America's First Daughter Study Guide

America's First Daughter by Laurie Kamoie and Stephanie Dray

BOOKRAGS

Contents

Plot Summary

Note: This study guide specifically refers to America's First Daughter (Paperback, First Edition 2016), written by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie and published by William Morrow/HarperCollins.

America’s First Daughter is a historical novel by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie. The story recounts most of the life of Martha “Patsy” Jefferson, daughter of Thomas Jefferson. The novel begins one day after Thomas Jefferson has died in 1826, as Patsy begins the long task of sifting through her father’s letters and papers to prepare them for publishing. She is destroying any letters that could be considered damaging to his stature and reputation. It is work Patsy has always done because her life's mission is to protect her father.

The novel then reverts back in time. It is 1781, and Thomas Jefferson is the governor of Virginia. The Revolutionary War is raging. As a child, Patsy is living with her father, her mother (Martha), and her sister (Polly) at Monticello, Jefferson’s mountaintop estate. British troops are attempting to seize Jefferson. So, the family must flee. They are accompanied and guarded by a distant relative, twenty-two year-old William Short, who also serves in the Virginia Legislature. Not long after the event, Patsy’s mother dies. Before she dies, she makes Patsy promise to always watch over and protect her father and family. Patsy readily agrees to this.

When the American government selects Thomas Jefferson to serve as diplomat to France, Jefferson takes on William Short as both protégé and secretary. In Paris, Patsy comes of age as a teenager, witnesses the French Revolution, and falls in love with William. William proposes marriage to her, but Patsy turns him down in order to return to Virginia with her father. She is intent on fulfilling her duty of protecting her father. Duty and loyalty to family come above all else to Patsy.

In Virginia, Tom Randolph, a wealthy young man who is passionate, impetuous, and prone to moodiness, marries Patsy instead. Tom, who is shunned and treated cruelly by his own father, comes to look at Thomas Jefferson as a surrogate father while. Randolph is determined to make his own way in life to prove himself as a man worthy of Patsy. As the years pass, Patsy watches as both Tom and her father expand their service in politics –with Tom becoming a congressman and Jefferson becoming President of the United States. Patsy struggles to protect the reputation of both her father and Tom from family scandal and political opposition. She shields the family name from those who would seize any chance to smear it. To accomplish this, Patsy does everything from lying in court to destroying letters referencing things like Jefferson’s romantic relationship with his slave, Sally Hemings. Patsy is troubled that she must do immoral things against God to protect her husband and especially her father. However, she remembers the promise she made to her mother so many years before.

As the years pass, Patsy bears Tom twelve children. Polly, Patsy's sister, dies of complications after having a few children of her own. Tom, who is never able to get ahead because he cannot measure up to his own expectations, becomes an abusive and violent drunk toward Patsy. Eventually, Patsy and Tom become estranged because of Tom's behavior. Jefferson steps in to protect Patsy and all of his grandchildren, even as financial troubles mean Monticello must be sold soon. The family is secretly propped up from money given to Jefferson by William Short, who has since had a successful diplomatic career and become vastly wealthy in investments. Patsy’s own daughter, Ann, is in an abusive marriage which results in her death.

Just before Tom dies, Patsy and her children reconcile with him so that he can die in peace. Jefferson dies in 1826, and the novel returns to the present. Patsy finishes gathering her father’s items for a book that is to published. The book will establish Jefferson's legacy. Monticello is boarded up to be sold. It is then that William Short reenters Patsy's life, and the two renew their romance from many years ago. Patsy goes on to serve as First Lady for the widowed President Andrew Jackson. Patsy sees her children living happy, successful lives.

Note to Readers – Part One, Chapter 7

Summary

Note to Readers – The authors explain they have used letters to and from Thomas Jefferson and his daughter, Patsy, to form the core of the novel. However, the authors' own words directly drive the plot.

Thomas Jefferson explains to Robert Walsh in a letter dated April 5, 1823, that letters form the best and only genuine journal of his life.

July 5, 1826 – Patsy Jefferson stands in her father's room the day after he was buried. She reflects on how the daughters of the sons of the American Revolution have given their souls for their fathers. She finds a sketch of the grave her father wanted, remembering him not as president but as author of the Declaration of Independence, author of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, and as Father of the University of Virginia. She glances at the cabinet where her father has carefully kept the letters of his life. Sally Hemings enters the room, determined to keep some of the things which meant so much to her and to Jefferson –including a jeweled shoe buckle from France, an inkwell, and glasses. Patsy knows Sally deserves more than this. Sally surrenders the keys to Jefferson's chambers, while Patsy must set to work memorializing her father in words exactly how he wanted. To do so, she knows she will be lying in many respects. But, she also knows that she has defied God before now. She commits to the task because she knows she is not only the daughter of her father, but the daughter of the country he founded –both which must be protected.

Part One: The Dutiful Daughter

Chapter 1 – It is late spring, 1781. Thomas Jefferson is governor of Virginia. Patsy is eight years old. The Jefferson household of Monticello outside Charlottesville is awakened with news that Colonel Tarleton and the British dragoons are approaching. The household is put in chaos, as many guests staying at Monticello are elected officials who have taken refuge at Monticello. Jefferson urges all to remain calm and to leave in good order, saying the darkness and the mountains will slow the British advance. Jefferson quickly sees his wife (Martha, in ill-health after having a miscarriage), Patsy, and Polly (Jefferson's youngest daughter, Mary "Polly" Jefferson) off in a carriage bound for Enniscorthy (the estate of John Coles), but remains behind to secure his papers. Twenty-two year-old William Short, a young elected official and distant relative of Jefferson's wife, is ordered to guard the carriage. William keeps a gun at hand but reassures everyone that they have managed to escape in time.

Jefferson catches up to the carriage, confirming that he has seen British troops moving toward Monticello. He then rides ahead to make sure the way is clear. They are met, guided, and protected for a short way by their friend Mr. Joplin of Joplin's Tavern. Then, they decide to take refuge with their friend, Mr. Rose, at his estate. Mr. Rose and

William Short know how valuable Jefferson is as the author of independence and how he is being targeted by the British for this. Patsy is proud, yet terrified, for her father. A week later, word comes that the Jefferson estate of Elk Hill has been razed, while only some wine and some slaves are missing from Monticello. Many people in the area have suffered at the hands of the British, and Jefferson fears he will go down in history as a coward unable to stop the British.

William returns to convene with the Virginia legislature while Jefferson takes his family into hiding in an old, quiet farm that has been in the family for years. There, Jefferson demands his white overseer take a gentle hand with the slaves, for should the slaves decide to rebel or side with the British, they will be helpless. When William returns, he reports that a legislative session was unable to be convened and that a motion among present members was passed by Patrick Henry to investigate Jefferson's fleeing. Jefferson feels as if his honor is gone, but William explains Jefferson can save himself by accepting an appointment as Minister to France. Martha begs her husband to decline and to retire to private life because she is sick of the political life. Jefferson, even though he is determined to serve his country and restore his honor, rejects the appointment out of respect to Martha.

Chapter 2 – It is now May, 1782. Martha falls terribly ill giving birth to baby Lucy. Martha makes her daughter Patsy promise to watch over her father as it is only a matter of time before Martha dies. Patsy promises to care for Polly and Lucy, too. Martha urges Patsy not to live life heartbroken over her death. Meanwhile, Patsy overhears her father arguing with men who want him to serve in the Virginia legislature, telling them he was elected to office without his consent and that he will not leave his wife. Patsy listens to her mother asking her father never to marry again. Jefferson promises he will not. Martha dies soon after, and her death devastates everyone, even the slaves. Jefferson himself becomes very depressed, and Patsy worries he may commit suicide. Patsy comes to stay by his side no matter what he is doing. Aunt Elizabeth also does her best to watch over the family. William Short comes to visit. He defends Jefferson's reputation against those who speak ill of him, or speak candidly of his current situation.

Chapter 3 – To help get over their sadness, Patsy and her father take to riding in the woods. When Patsy falls from the horse one day, it is William Short who helps her up. Jefferson has William bring Patsy back to Monticello because she appears to have a concussion. William worries that Jefferson is depending too much on his daughter for emotional support, especially since Patsy has also suffered the loss of Martha. Patsy is angry about this, but William asks her about who has been looking after her own sense of loss. The household slaves believe that Jefferson has lost his mind, but Mammy Ursula silences them. Dr. Gilmer arrives later to inoculate the Jeffersons against smallpox. Patsy asks her father about becoming ill from the inoculation. Jefferson gently explains that science in this situation is sound in that they must suffer a milder form of the illness to guard against the actual illness. He explains that pain only makes people stronger.

Chapter 4 – It is early winter, 1782. Thomas Jefferson searches for a ship willing to carry him to France where he will stay until Britain surrenders and makes peace with

America. Jefferson is getting better, but Patsy can still see he is sad. They pay a visit to their family, the Randolphs, including Jefferson's childhood friend, Colonel Randolph. There, Patsy speaks with Tom, the eldest Randolph child, who claims to be descended from Pocahontas and from English royalty. Jefferson encourages Patsy to try to get along with Tom. Patsy finds the Randolphs disagreeable. She tells her father she wants to be taken with him wherever he goes. Jefferson and Patsy leave the Randolphs. Soon after, Jefferson is elected to Congress and travels to where Congress is convened in Annapolis. Patsy is left in Philadelphia under the care of Mrs. Hopkinson, a good woman and housewife, even though Patsy longs to be with her father. While he is away, Jefferson leaves a strict guide for Patsy which includes everything from a schedule for studies to keeping clean. In May, Jefferson finally comes for Patsy. He has been named as an envoy to France, and he will be taking her with him.

Chapter 5 – It is autumn, 1784. Jefferson, Patsy, and their slave Jimmy Hemings come to Paris. They are impressed and amazed by the size, style, and scope of Paris. The next morning, Jefferson and Patsy visit with John and Abigail Adams, part of the American envoy delegation already in Paris. Mrs. Adams counsels the Jeffersons to have new clothes made that are presentable in French society and will represent America well. Mrs. Adams kindly oversees dressmaking selections for Patsy, who begins to assert herself by talking about the things she likes and dislikes. In her first dress, Patsy is thrilled to see her father smile in approval at her. As she is nearly twelve, Patsy believes she is old enough to run a household for Papa. So, she does not want to attend school. Her father, however, makes sure that Patsy goes to school.

The Marquis de Chasetellux arranges for Patsy to attend school at the Abbaye Royale de Panthemont, alongside two of the French royal princesses. Another American girl in attendance, Kitty Church, teases Patsy about Jefferson who owns slaves but talks about freedom. Many of the other girls mock Patsy for this, which upsets Patsy. A French girl named Marie does befriend Patsy, for which Patsy is grateful. Soon after, William Short joins the Americans in Paris as secretary to Jefferson. When Short visits at the school to pay tuition, the girls all develop crushes on him, and Patsy's standing improves greatly. As she sees more and more of the city with her father, she falls more and more in love with the place, as does her father. News comes soon that Lucy has died of illness, which causes Patsy to feel as if she has failed her mother by failing to watch over Lucy. Patsy is determined that Polly should come and be with them. At the same time, Patsy comes to dislike Charles Wilamos, the Swiss friend of her father's who urges Jefferson to remarry and have more children after Lucy's death.

Chapter 6 – It is now May, 1785. Thomas Jefferson writes home to have Polly sent over. John and Abigail Adams have a farewell dinner with the Jeffersons, for John has been reassigned to London. Patsy confides in William Short her dislike of Williamos. Snooping around Williamos's room, Patsy finds a tailoring receipt charged to Jefferson's name by Williamos. She brings this information to William. Meanwhile, Benjamin Franklin is set to return to America, and Jefferson will become Minister to France in his stead, thus coming to head the American delegation. Patsy is now thirteen, knowing happily she is no longer a child after having had her first period. A short time later, Patsy is happy to learn that Williamos was ejected from the American embassy. Patsy goes to

William Short to find the reason, and William explains that Williamos is a British spy. So, he was sent packing.

Meanwhile, many in France are unhappy with Queen Marie Antoinette for her lavish lifestyle with King Louis XVI while so many people are starving. Rumors about them circulate, which are believed as true. Jefferson cautions Patsy to draw from this the lesson that reputation means everything. Jefferson will now need more servants in order to live in accordance with the lifestyle expected of him by the French. He must also visit London for several weeks, as John Adams reports a warm reception. Patsy fears for her father, drawing on memories of the Revolution. William Short is asked to look after Patsy while Jefferson is away. Now fourteen, Patsy begins to develop a crush on William, and jealously worries about him because he is becoming known as a ladies' man. Back in Paris, Jefferson comes to be romantically admiring of Maria Cosway, and the two attend the opera with Patsy. Patsy is unsure about their romantic attachment.

Chapter 7 – (Patsy interrupts her narrative to question whether she should burn a letter to Maria Cosway from her father, for it is an embarrassment of emotion and folly. Patsy returns to her narrative.) It is now October, 1786. Jefferson, is out with Maria Cosway. He has injured his wrist attempting to jump a fence and impress her. This infuriates Patsy, and makes her hate Maria Cosway even more. Even William Short worries there is something improper between Jefferson and Cosway, for Cosway is a married woman. Cosway rejects Jefferson in her departure, which sends Jefferson into a depression. Patsy learns of this through one of her father's letters to Cosway, which makes her want to destroy it in order to protect his reputation. Looking through the papers on William Short's desk, she also learns that William Short has interceded on her behalf many times, such as when he ensured a portrait painter contracted by Jefferson would make a miniature of Jefferson for Patsy as well as Cosway. William then appears, knowing full well the situation. He reminds Patsy that people are allowed to make mistakes.

With Jefferson away on another trip, William Short is left in charge again. When Short comes to Patsy's school to pay tuition, they discuss current events. William, though a Southerner, does not own slaves. He wants to advance his career and finances through merit, work, and investment. William envisions a world of freedom for all men, not just some. Patsy, who admires her father's lofty ideals, admires William for his as well. When he leaves, it is Patsy's good friend Marie who points out that she is smitten with William. William reveals later that Jefferson's return has been delayed, but that Polly is set to come to France even though she does not want to. Patsy soon after writes to her father, wanting freedom for black slaves.

