

The Anubis Gates Study Guide

The Anubis Gates by Tim Powers

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Plot Summary

The Anubis Gates by Tim Powers is a delightful tale of time travel, magic, history, romance, and deceit. In the beginning of the novel, it is 1802 and Amenophis Fikee and Doctor Romany, both magical gypsies, attempt to open a gate and summon Anubis for their master, who wants to purge Egypt of all foreign powers. Doctor Romany is a magical duplicate, or ka, of Doctor Romanelli in Egypt. Their magic, however, disappears and leaves Fikee a howling animal who runs from camp. In current times, Brendan Doyle, the main character, finds himself commissioned for a position with J. Cochran Darrow, an ill, yet still powerful man.

Darrow's supposed plan is to travel back in time through a hole in the time stream back to 1810 to hear the poet Coleridge speak. Darrow has hired a staff, including Doyle's friend Steerforth Benner, to assist with the trip, and has allowed ten other participants to pay a million dollars each for their passage. Following the time jump, Doyle finds himself kidnapped by the magical gypsies who seek the key to time travel; Doyle misses the jump back. He narrowly escapes and after spending several days attempting to assimilate into the culture, Doyle meets master of thieves Horrabin. Horrabin, however, is linked to the gypsies. Doyle goes to work for Copenhagen Jack as a beggar and meets Jacky, a young woman pretending to be a man as she hunts Dog Face Joe, a werewolf who killed her fiancé. Doyle finds himself constantly on the run as Horrabin and Romany hunt him. Additionally, Doyle meets Benner again, who informs him that Darrow's true plan was to return to 1810, find Dog Face Joe, and use him to switch bodies so he can live out his healthy life as a rich man. Throughout his struggle to survive and return home, Doyle meets several famous persons as the gypsies attempt to rewrite history, including poet Lord Byron. After being attacked by Dog Face Joe himself, Doyle finds himself in the body of Benner and realizes he is known in 1810 as poet William Ashbless, who Doyle was researching in modern times. Following a journey back to mid 1600's, Doyle stops Romanelli from altering history. Soon after his return, however, he is kidnapped again and brought to the Master in Egypt, whom he eventually kills. Meanwhile, in England, Jacky discovers Darrow's plan and kills both him and Dog Face Joe.

Upon his return to London, Jacky finds him, but the two are soon kidnapped by Romanelli, along with poet Coleridge. Doyle is taken to the basement of Rat Castle, where he is tortured. Coleridge unlocks the cages of Horrabin's experimental animals, and the animals attack Horrabin and Romanelli, allowing Jacky and Coleridge to escape. Meanwhile a severely wounded Romanelli and Doyle travel to the underworld, where Romanelli is eaten by Apep; whereas, Doyle is renewed by Ra. Doyle meets up again with Jacky, who he realizes is the wife of Ashbless. Years later, Doyle goes to the place Ashbless was known to die to complete the circle of history, only to realize his supposed killer is a ka made of him during his time in Egypt. He kills the ka and is free to live his life.



Prologue and Chapter 1

Prologue and Chapter 1 Summary

The Anubis Gates by Tim Powers begins with the accidental, magical creation of a werewolf and the opening of the time gate of Anubis. Throughout the rest of the novel, the hero, Brendan Doyle, fights gypsies, ancient magicians, beggars, and himself to survive after a jump back in time as he helps his new friend, Jacky, fight a werewolf. Over time, Doyle learns who to trust and proves that mortal man can win against all odds.

In the Prologue, Amenophis Fikee arrives at the gypsy camp in 1802 and tells the men to move a very old crate to the tent of Doctor Romany. When he arrives, Romany greets him warmly, and the two prepare for a spell. Using an ancient book called the book of Thoth, their Master's blood, and several other magical items, Fikee begins the spell while Romany leaves the tent to wait for the results in a safe place. As he waits, he thinks about the book, and the spell they are attempting, which is an invocation and invitation to possession to Anubis, the god. He recalls his trip with Fikee to Cairo when they were summoned by the Master who was knee deep in attempting to retain power over Egypt. In reality, it was Doctor Romanelli attending the meeting, where the Master created a ka, or magical duplicate of Romanelli. It is the ka who is assisting Fikee now. Romany hears howls from the tent below and looks up to find the tent in flames. Romany runs in and recovers the book only to find Fikee a sobbing ball on the floor. Romany leaves the tent and is followed by Fikee, who howls like a dog. Romany shoots him, but he escapes into the woods, and Romany is left to attempt to discover what their work has actually accomplished.

In Chapter 1, Brendan Doyle is traveling to the home of J. Cochran Darrow, an old but powerful man who is the founder of DIRE, Darrow Interdisciplinary Research Enterprises. Doyle only knows he is being asked to give a lecture and is promised retaining fees, even if he refuses the job once he speaks with Darrow. Doyle thinks of his current work as an established expert on the life of poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge and presumes this is on what the lecture is to be focused. He is currently working on a biography of William Ashbless and is surprised at the lack of detail of the man's life. On the plane, he dreams of the death of his wife, Rebecca, in a motorcycle accident, which happened several years ago, and of his friend, Steerforth Benner, who had gone to work for Darrow several months ago. When Doyle arrives, he finds Darrow surprisingly fit, even though it is rumored he has cancer. The two talk, and Darrow fires several questions to allow Doyle to prove he is an expert on Coleridge. When Darrow receives a phone call, Doyle looks through books in the study absently only to discover the Journal of Lord Robb who discusses a serial killer known as Dog Face Joe. Once Darrow is finished, he tells Doyle of holes in the time stream that allow individuals to travel back in time. Doyle is at first doubtful, but Darrow explains that he wants Doyle to give a lecture to a group of time travelers about Coleridge and then travel back in time with the group



to 1810 where Coleridge is to give a lecture. Doyle will then travel back with the group and answer any questions.

Doyle meets Benner again, and the two discuss the time jump, for which Benner tells him he is a security guard. Benner makes Doyle at ease by noting he has already made a jump but mentions jumping into a gypsy camp. Hours later, the other guests arrive, and are searched for weapons. One man is evicted from the group for attempting to smuggle in a gun. Doyle dresses in his period clothing, gives the speech on Coleridge to the group of nine and the crew, and then orders everyone to the jump site, where they are seated in horse drawn carriages. Doyle learns that to return, the group has to be in the same spot in 1810 when the window closes and are brought back using small stone devices attached to their arms. Doyle feels suddenly disoriented and finds himself on the grass under the lead curtain that was draped around him. He is now in 1810 and the group begins their travel to town.

Prologue and Chapter 1 Analysis

The novel begins with the creation of a character used throughout the novel, that of a man-dog creation set off by the magical doings of Amenophis Fikee and Doctor Romany, the ka of Doctor Romanelli. In this brief prologue, it is clear that magic is used to create holes in the time stream and that these holes will be a primary focus of the novel. The introduction of the ka Romany and of how he becomes head of the gypsies is important to the story, as his character is vital throughout the novel. Additionally, the creation of the man-dog creature foreshadows the subplot of Dog Face Joe that becomes a primary part of the story as well. From the very beginning Fikee is portrayed as the weaker of the servants to the Master in that he fails the magical spell and shows reluctance when the Master originally asks for assistance.

In Chapter 1, readers meet Brendan Doyle, who is portrayed as a cynical man who has clearly been through the tragedy of a lost wife, which foreshadows the Master's offer at the end of the novel. The knowledge, along with his conversations with Darrow, show his character to be strong with a high sense of intelligence and a desire for learning. Although he is doubtful about Darrow's claims to time travel, it is clear he is excited about the prospect. Additionally, his presentation of the speech on Coleridge shows him to be knowledgeable about the time period, foreshadowing his ability to survive in such a time period throughout the novel.

J. Cochran Darrow is presented as a likable enough character, although his motives are at this point seemingly confused. He admits to researching one thing and finding the time holes as a byproduct. He does not make it clear what he was originally researching, but Doyle leads readers to believe it is an alternative therapy for his cancer. However, at this point in the novel, his only obvious intention is to take ten people, at a million dollars each, back in time to hear Coleridge speak. His explanations of how time travel works are clearly understood, and easy to follow. Benner, too, is introduced here as a friendly, strong character who has a clear liking for Doyle but who

also takes his post seriously. His mention of jumping into a gypsy camp foreshadows the involvement between Doyle and the gypsies throughout the novel.



Chapter 2 And Chapter 3

Chapter 2 And Chapter 3 Summary

In Chapter 2, Doyle notices a gypsy caravan following their horse-drawn carriages as they travel to attend Coleridge's lecture. When they arrive at the pub, they discover that Coleridge is to speak a week later. Darrow pays the owner to allow them access to the banquet room, and Doyle convinces Coleridge to speak. Following the event, Darrow asks Doyle to fetch the carriages, but on his way, he is kidnapped. In the last moments of consciousness, he sees the bald-headed gypsy he believes Benner spoke of previously. In the gypsy carriage outside, Damnable Richard and Wilbur discuss Wilbur's witnessing of the group's appearance in the field, seemingly by magic, and Wilbur reveals he followed Romany to watch the events unfold. Romany carries the body of Doyle to the carriage, and shortly after, they begin to follow Darrow's group back to the field. Romany notes to himself that they must be intending to get to the gate before it closes. Darrow's group begins shooting, but Romany has a spell to prevent the bullets from harming his group. Romany's group breaks off and heads to the gypsy camp which is near the field. Doyle is taken to a tent, and Richard and Romany head to the field, where they hear Darrow noting they have waited as long as they can for Doyle. The group disappears.

