

The Dark Tower VII: The Dark Tower Study Guide

The Dark Tower VII: The Dark Tower by Stephen King

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Plot Summary

The Dark Tower VII: The Dark Tower is a fantasy novel by Stephen King, and the seventh in the Dark Tower series. Jake Chambers, his billy-bumbler, Oy, and Father Don Callahan storm the Dixie Pig restaurant in New York City, fighting vampires to free Susannah Dean. Callahan gives himself up so Jake can get to Susannah, who was taken by the low men along with her alternate personality, Mia. Susannah and Mia started out in the same body, but now Mia is her own being and is pregnant. Susannah watches as Mordred, a human who can morph into a spider and is the son of Roland Deschain and the Crimson King, is born. After wounding Mordred, Susannah escapes and meets up with Jake and Oy. Roland Deschain and Eddie Dean are in Maine, convincing John Cullum to start the Tet Corporation. The corporation will do everything in its power to protect the rose, which represents the Dark Tower in our world. When they return to Mid-World and the ruined city of Fedic, they join up with Jake and Susannah and the ka-tet continues through the tunnels under Fedic searching for a door to Algul Siento.

Once the gunslingers arrive at Algul Siento, Roland Deschain, Susannah Dean, Eddie Dean, and Jake Chambers they work with Ted Brautigan, Dinky Earnshaw, and Sheemie Ruiz to free the breakers, a group of telepaths who were captured by the Crimson King and are breaking the beams that hold the universe and Dark Tower together. Eddie Dean is killed after this fight. Roland and Jake travel to Maine in 1999 to stop Stephen King from dying after he is hit by a van. However, Jake dies in his place. Roland buries Jake, and then travels to New York to visit the Tet Corporation. When he returns to Fedic and meets Susannah, they continue towards the Dark Tower. They rescue Patrick Danville from a vampire, Dandelo. Susannah decides to quit the quest for the tower, choosing a life with alternate versions of Eddie and Jake. She leaves for an alternate version of New York.

Mordred attacks, but Oy saves Roland, dying in the process. Roland and Patrick get to the Dark Tower, where the Crimson King awaits them. The King throws sneetches, or flying grenades, at them. They hide behind a rock and steel barrier to buy time and come up with a plan. Patrick draws a picture of the Crimson King and then erases it, erasing the King out of existence. Roland climbs the tower, but is transported back to the beginning of his journey, realizing he is doomed to repeat it.



Part 1, The Little Red King: Dan-tete: Chapter 1, Callahan and the Vampires, Chapter 2, Lifted on the Wave, and Chapter 3, Eddie Makes a Call

Part 1, The Little Red King: Dan-tete: Chapter 1, Callahan and the Vampires, Chapter 2, Lifted on the Wave, and Chapter 3, Eddie Makes a Call Summary

Father Don Callahan and Jake Chambers are standing outside the Dixie Pig restaurant in Manhattan. They are there to rescue Susannah Dean, who has gone to the restaurant and the Crimson King's men by the bidding of Mia, her split personality. Mia is pregnant and about to deliver a baby, the child of Susannah and Roland Deschain, the gunslinger. Susannah and Roland have been raped by demons at separate points during their journey, creating the child. Jake and Father Callahan enter the Dixie Pig and begin to fight the low men and vampires. Some of the Crimson King's servants are half-man, half-beast. Roland speaks to Jake through Father Callahan, telling him to find Susannah. Callahan is overwhelmed, and tells Jake to go on so Oy, Jake's billy-bumbler, doesn't get killed. Callahan orders the vampires away from himself in the name of God and the power of the White. The low men are able to approach him, however Father Callahan shoots some of them and then kills himself.

(Chapter 2: Lifted on the Wave) Eddie Dean and Roland are in Maine on July 9, 1977. They have just met Stephen King, a writer who is supposedly their creator. They are now trying to get to Lovell, Maine, to find a way back to Susannah, but a man tells them the main road is closed by police due to incidents of shooting and explosions. Roland and Eddie have a title paper signed by Calvin Tower, a man who has given them a title to a lot where the rose, representing the Dark Tower in our world, stands. They are trying to save the lot from being sold to an evil corporation, the Somba Corporation. As Roland and Eddie are driving, they are hit by an invisible wave and feel as if they are floating. They are able to see Susannah Dean and Mia, who is giving birth. Susannah sees them and speaks the word "Chassit," which means the number nineteen. Roland sees Jake and Father Don Callahan fighting, and warns Callahan to get Jake out of there, also speaking through Callahan to command Jake to leave.

