

Drums of Autumn Study Guide

Drums of Autumn by Diana Gabaldon

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Plot Summary

Claire Randall, a housewife in Scotland in the 1940s passes through a circle of stones and accidentally travels through time. Claire finds herself in 18th Century Scotland and meets her soul mate, Jamie Fraser. Jamie lives in Scotland 200 years apart from Claire, amid war and disturbance. Claire falls in love with Jamie and decides she will remain in his time. But when Claire gets pregnant with Jamie's child, she is forced to return to her time for the safety of the baby. Claire raises her daughter, Brianna, with the husband she left behind, Frank Randall in America. Meanwhile Jamie is coerced into marrying someone else as well. When Frank dies Claire goes back to Scotland and finds a gravestone for Jamie Fraser. There is no date or indication of how he dies, but Claire makes up her mind to return to the past and try to save his life. Claire tells Brianna, now in her twenties the true identity of her blood father and leaves to reunite with Jamie hoping Brianna will be fine.

Claire finds Jamie and they officially get married. They embark on a number of adventures together, but Claire is continually ridden with the fear of losing him. After a ship accident, they end up in America where they seek out relatives and associates of the Fraser clan. Finding a few, they settle in North Carolina and along the way face the challenges of corrupt laws and politics, robbery, wilderness, Indians and more. Claire's luck and gift of seeing and healing and Jamie's strength and sharp instincts keep them alive.

Claire's daughter Brianna remains in Boston, Massachusetts USA and Claire asks a family friend from Scotland, Roger Wakefield, to watch over her. Brianna and Roger are two of the three people who know of Claire's travel through the stones into the past. Brianna and Roger can hear the stone's calling just as Claire could. When Claire leaves, Brianna becomes overwhelmed with anxiety about her mother's well being and curiosity to meet her real father. Brianna finds an old newspaper posting stating that her parents died in a fire less than ten years after her mother's return. She decides to travel into the past to find her parents and like Claire, she is motivated by hopes of changing their fate. Roger, who has fallen deeply in love with Brianna over the years, follows her into the 1700s with hopes of protecting her from any danger.

Nonetheless, Brianna gets raped by a known scoundrel and gets pregnant. Roger is mistaken for her rapist and sold by Jamie Fraser to a feared group of Indians. No one knows what Jamie has done and assume that Roger is missing. It is too dangerous to attempt time travel with the baby after its born so Brianna has nine months to decide whether to return to her own time without Roger. By the time Jamie realizes the mistake he has made with Roger, Brianna has chosen to stay. Roger is torn about remaining in the past, knowing that Brianna's baby may not be his. In the end he chooses to remain in the past with Brianna and the baby, and they are married.



Part One, O Brave New World, Chapter One, A Hanging in Eden Chapter Two, In Which we Meet a Ghost

Part One, O Brave New World, Chapter One, A Hanging in Eden Chapter Two, In Which we Meet a Ghost Summary

Charleston, June 1767

Fergus, Jamie Fraser and his wife Claire, stand on a crowded street in Charleston, South Carolina on a hot day in June 1767. They are there to witness Jamie's comrade, Gavin Hayes, led to the noose. Jamie calls out "Gabhainn! A charaid!" in their native Scottish tongue and Gavin seems a little stronger in his last moments. Another prisoner takes advantage of the excitement over Gavin's hanging and escapes. Jamie's group meets up with another friend, Duncan Innes and Jamie's nephew, Ian. They have traveled from Georgia to South Carolina to arrange passage for Ian back to his mother in Scotland. Ian adds another member to the crew, a wolf-dog named Rollo. Once they find out that they have missed the boat to Scotland, they head to a local pub called the Willow Tree for food and drink. They decide that after respectfully burying Gavin Hayes, they would immediately start a journey up north to Cape Fear, with hopes to find Scottish kinsmen settled there.

Fergus makes a little extra money gambling at the Willow Tree before they head out. Jamie, the clear leader of the group decides they will bury Gavin Hayes in the churchyard on their own. While digging the grave they are startled by the fugitive who escaped hanging that morning. Everyone thinks he is a ghost lurking around the dark yard and there is a big commotion. The fugitive, named Stephen Bonnet, is also a comrade of Gavin Hayes from prison but the relation doesn't make Jamie trust him. They agree to give him a ride to a river on their way. Once they part ways, Claire and Jamie, happy to finally have privacy and a bath, make love under the moonlight.

Part One, O Brave New World, Chapter One, A Hanging in Eden Chapter Two, In Which we Meet a Ghost Analysis

This group of family and friends have only been in America for two months and arrived by accident when a hurricane stranded them on the shores of Georgia. There is much mystery already surrounding these characters; the first of which is where they were sailing when the storm marooned them. There has clearly been a lot of Scottish



settlement in the New World so the reader is left to wonder why they are on their way elsewhere. Their collection of jewels is another curious topic. The status of the people settled in America doesn't seem to one of great wealth, so it will be interesting to learn the story behind the jewels and the Fraser family wealth. Gavin Hayes was a comrade to all the men they were jailed together. So far it isn't revealed what they were in jail for and the reason that Gavin was hung and none of the others. The most interesting missing link so far is the fact that Jamie Fraser's wife who everyone refers to as Mrs. Claire is from a completely different time. It isn't clear what time period she is from, but there is a significant gap.

The chapter heading already starts referring to the living as ghosts, blurring the lines between life and death. In the previous chapter the group told a ghost story that Gavin Hayes experienced, and as they stand in a cemetery, burying him they easily equate a living man with the dead. Their feet seem to be somehow placed in the past, present and future so for them almost anything seems possible. As it turns out, the "ghost," Stephen Bonnet, has no ties to them beyond knowing Gavin Hayes during imprisonment. It is this lack of connection that causes Mr. Bonnet to be met with cold reserve. He may as well have been a ghost because Jamie isn't interested in him beyond seeing him leave.

The muddy lines of life and death reappear when Jamie and Claire are finally alone together. "I was widowed for two years, you know," Claire says to him and seems to be speaking of Jamie, who is clearly alive. There is a small mention of their history; "'we were we three years and I wanted ye as much on the last day as the first...'. He added softly thinking as I was of the last time we had made love before he sent me through the stones."



Part Two, Past Imperfect, Chapter Three, The Minister's Cat, Chapter Four, A Blast from the Past, Chapter Five, Two Hundred Years from Yesterday

Part Two, Past Imperfect, Chapter Three, The Minister's Cat, Chapter Four, A Blast from the Past, Chapter Five, Two Hundred Years from Yesterday Summary

Boston, Massachusetts, June 1969

The phone startles Brianna Randall out of her sleep, and she is both excited and nervous to hear Roger Wakefield's voice on the other end. They are speaking through a time difference; he is in Scotland and she in Boston. They have a slightly awkward conversation that ends with Brianna accepting a visit from Roger in a month. Roger spends part of his time in Boston working as a musician, and he takes Brianna to a Celtic music festival. On the drive they speak briefly on the subject of Brianna's parents, the source of the awkwardness between them.

Roger almost regrets bringing Brianna to the Celtic Festival because she is clearly trying to distance herself from a complicated family history and the festival almost brings her face to face with it. She finds connections to the family name Fraser at every turn, but she makes it through the day enjoyably nonetheless. The next day Brianna takes Roger to her Uncle Joe's; Dr. Joseph Abernathy, where they join a group of friends to watch the first man walk on the moon.

Brianna and Roger arrive at Dr. Joseph Abernathy's house on the day Roger is scheduled to leave Boston. Dr. Abernathy was a close friend of Brianna's mother, Claire, during her years in America. A group of students have gathered at Dr. Abernathy's home to watch the broadcast of the first walk on the moon.



Part Two, Past Imperfect, Chapter Three, The Minister's Cat, Chapter Four, A Blast from the Past, Chapter Five, Two Hundred Years from Yesterday Analysis

"Have you been back to the stone circle? To Craigh na Dun?" Brianna asks Roger on their car ride to the festival. Brianna admits she is deathly afraid of these stones that Brianna previously reflected on her mother going "through." Since it is the present time, the stones are somehow the link between the present and two hundred years ago. Because of their experience with the stones, Brianna and Roger have a strange connection. "What had happened the year before was in no way Roger's fault, but he was inextricably wrapped up in it...Uncle Joe knew the truth of her paternity, too, but only Roger could truly understand what had happened; only Roger could hear the stones too."

Two hundred years is equivalent to a year as well as an eternity for Brianna. She mourns her mother as if she is dead, yet Brianna is haunted by the past where Claire now exists. For a year Brianna's life has been void of her family's mysterious experiences, but Roger's visit forces her to face certain truths. There has apparently been an attraction between Roger and Brianna, but Roger's visit unravels the depth of these feelings and in the process the reader starts to understand Claire, Jamie and Brianna's story. The only father Brianna has known is Frank Randall, and she, in fact, feels an unidentified animosity toward her supposed birth father.

An intense connection between Roger and Brianna has been sparked or rekindled during his trip to Boston. It is clear in this segment that their story will begin here. It is also clear that Dr. Abernathy is a father figure for Brianna at the loss of both of her parents. Besides Roger, he seems to be the only one in Brianna's life who knows the complication of her story. Abernathy is protective of her and watchful of Roger even knowing that Claire spoke well of him.

Placing Brianna at home in America observing the first walk on the moon is a contrast to Brianna's biological parents who end up in America two hundred years ago. Brianna has more of a connection with her American life than her complicated Scottish past.



Part Three, Pirates, Chapter Six, I encounter a Hernia, Chapter Seven, Great Prospects Fraught with Peril, Chapter Eight, Man of Worth Chapter Nine, Two Thirds of a Ghost

Part Three, Pirates, Chapter Six, I encounter a Hernia, Chapter Seven, Great Prospects Fraught with Peril, Chapter Eight, Man of Worth Chapter Nine, Two Thirds of a Ghost Summary

June 1767

Jamie, Claire and their group arrive in Wilmington and find that it's a four day journey by boat to Jamie's uncle Hector Cameron's plantation. They also learn that Hector died, widowing Jamie's aunt Jocasta. Both Hector and Jocasta's reputations are great and because of it, the group is invited to a dinner party that includes the governor.

At dinner Claire mesmerizes the male guests and irritates the females with her beauty. Meanwhile Jamie talks intense business with the Governor. At the end of the night Claire eavesdrops on the end of their conversation. The Governor offers Jamie a buy-in on land in the area if he is willing to settle the land and make it productive and lucrative. Jamie and Claire have reservations about the offer. A man named Baron Penzler buys the gem that Claire wore to dinner.

Despite Jamie's aversion for boats, the group sends Duncan by horse and the rest board the Sally Ann heading to Cross Creek and Aunt Jocasta's by river. The Sally Ann is run by Captain Freeman and a Black man named Eutroclus. Jamie reminds Claire that it is their twenty-fourth anniversary with a gift—a classic doctor's kit he bought in town.

The family continues their journey to Cross Creek; when they anchor late one night they are attacked by pirates. The leader is Stephen Bonnet, making the violation feel even worse. The pirates take all the money and jewels and disappear.



Part Three, Pirates, Chapter Six, I encounter a Hernia, Chapter Seven, Great Prospects Fraught with Peril, Chapter Eight, Man of Worth Chapter Nine, Two Thirds of a Ghost Analysis

Jamie, Claire, Ian, Fergus, Duncan and Rollo have had a fairly successful journey so far. They are resourceful and find ways to boost their cash flow, such as selling fruit they find growing along the way. Jamie's fear of boats makes him dread the trip up river but they have almost made it to the comfort of family in the New World. Meeting John Quincy Meyers and his testicle hernia starts word of the group's arrival and of Claire's medicinal skills. Having found fellow Scottish people, they are also quickly put in contact with a potential buyer for one of their gems. Having come from a rich and proud family, Jamie is particular about their appearance. They dress as cleanly as their resources allow. It is clear he is accustomed to standing out due to his strong and regal appearance.

The array of people featured at the dinner party break down the class and gender ideals of this time and further highlights the differences between this time period and Claire's. The conversation goes from taxes to politics to the social environment of Wilmington, and Claire has an educated and witty perspective on every subject. Claire's level of interaction, coupled with her unique sense of style, have all of the men intrigued. It is clear she is far from the standard Wilmington woman who would smile and only offer polite conversation, leaving Jamie to indulge in real dialogue.

Jamie's private conversation with the mayor touches on the persecution that the Scottish face at this time which also led to Jamie's past imprisonment. The conversation becomes uncomfortable and Jamie responds to an unspoken question; "Yes, I am a pardoned Jacobite. And aye, I have sworn the oath—like the others who paid that price for their lives." It is with this statement that Jamie ends his conversation with the Governor.

Meanwhile Claire, hearing most of the conversation assumes Jamie will want to take the offer to start a new life for them in America. He would then need to recruit family from Scotland which presents a new fear for Claire. While living in the future she sees that Jamie is buried in Scotland and secretly hoped that Jamie would never have to return there. "...In my mind was the sight of the granite gravestone in a Scottish kirkyard, on a hill high above the moors and sea. JAMES ALEXANDER MALCOLM MACKENZIE FRASER, it read, and below that my own name was carved-Beloved husband of Claire. I would bury him in Scotland."