Doyle awakens tied up in a tent, where Romany enters wearing spring shoes and threatens to burn him with a lit cigar. Doyle, baffled, cries for help and pleads noting he can make Romany rich. Romany hits him several times as Doyle promises to tell him whatever he wants, but when Doyle screams for help, the old gypsy knocks over a lamp, setting the tent on fire, and knocks Doyle unconscious. He awakens outside still tied up and tries to make it across camp. He instead falls into the river and finds himself near drowning before a family of farmers pull him free. They give him clothing in exchange for a promise of work, and Doyle thinks he will be able to make it in 1810 after all, using his knowledge from the future.

In Chapter 3, however, Doyle realizes that selling under-grown vegetables in a city market is not lucrative. He is made fun of and, embarrassed, comes across a puppet show where the lead puppet asks him to meet him after the show. Following the play, Doyle and several other men make it backstage, where the puppet tells Doyle he will speak with him last. As Doyle approaches, he sees a disfigured, hideous man dressed as a clown. He realizes the man is the model for the puppet, Horrabin. Horrabin offers him a job begging, and Doyle hotly refuses. He returns to find the family that saved him but discovers they have gone. Doyle spends his few shillings on food, begs for money, and is approached by a beggar, Skate Benjamin, who tells him the locations of beggar groups in the city. Doyle, determined to make an honest living, leaves and convinces himself he will be able to obtain gainful employment with a newspaper.



Chapter 2 And Chapter 3 Analysis

Chapter 2 begins by foreshadowing a meeting between Darrow's group and Romany's group through Doyle's notice of the gypsy caravan following the group. The author's use of details to explain the situation of Coleridge's speech shows his aptitude for writing, as the details given in the previous chapter by Darrow about Coleridge's speech are made true through Doyle's intervention, showing the theme that small actions lead to historical significance. When Doyle is kidnapped, the author also makes clear the knowledge that Romany knows about the time holes, although perhaps not how to use them, as his kidnapping of Doyle suggests. Romany clearly wants to know how Darrow's group uses the jumps, and although at this point the reason for his questions is unclear, this discussion foreshadows events later in the novel as the Master attempts to use the jumps to change history. As indicated, Doyle's strong character pulls him through as he escapes and is saved. The mention of spring soled shoes becomes important later in the novel.

In Chapter 3, Doyle again shows his true character as he struggles against embarrassment, and retains his dignity by refusing a job as a beggar. At the same time, he is shown to be intelligent as he realizes begging occasionally may keep him alive long enough to find employment. Horrabin, introduced in this chapter, reveals himself to be disfigured and as clearly comfortable with life as a beggar. There is an air of evil around Horrabin that foreshadows the development of this character throughout the novel. Further, the arrival of the legless beggar informs readers that the begging trade is highly organized, foreshadowing Doyle's membership with a beggar gang later in the novel. Doyle's character is again shown as strong as he finds himself determined to obtain employment, foreshadowing his meeting with the editor later in the novel.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

In Chapter 4, a group of beggars begin to arrive at a large subterranean grotto, where the beggar lords hang in large swings high above the ground and the beggars gather at large tables underneath. A dwarf named Dungy scurries around setting the table, and Horrabin arrives. Horrabin removes the stilts he walks on and places himself in the swing all without ever touching the ground. Just as Dungy is ordered to sing, Romany arrives and informs the group he is increasing the reward for Dog Face Joe, a werewolf, and is introducing a large reward for the live capture of a man matching Doyle's description. Horrabin tells him he has seen him in the city, and Romany orders him to have his men kidnap Doyle. Romany mentions that dramatic events are to occur soon on the international front, Romany is interrupted by the Luck of Surrey, an insane little deformed man who is soon removed from the hall.

Back on the street, Doyle finds himself asking beggars for the location of Horrabin, as he needs a job since his meeting at the Morning Post newspaper failed. He meets an old beggar who promises him he can take him to Horrabin for payment. On the way, however, they are stopped by Skate, who tells Doyle to come with him to work for Copenhagen Jack. Skate takes him to the beggar house on Pye Street, where Doyle is surprised to find roast turkey and roast beef with all the trimmings and a hall full of beggars. Copenhagen Jack begins the meeting after dinner, where a beggar is thrown out for hiding some of his take. Attention turns to Doyle, and Copenhagen Jack, after talking to an effeminate young man named Jacky, tells everyone in the hall lies about Doyle's previous life as a beggar, much to Doyle's surprise. Jack tells the group Doyle faked being a deaf mute, and as a result, should not speak, so he can get into character. Doyle, dumbfounded, is led away to speak with Jacky. Jacky explains that Romany and Horrabin are hunting Doyle, and Doyle explains his time jumps. Copenhagen Jack enters, and Jacky explains that Horrabin's father used to purposefully disfigure healthy individuals so they would become better beggars, and did so to his own son, thereby explaining Horrabin's disfigurements. Doyle explains that he can read and begins reciting poetry. Jacky recites, in turn, poetry that Doyle recalls appeared in an Ashbless collection that was written by Colin Lepovre, fiancée to Elizabeth Tichy, prior to Ashbless. Jacky is completely surprised to hear that Doyle knows of the poet, since he has been missing for nearly a year. On the street, the beggar who was kicked out of Jack's lot seeks Horrabin, convinced he may want to know about the new beggar of the group, Doyle, now known as Dumb Tom. At the end of the chapter, Jacky writes a letter home and discusses the death of Colin at the hands of a man who is not really a man. Jacky signs the letter as Elizabeth Jacqueline Tichy. As she goes to sleep, she peels off her fake mustache.



Chapter 4 Analysis

Chapter 4 introduces readers to Rat Castle, Horrabin's meeting place for beggars. The mention of Horrabin's stilts and swing, allowing him never to touch the ground, tie in with the spring soled shoes of Romany later in the novel, and foreshadows a commonality between these characters. The introduction of Dungy, the dwarf, also foreshadows the development of this character later in the novel, particularly when taken into account with Horrbin's treatment of the creature and combined with the mention of Horrabin's father by Jacky. Dog Face Joe is again briefly mentioned by Romany, foreshadowing his involvement in the story. Romany also shows a clear desire to obtain information from Doyle in this chapter as he not only offers a huge reward but threatens great punishment for anyone who kills Doyle. Finally, the mention of international affairs by Romany foreshadow the events with Lord Byron later in the novel, and the mention of the disfigured little Luck of Surrey is important to events later in the novel.

While the details of the interview between Doyle and the newspaper are not given, it is clear Doyle did not get the job. His desperation shows as he hunts for Horrabin. The differences between Copenhagen Jack's lot and that of Horrabin's is very clear from the first descriptions of Jack's hall. Jack deals with his men in a fair, yet tough manner; whereas, Horrabin treats his men rather badly. The story of Dumb Tom shows Jacky to be a quick thinker. One of the most important points of the chapter is the conversations between Doyle and Jacky about Lepovre and Tichy. When Jacky recites Lepovre's poetry, Doyle recalls seeing the piece in a collection attributed to Ashbless and recalls that Tichy was the fiancée of Colin prior to Ashbless. This piece of information is further noted when readers discover Jacky is Tichy, who was engaged to Colin prior to his death. While seemingly needless at this point, this information is tied together at the end of the novel when Doyle, who is really Ashbless, marries Jacky or Tichy.



Chapter 5 and Chapter 6

Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 Summary

In Chapter 5, Doyle finds himself to be a formidable beggar as Dumb Tom. Doyle decides to meet Ashbless as he is due to arrive in London in three days, and Doyle hopes Ashbless can provide gainful employment. Soon, however, two men plan to kill him on one side of the street, while on the other, Horrabin's men plan to attack. As one group tries to stab him, Horrabin's men saves him and delivers him to Horrabin. Doyle, realizing his situation, escapes, only to be followed by the men. He has the idea to meet Coleridge, but as he leaps onto a carriage, he is seemingly shot. He narrowly escapes as Horrabin threatens his men with death. From the shadows, the disfigured Luck of Surrey seems to know where Doyle is heading. Doyle escapes but is very ill and wounded.

Jacky finds herself floating along with the Romany's boat at the river, as Romany has been fetched by Horrabin's people at Rat Castle, where Jacky was, with the news that "the man he was looking for" has been shot. Romany and Jacky both believed the man to be Dog Face Joe. By the river, Doyle is hiding, and Horrabin is pacing the dock. Romany's boat arrives, and Doyle leaps into the river. Horrabin summons tiny men who fly in eggshells called Spoonsize Boys and light around Doyle. Horrabin tells Romany to follow the lights. Doyle hears a gunshot from the dock and another from Romany's boat. Horrabin yells to Romany that the creature in the water is Doyle and not Dog Face Joe. Jacky, who had shot from the dock, realizes her mistake and quickly paddles to Doyle's rescue. When Doyle climbs in, he realizes Jacky has been shot. As the two escape, Jacky tells Doyle of Dog Face Joe. Dog Face Joe, the werewolf, switches bodies with individuals as his current body grows too hairy. Jacky was at home when Colin came crashing in, stuck in Dog Face Joe's cast off body. When Dog Face Joe switches bodies, he places the soul of the new person into the old body immediately after taking poison and chewing up the tongue, so the old soul does not have time to tell the police. When the cast off body comes to Jacky, she shot it. Jacky takes Doyle to a small inn to stay while he waits for Ashbless' arrival. Meanwhile, Romany and Horrabin hang in the Rat Castle high above the ground, where Romany offers a large reward for Jacky, posturing as Ahmed the Hindu, and the man who tried to stab Doyle. The two also discuss Romanelli in Turkey, who has captured a lord needed for the group's future plans and the fact that Romany uses magic to communicate with far away places. Damnable Richard, Romany, and Horrabin leave to search for Doyle, but return within two hours, empty handed.