Analysis

Since Patsy Jefferson was so instrumental in the safeguarding and establishment of the reputation of her father, Thomas Jefferson, she is something of an unsung hero in the stories of Jefferson and the United States of America. It is for this reason that the authors of the novel First Daughter, Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie, allow Patsy to narrate her own story so that it can be told in a full and accurate way. The authors

explain very early on that much of the dialogue comes directly from letters Patsy, her father, and others wrote at the time. The authors relied on the historical evidence constantly in order to tell the story of Patsy. Obviously, certain things can only be guessed at or intimated from letters, but this does not challenge the overall historical accuracy of the novel's plot. It is important that Dray and Kamoie draw so heavily on letters from the past. One of the central figures in the story –Jefferson himself –believed that letters were the only true account of a person's life. To this end,the authors ensured accuracy through letters so that Patsy's story can be accurately presented. When the novel begins, Jefferson has just died. Patsy has begun the task of sifting through his papers, letters, documents, and records Her intent is to destroy anything challenging to her father's stature and to publish the rest.

Readers quickly realize Patsy's efforts to selectively edit what will be published is not an act of whitewashing or deception. It comes from her genuine desire to protect her father. Readers need to understand that in the Judeo-Christian and Western tradition –especially in early America –family (in addition to reputation, places called home, and the land on which these homes were founded) meant absolutely everything. When Patsy promised her mother on her mother's deathbed that she would watch over her father, it was a promise sealed in death as her mother went on to Heaven that would determine the course of the majority of Patsy's life. Americans then took promises very seriously, for moral and religious reasons especially. Patsy's efforts to protect her father's legacy will, as she notes early on, come to challenge (and come at the expense of) her own morality and religious belief. Patsy's protecting of her father is the summation of the overriding importance of family and the seriousness of deathbed promises and religious faith.

Patsy's desire to protect her father is proof that no human being is perfect, though American (and Western) culture at the time sought to emphasize the good in a human life, rather than dwell upon the negatives unless those negatives were so egregious that they could not be politely ignored. Jefferson's relationship with Hemings would prove to be more of a politically scandalous nature than a personal one, while Jefferson's irony in owning slaves while authoring the Declaration of Independence for the sake of American freedom demonstrates a personal one. The issue of slavery itself comes to matter greatly to Patsy, for most in Virginia's social circles consider it a necessary evil –as does her father. Patsy, however, wants to see slavery done away with as soon as possible, as does William Short. William Short, who himself admires Jefferson, is quick to forgive Jefferson's flaws because, as he explains clearly to Patsy, people are allowed to make mistakes. No human being is perfect. Patsy is reminded of this when her father pursues a married woman –and humiliates himself in attempting to woo her. This is a far cry from the paragon of virtue and freedom established in Jefferson's reputation –but it demonstrates passions of the heart and lapses of judgement are possible even for men of Jefferson's greatness. Patsy will carry William's thoughts on human imperfection for the rest of her life, especially when it comes to her father.

As the novel progresses and Patsy comes to see events swirling around her –from her father's shortcomings to the French Revolution to her own growing feelings for William Short –readers become aware that Patsy is surrounded by great men and great

situations, but she is her own person. In essence, she comes to symbolize early feminism. For example, even though she has promised her mother she would look after her father and the culture of the time holds such a promise as sacred beyond reproach, Patsy does have the choice to break that promise and let things turn out as they will. She does not go back on her vow because the promise matters to her as a perso. She chooses to protect her father not just for the sake of the promise, but for the sake of duty to the family. The family's survival hinges on reputation, for everything from lines of credit to the arranging of marriages. Patsy could very well think about herself only, but she chooses to look after her father and her family and to fulfill her promise to her mother.

Discussion Question 1

What is the importance of letters in this novel? How, and why do the authors choose to base their novel so heavily on letters? What is the effect of this?

Discussion Question 2

What promise does Patsy make to her mother as her mother dies? Why is this promise so important to Patsy? By the time she is a teen, how has Patsy already lived up to the promise she made to her mother?

Discussion Question 3

Patsy wants to honor her promise to her mother. However, she is troubled by her father's behavior in Paris. Why is Patsy troubled? What perspective does William Short provide Patsy on the behavior of Patsy's father? Do you believe William's perspective is correct? Explain your reasoning.

Vocabulary

meticulously, seclusion, culmination, deceptively, grotesque, reconvene, contemptuously, immodest, machinations, mortification, aimlessly, impertinence, harrowing, chagrined, excruciating, labyrinthine, provoking, sophistication, loquacious, ineffectual, harlot, sequestered, notorious, smitten, nosegay

Part One, Chapter 7 – Chapter 14

Summary

Chapter 8 – It is summer, 1787. When Jefferson learns that both Polly and Mrs. Cosway will be returning to France at the same time, Jefferson sends a servant for Polly so that he may and see Mrs. Cosway. Abigail Adams writes to Jefferson, shaming him for not coming to see Polly. When Polly at last arrives in Paris, she does not recognize Patsy because it has been so long. Sally Hemings, a slave girl of fifteen –the same age as Patsy –explains they had to trick Polly to get her on the ship because Polly was so set against coming. Jefferson's sexual affair with Cosway ends when Cosway again returns to England. Patsy keeps this all a secret from Polly. Sally, meanwhile, is upset when she must be sent away for a pox inoculation. She is also angry with her brother, Jimmy, for becoming so much above himself while in Paris. With Sally away, Polly warms up to Patsy. At a dinner, when William Short is kidded about his love of French girls, he explains he likes Virginia girls just as much, which Patsy hopes is a sign that William Short may pursue her. While out having a snowball fight, a quiet moment between Patsy and William is interrupted by Polly, who pelts them with snowballs. Back inside, Patsy nearly interrupts a quiet moment between her father and Sally, with the two looking at each other with romantic tenderness.

Chapter 9 – As Patsy rushes away from her father and Sally, she nearly falls down the stairs and distracts him. She explains she was merely on her way up to get her prayer book, but no longer needs it as she is not as apt to forget what it says as other people might be. Patsy attempts to collect her thoughts, but her mind is in chaos. Patsy decides to return to school early because of the situation, which surprises William Short. Patsy realizes he is aware of her father's indiscretions, which he blames on slavery, implying that Sally may not have any real choice in the natural way of things between men and women. Patsy tells William that lust is sinful. Then, she storms out and does not return to school.

Meanwhile, Jefferson and Polly warm up to one another. Jefferson spoils Patsy with numerous gifts at Christmas, while giving Sally a wage of twenty-four livres and twelve more as a gift –an excessive sum for a chambermaid. At the same time, Patsy worries that William Short may come to be attracted to Sally as well. She realizes she is in love with William. To gain his attention back at school, Patsy turns a cold shoulder toward him, prompting him to ask why. Patsy pretends to be ignorant of such a thing, and she is thrilled to learn that William has taken a clipping of her hair as a keepsake. When she asks William about his feelings toward her, he tells her it must wait until her father returns from his latest trip.

Chapter 10 – It is now spring, 1788 in Paris. William Short begins paying Patsy regular visits at the school, though the two behave modestly and take long walks. Patsy is beyond thrilled with his attention and his being around. When Jefferson returns, he puts an end to the unfolding romance between William and Patsy by sending William on to

Rome. Patsy is stunned and cannot understand this, for her father has always spoken of William so well and considered him an adoptive son. Patsy also knows she is at the prime age for courting and marriage. When Patsy confronts her father about this, Jefferson explains that as the mentor of William, it is his duty to ensure William is well-experienced in travel because William wishes to become a diplomat. Jefferson says he hopes William will return to Virginia when he is finished. Patsy realizes beyond a shadow of a doubt that her father has sent William away because of her.

Some months later, Jefferson speaks glowingly of a distant relative, Cousin Tom Randolph, set to visit Paris, and very eligible for marriage. Patsy realizes William, who has little to his name, has not been deemed suitable or eligible by her father. Patsy is heartbroken when no letters arrive from William, and when her father decides she and Polly must be settled back in Virginia soon. Patsy finds great comfort in God and in Catholicism, even though her father –a dispassionate believer –is harsh against Catholicism. When Patsy and Polly fall ill with typhus, it is Jefferson himself who personally tends to them. They recover from the illness, but Polly's intellect is greatly diminished by the sickness. At the same time, Patsy angrily watches as Jefferson shows Sally with gifts and attentions, while her own heart still aches for William Short.

Chapter 11 – It is spring, 1789. Patsy is sixteen. Back at school, she writes to her father to tell him that she is going to convert to Catholicism and become a nun. Jefferson arrives the next day for his weekly visit, but does not mention the letter until that evening. Jefferson believes Patsy has been seduced into the religion, but Patsy denies this, saying her faith has been an epiphany. Patsy asks her father if he would forbid her to follow her conscience, but Jefferson responds she needs to give it some more thought because she is so young. He tells her has nothing in his life left but her. This stuns Patsy, for Jefferson explains his promise to Martha means he shall never have another wife, and so only has what family he has now.

The next day, Jefferson pulls his girls out of the school. He intends that Patsy should emerge as a lady in society, and arranges for her coming out, beautiful gowns, and gifts. Moving in social circles, Patsy learns of the tremendous respect people like the Marquis de Lafayette have for her father, his Declaration, and how much of France wants a similar French Declaration. Patsy also catches the eyes of many men, though she longs only for William Short. Meanwhile, she watches as her father quietly assists, guides, and directs French revolutionaries to stand up to the King. At a later ball, Patsy is heartbroken to find William Short in attendance with the pretty Duchess de La Rouchefoucauld.

Chapter 12 – Patsy and William lock eyes across the ballroom. He asks to speak with her, to which she consents. He explains he has only just returned to Paris within the past hour, and that the Duchess has vouched for him given his current informal state of dress, securing him entry to the event. William admits he came only to see her, and that he will be returning to her father's service. He explains he could not write because he did not seek to offend Jefferson, though asked about Patsy's welfare through Jefferson. William is jealous of the other men seeking Patsy's hand, and explains he went to Jefferson to ask to court Patsy, but that Jefferson believed her still too young for

marriage. William explains his travels were not only to make Jefferson happy, but to seek advice from Jefferson in letters regarding a fortune and family. William still has Patsy's lock of hair, which melts her heart.

William declares his affection for her, after which Patsy consents to his escorting her home. William explains that, when Jefferson is at last ordered home, he is to take Jefferson's place. With such a position and such a salary, he would be able to provide for a family, he explains –and so can ask Jefferson's permission to pursue Patsy. He and Patsy then share a kiss, which delights Patsy. William Short officially visits and returns to the Jefferson household the next day. At a social gathering, Patsy and her father intellectually discuss whites, blacks, and slavery, during which time Jefferson voices his opposition to slavery. This steels Patsy with the determination that she must be there to help her father in a quest that would be right by God. Between wanting to be William's wife and her father's intellectual protector, Patsy feels as if she has newfound purpose in life.

Chapter 13 - The spring of 1789 continues. Things are heating up in France as riots begin, and radical voices call out for violent upheaval rather than peaceful transition. Lafayette comes to see Jefferson and Short, as Lafayette is now one of a few voices still speaking of peaceful change. Jefferson urges Lafayette to stand with the people against the nobles. Meanwhile, objects begin to disappear in the Jefferson household, from silver candlestick holders to ribbons, rings, food, and assorted silver. Jefferson begins by questioning Jimmy –now calling himself James –Hemings. James denies stealing anything, and says he enjoys serving Jefferson but does affirm he wants to be free. As such, he does not want to return to Virginia. James also insists that Sally will stay with him. Sally looks torn between her brother and Jefferson. Jefferson tells them to give it some thought, as no orders for a return to America have yet arrived.

Meanwhile, Jefferson helps to pen the French Declaration of the Rights of Man. Polly is thrilled to learn of William's declaration of love for Patsy. Marie urges a group trip to find William Short under the pretense of visiting Madame de Tesse. They find William on the Champs-Elysees, who immediately seeks to escort them elsewhere as riots are common and the streets are full of angry people. Patsy takes the time to ask about the Duchess de La Rouchfoucauld, but William explains he is only merely friends with her now, though used to be more before she married. He tells her he sees Patsy for who she really is –doing good things for a great man, and having great strength inside. Patsy and William confess their love to one another, then kiss.

Chapter 14 – The summer of 1789 comes on. Things get even worse in France as the King and his supporters on one side, and radicals on the other, refuse to compromise with one another with respect for greater freedoms for the people. Only when the King's troops turn against him does he consent to negotiating with the people. Worried about war, Jefferson wants to send Patsy and Polly home at once, but Patsy argues the point. Patsy speaks to her father about William. Jefferson is willing to give his blessing to a marriage between the two when William demonstrates he can provide for a family by settling onto a farm neighboring Jefferson's land. Patsy is thrilled. But when she talks to

William about it, he explains he wants to remain in diplomatic service rather than settle down onto a farm and practice law as Jefferson wants.

William contends Patsy will be a wonderful wife for a diplomat, but Patsy worries about how her father will get on without her. Patsy asks when William will return to Virginia, but William says it cannot be so as he does not want to make a living agriculturally because it would not provide well enough for Patsy. Sharecropping will not pay, and slavery is evil, William explains. He also reveals that Jefferson has inherited a massive debt from his father, which he must now begin settling back at home. William wants to settle up north, and says he will settle anywhere if Patsy consents to marrying him. He also says they will visit south as frequently as possible. Patsy still fears she will be betraying her father by accepting such a marriage proposal. Weeks pass by in confusion for Patsy as she attempts to sort her feelings out. She even turns down a proposal of marriage by the Duke of Dorset.

At home, Patsy learns that Sally has become pregnant by her father. Polly does not know who the father is. patsy tells her not to bother Sally about it, since Sally will have much to worry about as it is. Patsy wonders if Sally has freely loved her father, or has been gulled into it by the confines of slavery. When Jefferson falls ill, Sally refuses to go to him unless he frees her and her coming child. After a week, Jefferson calls for Patsy. He tells Patsy the King of France went wrong by trying to force his people to love him, and by being forced into every compromise he has made. Jefferson explains he will not do the same to anyone in his household. Patsy protests that she freely loves her father, but Jefferson tells her he will lose everyone. He tells her it will be her choice to accept William Short's hand in marriage. Jefferson asks only that Patsy return to Virginia to settle her affairs before returning to France for the wedding. Jefferson then asks for Sally.