(Chapter 3, Eddie Makes a Call) Eddie and Roland return to the car. Roland wants to get to Lovell, but Eddie says they can't go there yet until they finish their business in this world. Eddie says they have to find Moses Carver of Holmes Dental Industries, so he can run the Tet Corporation to protect the rose and the lot against the Somba Corporation and North Central Positronics. They know they couldn't have left the paper with Aaron Deepneau and Calvin Tower, since Calvin would have tried to back out and



Carver probably wouldn't have believed those men. Eddie calls John Cullum, the man from who they borrowed the car. He asks Cullum they will meet him in Lovell, and want him to go to New York City. As they leave, they see a horrible, melted looking man wandering on the road, a walk-in from another world. Roland stops and talks to the creature, before killing it to give it peace.

Part 1, The Little Red King: Dan-tete: Chapter 1, Callahan and the Vampires, Chapter 2, Lifted on the Wave, and Chapter 3, Eddie Makes a Call Analysis

Roland Deschain and his fellow gunslingers, Susannah Dean, Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers, and Oy have found doors that let them travel between worlds. The group is called a ka-tet, which is a group of people bound together by fate. They travel through such a door from Roland's home world, Mid-World, to find Susannah and arrange protection for the rose in New York City. The rose is the representation of the Dark Tower in our world, or the Keystone world. Both the Keystone World and Roland's World are crucial to the existence of the universe. Roland and Eddie must set up a corporation who is charged to protect the rose, because if the rose or the Dark Tower falls, it will mean the end of existence. They hope that a man named John Cullum, who they have just met in Maine, will be able to assist them. Jake and Father Don Callahan's duty is to save Susannah. They encounter vampires and low men in the Dixie Pig, servants of the Crimson King. Callahan sacrifices himself so Jake will go on, knowing that saving Susannah is more important. The ka-tet must work together to stop the Crimson King from bringing down the Dark Tower. Through one of the opening between worlds, beings from a diseased portion of Roland's world are able to come in through a doorway in Maine.



Chapter 4, Dan-Tete, Chapter 5, In the Jungle, the Mighty Jungle, Chapter 6, On Turtleback Lane, and Chapter 7, Reunion

Chapter 4, Dan-Tete, Chapter 5, In the Jungle, the Mighty Jungle, Chapter 6, On Turtleback Lane, and Chapter 7, Reunion Summary

Susannah Dean is casing the room where she is held with Mia and several of the low men and taheens. Mia is giving birth, and, through a psychic link with Susannah, agrees to help Susannah escape if she can. Susannah is surprised to see the baby has a set of teeth and a larger penis than a newborn should. The baby, named Mordred, is given to Mia to breastfeed, but the baby turns into a part-spider and sucks all the moisture out of Mia's body, killing her. Susannah grabs a gun from one of the low men and kills them all. She shoots one of the legs off of Mordred, but he escapes. She also shoots a robot, Nigel, making him lose his sight, but she gets the robot to carry her to a door that leads in from New York. She sits down to wait for Jake. (Chapter 5, In the Jungle, the Mighty Jungle) Jake Chambers is fleeing from the vampires and low men as he tries to find Susannah. He gets a good lead and runs down a long staircase. He hears Susannah calling him in her mind, but one of the low men tries to get into his mind and make him stop moving. Jake shakes it off, but is afraid to try to contact Susannah again.

Jake keeps going, finding the farther along the tunnel he goes, it turns into a jungle. A dinosaur emerges. Jake remembers watching a movie about dinosaurs when he was a young child and the fear he felt then comes back. He thinks the dinosaur is a trick, but can still harm him. He realizes Oy cannot see or sense the dinosaur, and asks Oy to trade places with him. Jake and Oy switch minds, entering each other's bodies. Oy carries Jake through the mind trap and they switch back, but the low men have caught up with them. They realize they can't go through the mind trap, which works by creating things out of people's imaginations. The men shoot out the projectors and are able to continue pursuit. Jake gets to the doorway that leads to Fedic, where Susannah Dean is waiting. Susannah gives him the password to open the door, chassit, and Jake goes through into Fedic.