In Chapter 6, Doyle is sitting in the coffee house two days later, waiting for Ashbless and remembering his encounter with Richard on that evening. Richard had recognized him at the inn and followed him. When Richard tells him they are going to see Romany, Doyle asks for two beers, so Richard takes him to a bar. The two discussed their deceased wives, and Richard allows Doyle to go free. Now, he realizes Ashbless, for whatever reason, is not coming as history said he would, so Doyle writes a poem



Ashbless was supposed to have written at the pub on this day. Jacky, meanwhile, is hot on the trail of Dog Face Joe but misses him as he changes bodies and learns she is now looking for a farmhand named Kenny. Doyle leaves the coffeehouse, realizing Ashbless is not coming and hears someone whistling Yesterday by the Beatles. He tries to chase down the whistler but needs to leave to do his job at the inn. Jacky, not knowing anyone searches for her, returns to Rat Castle only to be captured by Horrabin's men. Horrabin has her taken by Dungy to the dungeon, which is dark and full of whispered voices. She is left alone and hears small whispers discussing the removal of her eyes. Dungy returns with her supper, and she convinces him to let her out after she promises to help him kill Horrabin. When asked, Dungy admits Horrabin is his son, and that Dungy is in fact Teobaldo. He explains that both Romany and Horrabin are in horrible pain when they touch the ground due to their magic. As a result, Teobaldo plans to entice Horrabin to the dungeon where Jacky will be waiting to stab him with a dirt covered sword. When Teobaldo goes to fetch Horrabin, however, Jacky panics in the darkness with the voices and instead stabs one of the creatures seeking her eyes. After seeing Apep in the river in the dungeon, Jacky flees to the top of the dungeon. Horrabin and Teobaldo return, and although Jacky does manage to get Horrabin to the ground, the blade does not harm it, as it is clean of mud. Teobaldo and Jacky flee, and Teobaldo takes poison to kill himself. Jacky leaves the dungeon in rags she finds after tricking the door guard, Lee Carrington, into thinking she could give him a password he could use for free prostitutes.

Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 Analysis

There are two key points in Chapter 5. First, it becomes clear to the reader that not only are Horrabin's men chasing Doyle, but another unidentified group, as well, wish Doyle dead. This foreshadows the discovery of the identity of these man later in the novel. Additionally, readers are finally informed of the body-swapping talents of Dog Face Joe, and come to a clearer understanding of how the body swap process works, which helps the reader to understand the continuous body swapping in the next several chapters. In addition to these points, the Luck of Surrey is shown to be able to see into the future, foreshadowing the discovery of the identity of this creature later. Finally, the conversation between Horrabin and Romanelli foreshadow events in later chapters with Lord Byron.

In Chapter 6, Ashbless' failure to appear foreshadows Doyle's discovery later in the novel that he is, in fact, Ashbless, and as Doyle sat in the pub, writing the words of Ashbless, he himself made the past he had written about in modern times true. Additionally, Richard's clear betrayal of Romany and his obvious liking of Doyle foreshadow his actions against Romany later in the novel.

Jacky's adventure in Rat's Castle has a number of corresponding elements later in the novel. Readers learn in this chapter that Horrabin is not only a magician but also that any contact with the ground harms him, foreshadowing methods used later in the novel to harm magicians. Further, readers are introduced to Horrabin's mistake creatures left to rot in the dungeon, who become vital in the death of Horrabin at the end of the novel.

The conversation between Jacky and Teobaldo help readers to see that while Teobaldo was admittedly a horrible person, he now understands his mistakes. Apep, the serpent God is seen in the dungeon, proving the power of the magicians in the story, and Jacky shows her true strength and wit as she manages to escape the castle virtually unharmed.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

Doyle awakens to realize he has to visit with Romany if he ever hopes to get home. He takes a day off from the inn, buys a pistol, and arranges it around his neck so that if Romany attempt to torture him, he can commit suicide. He is walking to find Romany when he hears Yesterday whistled again, and as he walks to find the whistler, he hears a gun go off, and in the process of turning, shoots off his own gun, destroying his right ear. He leaves the area, tends to his wounds, and two days later, hears the whistle again. Over the time while mending, he examines the bullet and realizes it is from the 20th century. Doyle finds the source of the whistling and realizes it is Steerforth Benner. Benner explains that Darrow's plan was to use the original jump to hear Coleridge speak as funding for his real plan, to move to 1810 permanently. Darrow wants Benner to kill Doyle, which he tried to do, but Darrow soon orders Benner to be killed as well. Benner also tells him Darrow is searching for a very hairy man and has even set up a shop to remove hair in an effort to lure him in. Benner plans to bribe Darrow to get back to modern times, as Benner has found the hairy man for whom Darrow is looking. Doyle realizes Darrow wishes to change bodies because of his cancer and is seeking to bribe Dog Face Joe, but Doyle agrees to Benner's plan. They agree to meet later in the week, and Benner gives him money to survive.

Doyle spends three days in a nice hotel and is nearly recovered from his cough. On one of those days, Doyle meets the Luck of Surrey, who takes Doyle to an abandoned field under the guise that Luck of Surrey has a gate home. When they arrive, the disfigured creature shows him a charred skull and says he bought the land just to show Doyle the skull. Days later, Doyle meets Benner at the appointed place and notices Benner seems very odd. After a sporadic and difficult conversation during which Benner tries several times to buy Doyle something to drink, Doyle angrily gives in and drinks an herbal tea. Soon after, a hairy creature jumps through the pub. Benner shoves Doyle out into the alley after promising him they will meet up later. When Jacky arrives on the scene, she realizes Dog Face Joe has again struck but does not know what body he has taken. Doyle goes home.

In Greece, Doctor Romanelli has become the Doctor of Lord Byron, who is ill. Using magic, Romanelli sends some of Byron's blood to his brother, Romany, to create a ka of Byron. Back in London, Romany explains to Horrabin that they will brainwash the ka with answers to questions likely asked of such a Lord, so that the ka can go into public and make known he is in the area. Shortly after, Horrabin's small man-creatures will rob the banks, and Byron's ka will be sent to do "his thing" crippling the country.

Doyle finds himself listening to patrons of a shop and hearing of the generosity of Lord Byron in a local tavern. Knowing Byron should be in Greece in history, Doyle walks to the pub to discover the truth, only to find Byron sitting in the bar. Doyle collapses, however, and wakes in a hallucinatory state to discover that he is in a strange room,



having apparently purposefully eaten strychnine. He eats charcoal from the fireplace and wakes hours later to discover that he is now better, but covered in hair. He realizes he is the latest of Dog Face Joe's victims, and that he is in Benner's body. He finds a razor and shaves, but as he finishes, he notices he now looks exactly like portraits of William Ashbless. Doyle suddenly realizes he is Ashbless.

Chapter 7 Analysis

Chapter 7 contains information that ties back several times into references in previous chapters as well as foreshadows future events. The hearing of Yesterday being whistled suggests, even before Doyle meets Benner again, that the other group trying to kill him in previous chapters are Darrow's men. Once he does meet Benner, their conversation ties back to Doyle's original finding of the journal in Darrow's study pertaining to Dog Face Joe, and shows just how far Darrow has gone to plan his escape from cancer. With the information gained from Jacky in previous chapters, it is simple for Doyle to deduce Darrow's plan to swap bodies. The scene between Doyle and the Luck of Surrey foreshadows events later in the novel as Doyle travels back to the late 1600's. It is fairly clear to readers that when Doyle meets Benner, things are awry, but this is further shown when the ape comes crashing into the room. This foreshadows the discovery by Doyle that he is the latest victim later in the chapter.

The incident with Romanelli and Romany, when combined with previous information about plans to overthrow England and when combined with information gleaned from the conversation between Horrabin and Romany shows clearly the trio plan to use Lord Byron to help them destroy England, although the method is not yet clear. When Doyle hears of Byron's unexpected and historically inaccurate return to England, he, too, knows something is wrong, but becomes ill before he can ascertain the situation, and readers are informed of how Dog Face Joe gets away with his murder. Doyle, however, is educated, and eats charcoal to combat the poison. He lives, but is stuck in a hairy Benner body, which, on inspection, is the body of Ashbless. This explains why Ashbless did not appear in the pub as he was supposed to. Also, unbeknown to Doyle at this point, this also explains how the poetry of Colin, Tichy's fiancée, ends up in a book by Ashbless, and why, in modern times, there is so little information about Ashbless' origins.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

In Chapter 8, Romany is preparing a toy for the yags, or fire creatures. He laments about the time, eight years ago, when Fikee became Dog Face Joe and lost his mind, as well as his magic. As he ponders his future, he suddenly realizes the men of Darrow came through a hole in time rather than just distance, and he begins to see the possibilities of such a useful tool. In the meantime, the ka of Byron is in public, buying drinks for people and spouting what the sorcerers told him to say. Doyle, now in Benner's body, meets with him and begins to ask questions that break the spell of his brainwashing. Doyle walks him through remembering what happened and pieces together that Lord Byron's ka is meant to kill the king. The questioning also reveals that a group called the Antaeus Brotherhood was once a strong force against the magical forces of Romany and that they often were barefoot. Once awakened, Byron is determined to duel with Romany but is persuaded to wait for Doyle. Back at the gypsy camp, Romany attempts to contact the Master in Cairo to tell him of the time jumps, but he is unsuccessful. He instead is called to attend to the yags, or fire creatures.