Analysis

Patsy continues to narrate her own story, drawing on letters from the past to do so. The authors remain insistent on relying extensively on letters from Patsy, Jefferson, and others, as well as the historical record by way of other documents, to tell the story from Patsy's perspective. This hints of feminism as Patsy's own life has been consumed by telling her father's story, while her own story has been ignored. Now, Patsy is telling her own story through her reliving of the past as she delves into her father's things. She is compelled to remember life in Paris with William Short. Though much younger, Patsy quickly falls for William, and William falls for her. While marriages in early America were often considered from a practical standpoint, love was never out of the picture. Love in marriage is a deep-rooted aspect of American life, and love and choosing in marriage are hallmarks of the American experience.

While women in early America may not have enjoyed the extensive freedoms they do today, marriage was one place where they did indeed have at least some say. Whether or not this say was acknowledged is a different matter. Readers should note that Thomas Jefferson ultimately tells Patsy that who she marries will be her choice, and

hers alone. This is a very feminist stance to take, especially after Jefferson had suggested an arranged marriage of sorts based on practical considerations –primarily, money and family name. William does not have a name, or great wealth, or even a path clearly laid out before him.

William has plans for the future, but none of these plans have, as of yet, come to fruition. Patsy is truly basing her desire to marry William on love, and love alone. Patsy and William love one another, and this becomes the basis for their desire to wed. It is Thomas Jefferson who worries about the marriage, not only from a practical standpoint but from a personal standpoint as well. Jefferson's insistence that Patsy is all he has troubles her greatly, and makes her feel as if her love for William is a betrayal of the love she has for her father. While Jefferson ultimately consents to the marriage prospect, knowing William is a good, honest, and hardworking man who will undoubtedly succeed one day, it is Patsy who will come to have reservations.

She does not know whether or not her marriage to William will compromise her promise to her mother. Given her father's depression –and the apparent unfolding affair he has with Sally Hemings –Patsy will become all the more critical in the protecting of her father. Patsy is reminded of the importance of reputation as rumors about William Short being a ladies' man swirl about Paris. Patsy, out of love for William, defends him against all of these rumors. While William has had several normal romances, the truth of his love life nowhere near matches the gossip about his love life –and Patsy recognizes this. Should William become her husband, she will concern herself with his reputation as well. Again, she worries that it may come at the expense of her father.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Patsy want to marry William Short? Why does Thomas Jefferson initially oppose the marriage? Is this understandable? Explain your reasoning.

Discussion Question 2

What comes about to change Jefferson's mind about his opposition to Patsy and William Short marrying? Why does this have such an influence on Jefferson? How does Patsy respond to his changed mind? Why?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Thomas Jefferson's relationship with Sally Hemings prove to be so troubling to Patsy? What does this relationship potentially mean for Patsy –and for Jefferson? Why?

Vocabulary

bewildered, carnal, clandestine, churlish, sullen, ribald, coquette, ardor, exquisite, contrived, indignation, benevolent, genteel, placid, rejoinder, fripperies, guile, aloof, mischievously, torpor, epiphany, supplication, rakish, commensurate, mirthlessly, gallantry, trepidation, agape, unequivocal

Part One: Chapter 15 – Part Two, Chapter 21

Summary

Part One, continued

Chapter 15 – It is July, 1789. Violence has broken out in Paris. The Bastille has fallen to brutal mobs. Lafayatte, now in command of the National Guard, attempts to bring about peace. Patsy meets with William to explain that she will temporarily return to Virginia. William tells her she cannot do this, for her father will never let her return because James Madison has written that Jefferson is to be asked to join President Washington's cabinet. William knows Jefferson will accept. He tells Patsy that they look on Jefferson like a living monument born to do immense work and that he is only ever himself in political and lofty pursuits. Because of this, Jefferson will not return to France with Patsy to deliver her. William is now thirty, and he has done everything Jefferson has asked of him and more. William still finds himself without stability, a career, his own fortune and name. Still, Jefferson resists suggestions of marriage. William tells Patsy she cannot be a wife and mother and continue to be Thomas Jefferson's daughter. She must choose between marriage and her role as daughter. William lays out plainly that Jefferson will delay any attempts to return to France again and again.

William tells Patsy if she returns to America, he won't be waiting for her any longer. When Patsy sees Lafayette pass by, she sees the look of a man who has never betrayed his cause. Patsy tells William she will return to Virginia. She says that if he loves her, he will wait a little longer. The Jefferson household, meanwhile, packs for Virginia. Patsy learns that Sally has agreed to return to America provided James can be freed upon training his successor, while Sally will be kept and looked after for her whole life. Any children she has will be freed at the age of twenty-one. Heartbroken over leaving William and Paris, Patsy tells Sally that her father does not love her and never will. Patsy knows her country needs her father and that her father needs her. Patsy believes that if William truly loved her, he would understand this. The Jeffersons return to Monticello two days before Christmas. Mammy Ursula is delighted to see everyone. There are no letters to Patsy from William Short, which makes her realize that she has made her choice –and he has made his. She wonders how she will ever live with her decision to let him go.

Chapter 16 – Thomas Jefferson invites Thomas Randolph to Monticello, hoping for a marriage between Thomas and Patsy. Jefferson is furious with William for his silence and his apparent break with the family. Thomas quickly begins to flirt with Patsy upon his arrival, but Patsy can only think of William. Whereas William was respectful, traditional, and chivalrous, Tom Randolph is forward, intimate, and plain about his desire for Patsy. Within a week, Patsy can feel herself giving in to Tom, kissing him frequently, and hearing a proposal of marriage from him. Tom says that they are both old enough,

that there is a long bond between their families, and there is plenty of money in addition to Jefferson's blessing. Tom urges Patsy to consider his proposal, but not to make him wait too long.

Chapter 17 – Sally Hemings gives birth to a baby boy named Thomas, after Patsy's father. To pay off family debts, Jefferson must sell Elk Hill, which devastates him since land is everything to Southerners. Patsy knows only a good marriage will help stabilize the family. Patsy, who still has not heard from William, logically considers Tom's marriage proposal, and she accepts. Tom then speaks about the future, saying that he is to be given a plantation and forty slaves near Tuckahoe called Varina, while Patsy is to receive twenty-five slaves and a plantation in Bedford for her husband from her father. Tom explains he wishes to pursue a life of public service and have only limited lands that do not have to be tended to by slaves, so that the plantations they have will ultimately not be needed. His opposition to slavery reinforces Patsy's desire to marry him.

Patsy and Thomas marry in February. Jefferson is happy for Patsy, but he worries he has lost her. Patsy tells her this is not so. Jefferson reveals that Polly, Sally, and Sally's son are to be put under Patsy's care while he is away in Washington. Patsy realizes that marriage has not changed her role as guardian and protector of her father. Sally's baby grows ill and dies not long after Jefferson leaves for Washington. Patsy realizes Sally has returned to slavery in Virginia for a man who has left her to serve the government–a deal that Sally cannot undo. It causes Patsy to think about her own decisions. Tom kindly ensures Sally's baby is given a proper burial despite his father's anger on the subject. Tom decides he and Patsy must relocate to Varina to avoid having to deal with his father. Patsy submits herself to Tom's decision.

Chapter 18 – It is spring, 1790. A visit is made to Aunt Elizabeth and Uncle Frank. Polly is thrilled to see them. It is while at their estate of Eppington that Tom and Patsy learn that Tom's father, a widower, is to be remarried to the much younger and beautiful Gabriella Harvie. Tom is enraged because he believes this will give his father cause to neglect his current family. Tom is also deeply upset because the death of his own mother is still fresh in his mind. The pending marriage drives Tom even more uncompromisingly into the idea of setting up house at Varina. As the summer comes on, it becomes clear that Patsy is with child. Aunt Elizabeth insists that Patsy write to her father to request a chambermaid, suggesting fourteen year-old Molly. At Varina, Patsy finds herself doing physical labor, such as hauling water, as the place is essentially a ramshackle farm. Patsy realizes that only a year before she was at galas in Paris, and could have married William Short. She clears her mind of these thoughts, focusing on her husband now and is proud of his hard work. She and Tom attend his father's wedding, during which time Patsy learns the eighteen year-old Gabriella is every bit as horrible as Tom's father. Patsy realizes that, while William may not have understood the pull of family, Tom does, and this makes her respect him even more.

That autumn, Tom and Patsy visit Monticello, which makes both Patsy and her father very happy. Jefferson, known he is about to be a grandfather, asks Tom and Patsy to look after Monticello through the winter while he is away on government business,

during which time he says he will seek to secure the Edgehill plantation (located a very short distance from Monticello) for Tom and Patsy in repayment. That winter, a letter arrives from Marie. Marie reveals how far reaching their revolution has been. It has overturned ranks and titles and dethroned the King. Marie also relates that William Short had been devastated when Patsy left France. Patsy tells herself that does not matter now. Meanwhile, Tom has been busying himself with work at Monticello, from gardening to science experiments, most on behalf of Thomas Jefferson at his request. Tom explains he is happy to do such things, as he never had the chance to work with his own father on anything, and that his own father never asked him for help.

Part Two: Founding Mother

Chapter 19 – It is now winter, 1791. Patsy gives birth to a baby girl in January. She and Tom give Jefferson the honor of naming the baby, so Jefferson chooses “Ann” after Tom’s dead mother. This makes them very happy. One day, Tom’s four younger sisters arrive at Monticello, having fled Tuckahoe, declaring their father’s new wife to be a monster. Tom’s oldest sister, Nancy, now sixteen, is at a prime age for marriage, and is fearful because Gabrielle will be the one to choose her husband for her. Tom and Patsy decide they will look after the girls while allowing Nancy to live with their sister, Judith, and her husband, Richard, at their Bizarre plantation. When Jefferson returns to Monticello, he showers Tom and Patsy with praise, which especially delights Tom. Polly prepares to travel with her father as he returns to the cabinet, while Patsy and Tom bring Nancy to Bizarre. Meanwhile, Jefferson has been dealing with what he calls the schemes of Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton, believing Hamilton will bring about the end of the American republic.

At home, Jefferson explains to Patsy and Tom that he and Hamilton consistently square off on almost every issue. Jefferson intends to resign, as Hamilton is usually favored and the republic seems imperiled. Meanwhile, Tom’s father has had his first child by Gabrielle –a boy named Thomas, which Patsy’s Tom takes as his being replaced. At the same time, Patsy is pregnant with her second child. When she gives birth to a son, Tom declares the boy shall be named Thomas Jefferson Randolph. When Tom introduces baby Thomas to little Ann, Patsy realizes she has fallen in love with her husband. Rumors later circulate that Richard has impregnated Nancy, who gives birth to a baby that Richard chops up and buries. Nancy calls the part about a baby a lie. In private conversation with Patsy, Nancy admits there was a baby in her denial that there never was a baby (because she supposedly either had an abortion or killed the baby at birth), which causes Patsy to wonder whether Nancy has had an incestuous affair with Richard, or an even more scandalous liaison with a slave.

Chapter 20 – Sally Hemings confirms to Patsy that rumors about Nancy have spread like wildfire. She confirms there are white witnesses as well as slave witnesses, which changes everything. These rumors come at the same time that Jefferson’s enemies pile on him in the papers, slamming him as deceptive and using horrible language about him. It is believed the attacks are being orchestrated by Hamilton. Gossip about Nancy is playing into the hands of Jefferson’s enemies. The family honor is at stake. Honor is not only about manly pride, but survival, as a person’s honor –their reputation based on

doing moral, good, right, and legal things –is depended upon for everything from loans, credit, office, marriage, and so on. Patsy tries to get ahead of the rumors by denying them every chance she can. She also learns that both sides in France have deemed Lafayette a traitor. Jefferson writes home to say that he will not resign because it will look like he is bowing to political pressure and rumor.

Tom reports that Richard has been trying to parcel out blame elsewhere for the scandal with Nancy, and has even prepared to file slander suits and challenge Tom's brother to a duel over the rumors. Tom is raging, but Patsy tells him to keep his mouth shut about everything, even if it costs him some pride. Tom, enraged, backhands Patsy, knocking her to the floor. Sally rushes in as Tom goes to Patsy's side. Patsy tells Sally she tripped over a basket. Patsy is grateful for the slap, because it reminds her that she must look after Tom's reputation as well as her father's. Tom is overcome with guilt for the slap, however, apologizing again and again and tending to Patsy's injury even though Patsy continually forgives him. Tom learns from the incident, vowing never to hurt Patsy again, and going on to try to play peacemaker in the scandal rather than stoking the flames. The paper carries the story of the Jacobins coming to power in France, and beheading the King and the Queen. At the same time, Jefferson writes home, saying word of Nancy's scandal has reached all the way to Philadelphia. Richard is jailed on accusations of fathering a child with his wife's sister, and murdering the baby. Patsy is called to testify.

Chapter 21 – Patsy arrives at Cumberland Courthouse where she is called to testify. Patrick Henry and John Marshall –opponents of Jefferson –act as the defense. Patsy knows she has only been called to embarrass her father. Patsy testifies that Nancy told her she had been taking gum guaiacum in her tea. Patsy, hoping to protect her family and Nancy, lies in court by saying it was she who gave Patsy the ingredient not for an abortion, but for colic. It is revealed the such things were not mentioned because Virginia womenfolk do not discuss such womanly things with menfolk. Patsy hopes her evidence has been enough to convince the jury that the death of the baby was natural or an accident, not murder. Richard is found not guilty, even though Patsy knows he is guilty. She feels horrible for Richard's wife. At the end of the summer, Jefferson and Polly return to Monticello.

It is revealed that efforts are being made to release Lafayette from prison. Polly believes William Short, now Minister to the Netherlands, may be able to help. The mention of William's name causes Patsy some heartache. She learns that the Duke de la Rochefoucauld has been executed and that William Short proposed marriage to her – but was rejected. Patsy feels horribly for William, for twice now he has been rejected in marriage. While walking with her father in the gardens, Patsy tells her father she is well, while her father tells her he hopes to soon return to Monticello for good. At the end of November, word comes that Tom's father is dying. Tom rushes off to Tuckahoe on horseback, while Patsy and the children follow in a carriage. At twenty-five, Tom is now patriarch of his family. Patsy learns that Gabriella is already looking to remarry only hours after the death of her husband. Richard, Judy, and Nancy arrive for the funeral. Gabriella reveals rumors that Richard is looking for a divorce lawyer in Richmond so that he can take Nancy as his wife. Tom learns at the reading of his father's will that his

father changed it to give everything to Gabriella's son. Tom is left with absolutely nothing.