Now that the characters are feeling optimistic about their circumstances and more comfortable in their environment, the reader gets a closer look at the relationship among them, most importantly Jamie and Claire. Jamie is clearly the leader and holds his position well. Nonetheless, he loves Claire fiercely and the emotion is written in his every sentiment toward her. His anniversary gift to her shows his connection with her



and respect for who she has become and her life when they were apart. The reader also learns Jamie married a woman name Laoghaire Mackenzie after Claire had returned to her own time.

Jamie's sharp instincts are proven correct in mistrusting Stephen Bonnet. His love for his people and comrades are his weakness in this case and it cost them considerably. The strength of Jamie and Claire's relationship is symbolized by Claire's fight for her wedding rings. To all of their amazement and annoyance, she swallows once in defiance. She later finds that it is her ring from Jamie; her other wedding ring is lost to the robbers.

Before the robbers catch up with them, Jamie and Claire talk about the pasts and what will be in the future. Jamie feels comforted that he sits on the land that their daughter will later know as home. Claire also secretly wonders what the welcoming will be like at River Run. Jamie killed his aunt's brother Dougal in defense of Claire, and if his aunt Jocasta hadn't already known, she would eventually find out.



Part Four, River Run, Chapter Ten, Jocasta, Chapter Eleven, The Law of Bloodshed, Chapter Twelve, The return of John Quincy Myers, Chapter Thirteen, An Examination of Conscience

Part Four, River Run, Chapter Ten, Jocasta, Chapter Eleven, The Law of Bloodshed, Chapter Twelve, The return of John Quincy Myers, Chapter Thirteen, An Examination of Conscience Summary

Cross Creek, North Carolina, June 1767

The Sally Ann and all its passengers arrive at Cross Creek and are welcomed warmly by Jocasta Cameron and her staff. She is the younger sister of Jamie's late mother and is such a striking and strong woman that it takes them all a while to realize that she is blind. After they have eaten and settled, Jocasta invites them to see the turpentine mills that she runs. Turpentine is the major source of the area's wealth and Jocasta acclimates Jamie with all of it quickly. It isn't long before it becomes clear that she hopes Jamie will help her oversee the business.

July 1767

Just as Claire and Jamie grow comfortable with the way of life at River Run a situation at the turpentine mills changes their perspective. Jocasta's friend Farquard Campbell arrives and announces that as a judge he has been called to oversee the judgment of a slave and he would like Jamie to join him. It is the law that if any Black slave assaults a White person and cause blood to shed they should be immediately be put to death and this is what has occurred at the mill between a slave and the mill overseer, Byrnes. Claire insists on accompanying them to the site and when they arrive someone has taken justice into their own hands and impaled the slave, hanging him from the log hook of a crane. Claire is faced with the decision to help the slave survive only to be shot for his crime or to quietly take his life.

Despite the awful occurrence at the mill Jocasta continues preparation for a dinner party in honor of Claire and Jamie's arrival. Jamie is uneasy when he learns Jocasta will announce Jamie as the new head of River Run without discussing the matter with him. The night is only half through when John Quincy Meyers interrupts. He wants Claire to perform surgery on his hernia and the night is wrapped up.



Jamie tells Claire about Jacosta's plans to announce him as her heir at the dinner party. He takes Claire on the river for privacy to get her opinion on their prospects. They row over to the mill and accidentally discover the bloody victim of a botched abortion.

A slave woman is the suspect in what becomes the death of both mother and baby. The deceased slave's owner, Sergeant Murchison seeks justice. Jamie, with the help of John Quincy Meyers, hatches a plan to hide the accused slave and spare her life.

Part Four, River Run, Chapter Ten, Jocasta, Chapter Eleven, The Law of Bloodshed, Chapter Twelve, The return of John Quincy Myers, Chapter Thirteen, An Examination of Conscience Analysis

Again, past and present intertwines as Jamie finds a blood relative in the New World. Jocasta is compared to both Jamie's deceased mother and to Claire's daughter Brianna. Jocasta's roots are clearly grounded in Scottish tradition yet she has found and settled into a home in America where Brianna and Claire will also one day settle.

"'Fraser's are stubborn as rocks' he'd said 'And MacKenzies are charming as larks in the field—but sly as foxes with it.'" While more of Jocasta's character is revealed here and with the trick she plays on Jamie, Jamie's character is also brought to light. When Jocasta tricks Jamie into sorting the mess with Navy is was a way for her to learn what type of person Jamie is. His brother in law, Ian Murray, young Ian's father, writes to Jamie; "I wrote of Simon Fraser earlier. He is a man of honour...but there is a hardness in him now, a glimpse of steel at the back of his eyes...What troubles me is that I have seen that steel in your eyes brother...You are fortunate in Claire."

There is a little ambiguity about what Claire decides in the end but there is indication that she chooses to spare the slave the bullet and she feels horrible knowing what she has done. The entire situation presents tough decisions for all the characters involved. Byrnes is a seedy and useless man who no one likes and who provokes contempt from everyone, including the slaves. Even with a law in place, everyone's emotions tend to defend the slave. Campbell is a judge who doesn't agree with the law and has to go against his own conscience and that of his good friend Jocasta in order to do his job. Jamie is now looked at as the head of the household and must be present for the affair, but he doesn't make it clear where he stands and Claire is worried. "Highlanders would fight to the death for any cause that touched their honor or stirred their blood, but they were for the most part indifferent to outside matters..." Moments later Claire realizes that Jamie is far from indifferent. "I had caught a glimpse of his face, unguarded for a moment; the lines of it tense with anxiety. With a small shock, it occurred to me that he didn't know what he was going to do either. And that frightened me more than anything else so far. (212) Previously the reader heard Jamie's brother describe the steel in Jamie, and there is a hint that Jamie may be the one to break the law in defense of the slave.



Again Claire stands out when placed in light of the women of this time. She is uncomfortable as she is scrutinized by Jocasta and Phaedre at the opening of the chapter. The two women of course see nothing wrong with objectification because beauty and appearance are so important to women of a certain class and this time period.

The reader is also reminded of the time through the interaction between Black slaves and White owners and society members. Ulysses, a black, is fearful that he allows himself to cast an admiring glance at Claire. He knows that any woman could and most likely would, have had him severely punished for the act.

John Quincy's interruption provides humor for the chapter as well as delays the announcement that could have immediately changed Jamie and Claire's fate.

Goodness of heart is a characteristic that transcends time, race and class in this segment. No one has forgotten the previous tragedy at the mill and faced with the potential of more unnecessary bloodshed, everyone moves into action.

More references are given to Jamie's time in prison and details of what transpired there are still lacking. However, this time Jamie's prison experience is used to introduce Sergeant Murchison-an unpleasant character. The reader is left with the impression that the Sergeant will appear in the novel again.



Part Five, Strawberry Fields Forever, Chapter Fourteen, Flee from Wrath to Come Chapter Fifteen, Noble Savages Chapter Sixteen, The first Law of Thermodynamics

Part Five, Strawberry Fields Forever, Chapter Fourteen, Flee from Wrath to Come Chapter Fifteen, Noble Savages Chapter Sixteen, The first Law of Thermodynamics Summary

Myers leads Jamie, Ian, Claire and the suspected slave, Pollyanne, into the mountains. After the initial awkwardness and fear passes, Pollyanne starts communicating with the group freely. She picked up a little English and Gaelic and mixed it with her own language but Claire was able to decipher. Myers tells them about the Indians they will leave Pollyanne with in the mountains and they are slightly comforted that her fate is much improved there than at River Run.

Jamie and Claire separate from Ian, Myers and Pollyanne. Jamie wants them to find a settlement spot in the mountains to build a home, rather than return to River Run. They quickly learn the potential dangers of the mountain when they are attacked by a bear on their first night. Jamie fights for his life and kills the bear in the process. The feat earns him the respect from a group of Indians, the Tuscarora, who were stalking the same bear nearby.

Strawberries are "Flowers, fruit and leaves all together at one time. The white flowers are for honor and red fruit for courage, and the green leaves are for constancy." It is with this thought that Jamie and Claire choose their homestead where they find wild strawberries growing.

Part Five, Strawberry Fields Forever, Chapter Fourteen, Flee from Wrath to Come Chapter Fifteen, Noble Savages Chapter Sixteen, The first Law of Thermodynamics Analysis

There are continued parallels between Claire and Pollyanne. They are able to communicate without much effort despite the differences in culture and language. Out in



the wilderness both their fates hang in the balance with risk and danger at every turn. "No great difference at all, perhaps. Was my future any more certain than hers?" The only difference Claire can conclude is having Jamie to love and protect her.

Wilderness is the reigning theme of this chapter. Jamie and Claire both fear and embrace the unknown before them. The bear and the Indians symbolize the uncertainty of the wild and unknown. "I think it will maybe be alright.' I thought so too. There was no telling what lay on the other side of life, but I had sat many times through an hour where time stops, empty of thoughts, soothed of soul, looking into...what? Into something that had neither name nor face, but which seemed good to me and full of peace. If death lay there..." The incomplete thought reiterates that even with all Claire and Jamie have seen, so much in life and death is still out of their hands.

With plans of their future life on the mountain becoming clearer, Claire's fear of losing Jamie too soon resurfaces. He intends to start a settlement community, accepting the Governor's previous offer. Jamie assures Claire that he will not have to make the trip to Scotland and risk what Claire saw in the future in order to start the settlement. He promises her that she has nothing to fear; his tombstone is no indication of what they face. "When my body shall cease, my soul will still be yours, Claire...nothing is lost. Only changed." She recalls this theory as the Law of Thermodynamics, he knows it simply as faith.



Part Six, Je T'aime Chapter Seventeen, Home for the Holidays Chapter Eighteen, Unseemly Lust

Part Six, Je T'aime Chapter Seventeen, Home for the Holidays Chapter Eighteen, Unseemly Lust Summary

Inverness Scotland, December 23, 1969

Roger spends the holiday season in his father's former mansion, clearing out the Reverend's extensive library. Fiona, one of the Reverend's family members and her fiancé are taking over the house. She leaves Roger and his guest, Brianna, with the house to themselves for the holidays. Their attraction is strong and they almost give in to one another but Roger stops and takes Brianna to Christmas Eve church service instead. He doesn't want Brianna to lose her virginity until marriage is promised between them.

Roger and Brianna attend service at the Catholic Church, the religion in which Brianna was raised. Everyone who knows Roger takes immediate notice of Brianna's beauty and unmistakable trademark, her fire red hair. After service Rogers asks Brianna to marry him and an argument starts when she turns him down. Roger pledges to wait for her as long as it takes to change her mind.

Part Six, Je T'aime Chapter Seventeen, Home for the Holidays Chapter Eighteen, Unseemly Lust Analysis

Roger and Brianna's family histories and pain from family loss give them a strong connection. As they sort through Roger's adoptive father's personal things they can't help thinking of the many questions still unanswered in both their lives and surrounding the circle of stones. Roger understands why Brianna started her search for her mother and Jamie Fraser in the past. In private he looks at his family tree in the Reverend's library. The tree is devoid of a missing link to a witch named Geillis Duncan, to whom Roger shares a distinct resemblance. She may be the tie to his ability to hear the circle of stones, just as Claire is the tie for Brianna.

Brianna's past and present conflict with one another, just as it did for Claire. Brianna cannot begin a life with Roger until all her questions about her father, Jamie Fraser are answered. She fears her search for closure with her mother will end up hurting Roger. Brianna doesn't realize Roger is also haunted by his past, his search for identity and by the stones. They may in fact need one another to get answers and find peace.



Part Seven, On the Mountain, Chapter Nineteen, Hearth Blessing, Chapter Twenty, The White Raven, Chapter Twenty-One, Night on a Snowy Mountain

Part Seven, On the Mountain, Chapter Nineteen, Hearth Blessing, Chapter Twenty, The White Raven, Chapter Twenty-One, Night on a Snowy Mountain Summary

Jamie confirms his decision to remain on the mountain, choosing to remain there even for the upcoming winter. Claire is afraid they won't be prepared in time but understands why Jamie wants to steer clear of Jocasta's plans and Sergeant Murchison's grudge. Ian and Jamie start building a cabin and they bless their home with a Scottish prayer. Duncan and Myers visit with supplies from Jocasta—her blessing on their move. Jamie sends Duncan and Myers to Mount Helicon for the annual pre-harvest gathering of Scottish people in the area. Jamie wants Duncan to start recruiting inhabitants for his future mountain community.

October 1767

Nacognaweto is the chief of the Tuscarora Indians that Jamie befriended from the bear incident. He visits Jamie and Claire and brings his grandmother, Nayawenne, his wife Gabrielle and her daughter, Berthe. Nayawenne is a shaman and dreamed a prophecy involving Claire. She shares that dream with Claire and shows her where to find healing roots and herbs in the surrounding forest.

December 1767

Winter has arrived including bouts of snow, and the Frasers have adjusted their lifestyle because of it. Ian goes hunting with the Indians one day and Jamie gets inspired to do the same on his own. While he is out, he hurts his back and gets stranded in the snow. Claire finds him hours later and they are forced to spend the night where Jamie fell. The next day, Ian and the Indians find them during their hunting trek.



Part Seven, On the Mountain, Chapter Nineteen, Hearth Blessing, Chapter Twenty, The White Raven, Chapter Twenty-One, Night on a Snowy Mountain Analysis

Tradition and the New World meet as Jamie and his family find a place to make their mark in America. They plan to surround themselves with the familiar culture and tradition of Scotland, but the newness of it all can't be ignored. The only book they own is also their only tangible guide to the unknown, and *THE NATURAL HISTORY OF NORTH CAROLINA*, couldn't tell them much about the uncharted woods they plan to call home. "What if something happened, if Ian or Jamie fell ill or was hurt in an accident? If we starved or froze? And while Jamie was sure that our Indian acquaintances had no objection to our intent, I wasn't so sanguine about any others who might happen along...Yes, I bloody well would be afraid."