Byron and Doyle travel to the club of the Brotherhood only to find the Brotherhood is now simply old men. Byron leaves in haste, but Doyle asks to examine the archives of the Brotherhood. Doyle learns that the Brotherhood always wears a chain looped through the sole of the boot, although the current members do not know why. He finds a passage that describes a chase across the ice and the death of a magician with a pistol ball to the face. At the end of the passage, he sees his own writing in pig-Latin, saying "Hiya, Brendad, Can you dig it?", and Doyle runs from the room. He steals a piece of chain from the cuckoo clock, however, before leaving.

Romany speaks to the fire creatures back at camp and shows them the toy, which excites them. He explains he will only turn it on if they all appear in downtown London tomorrow evening, and light the town ablaze. Romany hears the ka of Byron enter the camp, yelling, and orders Richard to silence Byron before he excites the yags too much. Romany realizes their plan is foiled and tells the yags they can have the toy now, to forget London, but to wait before exciting themselves until they are out of camp. Meanwhile, Doyle arrives, hiding in shadows, and the yags, who are mind readers, begin to shout his thoughts. Romany, thinking they are still excited over Byron, tells Wilbur to kill Bryon. Richard, unable to stand the thought of killing someone without reason, yells for Wilbur to stop and deliberately reaches out, turns on the toy, and breaks the level. Doyle, meanwhile, sneaks into camp and the yags begin to yell his name, alerting Romany. As the yags begin to start fires in the camp, Romany sees Doyle, although he does not know who he is, since he is in another body. Romany orders him to die, but Doyle feels the spell run through him and out the chain that is now attached to his boots. When he sees Romany raise a gun, he leaps and forces Romany to fall on the ground. He then bounds to where a gypsy waits to kill Byron, and shoots the gypsy instead. He frees Byron, tells him to escape, and hunts for Romany.



Chapter 8 Analysis

Chapter 8 again ties many aspects back to previous novels as well as foreshadows future events. When Romany admits Fikee is Dog Face Joe, readers understand the origins of the creature, as well as the origins of the Anubis time gates. The text also explains previous references to international affairs, deeds by Byron, and the overthrow of England as it explains that the ka of Byron was created to kill King George.

The introduction of the Antaeus Brotherhood is vital to the story at this point. The wearing of a chain through the boot heel has clear significance, although the reasoning is still unclear at this point. However, it does foreshadow Doyle's use of this tactic later in the chapter, and the eventual revelation that the chain acts as protection against spells. Additionally, the passage Doyle reads in the journal foreshadows events later in the novel, as Doyle acts out that very story. From the pig-Latin passage, it is clear Doyle is somehow involved in the battle, but the plot is unclear at this point. The creation of the yags to burn London is another part of the plan to overthrow the English, but this seemingly becomes pointless when Byron is captured. However, as was previously foreshadowed, it is again Richard who saves the day by distracting the yags, which allows Doyle to save Byron.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

Romany rapidly calculates the coordinates needed to jump back in time while Doyle continues to hunt for him. As Doyle locates him, Romany propels both himself and Doyle backwards in time to 1684, where both men crash onto a banquet table. Both men flee, and Doyle realizes it is freezing cold outside. He loses Romany, thanks to the magician's shoes, but finds Sammy, a man from inside the hall sent to look for the two men. Sammy has been bewitched by Romany, and Doyle calms him. Soon, Doyle finds himself at the door of the Brotherhood. They see the chain on his boot and immediately accept him, although warily. Throughout their conversation, they explain to Doyle the meaning of a ka, and Doyle tells them of the time holes, and Doctor Romany. They admit the know of Fikee and Romanelli, and Doyle convinces them to help him capture Romany. As they leave, Doyle writes his words in the journal in pig-Latin.

The men follow Romany and Burghard, captain of the Brotherhood, explains that the chain on the boot functions to hold the wearer to the ground, thereby protecting them from magic. They follow Romany onto the ice and pretend to be drunks as Romany glances back in their direction. They enter an alley and are attacked by werewolves. Romany turns back and is in awe that Doyle is present. He flees down the alley, jumps over the buildings and disappears. Doyle and the others move quickly to the inn in the field where Doyle knows the magician will go. Fikee, meanwhile, has an argument with his French companion. It appears he is escorting the Duke of Monmouth and has forged a marriage certificate, but the Duke is having second thoughts, which Fikee scares out of him. Doyle and his band overtake a sailor vessel but are soon overcome by a spell. Barely conscious, they leave the ship and make for land. Burghard makes land, and the men form a chain to secure them safely to soil, but six are lost. The men return to the banquet hall at the inn and discover Romany is already there. Suddenly, tables explode and reform into men while small tornadoes appear above the heads of nearby guests. The men fight the table men, but soon the patrons, under a spell, begin to fight the men as well. After a battle, most are released following a large fireball from the kitchen, although some are killed. The Brotherhood men run to the kitchen, but realize Romany is doing things from outside. Some are able to escape through the door, but Doyle, the innkeeper, and another man escape through a trap door. Outside, Fikee is waiting for the men and attacks them, but Burghard pulls out a gun to protect his men from the also-attacking Romany. Burghard shoots Romany in the face and knocks the fake marriage certificate from Fikee's hand. When Doyle arrives, Burghard explains that the other magicians fled when Romany was shot. When Doyle goes over to see Romany's body, it is gone, but Doyle is sucked back to 1810. Romany runs down an alley, still stuck in 1684, bleeding profusely, angry, and frustrated. He thinks to himself that at least Doyle is dead. He believes he can live, even as a ka, until 1810, and that when he meets Doyle in 1810 for the first time as this disfigured creature, he will take him to show him his own skull. A table man comes to him, and he walks slowly away.



Chapter 9 Analysis

This chapter again ties the story back to previous events in the novel. Doyle meets with the Brotherhood, the group mentioned several times as a group meant to battle magicians. Additionally, Doyle writes the passage he discovered in pig-Latin in an earlier chapter, tying up that loose piece of information. The Brotherhood explains the meaning of the chain on the boot, both discussed previously and imitated by Doyle. Further, this chapter explains the problem with the 1684 plan to overthrow the king. At the end of this chapter, the marriage certificate is taken by Burghard, thereby robbing Fikee of the piece of information that he planned to use to place the Duke at the throne.

There are two additional links to previous passages in this chapter. First, the destruction of the ka of Romany in 1684 becomes the creature known as the Luck of Surrey in 1810. Readers have seen this creature throughout the novel, but without being given a description. It is now clear the creature lived through from 1684 to 1810, and in fact met himself in 1810, albeit without any recognition. Finally, the scene between Doyle and the Luck of Surrey in a previous chapter is also explained here. Romany clearly believed at the time, he was showing Doyle, Doyle's own skull, when in reality, it was the skull of the slain patron.



Chapter 10 and Chapter 11

Chapter 10 and Chapter 11 Summary

In Chapter 10, Doyle finds himself in 1810 in the gypsy tent. He meets Richard, tells him Romany is dead, and flees the camp with Lord Byron. Nearby, the thing that is Romany has come to see the ending of Doyle and is furious that Doyle still lives. Romanelli, back in Greece, is told by the Master to keep Byron alive after he explains that he believes Romany is dead. The Master tells him to travel to London to find out what has occurred. Meanwhile, Darrow meets with Dog Face Joe in his hair removal parlor. Darrow tells Dog Face Joe how he dies. Horrabin, in Rat Castle, entertains himself by killing his beggar lords as he waits for Romany. Romanelli instead arrives, and Horrabin realizes Romanelli is bleeding profusely as a result of his magical travel. The Luck of Surrey speaks out, and Romanelli recognizes him as Romany, who tells him where Doyle is residing. Doyle, on the other hand, is living out the life of Ashbless as he publishes the appropriate poems in appropriate publications. He and the ka of Byron are sitting drinking when they are attacked by Horrabin's men, on order from Romanelli. Doyle is kidnapped, and the ka of Byron is killed. When Doyle wakes, he is on a ship. He speaks with Romany, who explains that before Romany dies, he will see Doyle dead. Romany is tethered to the boat only by a rope, as he floats above the deck. He also explains that when a person dies, they travel through the Underworld and beg Ra for salvation, although some are eaten by Apep. Doyle, knowing the life of Ashbless, tells Romany he knows they are headed toward Egypt, and Romany tells him they are trying to call the wind elementals of Shellengeri to assist their passage. When they arrive, the entire boat is thrust forward. Doyle is given food and beer and thinks about his eventual wife, Tichy. One evening on the fifteen day trip, Doyle sees a black boat outside the ship but attributes the vision to a lack of sleep.

In Chapter 11, Doyle awakens on the deck, tied up, and hears Romany and Romanelli nearby. Romanelli tells him they are near Alexandria and are going ashore to travel overland to Cairo. When he wakes again, the group is past Cairo, and Romanelli informs him they are heading for the necropolis below the Citadel. They arrive, and walk into a sphere, where Doyle is led upstairs directly into the dome. The sphere is huge, with a light hung in the center. Across the dome attached to the wall is a couch, and on the couch is the Master. The four talk, and the Master learns Doyle is the cause of many of their current problems. Romanelli and Romany are ordered to construct a ka of Doyle, but during the process to draw his blood, Doyle fights back and flees, although some of his blood is left behind to make the ka. Doyle stabs Romany, killing him, and knocks out the door guard.

Back in London, Dog Face Joe takes over the body of athlete Chinnie and places him in the body of Doyle. Chinnie, in Doyle's body, lives through the ordeal as his stamina allows him to swim to the surface after Dog Face attempts to drown him. Joe, in Chinnie's body, walks into the night. Darrow, meanwhile, dreams of Doyle and meets with Joe, who brings him the body of Chinnie. At the docks, a young man named



Fennery Clare helps Chinnie in Doyle's body escape the river, and he is shocked to see he is in another body.