Analysis

Patsy's promise to her mother on her mother's deathbed, coupled with the importance of, and central role of family in life, compel Patsy to choose her father over William. Love is natural in human life, the authors herein contend, and it is only natural to love and to want to be loved. William has had his love rejected by Patsy, who favors her love of her father over any sort of marital love. Jefferson, himself essentially alone (beyond Sally, as it turns out), has only the love of his family to consistently rely upon. It is natural that Jefferson should want family close at hand –but unkind and selfish to expect so much from his daughters to the point that it comes at the expense of their own happiness and their own lives. This, at least, is the modern perspective on the subject – but the early American perspective necessitated that family come first before all else.

William has, by now, become aware of how much Patsy lives her life in service to her father, and how duty to Patsy has determined all else in her life. William correctly surmises that Patsy's return to Virginia with her father will not be temporary as believed, so he gives her an understandable ultimatum. He has been incredibly patient, and now wants Patsy for his wife. He does not expect her to cut her father out of her life, but does want to be a part of Patsy's life. For Patsy, this is too much –and she chooses her father over William. Patsy's decision is an expression of feminism, but is also a decision she will regret for decades. Ironically, Patsy's return to Virginia brings about her marriage to Tom Randolph. At first, marriage to Tom seems the cure for heartbreak and allows Patsy to remain close with her father –but the idyllic outlook of the marriage will fade faster and faster over time.

Patsy's marriage brings about tremendous family drama that compromises Patsy's life and moral character in ways that would have never happened with William Short. Patsy must lie in court to protect the family name on behalf of Nancy, while opposing rumors spread by Jefferson's political opposition. Jefferson's relationship with Sally becomes especially scandalous, for this relationship is frowned upon culturally, and is considered far beneath a man who holds such high office and such a high place in the minds of Americans.

That such rumors must be countered is reinforced, on Patsy's end, by the duel with Hamilton. Hamilton's death by duel is what could happen to her father should rumors and gossip compel Jefferson to take a stand. There is a time to take a stand, and there is a time to remain passive. At present, Patsy believes passivity is the way to go. Jefferson agrees with her, choosing not to call out those who have besmirched his name. Beyond character and court, finances prove to be of great concern to Patsy. While William is becoming a wealthy man, Patsy and the family are struggling to deal with debt –a situation made only worse by the death of Tom's father.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Patsy ultimately reject William's marriage proposal? Do you believe she is right in doing so? Explain your reasoning.

Discussion Question 2

Despite rejecting William's proposal of marriage, Patsy quickly agrees to marry Tom back home. Why? How does this alter Patsy's life? Does she have any regrets about the new direction of her life? If so, what? If not, why not?

Discussion Question 3

How does protecting the family name and honor come to compromise Patsy's own morality? How does Patsy feel about this? Why? If you were in Patsy's position, would you sacrifice your own moral character or your family name? Why?

Vocabulary

prosaic, destitute, idyllic, veritable, askance, despot, cosseted, conundrum, reticence, inexorable, skulked, whirligig, countenance, abortifacient, phaeton, solemnity, tromping

Part Two, Chapter 22 – Chapter 31

Summary

Part Two, continued

Chapter 22 – Patsy and Tom know the rewriting of the will is a disaster for them both. John Harvie, father of Gabrielle, has been named guardian over everything, while Tom and his brother are named as executors of the estate –meaning that they are responsible for their father's debts. Tom believes he has been punished for being unlovable and having a violent darkness inside him. Patsy tells him this is not true. Tom tells Patsy she is all he has now. The winter comes on. Jefferson finally resigns from Washington's cabinet and returns to Monticello while Tom sinks into a depression. Jefferson is sad to hear of the situation, but has the solution: an opening for Justice of the Peace has arisen, and he believes Tom should run for the office. Jefferson also says that Patsy and Tom can stay as long as they want, and that he is glad for their company. Patsy knows her father looks at Tom like an heir since Jefferson has no sons to bequeath everything to. At the same time, Jefferson, no longer in public life, quietly indulges in the love between him and Sally. The brothers Jimmy and Bob Hemings are now both free, and work at Monticello for a wage.

Chapter 23 – Through 1797, things are difficult for Patsy and her family. Monticello is put under renovation. Patsy's father loses his bid for President of the United States, but he secures the Vice-Presidency. Richard Randolph suddenly dies, leaving Nancy and Judith to themselves. Patsy herself loses a baby named Ellen before Ellen is a year old. Tom has insisted he and his family return to Varina, but the family on scrapes by. Tom takes to drinking. Tom decides he will run for state legislature, believing his family name and the support of Thomas Jefferson will be decisive –and so does little campaigning. As a result, he loses soundly. When Patsy tries to protect him from accusations of being a sore loser and apologizes for his absence from the town square where the election has been held, Tom –drunk –returns home to angrily confront her.

Patsy packs her things, Polly, and the children, and goes to Monticello. The summer of 1797 comes. Things improve. Polly, now eighteen, accepts a marriage proposal from Jack Eppes, who is kind, sunny, and happy to be with Polly. Tom broods over Jack, who in temperament is everything he is not. Tom calls Jack a fake. By the autumn of 1798, Sally has given birth two children, a girl named Harriet who dies and a boy named Beverly who lives. Meanwhile, Jefferson decides he is going to run for president again. Tom works through his depression, trying to focus on the things he has in his life that make him happy. When Tom discovers Patsy is pregnant yet again, he becomes reinvigorated with a renewed sense of purpose, and commits to building a new home for the family at Edgehill.

Chapter 24 – It is the summer of 1799. Crops do not turn up that year, so farmers must rely on tobacco –the prices of which crash thanks to Federalist government policy which

restricts trade with France, the biggest purchaser of Virginia tobacco. Tom is furious, having lost so much. He begins punching a window frame repeatedly. Patsy suggests a visit to Jack and Polly at Eppington, as Polly has just given birth –but Tom does not want to go. He begins to take his anger out on the children, which disturbs Patsy. Patsy brings her children to Monticello. But a wave of illness that winter sickens the husband and son of Mammy Ursula, as well as Jupiter, personal servant to Jefferson. A local doctor's brew ends up killing all three.

Sally's newborn daughter dies of the illness, followed by Polly's baby, and later, George Washington himself. Tom goes on to take a loan from Jefferson to help Varina, and consents to going to Eppington. There, they discover that Polly's illness has to do with consequences of difficult pregnancy, meaning she cannot bear children safely. Meanwhile, Jefferson campaigns for president. Rumors, slander, and libel swirl –with some even claiming Jefferson is dead. The times even become dangerous as slaves rebel in Henrico County, where Varina is located. The revolt has been put down, but Jefferson is asked for his advice on how to handle the aftermath. Jefferson knows a balance must be struck between justice and public safety, as news travels very quickly among slaves. Patsy wonders just who in the situation –whites or slaves –are to blame for such violence.

Chapter 25 – It is the winter of 1801. Edgehill has been infested by nits and Patsy is pregnant again. Thomas Jefferson has been elected president, and his Republican party has swept Congress. The Federalists refuse to back down, and the country is so polarized that many fear civil war. Jefferson, who loves the average people, does away with all formality in his service to them and in entertaining at Monticello. Polly struggles through pregnancy and gives birth to a baby boy named Francis while Sally also gives birth and Patsy herself is pregnant again. Sally worries that Polly will not survive another pregnancy. Patsy gives birth to a baby girl called Virginia. An epidemic of whooping cough sweeps the area. Patsy's children Ellen and Cornelia fall ill while Tom continues to be as rough as ever on their son. Patsy realizes her husband will never be the man he wants to be, and that she will never be able to depend on him for anything.

Meanwhile, Jefferson conducts the Louisiana Purchase and Philip Hamilton dies in a duel defending the honor of his father, Alexander Hamilton. It is a reminder that politics can be very personal –and even fatal. Jack Eppes decides to run for Congress, while Tom decides to do the same. Tom's run will mean he must challenge one of Jefferson's strongest supporters. Patsy knows how difficult the situation could be, but still supports her husband anyways. She knows that, with her husband campaigning –and should he win –she will be responsible for running a house and a farm all by herself. She does not shy away from the idea, though. At the same time, Tom decides he will put in cotton, because it is a cash-heavy crop. He will prospect land in Georgia, then send the slaves down to tend to cotton there. This worries Patsy as far as the slave families and finances are concerned, but Tom tells her he will break up no families and that cotton is sound. Ultimately, the plan for Georgia never comes to pass. Jack wins election by a landslide, while Tom wins by thirteen votes.

Chapter 26 – The summer of 1802 comes on. Thomas Jefferson comes to pick up Patsy and her family to visit Monticello, for the Madisons –as well as William Short in due time –are visiting. It has been thirteen years since Patsy left William Short in Paris, and has forced herself to forget him until now. Patsy learns that William Short has been of tremendous help to America financially while abroad, as well as helping to secure Lafayette's release. Her father also confirms to Tom that William Short was once one of several suitors Patsy had in Paris. Patsy worries William has not forgiven her for leaving him so many years before. When William arrives, now forty-three years old, he is every bit as youthful and handsome as Patsy remembers from Paris. Jefferson hugs William upon his arrival. William and Patsy greet one another, with William comparing her to an angel. She does not know if William means to compliment or cut her with such words. William is kind and polite as ever, however, though he is unhappy at having been recalled home because it is believed he is not American enough to represent America abroad. William hopes to return to the service of America soon. Old feelings toward William are stirred in Patsy.

She is stunned when she learns that William seeks to sell his land in Virginia, because he has amassed an honest fortune in the plans he told Patsy about in Paris. Patsy also learns that William has kindly loaned her own father money, but will not expect repayment. Patsy realizes that all along, William has been the savior of the family. William wants Patsy to intercede on his behalf with her father, who has refused to allow the loan to be forgiven. Later, at dinner, it is learned that William has turned against the French Revolution because of its violent excesses, while the Madisons and Jefferson remain in favor. However, everyone becomes happy again with talk of good investments in the James River Canal Company. However, Madison dissents, believing stocks and investments are nonsense. Later, in a private moment, William shows Patsy a newspaper with bad news in it.

Chapter 27 – The newspaper bears word of Jefferson's love affair with Sally Hemings, and the children. It is written by James Callender, a Jefferson supporter-turned-blackmailer. William believes Jefferson should come clean, while Patsy won't hear of it. Jefferson himself says he will refuse to acknowledge the story. Patsy goes even further, telling her father to deny everything, but Jefferson refuses this as well, saying the story will die in time. Jefferson worries about his grandchildren and Patsy's love for him, but Patsy tells him she will never tell the children, and that her own love for him has not lessened. Jefferson asks Patsy and Polly to come to Washington with him, as their presence and moral standing will protect his own. Patsy at once agrees. It is Dolley Madison who helps prepare Patsy and Polly for Washington society, helping them in choosing dresses and fashions. William leaves Monticello not long after, saying he will protect Jefferson in Washington until Patsy and Polly arrive. William hopes that he and Patsy can part in friendship, and she agrees. He also warns her about the dangers of Washington.

Chapter 28 – Gossip about Jefferson and Sally continues, while rumors of assassination plots rise. Patsy bears the social heights of Washington well, but Polly has a more difficult time. Dolley Madison continues to help guide Polly in this endeavor. Patsy reminds Polly they have a duty not only to their father, but to their husbands and their

own families as well. Polly doubles down in her efforts to do well. Soon after, both Patsy and Polly are pregnant again. While out shopping, Patsy and Polly unexpectedly cross paths with William Short. Polly is delighted to see him, while Patsy is quietly happy to see him. William explains he is tending to business, but that he is hoping for yet another posting in Europe. Patsy urges him to make peace with Secretary of State James Madison, for Madison will carry great weight in such a decision. Patsy hopes William will return to Europe, so she can forget about him again.

Chapter 29 – It is now January, 1804. Patsy and Polly give birth at almost the same time. Polly survives the birth, as does the baby, but she is physically exhausted to the point that she soon after dies. Patsy and Jack are devastated. Jefferson is also devastated, saying he now only has Patsy in his life. Patsy hates Jack for putting Polly with child. Tom tells Patsy she needs a good cry, but she asks him to go and fetch her some peppermint. When he does, in the privacy of their room alone, Patsy cries. Among those who attend the funeral is Nancy, who Patsy finally confronts about her fickle nature and the past. Nancy denies ever doing anything to harm her baby, and insists that it was Judith who put the gum guaiacum in her tea. Nancy also reveals that Richard was dead two days after telling Judith he wanted a divorce. Nancy says she has nowhere else to go, so she has had to stay with Judith, which she hates because Judith is domineering. Patsy invites Nancy to stay with her for a while, for which Nancy is very grateful. Nancy promises to be helpful, and to be a sister for the one Patsy has lost.

Chapter 30 – It is July, 1805. Lewis and Clark are exploring what will become the American West. It has been a year since the death of Alexander Hamilton by the hand of Aaron Burr in a duel. A long-old scandal, wherein Thomas Jefferson attempted to seduce Mrs. Walker, a married woman, long before Jefferson himself was married, has reared up again. Jefferson is prepared to duel Walker over it. Walker will accept, however, a public admission of Jefferson's wrongdoing and his declaration of his wife's innocence, which is all true because Mrs. Walker did reject Jefferson. Patsy tells him to do it. Jefferson tells Patsy he needs her with him in Washington. Patsy agrees even though Tom does not want her to. He worries about the family's finances, and worries because Patsy is once again pregnant while her oldest, fourteen year-old Ann, is ready to be turned out in society. Jefferson decides to assume the financial burden for the trip himself. Tom takes this as a reflection of his own inability to provide for his family. In Washington, Patsy and Dolley continue their social rounds, influencing congressmen through their wives on Jefferson's behalf. As the seasons change, the papers continue to publish rumors about Jefferson and Sally Hemings.