A new culture is introduced with Nacognaweto and his family. Jamie and Claire are faced with a new challenge in interacting with the Indians. Both of their knowledge of Indian culture is only through stories. Claire has read about these natives in history books and Jamie have only heard rumor from other new settlers in America. The experience proves to be different than either of them anticipated.

Nacognaweto brings his family in peace to join Jamie and his family for dinner. Out of respect, Jamie and Claire scramble to match their guests with their most ornate attire—the Indians' definition of formal wear. The Indians offer corn, fish, squash and yams as a gift in return for the bear that Jamie had graciously let them keep. After a short time in Claire's presence Nayawenne understands why her dream brought her to Claire. "I had the odd feeling that she was talking to me and I to her—without the exchange of a single spoken word...we definitely spoke the same language... 'We say she is a singer' Berthe put it in French. 'We call it shaman; her name it means it may be; it will happen.'" The old woman and Claire share the gift of healing and seeing beyond their years and like Pollyanne, their differences in language, time and culture don't stop them from communicating. Nayawenne offers Claire advice in the form of foreshadowing "She says you must not be troubled; sickness is sent from the Gods. It won't be your fault."

Something brings Brianna to the forefront of both Claire and Jamie's minds. Claire's gift of linking the past and the future may indicate that something is going on with Brianna in her own time. There is also a chance that Jamie unconsciously shares Claire's gift or his bond with Brianna hasn't been broken by time. While they are stuck in the snow, he dreams about Brianna and is able to identify her birthmark although he has never seen it.

It is also apparent that luck is on Claire and Jamie's side. Their connection with one another brings Claire to Jamie's rescue and their good fate brings Ian to save them both.



Part Seven, On the Mountain, Chapter Twenty-Two, Spark of an Ancient Flame, Chapter Twenty-Three, The Skull Beneath the Skin, Chapter Twenty-Four, Letter Writing: The Great Art o' Love, Chapter Twenty-Five, Enter a Serpent

Part Seven, On the Mountain, Chapter Twenty-Two, Spark of an Ancient Flame, Chapter Twenty-Three, The Skull Beneath the Skin, Chapter Twenty-Four, Letter Writing: The Great Art o' Love, Chapter Twenty-Five, Enter a Serpent Summary

Oxford, September 1970

Roger finds a newspaper article announcing the deaths of Claire and Jamie in a house fire on January 21, 1776. Roger decides to keep the information from Brianna in an effort to protect her. He knows Brianna will risk going through the stones and attempt to save her parents.

By Spring and Summer of 1768, Claire and Jamie's settlement is known as Fraser's Ridge. The settlers are abundant and Claire remains busy tending to everyone's health and wellness; stitching wounds, healing infections and delivering babies. Claire gets stranded one day, traveling in a terrible rain storm. She falls off a cliff and sees what she believes is a ghost while taking refuge under a fallen tree. She finds a skull under the same tree buried with an opal. Rollo somehow knew she was there and leads Jamie and Ian to her aide.

Oxford, March 1971

It is cold and rainy in Oxford when Roger happily receives a letter from Brianna. She sends mail every few days but he has felt her slipping away from him of late. He is still upset that she rejected his marriage proposal and still torn about hiding the death announcement of Claire and Jamie Fraser.

October 1768



In the midst of Claire treating her first measles patient, they are visited by Lord John Grey, a good friend of Jamie's. He is accompanied by his stepson, William Viscount Ashness, Ninth Earl of Ellesmere, also secretly Jamie's son.

Part Seven, On the Mountain, Chapter Twenty-Two, Spark of an Ancient Flame, Chapter Twenty-Three, The Skull Beneath the Skin, Chapter Twenty-Four, Letter Writing: The Great Art o' Love, Chapter Twenty-Five, Enter a Serpent Analysis

Roger "wanted badly for her to find Jamie Fraser, to live happily ever after with him. The knowledge—or more accurately, the hope—that she had done so had been a small talisman to him; a witness that enduring love was possible, a love strong enough to withstand separation and hardships, strong enough to outlast time. And yet, flesh was mortal; no love could outlast that fact."

Roger loves Brianna and is therefore completely torn by the information he has found. He understands the pull she feels to ensure her mother's safety and to meet her real father. He has vowed to himself and to Claire that he would protect Brianna and he is convinced that keeping the secret is the best way to do so.

Claire has found use for her talents and her routine as a doctor and healer, which has led her to another supernatural experience. While taking shelter from the storm she removes her shoes and falls into a restless sleep. When she wakes up she can't find her shoes but finds a human skull buried under the same tree and tries to assess how long it could have been there. She had been dreaming of blood-hers from childbirth and another unknown. The story behind the skull and its owner may be related to these dreams. Claire sees a figure in the darkness, carrying a torch and she knows from their communication that he is a spirit. He seems to only want Claire to see him and know his presence, although his purpose is left unexplained. The final mystery is Claire's rescue; Rollo finds the shoes that she removed under the tree, back at their cabin on Fraser's Ridge. It is because of the shoes and Rollo that Jamie and Ian are able to find and rescue Claire.

The more that Jamie and Claire become settled in the surroundings, the more people are included in their adventures. The nearby Indian tribe is comfortable enough with the Frasers to leave their ailing comrade in Claire's hands. With that addition to their homestead, William and Lord Grey (the serpent to whom the chapter title must refer) come next. The visitors bring out the second glimpse of Claire's insecurity. Like the first, this feeling stems from fear of losing Jamie. Claire knows Jamie doesn't return the feelings that John Grey has for him but their strong bond of friendship and history makes Claire jealous. John Grey also has an indefinite tie to John because he has chosen to secretly raise William as his own. Claire takes one look at William and knows who he is with no introduction. She sees both Jamie and their daughter Brianna in his



features. "I followed [William] quickly, not wanting him to reach the cabin ahead of me. I was prey to a mixture of the most disquieting sensations; uppermost was anxiety for Jamie, a little lower, anger at John Grey. Below that, an intense curiosity. And at the bottom, far enough down that I could almost pretend it wasn't there was a pang of sharp longing for my daughter, whose face I had never thought to see again."



Part Seven, Chapter Twenty-Six, Plague and Pestilence, Chapter Twenty-Seven, Trout Fishing in America, Chapter Twenty-Eight, Heated Conversation, Chapter Twenty-Nine, Charnel Houses

Part Seven, Chapter Twenty-Six, Plague and Pestilence, Chapter Twenty-Seven, Trout Fishing in America, Chapter Twenty-Eight, Heated Conversation, Chapter Twenty-Nine, Charnel Houses Summary

Claire's measles patient dies and as they decide the most respectful and safe way to bury him, Lord Grey develops measles symptoms. Jamie and William leave to visit the Indian village to discuss the dead Indian's burial and Ian remains with Claire to care for John.

Jamie and William get off to a rough start on their trip because William doesn't want to leave his stepfather in such a grave state. After a day of bickering they find amicable ground when Jamie teaches William to fish.

Claire is left to nurse John Grey and Ian, who falls ill soon after Jamie leaves. Late in the night Claire and John talk through a lot of their animosity to one another. The next day, Pastor Gottfried, leader of the Lutheran Church in Salem visits Claire. The measles outbreak has spread and killed the Mueller family's newest baby and its mother. Herr Mueller blames the Indians for the disease and slaughters the first he sees in the village. Pastor Gottfried fears that Mueller may also be angry with Claire, but Mueller arrives calmly. He has killed Nayawenne in his rage and brings it to Claire without knowing the connection she had with the old woman.

Jamie finds all of the Tuscarora village longhouses burning when he arrives. The smell of fire and smoke is mixed with that of burning flesh. He leaves William in the forest to wait in case of danger and finds the survivors of the village camped out in the nearby woods. "Measles had broken out in the village and swept through it like fire. Now...they were no more than a quarter left alive." They left the dead in the village houses set them on fire and started their journey North to relocate.



Part Seven, Chapter Twenty-Six, Plague and Pestilence, Chapter Twenty-Seven, Trout Fishing in America, Chapter Twenty-Eight, Heated Conversation, Chapter Twenty-Nine, Charnel Houses Analysis

Claire finds Lord Grey to be a fair and decent man and although still skeptical about his motives, can't hate him as much as she wants to. He has Jamie in mind when he decides to visit knowing Jamie would want to spend time with his son.

The unknown of the wilderness is proving to be a stronger force than they can fend off. With all her medical knowledge, Claire cannot prevent the turn of events. Here the question rises again whether their story was already written. Is Claire really destined to be in this time?

Jamie feels strongly for his son and is happy to spend time with him even under the circumstances. He is almost amused at first by the boy's stubbornness, knowing the trait to be his own. Jamie also feels a hint of pain because the boy doesn't know Jamie as his father. Part of him wishes he was the recipient of the love and worry William shows for his stepfather. In that respect, Jamie and Claire share a common thread in their jealousy of Lord John.

Every time Claire brings a situation under control, another problem arises. John Grey's condition improves and they even start reconciling some of their past wounds. It is at this time that the measles hits Ian severely and Claire receives the news of the Tuscarora tragedy. Mueller thinks he has done the community well by sending a message to the Indians. He has no idea the hurt he has caused to a good and peaceful group of people and to Claire personally. "Mueller was speaking and Grey was trying to, but I was only dimly aware of their words...my ears echoed the words I had heard a year before...in Gabrielle's soft voice, translating for Nayawenne. Her name meant 'It may be; it will happen.' Now it had and all that was left for me to for consolation was her words: 'you must not be troubled; sickness is sent from the gods. It won't be your fault.'" Nayawenne saw a vision of her own death.

While the new American settlers face the dangers of an unknown land, the native tribes face the dangers that accompany unknown settlers. The previous chapter showed how miscommunication and mistrust led to unnecessary bloodshed. Sadly it was the bloodshed of Indians who proved to be assets to their new community and could have been an integral part of its growth. The Indians are victims of the disease just as the American settlers, now left to fight a disease they know nothing about. In the end they are forced to bury their loved ones non-traditionally and leave their homes to merge with another tribe.



Part Eight, Beaucoup, Chapter Thirty, Into Thin Air, Chapter Thirty-One, Return to Inverness, Chapter Thirty-Two, Grimoire, Chapter Thirty-Three, Midsummer's Eve

Part Eight, Beaucoup, Chapter Thirty, Into Thin Air, Chapter Thirty-One, Return to Inverness, Chapter Thirty-Two, Grimoire, Chapter Thirty-Three, Midsummer's Eve Summary

Oxford, April 1971

Roger remains at Oxford for a few extra weeks after school closes doing museum tours for American tourists. His original plans were to go to Scotland for summer break but Brianna canceled her visit and the Dean asked him to host the tours as a favor. While at Oxford he receives a box of Brianna's belongings. Instinctively he thinks it's her way of breaking up with him but quickly realizes that she is saying goodbye. Brianna is going to make the attempt to join her parents in the past.

Back in Inverness, Roger questions Fiona on her knowledge of the stones and Gillian, later Geillis Edgar. Through her Grandmother, Fiona knew Gillian and her overbearing desire to find out everything about the stone circle. After Gillian went through the stones, Fiona found Gillian's journal and she now offers to share its contents with Roger.

Gillian's journal or grimoire as she refers to it, has a list of the known attempts to travel through the stones. She has concluded that a sacrifice of blood must be made to wield the power of the stones without dying.

June 20, 1971

Fiona starts the ceremony at the circle of stones to prepare for Roger's attempted passage. His first try through almost kills him and he comes close to reaching his late father. They realize that gemstones help protect the traveler during the trip. Fiona gives Roger her engagement ring and watches him disappear into the circle.



Part Eight, Beaucoup, Chapter Thirty, Into Thin Air, Chapter Thirty-One, Return to Inverness, Chapter Thirty-Two, Grimoire, Chapter Thirty-Three, Midsummer's Eve Analysis

Nothing is ever as it seems for the characters linked to the circle of stones. All the members of the select group are undeniably linked. Brianna didn't expect Roger to still be at school so she sends her goodbye message there. She believes he will get the message months later, too late to stop her. Roger tried to stop her from making the trip by burning what he hoped was the only record of her parents' death. He wasn't prepared for her to choose to make the trip without telling him.

Roger receives another surprise back in Inverness; Fiona also has a close connection with the stones. She has never gone through and doesn't have the power to hear them but is a member of a secret group who have revered and protected the power of the stones for generations. Gillian didn't hold the same respect for the stones and sought to control its power; nonetheless, knowing Gillian made it through successfully, Roger and Fiona hope her journal will have information to help Roger.

Roger feels chills reading Gillian's twenty-two accounts of death by the stones. The entry about Claire is the only hope Roger has that he may be able to make it through alive. Gillian didn't know at this time that Claire traveled to the past and logged her as dead or missing like the others. Gillian's assessment of making a blood sacrifice makes Roger uneasy.

The power of the stones is fully realized by both Roger and Fiona. They were aware of the possibilities but are in awe when the experience unfolds in front of them. For the first time Fiona's ceremony isn't just a dance in the sun. Even with all the stories and legends and Gillian's journal, Roger's first entry into the stones is life threatening. The reader must now wonder how successful Brianna was.