Chapter 10 and Chapter 11 Analysis

In Chapter 10, readers see first hand how difficult magic is for the performer, as shown by Romanelli's trip to England. The effort required to propel himself through space causes grave side effects and is highly dangerous for the caster. Darrow finally gets his meeting with Dog Face, foreshadowing their deal in the next chapter. Horrabin, in his castle, shows his true character as he spends his time killing his beggar lords. Romanelli's obvious disdain for the Luck of Surrey is overcome by Romanelli as he recognizes the creature for what he is, Romany. The ka of Byron, while important, had to be killed in order to maintain history appropriately, so in this chapter, his death is only to be expected. Romany's discussion of the boat of Ra foreshadows Doyle's own salvation at the end of the novel, and Doyle's vision of the black boat clearly symbolizes Apep. His thoughts on the journey to Egypt foreshadow his own demise, as his security about the future grows, even after his own experiences have shown him that the future is variable.

In Chapter 11, readers meet the Master for the first time in person. The Master appears polite and tired, although clearly interested in the time holes. His mannerisms are those of an old man, and his couch, sphere, and methods of simply existing only further the image of a dying old man. Doyle's flight during the creation of his ka foreshadows the outcome of the ka, as shown later in the novel and foreshadows the demise of the Master and Romanelli. The death of Romany, although inevitable, does come as a surprise, but shows again the power of man against magic.

The adventures of Dog Face Joe become more rapid in this chapter, as well, and more sloppy, as Chinnie, the athlete, remains alive, albeit in Doyle's body. This foreshadows problems for the poor individual, since several men are hunting Doyle. Joe, on the other hand, discovers the details of his own death, which allow him to avoid it. It is clear Darrow tells him this in order to make a deal to swap bodies, as Joe brings the body of Chinnie to Darrow for approval.



Chapter 12 and Chapter 13

Chapter 12 and Chapter 13 Summary

Chapter 12 finds Darrow as Jacob Christopher Dundee, an investment man who is making a killing in London financial markets. He is engaged to Clare Peabody and hopes to have a son. Joe, in the body of Darrow, plans to jump into the body of Maturo, the man Darrow knows will kill him in a week or so, and says he can put the herbs needed into his soup prior to the swap. Meanwhile, Jacky yells to a man on the street believing he is Doyle, but is saddened to hear it is not, as she now believes Doyle is dead. Chinnie, glad to have someone to talk to about the body swap, gets the story from Jacky as to what really happened to Chinnie. Chinnie talks Jacky into a plan, where Chinnie finds Joe, and Jacky helps him to convince Joe to give the body back. Doug Maturo joins his friends in a pub, where they are annoyed by a nearby patron. When he and the old man scuffle, Maturo realizes it is Joe. He attacks him, gathers a mob, takes him outside, and hangs him. Just before the barrel under his feet is removed, the old man begins to yell that he is now Doug, but he is dead before he can finish. Joe, now in Maturo's body, walks away. He returns to Darrow, who is entertaining his fiancée. When Joe walks in and is introduced, it is clear Claire does not like him. Meanwhile, Jacky goes to see the body of what everyone believes to be Joe, cries, and wonders what to do next, now that her main goal appears to be complete.

In Chapter 13, Romanelli is lamenting about the power position of the Mamelukes, an army of ex-slaves who, according to Romanelli, need to be stopped, particularly since Mohammed Ali, power of Egypt, looks to the Master for answers. Romanelli believes he and the Master are finally at the point of winning independence for Egypt but also that they will not gain much from Doyle's ka, since he appears to be insane. However, they believe they can still win, and then kill Ali, putting a ka in his place. In the Mustee, a parade of the Mamelukes Beys is traveling in all their fine jewels and finest dress, watched by everyone. In the parade, Doyle sits as an impostor for a Mameluke, Ameen. Doyle had been a beggar when Ameen and his brothers came through the city months ago. Doyle failed to get out of their way quickly enough and accidentally caused Hassan to be wounded. Hassan began a sword fight with Doyle, but Hathi shot him. Ameen was in shock, as the Muslim view of beggars is that they are representatives of Allah. As a result, Ameen teaches Doyle the trade of a cobbler, and Doyle becomes Eshvlis, the cobbler. Today, he is taking the place of Ameen as Ali plans to have the Mameluke arrested immediately following the large banquet to which they are traveling. While Doyle takes his place, Ameen is fleeing Egypt. Soon, however, Doyle finds the Ali has ordered the Mameluke to be trapped and killed by mercenaries as the group is closed off from the palace and trapped on the road. The fighting begins, but Doyle escapes, injured, and travels to the home of Mustapha Bey, a Mameluke. Doyle tells them it was the fault of the Master and obtains their assistance to attack the dome. Twefik and Doyle ride to a place not far from the dome, and prepare a cannon to blow open the dome. They find themselves bathed in a green laser from the dome, and Doyle stabs through his own heel into the ground, saving himself while the others drop limply to the



ground. Doyle fires the cannon, breaks open the dome, and charges. He kills wax guards of the Master, and when he enters the dome, he realizes the Master is being held inside only by a rope. When he arrives at the sphere, the Master attempts to bribe for his life by promising Doyle he can save Rebecca, his wife, but Doyle cuts the rope, and the Master floats into space. Doyle leaves the dome, and his ka, insane, follows unnoticed.

Chapter 12 and Chapter 13 Analysis

Chapter 12 shows the height of Darrow's plan in 1810 as he amasses his fortune in the body of Chinnie, finds a fiancée, and lives out his life. Joe's plan to overtake his killer, Maturo, works, which has the chance to upset history, as Darrow knows the last reference to Joe in history is his death at the hands of Maturo. Jacky shows a clear love of Doyle in this chapter as she appears saddened by his assumed death. This foreshadows her relationship with Doyle later in the novel, and her deal with Chinnie foreshadows the death of Joe later in the novel. Jacky's motives for helping Chinnie are not selfless, in that it is clear her main goal is to kill Joe. At the end of the chapter, as she believes Joe is dead, Jacky feels robbed of her right for vengeance.

In Chapter 13, Romanelli gives insight about the plans of the Master and Egypt as a whole. The author, as in previous chapters, again blends historical fact with his fiction to present a more believable story line. He also explains that the ka of Doyle is insane, which is not surprising considering Doyle is much on the verge, as the Master points out later in the chapter. Doyle's decision to assist Ameen, while nearly ending in his death, also gives him an opportunity to rid the world of the Master. While the Master attempts to use Rebecca as a bargaining tool and threatens the life of the innocent Tichy in the process, Doyle shows his true character by refusing, and by releasing the Master. It is clear from the Master's anger at this move that he will be unable to return to the world. The knowledge that Doyle's ka still lives, however, foreshadows the ka's appearance at the end of the novel.



Chapter 14, Chapter 15, and Prologue.

Chapter 14, Chapter 15, and Prologue. Summary

In Chapter 14, Darrow again awakens from a dream of Doyle. It becomes evident that he and Clarie are not intimate, as she mentions it several times when she wakes him. Meanwhile, Joe plans to take over the body of Darrow, leaving him in Maturo's body to die of suicide, so he can have Claire. Chinnie finds Jacky and explains that he believes Maturo did not kill Joe, and that he is really living in Maturo's body. The two plan to go to Darrow's house to investigate. When Darrow returns home, still in Chinnie's body, he hears something in the alley and suddenly remembers that in his dream of Doyle, he is pointing up at his own corpse, that of Darrow. As Darrow confronts Jacky and Chinnie, in Doyle's body, Darrow mistakes it for the real Doyle and kills him. Jacky attacks Darrow, shooting him, just as Joe, in Darrow's body, leaps to his death from the window above. A moment later, Darrow's eyes flutter open as Joe enters the body right before he dies. Jacky flees.

In Chapter 15, Horrabin's men are again sent on a manhunt for Doyle but are also secretly planning mutiny against Horrabin. Romanelli is slowly deteriorating after his escape from the Master's dome. He has returned to Horrabin to capture Doyle and kill him once and for all after learning about the time gates. Doyle, as Ashbless, arrives at a literary meeting and spends much of it speaking with Coleridge. The two travel together outside where Jacky approaches, meaning to tell Ashbless about Doyle's death, not realizing the true circumstances. Doyle invites Jacky along, assures her Doyle is not dead, and the three are kidnapped by Horrabin's men. Doyle attempts to escape but is shot in the kneecap. Coleridge is drugged and placed in a bedroom. Carrington, one of Horrabin's men, suddenly realizes Jacky looks much like Ameen and the young woman who left the castle the night Teobaldo tried to kill Horrabin. He goes to the dungeon where Jacky is being held. Jacky, on the other hand, has been listening to the torture of Doyle in the underground hospital by Horrabin and Romanelli. Carrington begins to question Jacky, and Horrabin's mistake creatures tell him to leave her alone, which is how he learns Jacky is a female. He takes her from the cell, intent on raping her despite his men's clear disdain, but Horrabin's mistakes kill him and his attempt to take Jacky. Coleridge awakens from his drug stupor, and, convinced he is dreaming, goes to the dungeon and frees the mistakes. Ashbless is nearly dead when Horrabin's Spoonsize Boys warn him the mistakes are loose. The mistakes attack, and Romanelli summons a barrier, but is hardly able to sustain it as his powers are dying. The creatures attack Horrabin as he is covered in mud. Romanelli takes Doyle further into the dungeon as the mistakes chase Horrabin. Jacky meets up with Coleridge, who still believes he is dreaming. Doyle wakes and finds himself on a boat, which Romanelli explains is the boat of Ra, which will take him to the Atet boat to be restored. The two men see Apep, who Romanelli explains sees something in the boat that should not be restored. While Romanelli is gloating over the perceived impending death of Doyle, Apep instead plucks Romanelli from the boat and eats him.