Chapter 31 – The summer of 1806 comes on and death seems everywhere –from a neighbor of Monticello drinking himself to death to the murder of Judge Wythe (the teacher of Thomas Jefferson) by Wythe's jealous nephew. Tom and John Randolph come to challenge one another in the newspapers, with the National Intelligencer defending Tom while the Richmond Enquirer defends John. Nancy believes John is attacking Tom in the papers because she is living with Tom and Patsy. Nancy, bearing a blackened name, decides to go to Richmond to take on work to let her brothers cool down as they are prepared to duel. Patsy urges Tom to avoid the senseless duel like her father did his, which causes Tom to slap Patsy. Tom blames this slap on Patsy

herself. Having broken his promise to never again hurt Patsy, Tom avoids the duel, having lost the stomach for it. In July, the British attack an American frigate at sea to impress crewmembers for service in the British Royal Navy. Jefferson responds with the Embargo Act of 1807, which forbade trade with France and Great Britain in an effort to force them to respect American neutrality in the Napoleonic Wars raging in Europe and elsewhere in the world. Americans who support the embargo, including Patsy, go out of their way to begin making their own products in America. Among them is Patsy, who begins a weaver's cottage at Monticello where Sally and other begin producing textiles and other materials. At the same time, Ann worries about wearing homespun materials, for she is being courted by Charles Bankhead. However, the effect across the country is mostly poor. Many people, including the Randolphs, lose all they have because of the embargo.

Patsy's eldest son is preparing for college at Thomas Jefferson's insistence, even though the boy (Thomas "Jeff" Jefferson Randolph) has no head for learning. He is to attend school in Philadelphia at the University of Pennsylvania. Patsy learns soon after that William Short is being returned to foreign service, where he will go to France and then deal with Russia. Ann accepts a proposal of marriage from Charles, and the wedding is held at Monticello. Patsy and Sally both give birth right before the wedding. Patsy wonders how many more she will have, and she wonders how she can stop having them. Dolley advises Patsy to either deny her husband or allowing him to take a Negress to bed. In February, Jefferson retires from public life as his second term in office ends. His friend and supporter, James Madison, has become president. The Madisons ensure Jefferson is celebrated and honored as he leaves office. Jefferson, wanting his family close and knowing they are in bad financial shape, invites Tom, Patsy, and their children to come and live at Monticello so that they may be close, and Tom may help him tend to Monticello. Reluctantly, Tom agrees to this, and the families move in together. Patsy and her father are thrilled.

Analysis

Family loyalty, reputation, and protecting Thomas Jefferson remain central in Patsy's life through this section of the novel. Reputation is everything, and Tom struggles with his own reputation by imposing impossible expectations on himself. At the same time, Patsy continues to defend the reputation of her father, especially with his ascendancy to the presidency. Patsy comes to feel torn between duties to her father and duties to her husband –who is elected to the U.S. Congress. Patsy, ever faithful to her husband and to her family, continues to hide the flaws of the men she loves –including Tom, who now drinks heavily and has begun to violently put his hands on Patsy. Yet, her duty to the promise she made her mother overrides everything else, even her own safety. It is a terrifying example that she sets for her children, which will be revisited time and time again with Ann in the years to come as Ann struggles with the drunkenness and violence of her own husband, Charles Bankhead.

This, in turn, demonstrates again the importance of keeping promises in early America and the importance of family honor. Patsy turns to mastering the social scene as she did

in Paris on her husband's behalf. There, Patsy was aided by Abigail Adams. Now, Patsy is aided by Dolley Madison, and Patsy in turn counsels Polly on proper behavior and careful protection of the reputations not only of their husbands, but their father. As demonstrated by the dramatics and scandals of Tom's own family, a reputation is a very delicate thing and can easily be undone –especially by unthinking and selfish people. Patsy's insistence on maintaining the promise to her mother to such a degree can be said to be a feminist decision of a sort, for Patsy is indeed deciding to continue, but one may also argue that Patsy's insistence on maintaining the promise is actually a lack of freedom because it seems as if she has no other real options. Whether a choice or not to uphold the promise, readers must continue to remind themselves how central family was to life in early America –and the lengths people would go to in order to protect that family.

Patsy's efforts to protect her family, however, are continually undermined by Tom between his drinking, his physical abuse, and his inability to live up to his own impossible expectations. For example, Jefferson's post-Presidency request that Patsy's family come and live with him at Monticello to ease their financial burdens (though he does not explicitly say this to Tom) leave Patsy thrilled to be so close to her father. However, Tom feels his own reputation is on the hook by accepting what he perceives as an act of charity more so than genuine affection. Tom's honor is on the line, and once again sets standards for himself to which he cannot possibly measure up. Jefferson is consistently bailing him out, preserving his own honor but –in Tom's mind –jeopardizing Tom's.

Discussion Question 1

How does the role of protecting Thomas Jefferson and the honor of the family change when Jefferson becomes president? Why? How must Polly also come to protect her father and the family? Why?

Discussion Question 2

How does the relationship between Patsy and Tom deteriorate through this section of the novel? Why? Why does Patsy remain committed to Tom, protecting him and making excuses for him despite his cruelty? How does Jefferson's invitation to stay at Monticello affect them? Why?

Discussion Question 3

How does the death of Alexander Hamilton affect Patsy and the way in which she handles gossip and encourages her father to handle gossip? Why is this so important to Patsy, especially where her father is concerned?

Vocabulary

nattered, redemption, indolently, perpetual, disposition, exasperation, remedy, reproach, consternation, odious, absconded, cognizance, adamant, particularity, amiable, exigencies, dubious, sublime, demur, salacious, collegiality, ostensibly, disconsolate, goading, pragmatism, pretentiously, fulminating, wantonly, sundries

Part Three

Summary

Part Three: Mistress of Monticello

Chapter 32 – It is now the winter of 1812. War with Great Britain is on the horizon as Great Britain continues to attack American vessels and force American sailors to serve in the British Royal Navy. Patsy is happy the entire family is at Monticello. Tom has quit Congress, while their son has quit the University of Pennsylvania, devoting himself to working alongside Tom on the various properties the family owns. Their hard work finally yields good crops. Thomas Jefferson, meanwhile, is more famous in retirement than as President of the United States. He has many visitors, guests, and people seeking favors or money.

Between this and Jefferson's lavish tastes, Patsy worries for the family's finances. Jefferson and his grandchildren love one another deeply, and Jefferson always takes time in the evenings to play with them or spend time with them. Charles Bankhead, however, has turned out to be other than what he seemed. He quits his legal work for the life of a gentleman, where he spends his time drinking Jefferson's expensive wine. One night, a drunken Charles attempts to gain the keys to the wine cellars from the slaves. When they will not give the keys to him, Charles threatens bodily harm to the slaves. Charles attacks Patsy when she tries to intervene. Tom comes to Patsy's defense, smashing Charles's head with a fire iron. Charles is severely injured, but he survives.

Everyone begins to wake up, including Ann, who screams at the sight of Charles. Everyone is forgiving of Charles, except Tom. Charles, treated for his injury, is allowed to stay at Monticello. Tom and Jeff decide to join the American military to fight against Great Britain. Patsy promises Tom that should he die, she will have no other husband. Patsy fears she will lose everything in her life to the cause of the country. Complicating her fears for her husband and son is the knowledge that she is once again pregnant. When Tom returns home on leave after a successful campaign, he is disappointed to learn he has been reassigned to collect revenue. This has secretly come about through Patsy and her father working through Dolley to ensure the appointment from President Madison. When Tom finds the truth out, he is enraged and shakes her, throwing Patsy to the ground even though Patsy is pregnant. At the age of twenty-one, Jeff comes to command a unit of Virginia troops. He reminds Patsy of Tom at his age, but without the darkness, and with her own father's gentleness. Patsy hopes she is also in the mix.

Chapter 33 – It is August, 1814. The British burn Washington, D.C. The Madisons barely escape the city in time, with Dolley making sure that many priceless artifacts, including a painting of George Washington, are safely spirited away from the White House, which is also burned. Meanwhile, Nancy finally finds a husband in Gouverneur Morris. By February 1815, the British have given up. The Americans have triumphed again. The

country celebrates. Jeff seeks to marry Jane Nicholas, a plain but kind girl who is part of a prosperous family situated at Mount Warren. Jane's mother does not approve of the match because Jeff only owns five slaves. When Patsy and Ann return home, a drunken Charles demands to know where Ann has been, and begins to attack her. He kicks her as she falls to the ground, and continues attacking her until Patsy slashes his face with a whip. Charles then goes after Patsy, forces her to the ground, then takes off after Ann. Sally rushes out to help Patsy, saying Ann is safely hidden. Jeff then arrives home from Mount Warren, realizing immediately what has happened. Jeff is prepared to kill Charles until Jefferson intervenes and banishes Charles from Monticello.

Later, Jeff explains to his mother that he is seeking to marry Jane because it is a good arrangement. It will bring a surge of wealth into the family which will help to keep Monticello afloat. He also knows Jane is a good and sweet girl who is worth loving. Ann, worried about Charles taking the children, wants to go to him. Jefferson forbids it. Jefferson tells her that the Bankhead family will deal with Charles and soften him up. Ann refuses to listen and leaves with Charles and the children. Jefferson later reveals to Patsy that he has sold his library to Congress to help replace what the British burned. He explains the money will be used to set aside some land for Ann, should it be needed, and that the rest will go to Ellen as nineteen year-old Ellen is at prime marrying age. After Jeff is married, Tom arranges to have Ellen go stay in Washington with Dolley, who has extended an invitation. He hopes Ellen will find a suitable husband there. Patsy worries about the expense, which angers Tom based on Patsy's own youth in Paris. Tom tells her that she needs to learn her place.

Chapter 34 – Jefferson and his sons by Sally, Beverly, Eston, and Madison, commit to building an octagonal-shaped vacation retreat house called Poplar Forest, to be located on the family land where Jefferson and the family hid after the British came to Monticello during the Revolution. Poplar Forest will be Jefferson's escape from the post-presidency parade of people who come to Monticello. There, Jefferson also begins to plan a college for the state of Virginia.

Meanwhile, Ellen goes through a series of suitors, none of which measures up to her expectations or standards. When Ellen comes home for a visit, she explains she loves Philadelphia, and has even been visited by William Short. This catches Patsy's attention. William is back in America now, having been recalled by Madison. Patsy hopes her daughter will find someone like William and will refuse to live in Virginia. Meanwhile, Ellen and Cornelia are set to visit with Jefferson at Poplar Forest. This makes the younger children jealous.

Tom, at the same time, seeks to sell one of the slaves to benefit his daughters. Patsy is not happy about this, though knowing full-well that she and her husband have had to consign themselves to tolerating slavery because they cannot live otherwise. Patsy, having given birth to ten children, finds herself pregnant yet again. It is a difficult pregnancy, but Patsy bears it as best she can. Tom decides he will seek the office of governor, as the current governor will soon quit the office and the state legislature must pick a successor. Patsy, who loves her husband as much as she resents him now, encourages him to put his name in. Tom is appointed governor.

Chapter 35 – (Patsy interrupts the narrative to reflect fondly on the education advice her father gave to her children.) It is now the winter of 1819. Patsy's eldest daughters do not receive any offers of marriage, as they are considered to be too manly and too educated. Seventeen year-old Nicholas Trist, a penniless neighbor, proposes marriage to Patsy's seventeen year-old daughter, Virginia, but Patsy rejects the match as unsuitable, knowing she has taken her father's place in the situation with William Short many years before.

In the town of Charlottesville, Jeff and Charles end up trading insults, then blows, then Charles stabs Jeff. Witnesses report Jeff defended the honor of Ann against the still-a-drunkard Charles, who then committed to going after Jeff. Seventy-five year-old Thomas Jefferson is the first to mount a horse and go dashing down to town in the snow. Jefferson returns with Jeff in a wagon. Charles is arrested. Jeff blames everything on himself, saying he struck the first blow. Charles makes bail and flees the county with Ann and the children. Patsy is enraged, tired of men always being in charge. Jeff barely survives, but the family has other problems. Jane's family has gone bankrupt, and Jefferson himself –who signed on as a guarantor of loans taken out by Jane's family –is now probably going to be saddled with the debt of twenty-thousand dollars.

Chapter 36 – It is the spring of 1820. Patsy's younger children, led by Virginia, want to host a dance for family and friends at the south pavilion at Monticello after all the tragedy the family has suffered. They are assisted in their efforts by their grandfather, meaning Patsy consents to the dance. The dance is wonderful, but does not take Patsy's mind off the money troubles of the family. Beverly, meanwhile, is now twenty-one, and set to be freed. Jefferson does not object to this, but worries about petitioning the Virginia Legislature for Beverly to be granted permission to live and work in Virginia as a free man because it will essentially be acknowledging Beverly as his son. Even more, Jefferson will miss Beverly. Patsy suggests Jefferson ask Beverly what he wants to do. The next morning, Sally confronts Patsy, telling him she is upset with Patsy for suggesting Jefferson speak with Beverly. Sally says she wants Beverly free, but is not ready to see him go, yet. Patsy urges Sally to let Beverly go, for Beverly –only one-eighth black –is legally white and can pass for a white man. Patsy tells Sally Beverly can marry into white society and have the best possible future. That autumn, Jeff's father-in-law dies, leaving his wife's family and plantation in ruins. Tom, still governor, thanks Patsy for all she has done for Nancy, who is now a wealthy widow. Tom tells Patsy she would be an asset in the Governor's Mansion. Patsy explains her father needs her, which enrages Tom, asking her whether he or Thomas Jefferson is Patsy's husband.

Tom says he needs Patsy desperately. He says he will become very unpopular when he introduces a bill to emancipate and deport Negroes when they reach the age of puberty. Patsy considers that her father had long said slavery's end would belong to another generation. Patsy wonders if her own generation is the one to do it, and so decides to go with Tom to Richmond to work the social circles on his behalf. Her work ensures her husband is reelected, but the efforts to end slavery fall flat. Even Jefferson himself refuses to wade into the controversy. In the end, he lets Beverly go free but does not petition for him, listing him instead as a runaway, and seeking to send along Beverly's

sister Harriet when Beverly has established himself somewhere. When Harriet leaves not long after, Sally is devastated.