(Chapter 6, On Turtleback Lane) Eddie Dean and Roland Deschain have made it to Turtleback Lane and meet John Cullum. John tells them Jack Andolini, one of the mobsters after the tower, was caught trying to sneak around a police roadblock. Eddie tells John about their journeys, including that they need him to help protect the rose, which protects the beam of the tower. John will go to Aaron Deepneau and Moses Carver to set up the corporation that will protect the lot where the rose is located. They go to find the door to another world, and John gives them back their packs. More mutant and deformed people are coming out of a door in the woods. Eddie and Roland say



good-bye to John, and go through the door. (Chapter 7, Reunion) Eddie and Roland land outside the door to Fedic, where Jake's pursuers are, and they kill them all. Susannah gives them the password to get through the door into Fedic, and the group is reunited.

Chapter 4, Dan-Tete, Chapter 5, In the Jungle, the Mighty Jungle, Chapter 6, On Turtleback Lane, and Chapter 7, Reunion Analysis

Susannah Dean was impregnated by a demon that also had sex with Roland Deschain, so the child is theirs. However, Susannah has acquired an alternate personality, Mia, who is impregnated by the Crimson King. Mia becomes her own being and gives birth to the child. Mordred clearly is influenced by the Crimson King's nature with his ability to turn into a spider, killing his mother. Susannah wounds the creature but is not able to kill him, foreshadowing that the Mordred will cause problems for them in the future. Jake Chambers is under the city of New York, but encounters devices made by the Old People generations ago in Roland's world. The device uses his imagination to create creatures that block his way, but because Oy is not affected, he switches minds with Oy to get past them. He finds an entrance to Fedic and is able to reunite with Susannah. In Maine, Roland and Eddie Dean meet with John Cullum and convince him to start the Tet Corporation. John easily believes their story, signifying to Roland and Eddie that he has also been touched by fate. The members of the ka-tet are sometimes able to talk to each other through their minds, especially Jake, who is powerful in the touch. This talent also shows that the group is following their destiny to save the Dark Tower.



Part 2, Blue Heaven: Chapter 1, Devar-Tete, Chapter 2, The Watcher, and Chapter 3, The Shining Wire

Part 2, Blue Heaven: Chapter 1, Devar-Tete, Chapter 2, The Watcher, and Chapter 3, The Shining Wire Summary

Roland Deschain, Susannah and Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers, and Oy look at the body of Mia in Fedic. They tell each other their stories of what they had done since being separated. They realize Stephen King much have written things to be left for them along their journey, like the stone turtle, and he needs to stay alive to write those things. Susannah remembers a vision she had that Stephen King had been hit by a van and died and begins to tell them, but Nigel the robot returns. Roland says they now have to consider the baby in their plans, and Susannah remembers how the baby is both the son of Roland and the Crimson King. She tells Roland Mordred hates him and means to kill him. They decide they need to free the Breakers, who are being held against their will to break down the beams holding the Dark Tower together.

Susannah tells them the Wolves, which steal children from the Callas use a door near Thunderclap station. They use something from the children's brains, ruining one child from each pair of twins, to give to the Breakers to make the beams go down faster. (Chapter 2, The Watcher) Nigel brings the group something to eat. He tells them his mental circuits are breaking down. He has hair on his hands, and tells them he was killing rats in the kitchen. Susannah doesn't believe him, however. In a control room, Mordred watches the group on monitors. He is the size of a six-month baby, only hours after being born. Mordred is extremely angry that he is so small still, and only wears a diaper that Nigel put on him when he came to feed him. He also has a wound on his side from where Susannah shot off his leg in his spider-form. Nigel brings Mordred a young billy-bumbler to eat. Oy senses this and is disturbed, but Jake tells him to go back to sleep. Mordred turns into the spider and eats the bumbler, while Nigel's circuits break down even more and he won't move when Mordred calls.