Jacky and Coleridge escape the castle after witnessing the death of Horrabin at the hands of the mistakes and are escorted out by Big Biter, the largest of the mistakes. He explains that the castle dungeons are about to be hardened to the point of darkness, thereby removing all the mistakes and the magic. Jacky takes Coleridge to his hote, and then goes to the river to wait for either Doyle, if he is still alive, or his body. Jacky is surprised to find Doyle, whom she still knows only as Ashbless, alive, and he explains that he was saved by magic. He tells her Ashbless still has to marry Tichy, and at that point, she angrily notes that she IS Tichy. Doyle laughs, and begins to tell her he is really Doyle but instead invites her to breakfast.

In the Epilogue, Doyle is going to meet his demise, as he knows Ashbless is to die in a certain place at a certain time. He has, thus far, lived the life of Ashbless, including his marriage to Tichy. When he arrives at the spot and a boat arrives with his intended killer, the two sword fight for several minutes. When Doyle is cut on the arm, he is surprised, as Ashbless was to die only from a stomach wound. Doyle suddenly realizes his opponent is his own ka and kills him. Therefore, the death of Ashbless is complete, and Doyle is free to live the rest of his life as he pleases.

Chapter 14, Chapter 15, and Prologue. Analysis

In Chapter 14, the tale of Dog Face Joe and Darrow come to a tragic but necessary end. Both have outlived their historic presence, and as a result, any further life may jeopardize the future, although they seem not to care about such trivial points. Joe dies as a result of his greed for Claire and his deceit; whereas, Darrow dies as a direct result of his entire plan to live in 1810. The body of Doyle, who is Chinnie, also dies in this chapter, as he is yet another remaining link to the future and to Joe that should not exist, showing again that in the end, time prevailed over all.

Chapter 15 ties up many of the story line threads quite well. Coleridge makes another appearance in the novel and this time is responsible for the release of the mistakes and thus, the overall savior of both Jacky and Doyle. As foreshadowed earlier in the novel, the mistakes are angry at Horrabin and seek revenge, and it is this anger that results in the death of Horrabin. Romanelli is killed by Apep, as was foretold when Doyle saw the black ship on his journey to Egypt. As foretold when Jacky fled Rat's Castle the first time, it was Lee Carrington who almost rapes and kills her, but she is saved by the mistakes. Jacky is finally revealed as Doyle's eventual wife, and the two go off into the sunset.

The Epilogue ties up the final string of the tale, that of the ka of Doyle. Doyle bravely goes to meet his end, but finds it is his ka that waits to be killed. Therefore, at the end of the novel, all futuristic components have been removed; history has been restored, and Doyle is free to live a life he chooses. The final message of the book again appears to be the power of man over magic, and the power of man's small decisions.



Characters

Brendan Doyle

Brendan Doyle is a literary professor who has written a comprehensive account of the life of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and is currently working on a biography of William Ashbless. As an expert on Coleridge, Doyle is hired by Cochran Darrow, a rich and powerful man, to travel back in time with him and a group of time tourists to hear a lecture given by Coleridge in 1810. However, he is kidnapped, and left behind in 1810, where he is forced to beg for food and money. Over the course of time, however, he comes to discover that Darrow and his men have returned to live in 1810, and want him dead, since he has information about the future. In addition, he finds he is the target of gypsies who worship the Master who also want the knowledge of time travel. Even further, Doyle is attacked by Dog Face Joe, a werewolf, and forced to switch his own body for that of his friend, Benner. Throughout his journey for salvation, he discovers his actions parallel those of William Ashbless, and it is really himself he was researching in his own modern time. Knowing that to alter the course of Ashbless' life would be to change his own future, Doyle faithfully lives out the life of Ashbless, including arriving in time for his own death. On arrival, however, he realizes he kills his own magical ka, or twin, and is free to live out his life as he chooses.

Doctor Romanelli

Doctor Romanelli is a servant of the Master and the Egyptian part of the magical team. Romanelli's ka, Romany, takes care of most things in 1810 England. However, when Doyle travels back to the late 1600's, he finds that the Antaeus Brotherhood, or the group charged with stopping magic, know of Doctor Romanelli. Additionally, it is Romanelli who does the Master's bidding to create a ka of Lord Byron, and who cuts Lord Byron as he pretends to be his doctor, in order to obtain the blood needed for the ka. Romanelli is often frustrated, as he is left to wait in Greece, Egypt, or elsewhere to hear how his plans are enacted by his ka in London. But when the yagas, or fire monsters, attack the gypsy camp in London and when Romany is nearly mortally wounded, Romanelli himself is given the task to travel to London and discover the problem. He then kidnaps Doyle and takes him to the Master. However, his plan is foiled when Doyle kills not only Romanelli but the Master himself. Romanelli, while extremely powerful, relies on magic and treachery to win his battle, but loses in the end to simple logic and rational human beings.

Doctor Romany

Doctor Romany is another servant of the Master, and is the ka of Doctor Romanelli. Romany wears spring soled shoes, due to his position as a magical being who can't touch the ground without severe pain. He is stationed in London, England, and plays a



vital role in the novel. First, he and Amenophis Fikee open the gates of Anubis and create Dog Face Joe in 1802. In 1810, Romany is responsible for the kidnapping of Doyle and the manhunt to capture him. His motive for such moves is a desire to learn his method of time travel, so he and his men can alter history, allowing Egypt to flourish without British intervention. Romany travels back to the late 1600's to warn his counterpart, Amenophis Fikee, of the future events but is attacked and nearly killed by Doyle and the Antaeus Brotherhood. He returns to London a wounded creature who only Romanelli recognizes, and is killed by Doyle in Egypt at the same time he kills the Master and Romanelli. Again, Doctor Romany relies on his servants, his magic, and his power to defeat human kind, but like his counterpart, he discovers that the power of mortal man can overpower magic.

Horrabin

Horrabin is the king of beggars and associates with Doctor Romany in London, England. He first enters the story when he offers Doyle a position as a street beggar, to which Doyle takes offense. Over the next several chapters, however, Horrabin shows himself to be a ruthless, deformed, angry individual whose desire is simply to rule his beggars with an iron fist and to live out the legacy of his father. He has personal vendettas against Jacky and a vested interest in Doyle, as Doctor Romany places a price on his head. Horrabin has experimented greatly with magic, and as a result, walks on stilts to avoid ground contact. Additionally, he wears clown makeup, both as part of his stage act but also to hide his hideous scars, which his father gave to him. Horrabin, as interested in magical deformation as his father, has several creatures locked in the basement of his castle, Rat Castle. In the end, as Horrabin disfigures and maims Doyle, it is these creatures that kill him.

Jacky

Jacky, also known in the novel as Elizabeth Jacqueline Tichy and Ahmed the Hindu beggar, is a young woman on a mission to avenge the death of her fiancée, Colin. She shot and killed Colin after he broke into her house covered in hair, as she believed him to be a wild animal. It was only when she looked into his eyes that she realized it was Colin, who had been the victim of a body switch by Dog Face Joe. As a result, Jacky travels to London and dresses as a beggar boy. She quickly becomes the right hand man of Copenhagen Jack, and as a result, hears all the news of the city, so is better able to track Joe. She meets Doyle and assists him in many ways throughout the novel. When she is captured by Horrabin the first time, she narrowly escapes after meeting his father. Later, she helps Coleridge free the Horrabin experiments so they might kill Horrabin. Throughout the novel, she hides her identity from Doyle, and appears to genuinely care for him. When she is revealed as Tichy, Ashbless' eventual wife, the circle of this plot line is completed.



J. Cochran Darrow

J. Cochran Darrow is an old but powerful man who is dying from cancer. As the founder of DIRE, or Darrow Interdisciplinary Research Enterprises, he and his team have discovered the key to time travel. Unbeknown to his staff, Darrow uses a brief expedition to 1810 to hear Coleridge speak as funding for his own motive. As a person with cancer, Darrow has also researched a way to survive. In history, he found reference to Dog Face Joe. Darrow develops a plan to bribe Dog Face Joe into providing him with a body to use. He will then live in the past and make his fortune. His plan appears to be succeeding, as he amasses a vast fortune, a pretty wife, and the respect of the 1810 London community. However, once Jacky and Chinnie, another of Joe's living victims, discover the secret, they go to the house to confront Joe. They accidentally kill Darrow, ending his success.

Steerforth Benner

Steerforth Benner is a previous associate of Doyle who has been hired by Darrow. Doyle meets Benner again at the home of Darrow where he finds Benner has been hired, at least for this assignment, as a guard of the original team traveling back to 1810 to hear Coleridge. However, when Doyle meets him again in 1810 following his own missed trip back to modern times, he discovers Benner's true position with Darrow was to accompany him back a second time to 1810 in order for him to assist in locating Dog Face Joe. Additionally, Benner reveals he attempted to shoot Doyle himself at the orders of Darrow. However, Benner reveals Darrow plans to kill both Doyle and Benner and the rest of the 1810 team. After planning with Doyle to blackmail and threaten Darrow into allowing them to return to modern times, Benner is attacked by Dog Face Joe and killed in the body of a young farm hand. When he meets with Doyle again, Dog Face Joe, now in Benner's body, swaps bodies, so Doyle ends up in Benner's body, and Dog Face Joe escapes in Doyle's. Throughout the novel, Benner appears to be fond of Doyle. However, he is selfish in that he attempts to kill Doyle in an effort to save his own life.