Part Eight, Beaucoup, Chapter Thirty-Four, Lallybroch, Chapter Thirty-Five, Bon Voyage, Chapter Thirty-Six, You Can't go Home Again

Part Eight, Beaucoup, Chapter Thirty-Four, Lallybroch, Chapter Thirty-Five, Bon Voyage, Chapter Thirty-Six, You Can't go Home Again Summary

Scotland, June 1769

Brianna finds Jamie Fraser's family in Scotland and meeting them for the first time is a good feeling. Jamie's ex-wife, Laoghaire tries to put a damper on everyone's happiness by tarnishing Jamie's name as an honorable man and Claire's as a decent woman. Jamie's sister Jenny shows Brianna letters from Jamie and Brianna is relieved to see that they are doing well.

Brianna's relatives take her to the harbor to find a servant to accompany and protect her on the trip to America. While they are searching for strength and prowess, Brianna's takes pity on a father who begs that she buy his young daughter. The girl is fourteen and very frail in appearance so Brianna's cousin and uncle are very upset that Brianna has made such a poor choice. Brianna's mind can't be changed especially knowing that the girl, Elizabeth or Lizzie is about to be sold as concubine.

Inverness July 1769

Roger arrives in Inverness and immediately begins to ask around the busy port for leads on Brianna. He finds the harbormaster's office and searches the registers for the passengers on recent ship departures. He finds her registered under the Fraser name having left on July 4th aboard the Philip Alonzo heading for South Carolina. He makes arrangements to work as a seaman aboard the ship Gloriana, heading for the same region.

Part Eight, Beaucoup, Chapter Thirty-Four, Lallybroch, Chapter Thirty-Five, Bon Voyage, Chapter Thirty-Six, You Can't go Home Again Analysis

"Frank Randall had been an only child, as had her mother; such relatives as she had were not close. She [Brianna] had set out thinking only to find her father; she hadn't realized that she might discover a whole new family in the process." Already, it seems



as if Brianna was meant to take the trip into the past. The warmth that she is met with from her father's family is something she missed without ever realizing it. Laoghaire's character only serves as a reminder that Jamie Fraser is in fact human, not simply the fantasy she sketched from her mother's stories. Laoghaire is such a bitter woman; she also serves as a clear contrast against Claire. She tries to demean both Jamie and Claire and only succeeds at alienating those around her. "'It's no use to say what might have been or should be, is it?' But he left Laoghaire's house some time before your mother came back." Jamie's brother in law remembers Jamie's marriage to Laoghaire. And when Brianna asks what happened when Claire did return he simply states "'He was verra glad to see her.' This time the smile lighted his whole face like sunshine. 'so was I.'"

Brianna's character has begun to find depth the closer she gets to her parents. Claire's compassion and Jamie's strength and stubborn will are clear in her almost immediately. Her family recognizes it and can't help enjoying it. Although there are indications that some of these traits may get her in trouble in these unknown surroundings, there is equal indication that she will be fine. The Fraser's are happy to have her and they are all reluctant to part ways. "That was what made this leaving hard, she thought. She had already lost father, mother, lover, home and friends. She was alone by necessity and also by choice. But then to find both home and family again so unexpectedly at Lallybroch had caught her unaware. She would have given almost anything to stay—just a little longer. But there were promises to keep, losses to be made good. The she could come back. To Scotland. And to Roger."

Roger's experience as an historian and a male makes his experience in this time period different from Brianna's experience. First he is struck by the difference between reading about the realities and hardships of the time and witnessing them. He is tempted to take in the new buildings that in his time are relics but his drive to find Brianna defers the amazement of the time travel. The people around him are desperate for a new life and escape from Scotland. He witnesses a man forced to sell his wife and daughters into indentured service or whatever their new owner had in mind for them, all for passage to America. The reality of the risk he has taken entering this time is definitely more vivid for him than it was for Brianna who was met by the warmth of her family.



Part Eight, Beaucoup, Chapter Thirty-Seven, Gloriana, Chapter Thirty-Eight, For those in Peril on the Sea, Chapter Thirty-Nine, A Gambling Man

Part Eight, Beaucoup, Chapter Thirty-Seven, Gloriana, Chapter Thirty-Eight, For those in Peril on the Sea, Chapter Thirty-Nine, A Gambling Man Summary

Roger boards the Gloriana and is immediately put to hard labor. Stephen Bonnet is the captain of the ship and is both feared and respected. Roger is faced with the physical drain from the work and the emotional pain from his confusion about Brianna. He sees another couple with a child board the ship and even in midst of the deplorable conditions the passengers face he envies the love that is obvious between them.

A bout of rough weather keeps the Gloriana passengers stuck below deck for three days straight. When they resurface it comes to the crew's attention that smallpox has broken out among them. The captain orders that all those infected be thrown overboard to their death which causes chaos and violence.

When Roger checks on Morag and the baby, he sees that the baby's rash is in fact improving. Unfortunately, Captain Bonnet finds out that Roger has been helping the woman and the baby. He makes Roger gamble for both the baby's life and his own. Luckily Roger walks away with both lives intact.

Part Eight, Beaucoup, Chapter Thirty-Seven, Gloriana, Chapter Thirty-Eight, For those in Peril on the Sea, Chapter Thirty-Nine, A Gambling Man Analysis

"His interest was both professional and personal; his historian's instincts were roused by [the passengers'] presence, and his loneliness soothed by the homeliness of their talk. Here were the seeds of the new country, the legacy of the old. What these poor emigrants knew and valued, was what would endure and be passed on." The significance of the passengers on the ship is profound for Roger. Here is a group of people who at this point in time have no monetary value. Nonetheless they aren't even aware that they will help shape the future of America. These thoughts are Roger's consolation since he has no other substantial hope.



Like Brianna, Roger is already misunderstood for feeling natural compassion for his fellow human. Roger is the only member of the crew who is against the cruelty of throwing men, women and children into cold, shark infested waters. Roger's sympathy spares the life of one baby—its mother has the chance to hide among the cargo when Roger starts fighting back and all the commotion breaks out. Roger later discovers her, ready to fight again for the life of her child. She insists that the baby only has a mild rash and luckily for her, Roger keeps her secret. She is the same young woman, Morag, who Roger noticed with her husband at the beginning of the trip.

Risks arise for the new travelers trying to understand their world in a different time. Roger is thrown head first into danger without anyone to rely on but himself. Roger is sick over the sight of frightened children being stripped from their parents and thrown to their deaths. He finds a little solace in helping Morag and her newborn, but this action comes with a price. Reminiscent of Claire's close scrapes with danger Roger somehow lucks out on the challenge he faces.

This chapter is also a reminder of Stephen Bonnet's cold and self-serving mentality. The story Bonnet tells from his past shows that he wasn't always ruthless. But now that he has changed, his heartless characteristics are reinforced over and over again.



Part Nine, Passionnement, Chapter Forty, Virgin Sacrifice, Chapter Forty-One, Journey's End

Part Nine, Passionnement, Chapter Forty, Virgin Sacrifice, Chapter Forty-One, Journey's End Summary

Wilmington, The Colony of North Carolina, September 1769

Lizzie starts having spells of an unknown illness. Brianna is able to stop and nurse her along but knows they have to find Claire quickly for the young girl's survival. They make it as far as Wilmington, North Carolina before Lizzie gets worse and Brianna fears it is Malaria. They are forced to stay in town for a few days and Roger catches up with Brianna there.

Brianna received word that Jamie Fraser would be nearby at Cross Creek for a trial in eight days but Lizzie's fever returns and they are forced to remain in Wilmington. In a pub there she notices her mother's wedding ring on Stephen Bonnet's finger and makes an arrangement to meet him on his ship the following day. A few days later they make the trip to Cross Creek and by luck she enters the pub where her father is. They stay for the trial where they successfully vindicate Fergus of what he has been charged then head to Fraser's Ridge to reunite with Claire.

Part Nine, Passionnement, Chapter Forty, Virgin Sacrifice, Chapter Forty-One, Journey's End Analysis

Brianna finds more of Claire's nature within when Lizzie gets sick. Just as everyone predicted, Brianna has to care for Lizzie rather than the other way around. Brianna is able to do enough to keep Lizzie's fever at bay all the way from South to North Carolina. It is Lizzie's illness that gives Roger time to catch up with Brianna eventually. They find a quiet place to talk and have sex. First Roger makes a pledge of marriage called hand-fasting that ties them to one another for one year. All this happens before Brianna finds out that Roger knew her parents are going to die and never told her. In the midst of her realization and their argument, two things go wrong. First, out of anger, Brianna and Roger part after traveling so far to be united. They are now each alone again in an unknown place and strange time. Of course, neither of them have any idea how they will return to their own time. They allow their anger and stubborn pride get in the way of communicating again.

The second issue to arise from their argument stems from a lack of communication and lack of understanding between two people of completely different worlds. Lizzie is



uncomfortable with Roger's heightened emotion when he finally finds Brianna and she assumes that Roger is an assailant. When Brianna and Roger's night ends with a loud argument Lizzie gets up to busy herself with the laundry. Lizzie checks Brianna clothes and finding blood assumes that Roger has raped her.

Fate seems to guide Brianna on a path straight to her parents, even with the obstacles she encounters along the way. The reader feels the intensity along with Brianna as she comes so close to meeting her parents in the past. The short interaction with Stephen Bonnet is interesting due to the lack of detail. Every character has met Bonnet and each encounter has been brief and terrible. The author has Brianna and Bonnet meet to add doubt to Brianna's search in seeing her mother's ring on his finger. That is the extent of the story; the story skips to the river trip to Cross Creek. Jamie and Claire meet Brianna separately and it heightens the emotion to have Jamie meet Brianna for the first time on his own.

It is also noteworthy that Sergeant Murchison is still trying unsuccessfully to find ways to bring Jamie and his family down.



Part Ten Impaired Relations, Chapter Forty-Two, Moonlight, Chapter Forty, Three, Whisky in the Jar, Chapter Forty-Four, Three-Cornered Conversation, Chapter Forty-Five, Fifty-Fifty

Part Ten Impaired Relations, Chapter Forty-Two, Moonlight, Chapter Forty, Three, Whisky in the Jar, Chapter Forty-Four, Three-Cornered Conversation, Chapter Forty-Five, Fifty-Fifty Summary

September 1769

Brianna and Jamie spend the day alone in the mountains when Jamie asks her to hike with him to find bee hives. That night when they return Jamie and Claire talk sadly about the fact that Brianna has to return to her own time.

As Jamie and his closest associates at Fraser's Ridge make arrangements to start selling the whiskey that Jamie brews, Brianna asks around for Roger.

October 1769

Claire and Brianna go out foraging while Ian runs an errand to the nearby mill and Jamie stays near the cabin chopping wood. Ian returns with Lizzie who tells Jamie her version of the encounter between Brianna and Roger. She has seen Roger in the woods and fears that he has come to hurt Brianna. She has also concluded that Brianna is pregnant and the entire story sends Jamie into a rage. Jamie and Ian go off to find Roger, leaving Lizzie to wonder if she has done the right thing.

Brianna tells her mother that she is pregnant but that there is a chance the baby isn't Roger's. Brianna flashes back to the day she arranged to meet Stephen Bonnet on the Gloriana and tells her mother the story of how Bonnet raped her.



Part Ten Impaired Relations, Chapter Forty-Two, Moonlight, Chapter Forty, Three, Whisky in the Jar, Chapter Forty-Four, Three-Cornered Conversation, Chapter Forty-Five, Fifty-Fifty Analysis

The chapter opens "She awoke from a dreamless sleep..." It is a clear indication that Brianna is in the past. She no longer has to dream about her parents because they are with her. This segment is the shift of the entire novel because the past has become the present now that every major character has traveled back into the 1700's.

It becomes clear that Jamie and Brianna's first bump to get over will be Frank Randall. Brianna respects and loves Frank as her father but doesn't want to cross the line of respect for her blood father, Jamie. They start by finding a name for her to call him, "Da" and they take things from there. Their conversations also reveal that Claire hasn't told Jamie much about her life with Frank Randall after Brianna's birth and her return to the future.

"Bree? Is that the name ye call your daughter? It's a Scots word...a bree is a great disturbance." This chapter highlights Brianna's effort to find her place in the community at Fraser's Ridge. She feels good having family around for the first time in a long time and she has naturally acquired many of Claire's traits. Nonetheless her modern attitude and Fraser-born stubbornness makes her stand out among this simple old-fashioned group. Overall the reader finds the first sense of the community surrounding the Frasers since things really became established. There are businesses and families and Jamie rests at the helm of it all.

Jamie's deep thoughts about his love for Brianna foreshadow that something bad is about to happen. Jamie realizes that instinctively he feels a bond with Brianna that he has never felt for a relative. His reflection on the unbreakable bond of blood is what makes him unreasonably angry when he hears Lizzie's account about Roger. He can't bear the thought of someone taking advantage of his daughter in the manner which the young maid has described. The anticipation is heightened by closing the chapter without learning just how far Jamie plans to go to protect Brianna.

It isn't surprising that Stephen Bonnet's name arises again due to the pattern he has formed with the characters throughout the novel. The story takes an unexpected twist however to insert him as a possible father of Brianna's baby. This and the previous chapter have offered the possibility that this group may not live happily ever after. They have managed to emerge unharmed from all their scrapes, but the way things have turned, the question now stands whether Brianna and Roger's presence will turn things worse in the end.