(Chapter 3, The Shining Wire) Walter O'Dim enters the room with Mordred, wearing a hood that prevents Mordred from getting into his thoughts, although Mordred can still do it. Walter is happy because Stephen King looks to be near death, and will never write his last three books about the Dark Tower. Walter plans to cut off Mordred's foot and use it to gain entrance to the tower. He offers to serve Mordred, and Mordred accepts at first. However, he is searching Walter's mind for any useful information. Walter said the Crimson King is indisposed, and he will help Mordred finish his work. Walter realizes Mordred is in his head and pulls his gun, but Mordred is faster and binds Walter. He



makes Walter tear himself apart and feeds himself to Mordred. Mordred starts to follow Roland's trail.

Part 2, Blue Heaven: Chapter 1, Devar-Tete, Chapter 2, The Watcher, and Chapter 3, The Shining Wire Analysis

Stephen King is the author of the Dark Tower series, but he is also a character in the story. This technique is called metafiction, and is not frequently used in literature. It has implications for the characters, showing how our world and Roland's world are intertwined. It also brings a sense of realism to the novel, since some of the events are purportedly taking place in our own world. In order to make it to the Dark Tower, Roland Deschain, Eddie Dean, Susannah Dean, Jake Chambers, and Oy need to stop the Breakers, a group of telepaths who are breaking the beams that hold the Dark Tower together. They return to the Thunderclap station because the Wolves that raided the Callas, stealing twin children, came out of that station. Mordred watches the group on monitors, waiting until he is strong enough to follow them. He requires a lot to eat, especially in his spider form. When he comes across Walter, he is immediately able to read his thoughts, although he does not let on. Walter, Roland's nemesis and the antagonist in other Stephen King novels, is also hoping to kill Mordred and use the symbol on his foot to gain entrance into the Dark Tower. He is a foil to Roland, but the quest is ended when Mordred is able to take control of his mind and forces him to tear himself apart.



Chapter 4, The Door into Thunderclap, Chapter 5, Steek-Tete, and Chapter 6, The Master of Blue Heaven

Chapter 4, The Door into Thunderclap, Chapter 5, Steek-Tete, and Chapter 6, The Master of Blue Heaven Summary

Roland Deschain, Susannah and Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers and Oy wake and continue on their journey. Oy catches a sent and leads them to the door to the Thunderclap station. They find several inactivated wolves, the robots that steal the children in the Callas. They come through the door and go through, but the transition between worlds makes them sick. They meet three men, who tell them they are friends and must hurry to get away from the doorway. (Chapter 5, Steek-Tete) The group follows the three men through the train station. The men, Ted Brautigan, Dinky Earnshaw, and Stanley Ruiz tell them the taheen will kill them if they find them there. Stanley helps transport them telepathically to a cave at Steek-Tete. Ted says the Weasel, one of the taheens, has an alarm in his office that goes off when someone goes through the door.

They see a charming little village, called Devar Toi or Algul Siento, the home to the Breakers. Ted tells them the Crimson King wants to bring the Dark Tower down because he is mad. The taheens and low men give the Breakers everything they want. Jake is surprised the Breakers are still breaking the beams, even though they know it is wrong. However, Dinky says he doesn't know what it's like to not fit in. Ted, Dinky, and Stanley leave them in the cave and return to Devar Toi. Roland asks them to bring one of the mutants when they return. Roland stops Stanley, recognizing him as Sheemie, the tavern boy who helped him and his fellow gunslingers while they were in the Mejis. (Chapter 6, The Master of Blue Heaven) Finli, also known as the Weasel, reports to his master, Pimli Prentiss, and tells him a rogue maintenance robot set off the alarms.

The alarm went off again, but they didn't find anything, even though Mordred had gotten through the door. Pimli and Finli walk through the compound. They talk about the Wolves that never returned from their last hunting expedition, and Finli says he believes they had a virus. They go to check their instruments and find everything is fine, although they are both still unsettled. They continue to watch for teleports, unaware of Sheemie's power. Finli and Pimli know they are close to the end of their work, and the last beams will soon break and all worlds will end. They are satisfied that their work will be done, however, Pimli thinks he should take Finli's suggestion to increase the guards, since they don't want anything messing up the last few days.