Amenophis Fikee

Amenophis Fikee appears only a few times in the novel but is vital to the story line. In 1802, it is he and Romany that create Dog Face Joe, and as a result, Amenophis Fikee is, in fact, the werewolf. Further, he appears in the late 1600's as the magician ordered by the Master to assist forging a marriage certificate between Lucy, James, Duke of Monmouth's mother, and King Charles. Such a marriage would allow James rule over England, which would, in turn, stop the English interest in Egypt. However, the plan fails, as the poison meant to kill Charles is ingested instead by a spaniel, and the marriage certificate is lost in the battle with Doyle and the Antaeus Brotherhood. Amenophis Fikee dies as Dog Face Joe in the end of the novel, as he attempts to jump to the body of the dying Darrow.



Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Samuel Taylor Coleridge is a poet and author living in 1810 and exists as a poet in real history. Coleridge was the primary focus of a book by Doyle in modern times, and Coleridge's speech is the initial reason Doyle is hired to jump back to 1810. Later in the novel, Coleridge and Doyle find themselves kidnapped by Horrabin and Romanelli along with Jacky and Doyle. Coleridge is drugged but is already addicted to opium, and as such, does not stay asleep for as long as anticipated. When he awakens, he meanders down to the cellar of Rat Palace, where he frees the creatures of Horrabin. He and Jacky then escape the castle, and Jacky returns him to his hotel.

William Ashbless

William Ashbless is another author of 1810, and the study of Doyle's current book. However, when Doyle returns to 1810 and finds himself waiting for Ashbless in a pub, he is disappointed to find Ashbless does not appear. Doyle himself writes a poem Ashbless is believed to have written in the pub and leaves it for Ashbless to find. Later in the novel, however, as Doyle sees his reflection in the body of Benner, he realizes that Ashbless is really himself. The events in the rest of the novel happen to Doyle as he knew in modern times to have happened to Ashbless.

Lord Byron

Lord Byron, or rather his ka, plays a small but important role in the novel. Doctor Romanelli, acting as doctor to the real Byron in Greece, uses his blood to create a ka of Byron in 1810 England. The ka is programmed through brainwashing to answer specific questions, to make himself known, and then to kill King George. However, Doyle rouses the ka from his programmed state, and makes him realize the plans set forth for him. When Byron's ka sets out to kill Romany in the gypsy camp of London, Doyle follows to save him, only to find himself transported in his pursuit of Romany to the late 1600's, where he again faces off with Amenophis Fikee and Romany. Byron's ka is killed, and Lord Byron lives through the interference. Lord Bryon actually was a poet in real history.

Owen Burghard

Owen Burghard is the man seemingly in charge of the Antaeus Brotherhood in the late 1600's. Burghard orders his men to care for Doyle when he magically appears on their table after he sees Doyle has a chain through his boot as they do. He explains to Doyle why the chain protects against magic, as well as helps him to pursue Romany through the freezing wilderness of London, England. When they find Romany and Fikee, Burghard appears to kill Romany, changing him instead into the insane deformed creature of the late 1810's. Burghard is also responsible for Fikee losing the fraudulent marriage proposal, and the end to the conspiracy to make James, Duke of Monmouth, King of England.



Teobaldo

Teobaldo is the father of Horrabin, also known as Dungy. Dungy acts as the beggar house jester but plans with Jacky to kill Horrabin. As he is dying following the failure of their plan, he explains to Jacky that he put his own son through the hospital to deform him into a better beggar, and so he deserves to be dead. Additionally, he notes that he lost his role as king of the beggars to his son, who then put him through the same hospital many times.

Master

The Master, although a small character in the story, has a huge impact on the plot. The Master is an ancient magician whom Romany, Romanelli, Muhammad Ali, ruler of Egypt, and many others follow blindly. He lies within a citadel strapped to a couch attached to a wall, so that he does not gravitate toward the stars and also does not touch the ground. His actions consistently seek to alter history to preserve Egypt from British forces and to free Anubis. He is killed in the end by Doyle.



Objects/Places

Ka

A ka is a magical twin of an individual, made from the blood of the living person, which is placed into a mixture of paut. Throughout the book, Romanelli, Doyle, and Lord Byron all have ka's made of them.

London, England

This is where much of the book takes place, as this is where Doyle finds himself trapped in the beginning of the novel and where he continues to fight Romany and Horrabin.

DIRE

DIRE is the name of Darrow's company, which is responsible for discovering the secrets of time travel. The abbreviation is for Darrow Interdisciplinary Research Enterprises.

Rat Castle

Rat Castle is the home of Horrabin's beggars and the place Doyle is nearly killed by Horrabin and Romany.

Pye Street Beggar House

The Pye Street Beggar house is where Doyle first meets Jacky and Copenhagen Jack.

Apep

Apep is a devil of Egyptian mythology who appears often as a snake. Apep eats Romany in the end.

Ra

Ra is the sun god of Egyptian mythology and in direct competition with Apep. It is the boat of Ra that saves Doyle in the end of the novel.

Werewolf

Dog Face Joe in the book is a werewolf who is able to change bodies at will as needed.



Egypt

Egypt is the land the gypsies are trying to free from England for the Master and the land Doyle is taken to, where he kills the Master.

Thames

The Thames appears several times in the book as one of the main waterways of England.

Antaeus Brotherhood

The Antaeus Brotherhood is the group of magic fighters originally hired by King Charles to limit the amount of evil magic done in the kingdom.

Yags

Fire elementals created by Doctor Romany to help originally burn down London in 1810.



Themes

Good vs. Evil

Throughout the novel, there is a consistent fight between good and evil, albeit in a variety of different forms. In the very beginning, Romany and Fikee attempt to raise Anubis but succeed only in turning Fikee into a werewolf who is killed at the end. Doyle believes he is lecturing on Coleridge for the good of literature but eventually learns that Darrow is using him for immoral purposes, that of blackmail, murder, and lies. However, in the end, Doyle lives while Darrow dies in his perfect, new body. Horrabin and his gang of beggars will do anything to make their money; whereas, Copenhagen Jack and his crew have at least some integrity, and it is that integrity that keeps them alive. Dog Face Joe, the werewolf, is intent on killing the innocent to keep himself alive but is bested by Jacky and Chinnie and is killed. Horrabin, king of the thieves, is intent on creating new forms of life through magic and disfigurement, only to have those creatures kill him. Romany, Romanelli, and the Master constantly rely on magic and bad intentions to further their own goals, but time after time find themselves bested by mere mortals with a good cause. Fikee and Romany lose the battle in the late 1600's to place their servant on the throne; they lose their fight to have Byron's ka kill the 1810 king of England, and eventually, all lose their lives at the hands of Doyle and other good men. Even Benner, who seems kind enough at first, turns his back on his friend and tries to kill him when his own life is threatened. Benner, too, is killed. Clearly, time and time again, the good in the novel survive while the evil are killed or lose the battle.

This theme is particularly clear in two particular scenes, those of the boat ride with Romanelli and Doyle and the sword fight between Doyle and his ka. In the boat of Ra, the Sektet boat, Romanelli notes that Apep senses something in the boat that does not qualify for emergence into the dawn. However, Apep kills Romanelli rather than Doyle, showing clearly that the gods favored Doyle, the honorable man, over Romanelli. During the ending sword fight, readers see Doyle kill the evil, insane ka that the Master and Romanelli made of him during his capture in Egypt. This again shows clearly to role of good over evil in the novel.

Historical Significance of Decisions

While the novel clearly revolves around time travel as a main part of the story, there is an underlying theme of the significance small decisions make on our lives. When Fikee decides to help the Master attempt to invoke Anubis in the beginning of the story, he makes a decision that sets the path for sixty years, and one that affects the lives of hundreds of individuals. Fikee becomes Dog Face Joe, who kills hundreds as he moves from body to body. Further, the time gates open, affecting the lives of not only those in 1800 England but those in modern England and in 1680 England. When Doyle chooses to accept Darrow's offer, he essentially writes history as he lives out the life of William Ashbless in 1810. When Jacky decides to pursue Dog Face Joe, she sets into motion a



series of events that nearly kills her, but at the same time, she also meets her future husband, Doyle, who would not be in the area had he not made the decision to attend the Coleridge lecture. When Romany decides to warn Fikee in the late 1600's that the plan to have the King killed does not work, he in essence chooses to end life as he knows it, although he is unaware of it at the time. When Horrabin kidnaps Coleridge along with Jacky and Doyle, he seals his own fate, which would only occur because Doyle chose to assist Darrow with his lecture and because Jacky decided to pursue her fiancée's killer. It is clear, by examining each event, that all of history was really determined during the simple act of Fikee and Romany attempting to awaken Anubis. This small step created, or rather recreated, history throughout the entire novel, showing that each small decision in life can lead to many larger events.

Revenge

The theme of revenge is another concept that is presented throughout the novel. Jacky seeks revenge against Dog Face Joe for the death of her fiancée, Colin. It is this revenge that leads her into a life of beggars, thieves, kidnapping, and nearly her own death. Horrabin seeks revenge against Doyle for his brush off of Horrabin's offer for employment, but this revenge leads him to his own death. Romany seeks revenge against Doyle throughout the novel due to Doyle's nearly constant ability to derail Romany's plans, and this, too, leads to his own demise. Romanelli seeks revenge for the Master and for Romany and is eaten by Apep as a result. Benner attempts to blackmail Darrow in revenge for his treatment of his men, and as a result, runs into Dog Face Joe and becomes his next victim. Clearly, revenge is a powerful tool throughout the novel, and one that often leads to the demise of the characters.