Part Ten, Impaired Relations, Chapter Forty-Six, Comes a Stranger, Chapter Forty-Seven, A Father's Song, Chapter Forty-Eight, Away in a Manger, Chapter Forty-Nine, Choices, Chapter Fifty, In Which all is Revealed

Part Ten, Impaired Relations, Chapter Forty-Six, Comes a Stranger, Chapter Forty-Seven, A Father's Song, Chapter Forty-Eight, Away in a Manger, Chapter Forty-Nine, Choices, Chapter Fifty, In Which all is Revealed Summary

Roger has been directed to the Frasers' cabin and is happy to finally be nearby. He has successfully stolen the gems for their passage from Stephen Bonnet and is ready to reunite with Brianna. Before he can reach the cabin he encounters Ian and Jamie, bitter with the story they had just heard from Lizzie. Roger is confused about what could cause this reaction from Brianna's father and finds himself in a fight for his life.

Jamie comes in late with his hands sprained and cut and lies to Claire about the cause of injury. Jamie and Brianna share a close moment when she tells him about her pregnancy. She breaks down about the rape for the first time and Jamie comforts her, assuring her that it will work out.

Brianna joins Jamie in the stables where he is overseeing a calf in labor with her first calf. Brianna talks to him about vengeance, asking for advice for her feelings toward her rapist. The encounter turns angry between the two of them but Jamie finds himself in a place of reflection that he would not have reached otherwise.

November 1769

Claire tells Jamie that she will offer Brianna the opportunity to have an abortion if she doesn't want the baby. Jamie is distraught and begs Claire not to even consider the option. Brianna decides that she has become too attached to the child to commit the act.

Now that the year is coming to an end everyone is on edge about the fact that Roger hasn't arrived. Jamie suggests putting Roger's name and image in the newspaper and



asks Brianna to sketch him. Jamie sees the face and realizes what happened. In a heated argument he reveals that he gave Roger away to the Iroquois Indians. Finally it is revealed that Brianna's real rapist was Stephen Bonnet. Everyone is overcome with grief and regret, especially Claire, who is caught in the middle between her daughter and her husband.

Part Ten, Impaired Relations, Chapter Forty-Six, Comes a Stranger, Chapter Forty-Seven, A Father's Song, Chapter Forty-Eight, Away in a Manger, Chapter Forty-Nine, Choices, Chapter Fifty, In Which all is Revealed Analysis

Roger is feeling optimistic even though his journey has been hard and made harder when Ian steals his horse. It turns out that he saw the stones that Bonnet stole from the Frasers and without knowing the history, Roger parted with Brianna with plans to steal the jewels. Judging from his first passage through time he feels sure the stones will protect him and Brianna to return to their own time. His feelings of luck change quickly when he looks into Jamie's eyes. Once again Roger feels hurt and alone assuming that Brianna must have told Jamie something outrageous about him. Jamie never gives Roger the chance to explain what he has given up to protect Brianna. Roger's final thought of the chapter is "My God...I'm going to die before I've been born." The thought is another indication that things may have been disrupted due to their time travel.

The emotion surrounding the rape tells the reader that rape is possibly viewed the same in this time as it is in Brianna's for those who are hurt. Brianna carries herself as very prideful and independent, but it becomes clearer with the progression of the novel that a large part of her is also in need of a strong family to protect her. Roger's earlier assessment that she would need his protection in the new America was correct even though she wouldn't admit it.

The moment between Jamie and Brianna brings Claire and Jamie back to her marriage to Frank. Claire confesses the torture she faced in her marriage to Frank Randall when she returned to raise Brianna. "It might have been easier for him if it had been rape. That's what they told him, you know—the doctors; that I had been raped and abused and was having delusions. That's what everyone believed ...but I insisted on telling him the truth. And after a time—he believed me...And that was the trouble; not that I'd had another man's child—but that I loved you. And I wouldn't stop. I couldn't."

The scene in the stable with the pregnant calf is meant to parallel Brianna's state. The plot again reiterates Brianna's need for protection but she is in a predicament that she ultimately has to face alone-childbirth. Nonetheless she has a small hope that getting revenge on Stephen Bonnet would put her at peace about the rape. Her mother told her that Jack Randall was a sworn enemy of Jamie's, so Brianna wants to know if Jamie murdered him and if so, how it felt. Jamie's physical response to her, pinning her to the



floor, makes her rethink her plans but makes Jamie realize that Jack Randall still has power over him. Randall had sexually abused Jamie and even in death, Jamie never made peace with it. After Brianna leaves he says a prayer and forgives Randall. He feels like he can comfortably give Brianna the same advice about her adversary, especially since he believes he has already avenged her rape. Sadly, had he chosen forgiveness for Brianna's rape, he wouldn't have harmed Brianna's only love.

Claire makes her love for Brianna clear when they talk about the possible abortion. Now that Claire has opened up to Jamie about how Frank felt about her she has a sudden fear that Brianna may think she was an unwanted pregnancy. Brianna understands her mother's choices and makes her own choice that regardless of the father she would never take the child's life.

First Brianna has faced the same fear of loneliness and rejection that she inflicted on Roger since she left their time. She is afraid he has chosen to leave her and is heartbroken. Eventually, there is a sense of relief implied for the reader, knowing that Roger wasn't killed on the spot. However, the tension and questions that surface with the news of his new fate still don't offer a feeling of resolution. Brianna traveled through time to meet her father and her first love has been lost due to her father's actions. There is obvious regret on her part that she left the comfort and security of her time. Claire is hit the hardest, left in a position to feel her daughter's loss, her husband's regret and even Roger's fear and confusion, and she is unable to help any of them.



Part Eleven, Pas Du Tout, Chapter Fifty-One, Betrayal, Chapter Fifty-Two, Desertion, Chapter Fifty-Three, Blame

Part Eleven, Pas Du Tout, Chapter Fifty-One, Betrayal, Chapter Fifty-Two, Desertion, Chapter Fifty-Three, Blame Summary

October 1769

Roger regains consciousness and after a few moments of confusion realizes he is a captive of a group of Indians. His memory of the fight with Jamie Fraser returns and he makes an angry pledge to return to Fraser's Ridge for revenge. The Indians express to Roger that he is in no danger but he finds a way to escape for a while. Before he is recaptured he finds another stone circle.

River Run December 1769-February 1770

Brianna is sent to Jocasta at River Run for the remainder of her pregnancy while Claire, Jamie and Ian start the search for Roger. Over the next few months Brianna becomes closer to her aunt and settles fairly well into the daily life at River Run.

Jamie, Claire and Ian silently make the trip to the Tuscaroran Village carrying supplies and whiskey for bartering. Claire is happily surprised to see Pollyanne there on their first night in the village. In talking she tells them that Sergeant Murchison was responsible for the death and the botched abortion in the slave quarters when they first met her. Jamie comes back with news that Roger has been sold to the Mohawk Indians further north.

Part Eleven, Pas Du Tout, Chapter Fifty-One, Betrayal, Chapter Fifty-Two, Desertion, Chapter Fifty-Three, Blame Analysis

The story retracts a few months to tell of Roger's plight. Also, the mystery of the skull Claire found has begun to unravel with Roger's discovery. There is a stone circle in their area and the skull belonged to someone who came from the future through these stones. The find is also hope that Brianna and Roger can each return to the safety of their own time.

Brianna's sharp tongue and stubborn pride has left her at odds with Jamie and the circumstances have left her feeling just as alone as she did back in her own time. She



feels like she has lost two fathers and places the blame on everyone but herself. She never looks at Jamie when he comes to say goodbye, but he still pledges to bring Roger back or not to come back at all and leaves her with a letter. With that she is left alone with no family but her unborn child and an aunt she may never have been meant to meet. Nonetheless, Brianna and Jocasta find common ground in their artistic skill and Brianna finds a small comfort in life at River Run.

Although Brianna and Roger's relationship has been compromised by life in the past, it only continues to be clear that Jamie and Claire were meant to be together. Every time their relationship faces a challenge they find a way out. Watching their daughter hurt at Jamie's hand has put an incredible strain on them and they both feel guilty. Jamie has felt guilty from the beginning of the novel for helping Stephen Bonnet escape hanging and the decision has haunted him until this point. Once he realizes Claire doesn't hold the same feelings of blame toward him, he is a little relieved.

Interestingly, one of the lives that they did help save is revisited here. Pollyanne is happily settled in the Indian village and in fact sheds light on what truly happened the night she was forced to flee from her slave quarters at River Run.

Claire notes the time it takes them to get to the Mohawk-they arrive in mid-February. She hopes to herself that they can find Roger and get back to Brianna in time for the baby to be born.



Part Eleven, Pas Du Tout, Chapter Fifty-Four, Captivity, Chapter Fifty-Five, Captivity II, Chapter Fifty-Six, Confessions of the Flesh, Chapter Fifty-Seven, A Shattered Smile

Part Eleven, Pas Du Tout, Chapter Fifty-Four, Captivity, Chapter Fifty-Five, Captivity II, Chapter Fifty-Six, Confessions of the Flesh, Chapter Fifty-Seven, A Shattered Smile Summary

February 1770

It's Roger's first day with the Mohawks and they strip him completely and make him run through the ice as they club and stab him—taking amusement in his pain. Afterward he is treated as a random house slave until some time later when a French priest, Alexandre, arrives at the village. His arrival causes an uncomfortable stir among the Mohawks, and Roger is eventually placed in a tent with the priest. They take the priest that night, strip him completely and return him bleeding and less one ear.

River Run, March 1770

Brianna finds herself helpless at the hands of her Aunt Jocasta. The slave Phaedre informs Brianna that Jocasta has been encouraging a constant stream of visitors to meet Brianna because she is screening the local bachelors to choose a husband for her. Jocasta has found a new heir in Brianna and wants to situate everything before the baby is born.

The priest Alexandre has concluded that the Indians will kill him soon and asks Roger to take his final confession. He tells Roger the story of how he came to the Mohawks and converted some of the tribe to Christianity. He fell in love with one of the converts and they bore a child. He couldn't in good faith baptize the baby having committed a sin in its conception. The Indians are offended by the refusal and chaos ensues among them. He cannot refuse his love for the woman and even with the confessions he is sure he will end up in hell.

After a week of negotiations, the Mohawk won't confirm that Roger is alive but have agreed to barter him for Jamie's whiskey in three days after a Council meeting. While the meeting and whiskey tasting is in progress, Claire talks with the women about the



opal gem with the snake image that she found with the skull on that strange night on the mountain.

Part Eleven, Pas Du Tout, Chapter Fifty-Four, Captivity, Chapter Fifty-Five, Captivity II, Chapter Fifty-Six, Confessions of the Flesh, Chapter Fifty-Seven, A Shattered Smile Analysis

Again an unknown factor is thrown into the plot to leave Roger's fate questionable. The unknown in this case is the Mohawk. The Frasers have had lucky and amiable relations with the Indians in the past, but Roger has ended up with the Indians that everyone fears and about whom no one knows much. At first it seems that his torture is over and at worst Roger will be forced to be a slave and then the priest arrives. Not only is it clear that they feel negatively toward the priest but they have now lumped Roger and the priest together by making them share quarters.

Jocasta is obviously set in her ways as she tries to subject Brianna to similar manipulation as the tactics used on Jamie upon their meeting. Her character is sympathetic because she wants to pass her life's work on to another family member but she is certainly wily in her approach. It seems that only the slaves aren't surprised by the way things work with Jocasta. Brianna has a talk about freedom with Jocasta's "eyes"—Ulysses; she had become annoyed with him observing and relaying every single detail and occurrence in the household. It turns out that Ulysses was once free and circumstance changed that status as well as his name and his fate.

The framework of this chapter is the priest's final confession to a minister's son. The loneliness of death makes him confess to someone who isn't a priest for a sin he cannot bring himself to regret. Like the time travelers, the unknown has brought confusion into the priest's world where there was once clarity, ritual and understanding. Ironically, the priest's presence has done the same for the Indian tribe.

Love is another factor that, like the other main characters, is life changing for Alexandre. Even for the salvation of his soul, the priest cannot deny love.

"They hadn't known what he had called it, but I did. The man called Otter-Tooth, who had come to raise a war, to save a nation—with silver fillings in his teeth, Yes, I knew what it was the tika-ba. His unused ticket back. My legacy." The figure that Claire saw was in fact a ghost of an Indian time-traveler who thought he could change the fate of his ancestors. Unfortunately he was misunderstood by the village and they marked him for death. As the warriors struck the final blows that killed him, he left them with the words "You will be forgotten...The Nations of the Iroquois will be no more. No one will tell your stories. Everything you are and have been will be lost." Just as Pollyanne told Claire that Nayawenne's spirit probably walks with her; this man's spirit recognized Claire as a relative either of blood or kin spirit. Because he led her to the stone, she calls it her legacy.



Part Eleven, Pas Du Tout, Chapter Fifty-Eight, Lord John Returns, Chapter Fifty-Nine, Blackmail, Chapter Sixty, Trial by Fire, Chapter Sixty-One, The Office of a Priest, Chapter Sixty-Two, Three Thirds of a Ghost

Part Eleven, Pas Du Tout, Chapter Fifty-Eight, Lord John Returns, Chapter Fifty-Nine, Blackmail, Chapter Sixty, Trial by Fire, Chapter Sixty-One, The Office of a Priest, Chapter Sixty-Two, Three Thirds of a Ghost Summary

River Run, March 1770

At Jocasta's request, Phaedre gets Brianna dressed for another night of visitors. This time she is excited to report that they would be entertaining more than the usual group of suitors; a lord was scheduled to visit. While one guest coaxes Brianna to indirectly choose a stone for his future marriage proposal, Brianna meets Lord John Grey. The two are able to talk comfortably for strangers and Lord John decides to remain in River Run a little longer.

