

While Mnemosyne helps to break down the barriers between your mind and the minds of your fellow patients, it also weakens the barriers between the compartments of your mind. Memories, dreams, books, movies—all of these may mix together. To help you distinguish fact from fiction, we have prepared this guide to the world you live in. You may treat the following statements about the world as true:

- **It is the early twenty-first century.** Technology—cars, planes, com-puter networks, mobile phones, etc.—has not advanced beyond your hazy familiarity with it, nor has humanity been thrown into a new dark age.
- **The world is a mundane place.** Its wonders and terrors come from simple and personal things, like the birth of a child or the death of a loved one. Rest assured that you are not haunted by spirits, nor are you tormented by aliens.
- **You are a normal, everyday person.** This isn't to say that you might not be a remarkable individual, but feats like leaping across rooftops or reading people's minds are simply impossible. You are not an action hero, nor are you a Greek god.
- **Your condition was caused by physiological or psychological trauma surrounding events in your personal life.** It was not caused by a shadowy government conspiracy or similar organization.

We hope that this will aid you in recovering your identity. If you have difficulties with this, you may also refer the **How Do You Deal with Inconsistent Memories Among the Group?** sidebar in **Chapter Three** (p. 36). Please know that we are monitoring your progress throughout the treatment; though, for reasons already explained, we cannot intervene during it. Should you accidentally recall false memories, we will collect you once the process is complete and attempt your treatment again with a new therapy group. Our goal is to help you remember how to be the functional member of society you once were.