On the other hand, not all revenge seekers suffer a terrible fate. Horrabin's poor creatures of the underground are freed as they seek their revenge against their master. Jacky's search for revenge, while having a horrible downside, ends in her marriage to Ashbless. Burghard's search for revenge against Fikee for killing his men gives rise to the disablement of Romany. Therefore, the novel also shows that revenge can also be used as a powerful tool for good.



Style

Point of View

The point of view of the novel is third person. This is necessary, in that it provides a reliable and omnipotent voice throughout the novel, even though the settings of the book vary around the world. Additionally, this point of view allows the reader to understand the emotions and thoughts of each character independently, further flushing out the characters. With so many characters and body swapping throughout the novel, this point of view is also vital in even understanding the storyline.

Much of the story is descriptive, with short dialog scenes throughout the passages. This method is successful, in that it keeps the reader focused on the setting of the text to allow for subtle cultural differences while still allowing the storyline to unfold. As Dog Face Joe overtakes Doyle and places him in Brennan's body, this method becomes even more important, as the main character is referred to as Doyle, Benner, and later, Ashbless. However, since the descriptions are so vast, it is easy to ascertain who is in whose body. Without the third person view and the descriptive passages, the reader would be unable to follow. As many as five character shifts occur within a single chapter, so the third person view becomes even more necessary as the book ends.

Setting

The novel's setting jumps from place to place throughout the entire novel, as well as from time to time. The story begins in a gypsy camp near London in 1802, where Fikee and Romany attempt to raise the spirit of Anubis, but instead create the werewolf Dog Face Joe. The gypsy camp remains much the same throughout the novel in that it is set up as a circle of tents with carriages to the outside, regardless of time period. The novel then jumps to modern England, where Doyle first meets Darrow, and signs on as his Coleridge expert. The group of Darrow and his men, including Doyle, then jump to 1810 England, where horse drawn carriages act as taxis and lanterns line the narrow cobble streets. Later in the novel, the ka of Doctor Romanelli, Doctor Romany, makes a ka of Lord Byron, who is in Greece. Doyle then follows Doctor Romany to London, England in the late 1600, where a bitter freeze is in effect, thanks to the magic of the gypsies and the Master, and where the streets are void of light. The two eventually jump back to 1810 England. Doyle is kidnapped, and transported to Cairo, Egypt. Once he kills the Master, he returns to London, where he and Jacky eventually marry.

Throughout each of these settings, the focus remains on the characters. However, descriptions of the locations help the reader to identify time shifts as well as character shifts and local customs and political situations, both of which are vital to the plot of the novel.



Language and Meaning

The language of the novel changes with the scenery and time frame. The gypsies often speak in a different language, which is presumably a form of Arabic. Darrow, Benner, and Doyle all speak a modern form of English. However, when they are transported back to 1810, their language changes to match that of old British. When Doyle and Doctor Romany reach Greece and then Egypt, there are short phrases in those languages, as well. Further, the language of secondary characters changes to even older British when Doyle transports to the late 1600's. This shift of language allows the reader to quickly identify both location, culture, character, and time, as well as lending a sense of authenticity to the novel. The author keeps his dialog to shorter passages, meaning most of the novel is written in simple, modern English, while dialog is used both to further the storyline and to reveal location and time.

The writing style, on the other hand, is consistently informal and easy to read. Sentences are often short and easy to comprehend. This simple writing style is helpful, since the rapid body changes and scene changes in the novel are difficult to follow on their own.

Structure

The novel is comprised of fifteen chapters, an epilogue at the beginning and another at the end, each of varying lengths and contained within two books. The first book contains an epilogue and seven chapters, while the second contains eight chapters and an epilogue. The names of the books refer to some event within the major plotline of the novel, while the chapters themselves are named only by number. The epilogues are named only by their dates. The book is 387 pages in length.

The plot of the novel is filled with subplots. While the main story pertains to Brendan Doyle and his adventures trying to live in 1810 England, there are subplots that involve magical gypsies, werewolves, body swaps, and evil deception. In the end, Doyle discovers that the person he was seeking to research in modern times, William Ashbless, is himself in 1810, and it is his own ka who is killed in the end, allowing Doyle to live his own life, albeit in another man's body. The novel's pace is rapid due to the high amount of subplots, but the author's use of simple verbiage makes the story easy to follow. Additionally, the subplots are tied together in the end of the novel perfectly, making the novel a pleasure to read.



Quotes

"You know our Gods are gone. They reside now in the Tuaut, the underworld, the gates of which have been held shut for eighteen centuries by some pressure I do not understand but which I am sure is linked with Christianity. Anubis is the god of that world and the gates, but has no longer any form in which to appear here....There is a spell...in the Book of Thoth which is an invocation to Anubis to take possession of the sorcerer. This will allow the god to take physical form - yours." - Prologue: February 2, 1802, page 3.

"Now - pay attention, this is the important part - sometime something happened to punch holes in the metaphorical ice cover. Don't ask me how it happened, but spread out across roughly six hundred years there's a...shotgun pattern of gaps, in which certain normal chemical reactions don't occur, complex machinery doesn't work...but the old systems we call magic do." - Chapter 1, page 27.

"The first few days would certainly be difficult, but the advantage of all his twentieth century knowledge couldn't help but turn the scales in his favor. Hell, he could get a job for a while on a newspaper, and maybe make some startling predictions about the outcome of the war, and current literary trends; and Ashbless was due to arrive in London in only about a week, and he could easily strike up a friendship with him; and in two years Byron would be returning to England, and he could get an introduction before Childe Harold made him a superstar." - Chapter 2, page 64.

"The sliding panel of a dark lantern had been clanked open, and the silhouette was abruptly revealed to be a clown, its face hideously pied with red and green and white paint, its inflamed eyes wide open and crossed, and a startlingly long tongue protruding from between puffed-out cheeks. It was the same clown he'd seen stumping about the market on stilts earlier, the model of the Horrabin puppet." - Chapter 3, page 71.

"And this Doctor Romany must have seen us appear in that field - I think he was watching the place, for you can't just jump from here to there as you please, you see, you've got to take off and land at certain places, what the man in charge called gaps, and I believe Romany knows where all the gaps are - and he must have followed us from there, because he grabbed me when I was just for a moment away from the others, and he took me to some gypsy camp." - Chapter 4, page 94.

"The clown's father was a St. Giles beggar master too, and he wouldn't run a fake - all of his blind men were really blind, and his crippled children didn't carry crutches just for effect. All very commendable, one would say, until you learn that he'd recruit healthy people and then alter them for the trade of begging. He had a hospital in reverse under London somewhere, and developed techniques for turning robust men, women, and children into creatures tailored to evoke horror and pity." - Chapter 4, page 95.

"I don't know how, but he can switch with anyone he can manage to spend some time with. And he has to do it fairly frequently, because as soon as he gets into a new body it



starts to grow fur...all over it. So after a few days it's a choice of shave his whole body or go find a fresh one." - Chapter 5, page 119.

"Before Doctor Romany made Horrabin a magician, the clown didn't have to walk around all day on stilts. But when you cast your lot with magic you....forfeit, you forfeit your connection with the earth - the dirt, the soil. Touching the earth is terribly painful for these magical boys, which is why Romany wears those spring-shoes and Horrabin walks on stilts. Their magic can't work on dirt, and so this muddy stake punched through his charms as if they were cobwebs." - Chapter 6, page 147.

"Doyle was pretty sure he knew what Darrow was trying to do...and incidentally, why the old man had a copy of Lord Robb's journal. It's his cancer, he told himself. He can't be sure of it, but as soon as he acquired time travel he also acquired access to a guy that can switch bodies. So he gets a copy of Lord Robb because it contains the only mention of the time, place, and circumstances of Dog-Face Joe's vigilante-style execution in 1811." - Chapter 7, page 169.

"Listen to me you posturing clown. If your damned backside is ever to rest on the throne it will be because of my efforts, and in spite of yours. Or do you imagine that the idiot assassination attempt you and Russell and Sidney set up last year was intelligent? Hah! Fools trying to reach through a pane of glass for a sweet! You need me, and magic, and a damn large spoonful of luck even to steer clear of the headsman's block, far less become king!" - Chapter 9, page 242.

"Good evening Brendan Doyle...I...apologize for not being able to come over and shake hands, but having renounced this present earth, I gravitate instead toward...another place. It's an uncomfortable position, and one that we hope to remedy before long." - Chapter 11, page 289.

"The boat of Ra...the Sektet boat, in which the sun journeys through the twelve hours of the night, from sunset to dawn! I'm in it - and at dawn, when we emerge into the world again I'll sail in the Atet boat, the boat of the morning sky, and I'll be restored!" - Chapter 15, page 377.



Topics for Discussion

Do you think Darrow's plan to jump to 1810 to swap bodies and live in the past is a moral decision? Why or why not?

There are four timelines within the book, those of 1802, 1810, the late 1600's, and modern times. Give a brief summary of events during each time period.

Where does Doyle learn to place a chain on his boot that is always touching the ground, to avoid or lessen magic? Why does this trick work? Be sure to explain using information from the book.

Dog Face Joe is a werewolf who changes bodies as they become hairy. Explain his origins and describe his body swapping process, including how he ensures the previous owner of the body is unable to tell authorities of the problem.

List at least three situations in the book where history could have been altered as a result of time travel. Then, choose one, and write out, in detail, how such a change would have altered history.

Discuss the role of magic in the novel. For what is it used? How is it used? What are the drawbacks of magic use and what are the benefits?

Explain the events that lead to the death of Dog Face Joe. Be sure to use the timeline as provided in the novel.