Chapter 37 – Through the winter of 1822, Jefferson and Patsy homeschool Patsy's youngest children. Jefferson becomes restless, and goes riding despite the cold weather and his age. While crossing the river, Jefferson's horse falls on him and pins him underwater. On his return home, helped along by Madison and Eston, Jefferson explains his greatest fear is that his death in such a way would have caused people to think he had committed suicide. Jefferson knows he is near the end of his life, and wants a fitting death. That night, Jefferson explains that Patsy is to have a life estate in Monticello, meaning she will be able to live there after his death. He also intends his grandson should be prepared to study things like medicine and the law, so that they themselves may have profitable and successful lives. That winter, Tom returns home after his third term as governor. Things are still tense between him and Patsy, but they reconcile and a happy year passes.

As January 1824 comes on, Tom and Patsy learn the family, after everything that has happened with their relatives and their own lives in the past few years, is thirty-thousand dollars in debt. Tom is fifty-five, and Patsy knows he will never be able to pay back those loans in his life, meaning the debt will fall on their children. It is revealed that Jeff is to be the one saddled with the debts, taking them on for the rest of the family. Jeff, who now holds the debt, wants to sell off everything that can be sold to help pay off the debt, which enrages Tom, who has returned to drinking and violent outbursts. Tom is even more angered when he learns that, to save Monticello, it will be left to trustees while the family is allowed to remain on the land. A man named Joseph Coolidge comes to visit Monticello, wishing to see Jefferson. Ellen and Joseph take a quick liking to one another, with Ellen playing cold and hard to get.

Chapter 38 – The Marquis de Lafayette, who has survived the French Revolution and become a hero once more, comes to the United States near the end of his life for a celebratory farewell tour. Americans turn out in droves to see Lafayette as he travels through the country, visiting old friends like John Adams and the widow of Alexander Hamilton. As preparations are underway at Monticello for Lafayette's pending visit, William Short also pays Monticello a visit. That evening, Tom asks William if he is still unmarried. William confirms that he is, which Tom jealously tells William he is lucky for. This causes everyone else to freeze in anger. William, ever the gentleman, pretends to have misheard, telling Tom it is very "unlucky" to not be married. Ellen's sisters urge her to marry Coolidge, but Ellen is worried about living in Boston, so far away from her family. Patsy now realizes why Ellen has turned down so many suitors, wanting to remain beside her as she has remained beside her father.

An argument then breaks out between Tom and Jeff over the selling of estates in front of William. William interrupts, saying he will escort the ladies outside. There, he asks Patsy about the family debt, and if it is true that Jeff intends to begin a slave-breeding farm. Patsy says she does not know what Jeff will do. In September, Virginia and Nicholas Trist finally marry. Patsy knows the marriage will not be fruitful in terms of wealth, but she is happy to know that at least Virginia and Nicholas love one another. Tom begins

taking to town all day to drink, while William spends time with Jefferson, Patsy, and the girls. Patsy can only think about the past, her old feelings for William stirring once more. That night, Patsy tells Ellen to marry Joseph Coolidge if she loves him, and to not waste her life in duty. Late that night, Patsy is awakened by Tom, who has returned home drunk and angry. When Tom tries to force himself on Patsy, she knees him in the groin. The children rush to Patsy's side while an angry and embarrassed Tom goes downstairs.

Chapter 39 – Patsy explains her newest bruises to everyone as the result of falling from bed. No one believes her, especially her father and William Short. William asks directly about Patsy's marriage, which results in Patsy fleeing from him and William chasing her. At last, they confront one another in the garden pavilion. There, William tells her that he knows what it is like to love and not be loved in turn, or to love someone who can never give one what he wants or deserves. This, he explains, was the case with the Duchess he pursued. William tells Patsy he loved Patsy first, and always will. He kisses her bruised wrist, but Patsy turns away when William seeks to kiss her lips. A drunken Tom later confronts Patsy over William, demanding to know just who he is to her because he saw them together. Patsy denies anything in appropriate, during which time Tom slams William as a morally bankrupt stock-jobber who takes every woman he can get his hands on. Tom tells Patsy to keep lying to him, telling her she is a convent-trained whore. Tom grabs hold of Patsy, but Patsy tells him he is no longer worthy of her.

She walks away from Tom as Tom vows a duel with William. Patsy says William will never accept, because Tom is no longer a gentleman. Patsy then goes to William, urging him to leave, and explaining the situation. William apologizes for all he has done, and urges Patsy to come with him. Patsy refuses. She tells him this absolutely must be goodbye. William is shaken, and takes his leave. Sally later reports that Tom has packed up his things and left Monticello. Not long after, Lafayette arrives with a grand procession and hundreds of well-wishers. Jefferson, now eighty-two, is thrilled to see Lafayette. The two embrace as old friends. The ensuing visit goes wonderfully. Tom, meanwhile, is spotted here and there in town, usually at the tavern, but his absence from Monticello makes Patsy and the rest of the family feel very comfortable.

Chapter 40 – It is the summer of 1825. Jefferson urges Tom to return to his responsibilities as a husband and father. With Ellen's wedding to Coolidge approaching, on Ellen's behalf, Patsy seeks out Tom to invite him to the ceremony. Tom is drunken, unclean, unshaven, and living by himself in a messy little house. He tells Patsy to get out, calls her a whore, condemns Jeff, and threatens to take the children. When Ellen is married, Patsy is thrilled to see her daughter pursuing a life of her own choosing. In December, Edgehill goes up for sale. Patsy exercises her legal rights by giving up her dower's rights in Tom's holdings so that she may claim one-ninth of the estate. She reluctantly chooses slaves in order to ensure eleven women –including Sally Hemings's aging relatives –are not sold and shipped off.

The auction sees the other slaves and much of everything else sold off, though Jeff wins the auction for Edgehill itself at seventeen dollars an acre –a low price which Tom calls Jeff a swindler and a thief. Meanwhile, one of Thomas Jefferson's loans comes due –

and Monticello must be rented or sold, meaning the family and their possessions must go to Poplar Hill. Patsy is stunned. Jefferson himself is devastated by the news. Only by his very living do the creditors remain at bay out of respect for him. That winter, Ann arrives at Monticello, badly beaten, bloodied, and pregnant. She says she cannot go back to Charles, and dies not long after childbirth thanks to internal injuries that the doctor cannot treat. Patsy then orders Charles and the children to be sent for. It is at the grave of Ann that Patsy is able to convince Charles to give up the children to her care.

Chapter 41 – It is February, 1826. Jefferson devises a lottery to win some of his land in order that Monticello itself may be saved. The Virginia Legislature approves the lottery, but only on the condition that Monticello itself is the prize for the winner. Jefferson and Patsy would be allowed to live there until their deaths, then Monticello would pass out of their hands. Jefferson privately speaks with Patsy, ensuring the remains of his estate will be for Patsy's sole and separate use. She will be master of herself. Jefferson asks Patsy to continue to care for Sally, while their children will all end up freed at the appropriate time. After returning from business in town one day in the summer, Jefferson falls ill. The end is near, and Jefferson intends to breathe his last on July 4, the fiftieth anniversary of Independence. As the day approaches, he grows weaker, and begins to drift in and out of consciousness, reliving moments from the past. John Adams dies the morning of the Fourth, while Jefferson dies at noon. Patsy is devastated. Tom arrives and begins insulting Patsy, at which time the doctor shouts at Tom to stop it. Jeff and Patsy's other sons then intervene and send Tom away.

Chapter 42 – The novel now returns to the present. Patsy reads Jefferson's final letter – a letter containing poetry for her. Patsy vows to give Sally freedom if Sally agrees to remain silent about her life with Jefferson. She also makes Jeff promise not to sell Sally from Monticello, while Jeff makes Patsy promise to refuse to attend the auction of slaves. Patsy also finally agrees to visit Ellen in Boston at Beacon Hill, where everywhere they go, they are honored for Thomas Jefferson. Thanks to the gentle kindness of Joseph Coolidge and Ellen, Patsy's older children are able to attend school. Virginia oversees the lottery, but donations come pouring in from all over the North. Patsy learns later that William had tried to send money to save Monticello and the family –but Jefferson had turned him down. Patsy burns William's own letter of condolence to her, for it is full of romance.

By August, Patsy's life has become one of letters, from letters sent to her by family, friends, and admirers of her father's, to her father's old letters. Louisiana and South Caroline vote to give Patsy $20,000 for her and the family in honor of her father. A few years later, in 1828, Patsy visits Tom, now living in absolute poverty and in illness. She urges him to give up his hatred of the family, get over his bitterness, and return to Monticello until it is dispensed with. He will be allowed to live on his own somewhere on the property. Tom consents, though her children reserve the right to intervene if Tom makes things difficult. As Tom dies, he makes peace with Jeff. With Tom dead and the past now truly the past, Patsy ensures that memories of Tom will be good ones, seeking to protect his reputation the way she has protected her father's.

Chapter 43 – It is now 1829. Monticello, except for the people who live there, is empty and falling into disrepair. Patsy has finished assembling her father's papers for publishing, and his letters, documents, and other similar items are sold off. On the day the papers are sold and Monticello is to be quitted, William Short arrives. He reminds her that Monticello is not her father, that it is a place of wrongdoing, and that it is a place of chains for her. Patsy breaks down in tears, crumbling in Williams's arms. William tells her the only way she can truly be happy is to leave Monticello for good, rather than allow people to buy it for her. Patsy agrees, choosing not to ride away from Monticello in a carriage, but to walk.

Epilogue – It is February, 1830. Patsy takes a house with Virginia and her husband in Washington, D.C., as Virginia's husband now works as a clerk for President Andrew Jackson. No long after arriving, the president himself comes to call on Patsy. The widowed Jackson asks that Patsy act as First Lady to help dispel gossip and bring about cohesion in Washington society. Patsy immediately agrees, and Jackson is delighted. Patsy's reputation and influence are unmatched among women. This returns Patsy and her children to the social elite, where they work to play a part in America's future. Among the people Patsy encounters at a party one evening is Harriet Hemings. Patsy also comes to at last give her heart to William, visiting him up North and learning that he intends help fund and create a country in Africa for blacks who wish to return. It will be called Liberia. William has a portrait painted of Patsy before she visits her daughter in Boston. Patsy travels to Boston by train, an invention she knows her father would have loved.

Analysis

Family loyalty remains prominent in Patsy's life through the end of the novel. In death, Jefferson's stature assumes heights never achieved in life –largely because Patsy has remained devoted to him and has chosen to protect his reputation. Even in the death of her husband, Patsy chooses to honor, rather than condemn him for his cruelties. Here, readers are treated to the early American example of how the dead are dealt with. It was not considered honorable to smear the lives and names of the dead who are unable to answer for themselves. It is also considered quite honorable to lift men up for the good things they did in life –not as a matter of whitewashing or deception, but as a model of goodness for all others to follow. People are flawed –this, those looking on to the memory of Jefferson and Tom know –but the good things they do should be the things carried on and modeled after, rather than only dwelling on the negative. Reputation is just as important at the end of the novel as it is at the beginning.

Patsy herself realizes she has made many mistakes in her handling of guarding the family name and honor. Her example with Tom leads to Ann learning the kind of behavior expected of one in a marriage –and this leads to her being savagely beaten to the point where she dies of her injuries. Patsy does learn from the past. It might be too late with Ann, but it is not too late with Ellen. It is Patsy who encourages Ellen to marry Joseph Coolidge for love, which she consents to. Because of this, she has a happy life far away from Virginia, and one that is not dependent only on slavery. After the death of

Tom and her father, Patsy is free from her promise to her mother, though Patsy will always seek to protect the legacy of her father, and her family as it is now.

However, it is William Short who causes Patsy to embrace reality. He reminds her that her father is more than just a place, and that place –Monticello –is not the picture perfect world Patsy has made it out to be. Yes, there was happiness at Monticello, but sadness, drama, and heartache were also there. Monticello is where slaves were owned and where Ann died. While Patsy agrees to leave with William, Patsy chooses to actually leave Monticello on her own. She walks from Monticello. This symbolic and feminist act of leaving Monticello on foot represents Patsy embracing freedom and leaving one of the worst parts of the past behind. Thereafter, Patsy is able to have her long overdue romance with William, and she is able to travel freely through the country to visit her children. She comes to serve her country again as First Lady to the widowed Andrew Jackson, which symbolizes her own power and prestige. Patsy's life truly becomes her own here through her feminist tendencies, and the authors therefore do Patsy right by allowing her to serve as the narrator. Thus, Patsy emerges from the shadow of her father as an American woman worthy of respect, admiration, and celebration in her own right.

Discussion Question 1

Despite life becoming ever more cruel with Tom, Patsy remains beside him until it is no longer possible. Why? How does this affect the lives of Patsy's own children –including Ann?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Patsy push to make peace with Tom before Tom's death? What does Patsy do for Tom –and for her own father –in their deaths with respect to their reputation? Why?

Discussion Question 3

Do you believe William Short is correct when he calls Monticello the chains that have been holding Patsy back? Justify your response. Explain Patsy's response to William's assertion.

Vocabulary

woebegone, trifles, flummoxed, prudent, opulent, vivacious, nascent, dispensation, irascible, idyll, recalcitrant, affluence, privations, dishabille, renunciation, malaise, ignominious, ornery, sanctimonious, supercilious, calamity, genuflect, consanguinity, vulgarity, paragon, philanthropic, assignations

Characters

Patsy Jefferson (Randolph)

Martha “Patsy” Jefferson is the eldest daughter of Thomas Jefferson, and she is the older sister of Polly and Lucy. Patsy is tall, thin, and beautiful, as well as incredibly intelligent and talented. To Patsy, there is no greater charge or duty in life than protecting the reputation of her father, her family, and her country. Everything in her life comes at the expense of loyalty. To this end, Patsy goes to extraordinary lengths. Martha (Patshy's mother) was dying when she asked Patsy to promise her that she would look after her (Patsy's) father.

While in Paris as a teenager, Patsy falls for the older William Short. However, she decides against marrying him in favor of protecting her father. Back in Virginia, Patsy protects her father's reputation, and she marries Tom Randolph. Patsy and Tom become parents of twelve children. Eventually, Tom becomes a jealous drunkard. He physically abuses Patsy, who covers it up for the sake of the family's honor. Later, the couple become estranged. Shortly before Randolph's death, Patsy reconciles with him so that he can die in peace.

After her father’s death, Patsy busies herself by settling his affairs and and organizing his papers. By taking care of these matters, Patsy can maintain control over the contents of the book that will be published about her father's life. She does not want to take a chance that any scandal will smear the Jefferson family name.

