how much he misses them.
- A pirate whom everyone called Big Jacket shut down everyone’s bathroom privilege when Tuure left for shore leave.
- Michael starts to wake up earlier on the ship and talks with Qiong Kuan, who taught him a little bit Chinese, and Michael taught him a bit of English.
- The story of the hostage that committed suicide haunts Michael everyday, maybe it is because his dad also committed suicide
- Michael learns more about Buddhism and what they believe.
- Rolly said this about the pirates “They not evil, Michael, they just not know.”
- A somali guard provides supplies such as shampoo, detergent and cigarette lighters.
- Rolly and Michael were called Tom and Jerry because they enjoyed bickering with each other.
- His mom gets to call him and she asks if she can send a care package
- Michael tries to tell his mom what’s happening in German mixed with English, but it doesn’t work because the line isn’t that good and she couldn’t really hear him
- Michael asks Rolly that if he found a way off the ship, would Rolly go with him, and he says he doesn’t want to leave Marc or anyone else behind.
- The pirates celebrate a liberation day (in Somalia) that they are free.
- Michael makes a new friend, Korn Vanthy and he hangs around him and Rolly.

- A rumor is circulating around that in five days, this entire ship would be set free. However, this turned out to be false.
- Michael jumps off the boat in an attempt to escape, and he waits for gunshots, but there were none. The pirates got him back on the ship and gave him warm water and did not harm him, but he was given three weeks of solitary confinement in his cabin.

Part six: Pages 258-

- We go back to the quote “You have made a mistake, mistakes are human” motif.
- Ali Duulaay beat Michael up with a club and his fist
- Michael is now being held hostage by the family that captured him. A man named Faud says that he is in no danger if his family is cooperative
- His mother calls him and he tells her in German that he is staying in the place where he first got captured
- A pirate tells Michael’s mother quote: “I must assure you that kidnapers holding your son are the most ignorant and not like civilized pirates we used to see.”
- The boss decreases Michael’s ransom to 19,800,000 as opposed to the original 20 million.
- Two pirates learn yoga with Michael, and they are having a great time learning.
- Michael has to make a video to the U.N. stating his name, his state of health and give a message to them.
- Rolly and Marc get set free for 4 million dollars each
- Michael requests a pair of glasses in the U.N. message
- Michael reflects on how he misses his father
- Michael gets sick and cannot eat and tells the pirates he needs to see a doctor.
- He got blood work done and tested positive for Malaria and typhoid, and he was given medication
- Michael misses Rolly and Marc
- A famine in Somalia killed thousands of people in 2011-2012
- Bashko, another pirate and Michael are talking about being Muslim, and Michael tells Bashko that because he is a thief, that doesn’t line up with the religion, Bashko says “I am Muslim, but I am also thief. Why? Because in Somalia, hungry-problem.”

Part seven: Pages 300-343

- Michael talks about his grandmother who lived in a Dutch village called Linne
- Michael says that, before his kidnapping, he had lived in a twilight between privilege and poverty.

- Michael's mother tells him they are still working but making progress and it will be another couple of months. Michael tells her that he has been here for too long.
- He has been living in Somalia for almost a year now
- These pirates are way more cruel than the other one's he was with. They locked his feet in chains and Michael says they treated him like a herd animal.
- Michael went on a hunger strike because of his being in chains and one of the pirates losing his key to the chains. He decided to eat when the men let him loose from his chains.
- The pirates decided to get Michael restaurant food so he would eat, but he refused even when they offered nicely.
- They take him out of his chains, and Michael eats again.
- They moved into a house in Galkayo in the spring of 2013.
- Hashi, a pirate, is kind and low-key, and never does Michael harm or makes jokes at his expense.
- Hashi gives Michael a notebook, and Michael is happy to write again.
- Madobe another pirate slaps Michael and the other pirates put him in chains and smacks him.
- The bosses' demand for money lowered to eight million, to six and even five at some point.
- Michael's mom starts to assemble money from friends, family, magazines Michael had worked for, various US and German institutions but still the funding was limited.
- It is Ramadan, which means the members of the house who are Muslim are fasting in between sunrise and sunset.
- Michael considers suicide again.
- Michael's grandmother has passed away, and he is mourning but trying not to show emotion while the pirates are around.

Part eight: Pages 348-408

- It has been over a year and a half since Michael's kidnapping, and he reflects on all the things he has missed such as the new pope, Hurricane Sandy, Syria's deepening civil war and Gore Vidal's death.
- Michael starts to pray and read the bible
- After Nelson Mandela's death, the guards were in a state of shock, he was their hero who fought against white supremacy
- There is a cat and Michael feeds him some canned tuna and some milk. He names the cat Jack or Julianne if it is a girl
- Near the end of 2013, Micheal's ransom was in negotiations again.

- Laundry becomes a comforting ritual for Michael and he thinks about every African person he has ever met like Rolly, Ahmed Dirie and others.
- Michael needs to see a doctor again because Madobe pulls a mat from under his feet and he injures his shin.
- Michael goes on another hunger strike and tells them, no doctor, no chum-chum
- It was day seven when they finally got a doctor for Michael, and his shin is not broken.
- It has been two years since the kidnapping
- Michael meets Abduwali who is a friend of Farhaan
- Michael continues writing recipes in the notebook that he got from Bashko.
- A pirate tells Michael that today he is free, and he sees a text message that says “Tell Michael we will bring him back to Dunckerstrasse in Berlin”
- Night comes and he has not been set free.
- Michael is watching the World Cup on the BBC.
- There has been a labor strike in South Africa
- Michael calls his mother and some other people and he reveals his location in German
- Michael gets told he is going free again, and he has a car for him outside. He is told to pack his bags so that he can leave.
- Michael is told his mother is in a hotel in Galkayo and that they are going there and then the airport.
- His mother is actually in California but Michael is still free. Derek, the pilot gets ready for takeoff.

Part nine: Pages 412-444

- Michael is on the plane and Derek says he knows two of his friends, Rolly and Marc.
- An FBI psychologist talks to Michael and Michael asks if he is here because they think he has PTSD, and the psychologist, Carl, says they don't like to label anything
- Michael calls his mom and they celebrate his freedom
- Two days after Michael left Galkayo, a bunch of pirate bosses held a meeting and there was a massacre and many of the men who had held Michael captive died.
- Michael flies home to Berlin with two BKA agents and three people from the FBI
- His friends celebrate his return and he finally sees his mother in person
- Michael walks around Berlin and continues seeing Carl
- He gets a facebook message from Mohammed Tahliil, the boss from the Hoby group. He writes that he hopes Michael is doing well and he tells him about the pirate massacre
- He also contacts Ashwin again
- He talked with Gerlach for a bit, but after Michael showed him a photo of Dhuxul, he left and never spoke to Michael again.
- In late 2015, he flies out to see Rolly and his daughter