Brianna stumbles on the truth about Lord John Grey's sexuality and forms a plan to blackmail him. She wants Lord John to agree to marry her for appearances only and threatens to expose that he is homosexual if he refuses. After talking sensibly about it, they decide to simply announce that they are engaged to buy them some time and ward off any more of Jocasta's suitors.

The Indians are ready to put Priest Alexandre to death. Alexandre decides that his soul is condemned so he asks Roger to pray that he doesn't cry out when they kill him because according to the Mohawk tradition that would show weakness and shame his love. Commotion breaks out in the midst of the death ceremony, and Roger breaks out of the house when he hears voices in Scottish accents. After fighting unknown assailants he finds himself back in the house accompanied by Jamie Fraser. Jamie explains that the Indians put Alexandre to death by burning him alive and his love walked into the fire next to him.



Claire is brought to the longhouse where Roger and Jamie are heavily guarded. No one comes to check on them for a while and Claire tells Roger that Brianna is pregnant and fills him and Roger in on what happened after the fighting during the priest's death. It turns out that Roger killed one of the Indians in his attempt to escape. The Indians decided that as a result they would keep one of the men in their group. Ian joins them and volunteers to remain behind and become a member of the Mohawk tribe.

Roger performs a baptism on the baby orphaned by the priest and his lover. The Christian members of the tribe have been forced to take the baby and leave the tribe.

River Run, April 1770

Lord John Grey tells Brianna that Stephen Bonnet has been arrested for smuggling and is scheduled for hanging. Brianna insists on seeing him before he is put to death and Lord John arranges a meeting. It is revealed that Sergeant Murchison is Bonnet's partner and he uses Brianna's visit as a means to help Bonnet escape. Lord John is severely hurt; Murchison gets killed and Bonnet escapes alone in the process.

Part Eleven, Pas Du Tout, Chapter Fifty-Eight, Lord John Returns, Chapter Fifty-Nine, Blackmail, Chapter Sixty, Trial by Fire, Chapter Sixty-One, The Office of a Priest, Chapter Sixty-Two, Three Thirds of a Ghost Analysis

Without Claire or Jamie present, Brianna is able to connect with John Grey; appreciating the qualities that make him Jamie's good friend and that Claire hates to admit are likeable. Amidst all the chaos, including Brianna's passing thoughts to steal her suitor's gems for her passage back to her own time; John Grey is a welcomed source of comfort.

The quick connection between Lord John Grey and Brianna is enough for them to get pass her ridiculous plan and talk from a sensible point. Without the jealousy that Claire feels toward him, John is able to tell the story of how he met Jamie and where things stand between them. His utmost respect for Jamie is shown through how he now treats Brianna. She is comforted to have someone in her corner once again. It is also revealed that Brianna is almost confident that her parents will find Roger but is more worried about subjecting him to an obligated marriage with a child that may not be his. It is understood that this fear comes from having witnessed her mother's marriage to Frank Randall.

Love and its power, lengths and depths is the constant theme here. Three men—Alexandre, Roger and Jamie, all find themselves subjected to the will of love. Alexandre and his love cannot be parted even in death, and they were willing to give up their eternal salvation for each other. Jamie is faced with the fear that he has lost Claire to



the hands of the Mohawk. Roger is first relieved that Brianna still loves him. "He had thought he would be hollow forever, but suddenly there was something; something small, but very solid. Something he could hold in the cup of his heart, Brianna." The relief is followed by fear that they would never reunite. When faced with death they all resolve that it is a little easier to make peace with their fate knowing that they have had love.

Roger's life as a minister's son serves him for the second time to bring comfort at a chaotic time. When he baptizes the baby he also offers the possibility that Priest Alexandre's soul may not have been condemned despite his choices. Ian's sacrificial choice is made out of love for his family. Like any other love described throughout the novel, his love along with his choice is unwavering. The final decision of the chapter is left to Roger. He finds out that Brianna's pregnancy is the result of rape and that she will not be able to return to their time because of the child. Once they have safely left Mohawk territory Claire and Jamie part ways with Roger so he can decide what he to do.

The letter Jamie left Brianna before his trip gives her the strength to face Bonnet. It read "You asked me once whether it was right to kill in revenge of the great Wrong done you. I tell you that you must not for the sake of your Soul, for the sake of your own Life, you must find the grace of forgiveness. Freedom is hard-won, but it is not the fruit of Murder."

It is a good thing Brianna takes this advice because as callous as Bonnet is, it is Brianna's forgiveness that compels Bonnet to save Lord John's life.



Part Twelve, Je T'aime, Chapter Sixty-Three, Forgiveness, Chapter Sixty-Four, Bottom of the Ninth, Chapter Sixty-Five, Return to Fraser's Ridge, Chapter Sixty-Six, Child of My Blood

Part Twelve, Je T'aime, Chapter Sixty-Three, Forgiveness, Chapter Sixty-Four, Bottom of the Ninth, Chapter Sixty-Five, Return to Fraser's Ridge, Chapter Sixty-Six, Child of My Blood Summary

River Run 1770

John Grey survives the attack from Murchison and is in recovery at River Run. Claire and Jamie return and everyone seems happy and relieved even though Roger isn't with them.

With Jamie and Claire at her side, Brianna gives birth to a big baby boy. Jamie can't help wondering if there is any indication of the father, but it's still too early to determine.

First the family leaves River Run and returns home to tend to Fraser's Ridge. Claire sets herself to the task of the new baby's birth certificate, which proves difficult without Roger. As they all quietly wonder whether he will come, Roger has made the journey back to Fraser's Ridge as well.

Roger immediately declares that he will accept Brianna's child as his own when he enters the cabin at Fraser's Ridge. He makes the pledge by marking the baby with his blood. Jamie suggests they use the next few months to decide if they want to remain pledged to one another in marriage, and if so they can make it permanent then. Meanwhile, they all try to settle into a routine and Claire helps Roger regain his strength and heal his wounds and injuries.



Part Twelve, Je T'aime, Chapter Sixty-Three, Forgiveness, Chapter Sixty-Four, Bottom of the Ninth, Chapter Sixty-Five, Return to Fraser's Ridge, Chapter Sixty-Six, Child of My Blood Analysis

The good that has come out of Brianna's time away from her parents is Lord John Grey. Claire and John still interact in their strange and reserved manner, but it is clear that all has been forgiven between them. Brianna may not have remained as calm and stable as she did and wouldn't have been able to find the strength to move on from her rape if Lord John hadn't supported and befriended her.

Brianna calls Jamie "Daddy" for the first time. They have come full circle from their fight even though Roger isn't there. She has undone her last hurtful words to him, belittling him in the shadow of Frank Randall. Claire can't help thinking of Frank in the moments after Brianna's son is born. Without even thinking she uses a quote that he used commonly. Claire can't help wondering if he is lingering somewhere near.

Having everyone return to Fraser's Ridge gives the impression of coming home. Peace is there. The question of Brianna and Roger's fate has been thrown around and everything seems to now point not only to each other but to staying in Jamie Fraser's time rather than returning to their own.

The subject of honor has come up before and Jamie's character is based on the ideal; therefore he is respectful of Roger's blood pledge to the baby. Brianna's mind is still on love and only wants Roger if he can love her and the baby. "I've seen a marriage made from obligation—and I've seen one made for love...If I hadn't seen both, I could have lived with obligation. But I have seen both—and I won't"; she speaks of her mother's marriages. As it has been through the novel, Brianna and Roger want the same thing; they just haven't found the way to achieve it. She is now asking him for the type of love he has been so desperate to receive from the beginning.



Part Twelve, Je T'aime, Chapter Sixty-Seven, The Toss of a Coin, Chapter Sixty-Eight, Domestic Bliss, Chapter Sixty-Nine, Jeremiah, Chapter Seventy, The Gathering, Chapter Seventy-One, Circle's Close

Part Twelve, Je T'aime, Chapter Sixty-Seven, The Toss of a Coin, Chapter Sixty-Eight, Domestic Bliss, Chapter Sixty-Nine, Jeremiah, Chapter Seventy, The Gathering, Chapter Seventy-One, Circle's Close Summary

Roger takes lodging in the main house that Jamie is building for Claire. Brianna visits him regularly but things are still strained. Claire gives him advice about approaching Brianna. Jamie also visits and he and Roger are able to call a truce for the wrong they have felt toward one another. Finally, Brianna and Roger have time to spend alone and they finally talk and connect.

August 1770

The two couples are settled comfortably with one another and Duncan Innes visits with news. He has asked Jocasta to marry him and want them all to join the festivities at the Scottish Gathering on Mount Helicon. Jocasta hopes they can also take this time to baptize the baby. They all agree to be there enthusiastically.

October 1770

The entire family heads to Mount Helicon and discuss the baby's name along the way. They decide on John Jeremiah Alexander Fraser Mackenzie. Hearing the name makes Roger ask Claire questions about his genealogy and he realizes he saved the life of his great-grandmother six times removed and her baby Jeremiah back on the Gloriana. Claire states "I asked Geilie...why we can do it [time travel]. She said—to change things."

The Gathering is one that the Fraser's haven't seen in many years and they are in awe. They spend days there, meeting with friends and family. Lizzie is reunited with her father and they even see John Quincy Myers. He brings a letter and good news of Ian.



Roger tells Jamie about a letter he found among his father's belongings. It is a confession from Frank Randall admitting that he placed the gravestone announcing Jamie's death and kept the secret that Jamie survived the war in Culloden. Jamie forgives Frank for his hatred and asks that his spirit go in peace after returning their wedding band to Claire. Finally, Brianna has made the choice to stay with Roger. In the Afterward, Claire feels Frank's presence on Brianna's wedding day and is at peace with it.

Part Twelve, Je T'aime, Chapter Sixty-Seven, The Toss of a Coin, Chapter Sixty-Eight, Domestic Bliss, Chapter Sixty-Nine, Jeremiah, Chapter Seventy, The Gathering, Chapter Seventy-One, Circle's Close Analysis

Finally, after traveling through time and torture to find love in one another, Brianna and Roger are in the right place and time, together. They have changed as much as the environment around them has changed. They were each searching for the same things the entire time and finally come to the realization and admission that they need each other and their baby. "What is it that's holy to you Roger?" He stood and reached for her...Held her against his heart and remembered the stinking hold of the Gloriana and a thin, ragged woman who smelled of milk and ordure. Of fire and drums and blood, and an orphan baptized with the name of the father who had sacrificed himself for the fear of the power of love. "You...Him. Us. There isn't anything else, is there?"

There is a settled tone that has taken over the novel. The characters no longer operate as if they are in an unknown space and time. They have a home and they have love; even Jocasta has found what she has been searching for in all of her relatives; someone to count on.

It is almost chilling how closely linked the past and the future are even with the distance of two hundred years. Roger's realization is also a testament that he and Brianna were meant to be written into the past to make the future what it turns out to be.

The Gathering is the culmination of the Frasers' and MacKenzies' journey. They are home. They can start to make peace with their only true loss-Ian and Rollo-now that they know firsthand that Ian is ok. The novel began with Jamie honoring a friend by making himself present at his final moment. Jamie takes a risk in the opening chapter by calling out to Gavin Hayes at the gallows in their native tongue. It is fitting that Gavin's son, an officer in the Highland Regiment, finds Jamie at the Gathering to pay respect.

"If Frank Randall had chosen to keep secret what he'd found, had never placed that stone at St. Kilda's—would Claire have learned the truth anyway? Perhaps; perhaps not. But it had been the sight of that spurious grave that had led her to tell her daughter



the story of Jamie Fraser, and to set Roger on the path of discovery that had led them all to this place, this time...It had been the stone that had at once sent Claire back to the arms of her Scottish lover—and possibly to her death in those arms. That had given Frank Randall's daughter back to her other father, and simultaneously condemned her to live in a time not her own; that resulted in the birth of a red-haired boy who might not otherwise have been—the continuance of Jamie Fraser's blood." This quote sums up the span of novel and it is ironic to know that Frank Randall was the catalyst. Also notable is that he unknowingly placed the death marker near the grave of his ancestor and Jamie's worst enemy, Jack Randall. Jamie can let go of his anger and jealousy toward Frank knowing that nothing Jamie shares at the Gathering would be possible without Frank.



Characters

Claire Fraser

Claire Fraser is a housewife in the 1940s, married to Frank Randall. She is English born and her husband is from Scotland. Claire accidentally goes into a stone circle at Craigh na Dun in Inverness, Scotland. She doesn't know that through her bloodline she has the gift of using the stones to travel through time. She travels back 200 years, meets and falls in love with Jamie Fraser. Claire makes up her mind to remain in the past with Jamie but circumstances change their plans. There is a religious war and rebellion going on in Scotland during this time, and when Claire gets pregnant she is forced to return to her time in order to protect the child.