Patsy comes to witness the selling of Monticello while her children thrive. At last, she is free to revive her earlier in life romance with William Short.

Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson is the father of Patsy Jefferson. He is also the third President of the United States and the primary author of the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson is a brilliant man who is prone to depression and romantic surges. He alternates between being a present, loving, and caring father to one who is distant emotionally and physically –especially where the pursuit of romantic love is concerned.

Jefferson is a study in irony in the novel, as he advocates for human freedom yet owns slaves. He has a romantic affair with young Sally Hemings which lasts the rest of his life. Jefferson, as he ages, becomes more devoted to his family despite his political successes and trials. He must deal with scandals and rumors related to Sally, as well as the shortcomings of his sons-in-law and grandsons-in-law. He also struggles to keep the family’s finances together, but he is unsuccessful. He dies on July 4, 1826, fifty years after the proclaiming of the Declaration of Independence.

William Short

William Short is the lifelong love of Patsy and the secretary and assistant to Thomas Jefferson in Paris. He is a distant, much-older family relative. William and Patsy fall in love in Paris when they are young. William is very patriotic and career-oriented, as well as kind, romantic, and gentlemanly. Despite William's ideal traits, Patsy turns down William's marriage proposal to be with her father because her father needs her. William goes on to serve as a diplomat to America, having great success in whatever he does – such as renegotiating America's finances abroad. However, William has no luck in love, as he is rejected by a French noblewoman after her husband is killed in the Revolution. William goes on to become incredibly wealthy based on stocks and investments, shunning his Virginia roots and slavery to do so. William assists the Jefferson family in secret financially for years. Finally, William and Patsy reunite after Patsy's husband's death/

Tom Randolph

Thomas "Tom" Randolph is the husband of Patsy. Impetuous, insecure, and passionate, Tom struggles throughout his life to deal with living up to his father's impossible expectations. He struggles to be the best man he can for Patsy and her father. However, Tom's insecurities, jealousies, and failures lead him to drinking and violent rages. He becomes physically and emotionally abusive toward Patsy.

Despite his successes as governor of Virginia and as a legislator in the U.S. Congress, Tom never gets control of himself. Eventually, he drinks himself into an illness while cursing his family. Only before death does Tom make peace with his wife and children.

Martha Jefferson

Martha Jefferson is the wife of Thomas Jefferson. She is the mother of Patsy, Polly, and Lucy. Shortly after the novel begins, Martha dies in her early thirties. It is Martha's dying request that Patsy care for her father and her siblings that causes Patsy to go to such great lengths to protect her family.

Sally Hemings

Sally Hemings is a slave bequeathed to Martha. Thomas Jefferson owns Sally through marriage and Martha's death. Sally is about fifteen or sixteen when she accompanies Polly to Paris. Sally and Thomas Jefferson quickly begin an illicit, passionate romance which lasts the rest of his life. Sally truly comes to love Jefferson, as well as the children she has by him. She is eager to see their children freed, but she is reluctant to see them go. Sally is protected by Patsy when Monticello and all its belongings are sold.

Polly Jefferson

Polly Jefferson is the younger sister of Patsy. Polly is a sweet, kind, and loving girl who is devoted to her husband, Jack Eppes. Polly and her husband are passionately in love. Childbirth is always difficult for Polly. After bearing a number children, Polly dies.

Ann Randolph (Bankhead)

Ann Cary Randolph Bankhead is the eldest child of Tom and Patsy, and she is the wife of Charles Bankhead. Ann marries the charming Charles Bankhead who quickly abandons his career pursuits for the easy life at Monticello, where alcoholism turns him into an abusive, violent drunk. Ann lovingly and faithfully takes after her mother, protecting and providing excuses for Charles until he savagely beats her while she is pregnant. She gives birth to a baby only to die soon after from internal injuries from being beaten. Ann's children go on to live with Patsy at Monticello.

Jeff Randolph

Thomas "Jeff" Jefferson Randolph is the eldest son of Patsy and Tom. Though he is not brilliant, Jeff Randolph has common sense. His father turns into a violent drunk, Tom keeps the family afloat by marrying a plain, but kind and wealthy girl named Jane. When Jane's family goes bankrupt, Jeff assumes her family's debts and later assumes his own family's debts. Through careful management of money and selling off everything possible, Jeff is able to keep everyone afloat financially. Jeff becomes bitter enemies with his father based on his father's alcoholism and abuse, but he makes peace with Tom before Tom dies.

Dolley Madison

Dolley Madison, one of America's First Ladies, is the wife of James Madison (the man considered Father of the Constitution who served as Secretary of State and later President of the United States of America). Brilliant, gentle, and beautiful, Dolley becomes a role model and good friend to Patsy, Polly, and their girls as Jefferson becomes a member of Washington's cabinet, and later, president. She teaches them not only how to dress and behave in public but how to influence politicians through their wives –which serves Patsy well through her father's Presidency and her husband's political career in Congress and in Virginia.

Symbols and Symbolism

Letters

According to Thomas Jefferson, letters symbolize the only full and genuine account or journal of one's life. Letters are honest exchanges with other people who must also deal and write honestly. Collectively, these letters form a human life. They are unedited and unfiltered the way a personal journal might be. Jefferson keeps careful track of all of his letters in order to provide an accounting of his own life.

The Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence is symbolic of freedom and of everything that is America, and proves to be a source of both great pride and concern to Patsy. Primarily authored by Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration of Independence lays out American independence from Great Britain, ignites the Revolutionary War, and inspires countless people with its ideas of freedom under God. The document makes Jefferson a hero to Americans, the French, and many others, but it makes him an enemy to the British. For these reasons, Patsy is both proud of her father and worried for his safety.

Letter to Maria Cosway

A letter to Maria Cosway symbolizes romantic foolishness. While in Paris, Thomas Jefferson romantically falls for a married woman, Maria Cosway, to whom he writes lovesick letters like a teenager. The letters demonstrate that Jefferson is very much human and very much susceptible to his heart. It also demonstrates that he is capable of making foolish decisions, such as pursuing a married woman. Eventually, Cosway rejects Jefferson. Patsy twice considers, and ends up refusing, to burn the letter to Cosway in order to protect her father.

Lock of hair

A lock of hair symbolizes a keepsake for recalling memories of good times. A common practice in the West in the 1700s, the keeping of a small lock of hair from a girl is considered romantic and very personal because it allows the keeper to carry a part of the beloved with him. Patsy is beyond thrilled when William Short takes a lock of her hair, for she has fallen in love with him.

William Short's marriage proposal

William Short's marriage proposal to Patsy symbolizes an uncertain future. Although Patsy desperately wants to marry William, his desire to live in the North rather than near

her father worries her that she may not be able to protect her father or do her duties as a daughter. William assures her this is not so, that they will visit as often as they can. Patsy is still uncertain about such a future.

Honor (Reputation)

Honor is a person's reputation, and it symbolizes the summation of a life. Honor is more than just pride. A person's honor –their reputation based on doing moral, good, right, and legal things –is essential for everything from loans, credit, office, marriage, and so on. The honor of the Jefferson name comes under fire based on Nancy's indiscretions and Jefferson's political enemies. It is Patsy who tries to keep ahead of everyone and everything to protect her father and the entire family. It is later the blackened name of Nancy Randolph that divides brothers Tom and John, as well as the papers and the people of Virginia.

Randolph will

The Randolph will symbolizes the difficulties Patsy and her husband, Tom Randolph, will be forced to endure. Tom's father, who hated Tom and who remarried, left everything in his revised will to his new wife's son. Without an inheritance, Tom is completely dependent upon himself for the future. This makes Patsy's life very difficult as her husband wrestles with depression, drunkenness, and even physical abuse.

Newspapers

Newspapers are symbolic of the importance of scandal, gossip, and rumor to one's public life. During the 1700s and 1800s in the United States, newspapers carried news and salacious stories as well. The salacious stories are meant to undermine and defame a person. However, the stories are not always inaccurate. A number of accounts published in papers deal with Jefferson –from his affair with Sally Hemings to his almost-affair with Mrs. Walker. It is Patsy who counsels her father on handling such matters. In some situations, she loses out, such as when Jefferson refuses to acknowledge the Sally Hemings affair. On other matters, he takes her advice, such as his youthful attempt to seduce Mrs. Walker.

Slavery

Slavery is symbolic of the denial of human freedom, demonstrates irony with men like Jefferson, and becomes the one constant problem throughout his life and Patsy's life. They cannot ignore or deal with the problem. While Jefferson, Patsy, and others see slavery as evil, they see it as a necessary evil. Without it, they could not survive. Others, like William Short and Tom Randolph, want to do away with slavery as quickly as possible. However, they are constantly defeated or opposed in their efforts. Slavery is a

stain on the honor of men like Jefferson, who advocate freedom but deny it to others – no matter the reason for doing so.

Patsy's walk away from Monticello

Patsy's decision to walk away from Monticello is symbolic of her taking her life into her own hands. She agrees with William that Monticello has been a set of chains for her and that she needs to leave with him. But rather than driving off the grounds with him in his carriage, Patsy chooses to walk –taking responsibility for her future into her own hands by choosing to walk away, rather than be taken by someone else.

Settings

Monticello

Monticello is the mountaintop home of Thomas Jefferson and his family. Located just outside of Charlottesville, Virginia, Monticello is physically stunning from the layout of its gardens to the architecture of the main home. Monticello is where Thomas Jefferson, Patsy, and the majority of their family spend most of their lives, considering the place both a duty and home. Monticello also becomes a refuge for the family in times of trouble, though great financial strain is put on the place by so many residing there, and by the taking on of debts of other families by Jefferson. Only William Short provides perspective for Patsy at the end, after the place has been sold to pay off those debts. He reminds her the place was not her father. He tells her that the place was one of wrongdoing, namely slavery. He reminds her that the place has been a shackle of chains for her. In the end, Patsy chooses to walk away from Monticello to live her own life.

Paris

Paris is the capital city of France, and it is the city to which Jefferson is posted by the American government as Minister (ambassador). Jefferson and Patsy take up residence at the Hotel de Langeac along with William Short. Patsy studies at a local convent's school, while William Short ensures her tuition is paid on time. It is in Paris that Patsy falls for William, and William for Patsy. In Paris, Patsy comes out into high society. It is also in Paris that the epicenter of the French Revolution plays out, first as a struggle for equality and then as a witch-hunt-like bloodbath led by the radical Jacobins. It is from Paris that Patsy returns to Virginia with her father after turning down William Short’s proposal of marriage and his request that she remain with him in Europe.

Varina

Described as a plantation, Varina is really a family farm that comes to Tom and Patsy through their marriage by way of Tom’s family. Varina is poorly-kept and must be tended to constantly by slaves and then Tom and Patsy themselves when they come to live there. It is at Varina that Patsy experiences some of the lowest points of her life, from her husband’s abuse to the fact that only one year before, she was among the cream of French society and attending school with children of the King. Now she is hauling water and cleaning the house while dealing with her husband’s violent behavior.

Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. is the capital of the United States of America, and it is where Patsy goes to protect her father’s reputation while he is President. Washington proves to be a

source of division for Patsy, as she is torn between protecting both her husband and her father. Years later, Patsy's daughter (Virginia) and some of Patsy's other children, move to Washington to serve in the Jackson administration. It is in Washington after her father's death that Patsy's stature and influence grow. Jackson prevails upon her to return to society to assist his efforts, and Patsy agrees to do so.

Boston

Eventually, Boston is the city in which William Short settles between his travels of serving America in Europe. Short makes his fortune in Boston. Boston becomes symbolic of the life that Patsy could have had -- if she had chosen to marry William rather than return to Virginia with her father and marry Tom. Ironically, Patsy encourages her daughter Ellen not to spurn love for becoming the protector of the family as Patsy had done. Patsy tells Ellen to marry Joseph Coolidge and move to Boston for love, which she does. Years later, Patsy visits Boston many times to be with Ellen and Joseph, as well as to see William Short.

Themes and Motifs

Loyalty to family is important.

Loyalty to family is important. In early America –especially in the South –family was often the only sure thing on which and individual could rely. In times of trouble, family would be there when no one else could be found. In America's First Daughter, family is everything to both Patsy and her father.

Readers first learn this when Patsy and the family must flee from the British. Love compels Jefferson to protect his family, while love compels the family to worry for Jefferson’s safety. The death of Martha compels Patsy to become the guardian of the family, protecting both the family name and watching out for Thomas Jefferson himself. Indeed, Patsy takes her promise to her dying mother so seriously that the family’s honor and fortunes will be the central focus of Patsy's life for decades to come. Aside from her intent to keep the promise, Patsy also protects the family out of love for them.

Patsy defends her father against rumors. She lies in court and works the political social scene for her father, husband, and the family at large. A significant part of Patsy’s decision to protect the family, apart from love and the promise made to her mother, is the belief that reputation means everything. The family name will color how others perceive and deal with a member of that same family. The Jefferson family and its extended families of the Randolphs, Bankheads, and others will find their opportunities, standing, and capabilities greatly diminished by a bad name. This is why Patsy goes to such great lengths in the editing of her father’s papers and in the remembrance to Tom after Tom’s death.

The importance of family during times of trouble is apparent when the Randolph debts threaten to consume Patsy, Tom, and their children, it is Thomas Jefferson who takes them in as a remedy to ease their financial burden because they are family and he loves them. When debts threaten to undo even the Jefferson family, it is Jeff Randolph who steps in to set his family’s affairs in order –not only for his own future, but for family. Jeff's loyalty to his family is unwavering. The same is true of Patsy, who comes to spend her widowed life visiting, enjoying, and protecting her children.

Reputation is important because it is a summation of life.

An individual's reputation is important because it is a summation of one's life. The summation delivers to the world a verdict of whether or not an honorable life has been lived. Honor encapsulates more than an individual's pride. Living an honorable life means adhering to morality by doing the right thing in every situation.

A person’s reputation based on doing moral, good, right, and legal things is essential for everything from loans, credit, office, marriage, and so on, not only for that person, but for his family. This is another reason why loyalty to family is so important. The family name will color how others perceive and deal with a member of that same family. Challenges to a family reputation must be dealt with in one way or another, ranging from a countering or suppression of rumors to an outright duel. Patsy takes it upon herself to directly challenge such rumors in social circles, face-to-face, or by other means.