Back in the 20th Century, Claire and Frank's marriage changes completely-mainly because she is pregnant. Claire can't help telling Frank the truth, although everyone else concludes that she was abducted and raped and therefore delusional. Frank spends the remainder of their marriage jealous of Jamie, a man he would never meet. He even goes as far as to plant a fake grave site for Jamie to keep Claire away from Jamie even after Frank is deceased. They move to America and Claire becomes a doctor and they raise Claire's daughter, remaining together for Brianna's sake. When Frank dies Claire finds the gravestone for Jamie but rather than simply grieving the loss she decides to try to get back in time to save him. Claire leaves Brianna and goes back through the stones to find Jamie and live the remainder of her life in the past. They build a life together in America and Claire establishes herself as a gifted healer in the community. Some of Claire's powers are supernatural and she finds herself connected with others like her.

Jamie Fraser

Jamie Fraser lives in Inverness Scotland. He is a farmer and becomes a warrior for religious freedom when war breaks out in their area. Jamie falls in love with Claire when she mysteriously enters his world through the stones. They remain together and Claire gets pregnant. When the challenges of their time prove it impossible to safely raise a child, he makes the decision to let her go back to her own time. His last words to Claire are a request to name the child after his father, Brian. He is unsure if he will ever see Claire again and is coaxed into marrying an awful woman named Laoghaire Mackenzie. Jamie is unable to make the marriage work, so he leaves Laoghaire and goes into seclusion in the mountains.

When Claire returns they are immediately married and their journeys unexpectedly lead them to America. He is proud to know he has a daughter, Brianna, living safely in the 1900s. It is also revealed that Jamie has a son who doesn't know Jamie as his father. Missing his children is one of the few instances where Jamie shows weakness. Jamie comes from a proud heritage and is intent on making his mark and establishing a



flourishing home for his family and friends. In the New World he tries to hold on to the sense of kin and camaraderie that he remembers from Scotland. He succeeds by building a community in the mountains of North Carolina which is then called Fraser's Ridge. Jamie is known for his stubbornness, his fierce temper (that he passes on to both of his children) and his strong love for his family.

Brianna Fraser/Randall

Brianna Fraser/Randall has qualities from both of her parents that don't emerge until she travels into her father's time. Brianna's stubbornness leads her into much trouble. First, she travels into an unknown time and place alone. Then when Roger follows and finds her, she pushes him away. The decision leads to her rape and possibly her pregnancy. Brianna has to learn how to let people love her and how to love back fearlessly. She becomes a mother 200 years before her own time and decides to stay in the 1700s with her mother, father and future husband.

Roger Mackenzie/Wakefield

Roger Mackenzie/Wakefield searches for his identity and searches for love from Brianna. He feels orphaned just like Brianna and knows it could be there connection but she won't let it happen. Roger never knew his real parents and recently faced the death of his adoptive parents. He knows that his future is with Brianna so there is no doubt about following her through time to protect her. Everything changes there and he is faced with the decision of raising Brianna's child although it may not be his own.

Ian Murray

Ian Murray starts the novel as a young curious teenager. He is rough around the edges despite his uncle Jamie's attempts to tame him. His spirit is wild and free and it is no surprise that he is the character to end up living with the Indians when the Frasers settle in America. Ian is loyal and strong and like Jamie loves his family fiercely. Ian comes of age within the story and by the end is thought of as a man.

Duncan Innes

Duncan Innes is a very close friend of Jamie who travels with them to America. Throughout their trip Duncan serves Jamie as a trusted right-hand. At the end of the novel, Duncan asks Jamie's aunt Jocasta for her hand in marriage and she accepts.



Fergus

Fergus' most notable feature or flaw is his missing arm. He is a French-born young man that Jamie adopts so he wouldn't be forced into a life of poverty or begging due to his injury. His wife's name is Marsali, who is Jamie's stepdaughter—their son is Germaine.

Rollo

Rollo is the wolf that Ian adopts as his pet and companion. His mother was an Irish wolfhound so Rollo is very large. Rollo earns his place in the Fraser group and protects them on more than one occasion. When Ian is forced to live with the Mohawk Indians Rollo starts a family there, too.

Stephen Bonnet

Stephen Bonnet's story is connected to all the main characters in the novel. He is introduced early in the plot when Jamie saves him from hanging by hiding him on their way North. Bonnet is a scoundrel and later catches up with the Frasers and having joined a gang of thieves, robs the family of all their valuables, including their priceless gemstones and Claire's wedding ring. It is this ring that leads Brianna to Bonnet and in the end he forces her to have sex in exchange for it. It is the promise of stealing the same gemstones that makes Roger follow Bonnet and leave Brianna to the perils of this 18th Century America and Bonnet himself. In the end Bonnet escapes hanging for a second time. His only good deed is saving Lord John Grey's life.

Jocasta Cameron

Jocasta Cameron is Jamie's aunt, his mother's sister. She is as strong willed and stubborn as Jamie and although she has a good heart, she is very wily. Jocasta tries without success to make Jamie and then Brianna agree to be apprentices and heirs of her and her late husband's estate. Jocasta marries Jamie's good friend Duncan.

Lord John Grey

Lord John Grey is a good friend of Jamie who is sexually attracted to Jamie. Because of this Claire dislikes him but Jamie still values their friendship. Lord John pledged to raise Jamie's son when the child is conceived from a secret affair. John Grey brings the boy to visit Jamie at Fraser's Ridge where Claire has to save him from small pox. John becomes a good friend to Brianna when she is alone at River Run.



William Viscount Ashness

William Viscount Ashness is Jamie's son and has a fiery temper and mouth. He is unaware who his father is, but loves Lord John Grey like a true father.

Nayawenne

Nayawenne is the Indian priestess or shaman with whom Claire becomes close. Nayawenne predicts that the small pox outbreak would change everything for both the Indians and for Claire. Paranoia over the outbreak leads to Nayawenne's death; Claire keeps Nayawenne's amulet with her at all times. Others believe that Nayawenne's spirit walks with Claire.

Frank Randall

Frank Randall is Claire's first husband. When Claire returned from her time travels pregnant, he spends the remainder of their marriage hating Claire and Jamie for their love. He loves Brianna wholeheartedly and is torn between the jealousy he feels and the blessing he has received in Brianna.

Laoghaire MacKenzie

Laoghaire MacKenzie is a bitter loud mouth who is angry that Jamie never truly loved her. She has children of her own and hoped that Jamie would take care of them even after his marriage to Claire.



Objects/Places

Boston 1970s

Brianna lives here and Roger visits for a while. It is where their love affair starts. Boston is also where Claire's friend Dr. Abernathy lives and where they all watch the first moon landing.

Inverness 1970s

Inverness, Scotland is Roger's home and once was Claire's. Brianna and Roger also spend time here. It is here that Roger asks Brianna to marry him and she refuses knowing she still plans to take the trip back through time to find her parents. Inverness is the location of the stone circle, the source of the time travel.

River Run

River Run is the plantation estate that Jocasta and Hector Cameron built. The plantation produced turpentine for sale.

The Stone Circle

The Stone Circle is the centerpiece of the novel although only physically visited a few times. It is located in Inverness, Scotland; many have been positively and negatively affected by the Circle's power.

Fraser's Ridge

Fraser's Ridge was first a site chosen for Claire and Jamie to build their home. Moved by the history and symbolism of the wild strawberries that grew there, they thought it was fated for them to start their life in America there. The location is in the mountains of North Carolina and Jamie and Claire develop it into a settlement community that later becomes known as Fraser's Ridge.

Dr. Joseph Abernathy's House

Dr. Joseph Abernathy's house is only mentioned once. Brianna, Roger and a large group of students gather to watch the first successful mission to the moon.



Gems

Claire and Jamie start their journey in America with a few valuable gems. The gems are stolen by Stephen Bonnet and then stolen back by Roger. Claire also finds an opal gem buried with the time traveler who died at the hands of the Mohawk. The gems are thought to be the key to traveling successfully through any of the stone circles.

Mount Helicon

Mount Helicon is the location for the annual harvest gathering of the Scottish settlers in America. The festivities on the mountain lasted days.

Nayawenne's Pouch

When Claire meets Nayawenne, the old woman lets Claire hold the amulet pouch that she wears around her neck. It is clearly a source of her powers and the two Indians with Nayawenne are surprised by the gesture. Claire describes the feel of the pouch as holding something alive. When Nayawenne is killed the pouch no longer holds its living quality and the other Indians Claire encounters tell her that as long as she carries the pouch she carries Nayawenne's spirit with her.

Mohawk Village

This village is the only Indian village where violence takes place at the hand of the Indians. Throughout the novel the main characters interact with a few Indian tribes but the Mohawk are the only ones who seem to inflict harm to one another and any outsiders who threaten their way of life. The village itself is in the mountains, far North of Fraser's Ridge, and most of the other Indian villages. They are also feared by the other Indians in the story.

Celtic Festival, Massachusetts

This is the festival where Roger performs when he visits Brianna in Boston. It isn't authentic Scottish culture but it is a clear indication that some Scottish culture survives the years between Jamie and Brianna's time. The introduction of the festival is the first indication that Roger and Brianna also have stronger ties than they are even aware of, to Scottish history.

Claire's Wedding Rings

Claire wears her wedding ring from her marriage to Jamie and the ring from her previous marriage to Frank. The rings are first mentioned when Jamie and Claire are robbed on the River in North Carolina. Without knowing which ring has been chosen,



Claire saves her ring from Jamie by swallowing it before the bandits could take it. Stephen Bonnet manages to get Frank's ring, however. This ring is used to reinforce the idea that although dead, Frank is also a pivotal character. The stolen ring turns up in both Brianna and Roger's adventures in America.



Themes

The Significance of Names

In both the past and the future, every main character is wrapped in the history of their name and they each search for their identity through a name. When Roger is introduced to the novel he is visiting Brianna in Massachusetts, USA. He is using his adoptive father's name, Wakefield, and Brianna carries her stepfather's name, Randall. Roger has come all the way to America to play at a Celtic festival and by the end of it; the significance of names sparks a connection in both the characters and the reader.

Although the festival a watered down Scottish tradition it ended meaningfully with the war call and response of the clans. For entertainment and because he has accepted a vague tie to the Mackenzie heritage, Roger responds to the call of the Mackenzie clan. Brianna on the other hand is torn. "Her chest felt tight from the smoke and from emotion. The clans had died at Culloden—or had they? Yes, they had; this was no more than memory, than the calling up of ghosts; none of the people shouting so enthusiastically owed kinship to each other, none of them lived any longer by the claims of laird and land, but...'The Frasers are here!' Sheer panic gripped her, 'No' she thought. Oh no. I'm not." (84)

In their separate denial Roger and Brianna both have to turn back to the history of their names, Mackenzie and Fraser in order to find themselves and each other. It can be assessed that their fate was to go through the stones and complete their lives in the past. In order to get to that fate Roger has to speak about Geillis Duncan, branded a witch and a denied member of Roger's family tree. Geillis is a part of Roger's history and he has to find the journal she left behind and find her story in order to make his way to Brianna in the past. When he arrives he naturally uses Mackenzie as his last name. Brianna doesn't notice how she naturally transforms into a Fraser. She denies her tie to the Fraser clan out of respect for her stepfather and in anger that her mother had chosen a Fraser over her. Nonetheless she continues to search for Jamie in the past and finds the death notice of both of her parents. When she arrives in the past, the name Fraser her offers her the family and support that she couldn't admit she needed desperately.

The novel ends with a similar scene to the festival in Massachusetts. Only this time, every person had their life vested in the cry of their clan. In the New World, the clan name is all they have of their homeland and the memory of their struggles, losses and gains.

Fate

In the beginning it seems as though luck is on the side of the characters in the novel. As the story of history, time and place unfolds, their chance happenings become a question



of fate. The most significant question seems to be whether it is fate for these characters to have traveled through time. The answer appears to be that they were meant to live through their experiences both in the past and present.

It seems that Claire is exactly where she should be in the opening chapters of the novel. She is at her husband's side, completely in love. Then Brianna is introduced; she is a wreck over losing her mother and completely confused over the identity of her father. Brianna despises Jamie Fraser and her mother for essentially choosing Jamie over her. It seems almost impossible that Claire was meant to live two hundred years in the past with an old lover when her daughter had clearly not come to terms with any of it. Brianna's story then continues and a new possibility is inserted. Perhaps when Claire made her first trip into the past she fated her and her daughter for a life in the 1700s with Brianna's blood father and their family history.

Claire and Jamie, Claire and Brianna and finally Brianna and Roger are undeniably linked, and by the end it becomes clear that one could not exist without the other. Everyone and everything that tried to stop their union eventually dispersed. Frank Randall thought he could permanently keep Claire away from Jamie by faking Jamie's death. Frank ultimately becomes the catalyst for every character's journey into 18th Century America. In the end when Roger realizes he was meant to be in the past, strangely, in order to have been brought into existence he asks Claire why she thinks they were fated to have the power they have and she responds, "to change things." (1056)

Love's Sacrifice

"Shall I kiss you, child, shall I kiss you, man? Feel the teeth behind my lips when I do. I could kill you, as easily as I embrace you. Sacrifice is required." (569) These are the words that Geillis Edgar/Duncan use to describe the only way to use the stones successfully. Geillis is correct in theory but not in concept. The gift of the stones proves that love and sacrifices must be made for the gift. Geillis abuses the gift and therefore meets a terrible end, but every other character who realizes that sacrifices must sometimes be made for true love, changes their fate for the better.

Claire and Jamie's love is at the center of the novel, and they have continually sacrificed to make their love a possibility. Jamie put Claire and Brianna's safety before his own desire and sent them back through the stones when Claire was pregnant. He didn't know if he would ever see them again but knew they would be safer in Claire's time than in his own. Claire proceeded to sacrifice her happiness for Brianna's for over twenty years. Even though Claire has already given up so much for love, she has to again leave her daughter behind in order to find Jamie. According to Jamie's theory on love and life, nothing is lost, only changed. These two characters live by this creed with faith that love's losses will bring greater gain. The stones take what they thought they gave up and change fate to bring the characters their loved ones together in the flesh and in spirit.



Style

Point of View

Most of the novel is written objectively in third person. The third person usage in most areas makes the story feel like a factual account. This is fitting for the historical tone of the novel. Many of the references, especially once the characters arrive in America, are references to actual American history. During the 1700s there was a large migration of people from Scotland to America. These immigrants were seeking a better way of life; some were brought as slaves and indentured servants and others such as the character Jamie, were trying to escape religious persecution. Many of them ended up in Pennsylvania, Virginia and the Carolinas. Within the book there are references to the French and Indian war, Slavery and some of the local political unrest in North Carolina. The writer also makes a point to name real locations to reinforce the idea that this fiction could have been a part of history.

The section of the novel that include Claire's character is the exception to the third person usage; she tells her story in first person. This choice emphasizes the significance of Claire's character. It also reminds the reader that she is the pivotal character and none of the story would be possible without Claire's character. The plot flows based on every action that Claire takes within it. It is therefore important to understand Claire's personal emotions and feelings as opposed to simply getting an account from another character or a narrative point of view.

Setting

Scotland and America are the two major settings. Scotland in the 1900s is used mainly to project the life Roger is leaving behind. Roger has lost most ties to Scotland because his adoptive father has recently passed away. 20th Century Scotland is also the time and place where the stone circle is introduced and physically exists. The characters travel into 18th Century Scotland but there is no mention or description of the stone circle itself there. Claire's first life is in this time and place; Scotland and the stone circle lead her to Jamie Fraser. Scotland in the 1700s is used to frame Jamie Fraser's life. He holds everything about his home very dear. It is painted as a place full of history and pride even in its broken, post-war state. Brianna finds Jamie's family here when she travels through time. Brianna, Claire, Jamie and even Roger have strong and fond feelings toward Scotland even during its tempestuous times.

18th Century America is distinctly different from 20th Century America. America in the 1900s is where Claire made her life once she returned through the stones to give birth to Brianna. Claire was a doctor here and her strongest ties are Brianna and her close friend Dr. Abernathy. Brianna and her mother built a life in modern America and appreciate it for all of its memories, comforts and most importantly safety. Contrastingly, America in the 1700s is surrounded by hardship, corruption and the danger of the



unknown. America in the 1700s tests each of the characters and forces them to rebuild their lives and everything they know completely. In the end, the setting of 18th Century America proves to be where all the characters are meant to build their lives.

Language and Meaning

The novel is written in English with small excerpts of a few other languages and dialects. English is used as the main language in the portions of the novel set in the 1700s. Brianna and Roger's environment is based almost solely on the English language. Brianna is a student in Boston and everyone around her uses American dialect and the English language. This is emphasized when one of her friends meets Roger for the first time and although he speaks English, she is taken aback by his Scottish accent.

All the characters have ties to Scottish tradition which is the most prominent dialect encountered in the novel. There are colloquialisms most often used by Jamie that reinforce the idea that these are Scottish born people who are merely settling in a new world, not changing who they are completely. The most used are "sassenach," a word commonly used by Scottish people to fondly refer to an Englishman. This is the term that Jamie uses constantly and affectionately to refer to Claire-who is in fact English. A few other colloquial terms are "a leannan," "Mac Dubh," and "m'annsachd" all used to express the closeness of family and kinsmen.

The other language featured is French which makes the account of 18th Century America more realistic. There was a French influence immigrating to America at this time and the novel is also set near the time of the French and Indian war. The most notable character using French is Priest Alexandre. The French language stands out here the most because he is introduced to the novel in a Mohawk camp where some speak French, but most of the Indians speak their native language. When Roger meets the priest he is completely relieved to hear another language other than the Indians' language and speaks freely in French. It is also notable that the Indians who the priest has converted to Christianity also speak French.

The least amount of detail is given about the Indians' language. Their languages aren't referenced by name only by the tribe who speaks it. There are similarities among the languages between tribes but there are no examples quoted. For the Indians language is key to the preservation of their tradition. As French and English influences enter their surroundings, they designate a few people in the tribe to learn the language but the entire tribe doesn't do so. This is shown when Ian joins the tribe and he is told he is never to speak his language again.

Structure

The novel is 1070 pages long with 71 chapters broken into twelve parts. Each part and chapter is identified by number and heading name that relates to the plot in that section. The chapters are short and vary in character, focus and voice. There is a short forward

and afterward aimed to make the reader feel the story is a personal account even with the third person voice inserted at times.

The plot is clear, although many of the details are left to the assumption that the reader is familiar with other novels in this series. It is implied that a more detailed account of Claire and Jamie's adventures before arriving in America are detailed elsewhere. The storyline is essentially broken into two parts-past and present. The memories of the main character, Claire, serve as a gray area between the two plots but are not a significant deviation. The present is first defined as the 1970s where Brianna and Roger live; however, there is a shift almost halfway through the novel. The past becomes the present when all the main characters find themselves in the 1700s.



Quotes

"We were we three years and I wanted ye as much on the last day as the first...' He added softly thinking as I was of the last time we had made love before he sent me through the stones." (54)

"What had happened the year before was in no way Roger's fault, but he was inextricably wrapped up in it...Uncle Joe knew the truth of her paternity, too, but only Roger could truly understand what had happened; only Roger could hear the stones too." (62)

"Yes, I am a pardoned Jacobite. And aye, I have sworn the oath—like the others who paid that price for their lives." (115)

"...In my mind was the sight of the granite gravestone in a Scottish kirkyard, on a hill high above the moors and sea. JAMES ALEXANDER MALCOLM MACKENZIE FRASER, it read, and below that my own name was carved—Beloved husband of Claire. I would bury him in Scotland." (117)

"'Frasers are stubborn as rocks' he'd said 'And MacKenzies are charming as larks in the field—but sly as foxes with it.'" (198)

"I wrote of Simon Fraser earlier. He is a man of honour...but there is a hardness in him now, a glimpse of steel at the back of his eyes...What troubles me is that I have seen that steel in your eyes brother...You are fortunate in Claire." (202)

"Highlanders would fight to the death for any cause that touched their honor or stirred their blood, but they were for the most part indifferent to outside matters..." (211)

"No great difference at all, perhaps. Was my future any more certain than hers?" (290)

"'I think it will maybe be alright.' I thought so too. There was no telling what lay on the other side of life, but I had sat many times through an hour where time stops, empty of thoughts, soothed of soul, looking into...what? Into something that had neither name nor face, but which seemed good to me and full of peace. If death lay there..." (295)

"Flowers, fruit and leaves all together at one time. The white flowers are for honor and red fruit for courage, and the green leaves are for constancy." (315)

"When my body shall cease, my soul will still be yours, Claire...nothing is lost. Only changed." (322)

"What if something happened, if Ian or Jamie fell ill or was hurt in an accident? If we starved or froze? And while Jamie was sure that our Indian acquaintances had no



objection to our intent, I wasn't so sanguine about any others who might happen along...Yes, I bloody well would be afraid." (356)

"I had the odd feeling that she was talking to me and I to her—without the exchange of a single spoken word...we definitely spoke the same language...'We say she is a singer' Berthe put it in French. 'We call it shaman; her name it means it may be; it will happen.'" "She says you must not be troubled; sickness is sent from the Gods. It won't be your fault." (376)

"I wanted badly for her to find Jamie Fraser, to live happily ever after with him. The knowledge—or more accurately, the hope—that she had done so had been a small talisman to him; a witness that enduring love was possible, a love strong enough to withstand separation and hardships, strong enough to outlast time. And yet, flesh was mortal; no love could outlast that fact." (414)

"The trouble was that while he thought he has succeeded in deflecting Brianna's attention from the past, he had been unable to ignore it himself. Claire and that bloody Highlander of hers obsessed him; they might as well have been his own family, for the fascination they held." (460)

"I followed [William] quickly, not wanting him to reach the cabin ahead of me. I was prey to a mixture of the most disquieting sensations; uppermost was anxiety for Jamie, a little lower, anger at John Grey. Below that, an intense curiosity. And at the bottom, far enough down that I could almost pretend it wasn't there was a pang of sharp longing for my daughter, whose face I had never thought to see again." (474)

"Mueller was speaking and Grey was trying to, but I was only dimly aware of their words...my ears echoed the words I had heard a year before...in Gabrielle's soft voice, translating for Nayawenne. Her name meant 'It may be; it will happen.' Now it had and all that was left for me to for consolation was her words: 'you must not be troubled; sickness is sent from the gods. It won't be your fault.'" (540)

"Frank Randall had been an only child, as had her mother; such relatives as she had were not close. She [Brianna] had set out thinking only to find her father; she hadn't realized that she might discover a whole new family in the process." (580)

"'It's no use to say what might have been or should be, is it?' But he left Laoghaire's house some time before your mother came back." Jamie's brother in law remembers Jamie's marriage to Laoghaire. And when Brianna asks what happened when Claire did return he simply states "'He was verra glad to see her.' This time the smile lighted his whole face like sunshine. 'so was I'" (610)

"That was what made this leaving hard, she thought. She had already lost father, mother, lover, home and friends. She was alone by necessity and also by choice. But then to find both home and family again so unexpectedly at Lallybroch had caught her unaware. She would have given almost anything to stay—just a little longer. But there



were promises to keep, losses to be made good. The she could come back. To Scotland. And to Roger." (620)

"His interest was both professional and personal; his historian's instincts were roused by [the passengers'] presence, and his loneliness soothed by the homeliness of their talk. Here were the seeds of the new country, the legacy of the old. What these poor emigrants knew and valued, was what would endure and be passed on." (635)

"Bree? Is that the name ye call your daughter? It's a Scots word...a bree is a great disturbance." (755)

"My God...I'm going to die before I've been born." (787)

"It might have been easier for him if it had been rape. That's what they told him, you know—the doctors; that I had been raped and abused and was having delusions. That's what everyone believed ...but I insisted on telling him the truth. And after a time—he believed me...And that was the trouble; not that I'd had another man's child—but that I loved you. And I wouldn't stop. I couldn't." (803)

"You will be forgotten...The Nations of the Iroquois will be no more. No one will tell your stories. Everything you are and have been will be lost."

"They hadn't known what he had called it, but I did. The man called Otter-Tooth, who had come to raise a war, to save a nation—with silver fillings in his teeth, Yes, I knew what it was the tika-ba. His unused ticket back. My legacy." (923)

"He had thought he would be hollow forever, but suddenly there was something; something small, but very solid. Something he could hold in the cup of his heart, Brianna." (957)

"You asked me once whether it was right to kill in revenge of the great Wrong done you. I tell you that you must not for the sake of your Soul, for the sake of your own Life, you must find the grace of forgiveness. Freedom is hard-won, but it is not the fruit of Murder." (986)

"I've seen a marriage made from obligation—and I've seen one made for love...If I hadn't seen both, I could have lived with obligation. But I have seen both—and I won't." (1031)

"'What is it that's holy to you Roger?' He stood and reached for her...Held her against his heart and remembered the stinking hold of the Gloriana and a thin, ragged woman who smelled of milk and ordure. Of fire and drums and blood, and an orphan baptized with the name of the father who had sacrificed himself for the fear of the power of love. 'You...Him. Us. There isn't anything else, is there?'" (1050)

"I asked Geilie...why we can do it [time travel]. She said—to change things." (1056)



"If Frank Randall had chosen to keep secret what he'd found, had never placed that stone at St. Kilda's—would Claire have learned the truth anyway? Perhaps; perhaps not. But it had been the sight of that spurious grave that had led her to tell her daughter the story of Jamie Fraser, and to set Roger on the path of discovery that had led them all to this place, this time...It had been the stone that had at once sent Claire back to the arms of her Scottish lover—and possibly to her death in those arms. That had given Frank Randall's daughter back to her other father, and simultaneously condemned her to live in a time not her own; that resulted in the birth of a red-haired boy who might not otherwise have been—the continuance of Jamie Fraser's blood." (1067)



Topics for Discussion

Identify the ties between Brianna, Claire and Jamie. Could they have existed without one another?

Are the characters' better off having chosen their place in the past? Give details.

Is Claire's will and fate the vehicle moving the plot and characters or does each character have the power to control their fate?

Explore the stone circles, the gems and the time travel. In the end what was identified as the method to make it through the stones alive?

There are hints that Frank's spirit lingers near Claire from time to time. What is the significance and at what times does he make his presence known?

Look at the idea of revenge. Does forgiveness lead to salvation for all the characters wronged?

The novel gives accounts of exploitation of the poor Scottish refugees, slavery, faced by Blacks, annihilation of Indians and inequality for women. What is the overall view of the realities of 18th Century America?

Claire has taken and given life and has a connection to both the natural and the spirit world. Explore this character in detail; can she be considered a witch, a healer, both or neither?

Even with the power of time travel can these characters change the past or the future or has their fate already been written?