Reputation is something so serious to an American Southerner that Patsy is even willing to lie in court. She does so to protect the Randolph family name because of Nancy, knowing that these are kin to her husband and therefore kin to her. Patsy knows that a shadow hanging over the name of the Randolph family will hang over the Jefferson name, too.

Patsy's act of telling a lie in a court of law to protect the family's reputation is ironic. Patsy is being dishonest to perpetrate/maintain an honest reputation for herself and her family. Patsy's conscience struggles with her lying because she is defying God's rules in deference to her family. This underscores for readers to what lengths Patsy is willing to go to protect her family’s reputation.

Politically, a reputation can be built or destroyed on policies –with Jefferson’s taking a hit because of the Embargo, but soaring because of the Louisiana Purchase. However, Jefferson’s opponents do their best to get at him personally –to undermine his personal reputation in order to discredit him politically. It is here that rumors relating to Sally Hemings must be ignored, as Patsy advises her father. But, also it is here that rumors revolving around the Randolphs must be confronted in court. To ensure Jefferson's legacy and to avoid a focus on scandals after her father dies, Patsy carefully sifts through his papers. She destroys those that paint her father in a bad light, while securing those that portray her father well. Jefferson may be gone, but his name will live on after him. This is another example of the irony of Patsy's actions.

No human being is perfect

The idea that no human being is perfect is addressed in Amercia’s First Daughter. Every human being has flaws; therefore, every person is allowed to make mistakes. William explains this to a teenage Patsy in Paris. As long as an individual's flaws do not pose a danger to others, the person must be loved, respected, and admired.

Patsy’s understanding of the fallibility of human beings comes through her discovery of her father’s pursuit of Maria Cosway, and later, through Sally Hemings. Patsy is quick to condemn her father for foolish, lovesick behavior, finding it beneath him. It is then that William encourages Patsy to think differently about Jefferson, to accept that no man is perfect, and that all have flaws. Patsy takes this wisdom to heart, coming to protect and defend her father in spite of his flaws.

Perhaps, chief among Jefferson's flaws is that of slavery. Slavery is the evil considered necessary by Southerners, something which most abhor but cannot do without because it is so heavily ingrained in their way of life. There is great irony in Jefferson advocating for human freedom for America while himself owning slaves. Interestingly enough, while Short is willing to overlook so much else regarding Jefferson, he cannot overlook Jefferson's keeping of slaves. Here, Short's opposition to slavery reveals that accepting a person's flaws can only go so far. This draws on the Judeo-Christian tradition of hating the sin, but not the sinner. William Short condemns slavery, without wholly condemning Thomas Jefferson.

Unfortunately, Patsy herself takes the idea of human frailty too far as cruel and barbarous treatment against her by way of Tom's physical abuse take a backseat to family reputation and honor. To the outside world, the Jefferson-Randolphs appear quintessentially upstanding and unified, while inside, drama, violence, alcoholism, and intrigue tear them apart. Ann herself, considering such things to be normal, ends up losing her life as a result of her husband's beatings. Patsy, having learned a valuable lesson from this, is able to gain custody of Ann's children so her husband will not have access to harming them. Patsy forgives Tom just before he dies, for the sake of peace and for his memory.

It is natural to love and want to be loved.

Love is crucial to a human life. In Amercia's First Daughter, both romantic love and familial love prove to be the motivating forces for many of the characters.

As a child, Patsy deeply loves both her parents. Her love is the reason why she is so eager to see they are both safe when they must flee Monticello from the British. Patsy's love for her mother, as well as for her father and sister (Polly), compels Patsy to promise her mother she will look after them. Patsy makes good on her promise by continuing to protect them as the years pass.

In Paris, Patsy has her first real encounter with romantic love by her relationship with William Short. Patsy desperately wants William to love her back, and she is thrilled when he reciprocates. However, Patsy's familial love overrides her romantic love with William, causing her to reject William's marriage proposal in favor of staying in Virginia to protect her father and their family. In Virginia, Patsy marries Tom. It is only after she and Tom are married that she feels love for Tom, but the love quickly sours as Tom becomes a violent drunk.

Love for her father and children compels Patsy to continue to protect and guard the family name. William's sustained love for Patsy compels him to bail out her family financially, in secret. His love for Patsy remains long after Tom and Patsy's father have died. Eventually, there is a romantic reunion between William and Patsy toward the end of the novel. Thereafter, Patsy and William share a happy life.

Though not a dominant force, feminism existed in early America.

Though not a dominant force in early America, feminism still plays an important role in Patsy's life. Feminism can be defined as the ability for a woman –Patsy –to make her own choices in life regarding everything from marriage to the actions she undertakes regarding her future and her family.

An argument can be made that Patsy is acting in accordance with feminism when she chooses to take on her role as family protector and continues that role through the deaths of her father and her husband. Although promises and family are sacred, this does not mean Patsy cannot make her own choice to walk away. An opposing argument can be made that Patsy never really had the freedom to do this given her status as a woman. Therefore, she is not feminist.

At first, Thomas Jefferson is suspect of Patsy's desire to marry William Short. Then, he gives in and tells his daughter that her decision to marry William will be her own and he will bless whatever decision she makes. Her ability to choose her own husband with her father's blessing results in Patsy marrying Tom Randolph. In early America, most young women would have been subject to their father's wishes when choosing a husband. Therefore, feminism as it relates to women making their own decisions had a voice in early America.

Feminism is also demonstrated when Patsy is given to running Monticello while her father and husband are away. Again, she is in charge, and she sees to it that the place is kept in good order. Everyone does as she directs. She even takes the extra step of having a weaver's cottage shop constructed so that Monticello may begin producing cloth in response to the Embargo Act. By taking on these responsibilities, Patsy can be viewed as a feminist before the term feminism was in existence.

Patsy's greatest demonstration of feminism comes after the death of her father. His estate is left entirely at her disposal, and she becomes the head of the family. When Tom nears death, it is Patsy who decides to reach out and make peace with him. When everything is boarded up and taken care of at Monticello, it is Patsy who chooses to walk away from the place in order to truly begin her life as her own. As such, she comes to travel the country, visiting her children, romancing William Short, and even standing in as First Lady to Andrew Jackson - all things which she herself chooses to do.

Styles

Point of View

Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie tell their novel America's First Daughter from the first-person, reflective point of view of the main character and principal protagonist, Patsy Jefferson. As Patsy Jefferson was so instrumental in the protection and establishment of the reputation of her father, Thomas Jefferson, she can be considered an unsung hero in the story not only of Jefferson, but in America's founding. For this reason, the authors allow Patsy to narrate, in first-person, her own story so that it can be told in a full and accurate way. Readers witness firsthand her struggles, triumphs, joy, and pain as events swirl around her. Much of the dialogue comes directly from the letters that Patsy, her father, and others wrote at the time when the novel takes place. Therefore, readers are given a firsthand glimpse into Patsy's life and thoughts through the narration of the novel and through Patsy's personal writing. The authors believe that Patsy is a voice worth hearing. Thomas Jefferson himself said that the truest account of a person's life are their letters – their firsthand accounts of all business and circumstances of their lives.

Language and Meaning

Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie tell their novel America's First Daughter in language that is formal, highly educated, and reflective. This is done for several reasons. First, Patsy Jefferson, as the daughter of Thomas Jefferson and as the recipient of a quality Catholic education in Paris, would be intelligent, educated, and have a stellar command of vocabulary. This is reflected in the language that she uses. Second, the language assumes a reflective element because Patsy is commenting on, and retelling events of her life years after they happened. Consider, for example, how she describes her father and the flight from Monticello so many years before in Chapter 1 on page 20: "I was as proud of him as I was terrified for him." Third, the language used by Patsy to speak about the past is not only historically accurate (even common people had a far higher level of education and exposure to language in the 1700s and 1800s than they do in the 2010s) given her station in life and level of education, but it creates an authentic atmosphere for the novel, making the world in which the reader finds themselves all the more believable.

Structure

Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie divide their novel America's First Daughter into three major parts, with each part being further subdivided into chapters, and each chapter into untitled sections. Each part represents a major period of Patsy's life. Part One focuses primarily on Patsy's existence as Thomas Jefferson's daughter and her early married life as she struggles to protect her father and his reputation. Part Two deals with Patsy's

life primarily as a mother torn between her duty to her father and her husband and their children. Part Three deals primarily with Patsy's time as the emerging matriarch of the Jefferson-Randolph family. Each chapter of each part relates to a specific period of time in Patsy's life, usually skipping ahead a season or even a few years by the time the next chapter begins. Within each chapter, untitled sections noted by small markings separate periods of Patsy's life, or separate events of Patsy's life, within the overall time span of the chapter. A preceding Note to Readers and excerpt from a letter written by Thomas Jefferson lay the foundation for the importance of the letters and the words used by the very people themselves which are featured in the novel. The Epilogue lays out the next several years of Patsy's life beyond Monticello when she is truly in command of her own destiny.

Quotes

Sons of a Revolution fight for liberty. They give blood, flesh, limbs, their very lives. But daughters… we sacrifice our eternal souls.
-- Patsy Jefferson (July 5, 1826)

Importance: From the very beginning of the novel, Patsy reflects on her life as the daughter of Thomas Jefferson. She understands how critical her father and others were who led the American Revolution and how much their families – including their daughters – had to pay for their work. Patsy is no different. She has had a long and storied history with her father which will now be revealed.

For I'm not only my father's daughter, but also a daughter of the nation he founded. And protecting both is what I've always done.
-- Patsy Jefferson (July 5, 1826)

Importance: Here, Patsy explains much of her existence. It has always been about protecting her father and protecting the country he helped to found. She has always strived to do both, usually at her own expense. Her loyalty is born out of love. Patsy admits to defying God and His moral laws to do so. She knows that she will one day be forced to account for her actions.

I was as proud of him as I was terrified for him.
-- Patsy Jefferson (Chapter 1)

Importance: When the Jefferson family is forced to flee Monticello because the British are approaching, Patsy learns just how much of a hero her father is to some and how much of an enemy he is to the British. The British want to capture Jefferson, for Jefferson's Declaration of Independence is responsible for the American Revolution. Patsy is very proud of her father for giving hope and the idea of freedom to so many people, but she is also terrified something bad will happen to him. From a young age, Patsy is protective of her father.

Patsy, you must watch over your father.
-- Martha Jefferson (Chapter 2)

Importance: Apart from the love of her father and apart from fear for his safety, the root of Patsy's desire to care for him comes through the dying request of her mother that Patsy do so. Patsy, who values family so very deeply, can only seek to follow up on her mother's request. That Patsy should lose one parent only instills in her the desire to protect her remaining parent, as well as to uphold a promise to her dying mother.

Reputation is everything.
-- Thomas Jefferson (Chapter 6)

Importance: While in France with her father, Patsy watches as the majority of French

people turn against the king and queen of France. Rumors are taken as the truth. Jefferson uses this moment to explain to Patsy that reputation means everything. A bad reputation can destroy a person or a government.

He couldn't be doing this.
-- Patsy Jefferson (Chapter 8)

Importance: Not long after arriving in Paris with Polly, Sally Hemings is noticed by Thomas Jefferson. The two quickly come to develop romantic feelings for one another. This is scandalous for a person of Jefferson's stature and importance. Patsy recognizes this instantly. Having only recently dealt with the Cosway situation, Patsy must now contend with her father's inclinations toward Sally Hemings.

Then why did it feel like that's exactly what he was asking me to do?
-- Patsy Jefferson (Chapter 13)

Importance: At long last, Patsy and William Short begin talking about marriage and life beyond Paris. Patsy is thrilled at the idea of marrying William, but she begins to hesitate when William suggests living in the North in a city that is far away from Thomas Jefferson. William assures her that they will visit Jefferson as often as possible and Patsy will not have to abandon her duties to her father. Patsy, however, feels otherwise. This imperils the possibility of her marriage to William.

Marriage did not –and would not –end my duty to protect my father.
-- Patsy Jefferson (Chapter 17)

Importance: When Jefferson returns to America, he makes Patsy come with him. Because of this, William's ultimatum goes unheeded, and Patsy marries Tom Randolph instead. After the wedding, Patsy's father entrusts her with the care of Polly, Sally, and Sally's infant boy while he is in Washington. Patsy realizes she will have to continue to protect her father's secrets. Her fears about not fulfilling her duty as his daughter are confounded by his expectations and her obligations to do so.

That given enough love and time, my husband would stand up like the man he wanted to be, and I could lean on him in times of trouble. Now, I knew better.
-- Patsy Jefferson (Chapter 25)

Importance: After years of marriage, Patsy realizes her that her husband, Tom, will never amount to what he hopes he will be or what she hopes he will be. She realizes that she is the one who has chosen the life she has and she must deal with it. Because of this, she will never be able to depend on Tom for anything. She must be strong for herself and for everybody else.

And I was now the daughter of the president and wife of a congressman.
-- Patsy Jefferson (Chapter 25)

Importance: Patsy always supports her husband, even when he runs for Congress.

Patsy knows it will make personal and public life more difficult for her and the family. However, this does not deter her from supporting him. When Tom wins the narrow election, Patsy has two roles. She is the daughter of the President of the United States and the wife of Congressman Tom Randolph. Her life will be much more difficult, as she must go from a simple farmer's wife to a political wife.

Don't let duty chain you.
-- Patsy Jefferson (Chapter 38)

Importance: Ellen worries about marrying Joseph Coolidge because he lives so far away and Ellen wants to take Patsy's place as guardian of the family. Patsy considers her own life. She realizes what duty has cost her –happiness with William Short. Instead, she has a life with a drunken, violent husband in Tom. She urges Ellen to marry the man Ellen loves and to not waste her life by being obligated to duty.

"I want to walk from this place. I want to run.
-- Patsy Jefferson (Chapter 43)

Importance: When Monticello is sold and her father's papers are in order, Patsy is visited by William Short. At long last, they can be together. William confronts Patsy with the truth of Monticello. He tells her that Monticello has held her back her entire life and that Monticello is not her father. Patsy chooses to walk away from Monticello, rather than riding with William. Leaving Monticello on foot is a symbolic act of choosing her own destiny and being responsible for its outcome.