Chapter 4, The Door into Thunderclap, Chapter 5, Steek-Tete, and Chapter 6, The Master of Blue Heaven Analysis

When the ka-tet reaches Thunderclap, they meet with three of the breakers, Ted Brautigam, Dinky Earnshaw, and Sheemie Ruiz. The telepaths knew the ka-tet was coming, and they also want to free the Breakers and stop the damage to the Beams. However, most of the Breakers don't want to stop, even though they are destroying existence. The Breakers are a group of people who have never felt comfortable in the real world, so they enjoy having a place where they belong. Dinky tries to explain this to the gunslingers, who have a hard time understanding that people could knowingly be working to end their existence and those of everyone else. The beings in charge of Algul Siento, Finli o' Tego and Pimli Prentiss, also feel the same way about their job, especially Pimli. He knows that he is supposed to ensure the Breakers bring the beam down. He is also from America, but much like the others, he has found somewhere where he can just do his job, and has no other worries. For many of the people who have been there for years, they know nothing else but the mission they have there. Pimli is so committed to continue the mission, even at the cost of his own existence, that he will do anything to protect the Breakers from being freed.



Chapter 7, Ka-Shume, Chapter 8, Notes from the Gingerbread House, and Chapter 9, Tracks on the Path

Chapter 7, Ka-Shume, Chapter 8, Notes from the Gingerbread House, and Chapter 9, Tracks on the Path Summary

Roland Deschain, Susannah and Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers and Oy take stock of their situation in the cave. They find supplies and ammunition, even a motorized vehicle for Susannah to ride. The group feels like they are under a cloud, and Roland realizes it means their ka-tet may soon break up. They find crates of sneetches, weapons the wolves had used against them. They look at the buildings in the compound with the help of a map. They believe some of the buildings are wood, and may burn. They drink water together and Roland talks to them about the possibility one of them may die. Mordred eavesdrops on the groups and learns they plan to attack the compound. Mordred decides to stay and watch what happens.

(Chapter 8, Notes from the Gingerbread House) The group listens to an audiotape made by Ted Brautigan. He explains he recorded it in a Gingerbread house created as a safe house by Sheemie Ruiz and Dinky Earnshaw. Ted tells them his life story. Ted was supposed to go to Harvard, but tries to enlist in the Army. He shows the doctor that he is a telepath, but the doctor gets scared and rejects Ted for medical reasons. He goes to Harvard. Later, in Ohio, Ted Brautigan is mugged. He accidentally kills the mugger with the force of his thoughts and anger. Ted is so powerful, he can also increase the powers of other telepaths. Ted Brautigan realizes he will have to hide for the rest of his life, becoming an accountant. In the fifties, he answers a job ad and is tested by the Crimson King's men, who capture him and take him to break the beams. The men realize Ted is a telepath and take him to break the beams.

Ted eventually got friendly with one of the low men, who had skin problems and would lift his protective hat while they were talking. Ted was able to read his thoughts about the Dark Tower and the beams. Ted escapes but returns, learning that Stephen King is a protector of the Dark Tower. Susannah Dean tells the others of her vision where Stephen King is dead, in 1999. Roland tells them he is feeling the same pains King will feel once he is hit by a van in July 1999. (Chapter 9, Tracks on the Path) Roland is angry with King because he should have been writing the Dark Tower books, but waited too long. Jake and Roland find evidence that Mordred has been following them. The next morning, Ted, Dinky Earnshaw, and Sheemie Ruiz return, bringing one of the mutants, a child of Roderick, with them. Sheemie begins to have a fit and falls to the ground.



Chapter 7, Ka-Shume, Chapter 8, Notes from the Gingerbread House, and Chapter 9, Tracks on the Path Analysis

Once they are alone, Roland Deschain, Eddie Dean, Susannah Dean, and Jake Chambers immediately start planning their attack on the Breakers' camp. Ted Brautigan and Dinky Earnshaw have anticipated their arrival and have been able to gather plenty of weapons and ammunition for them to use. Mordred overhears this. He still is not strong enough to challenge Roland, although he is not entirely sure he wants to. He feels a connection to Roland as his son, but sees this as a weakness. He tries to cultivate the feelings of being an outsider as a way to strengthen his hate of Roland. Roland discovers that Mordred is following them, but decide they have to leave that problem for now. Ted tells them his life story using an audiotape, so they can better understand the Breakers' mentality and why they might only want somewhere to belong and a job to do. Like him, many of them have been seen as misfits and have not been accepted into normal society. The gunslingers also realize they have another mission, and they are not sure which one they should complete first. They learn Stephen King is supposed to die in 1999 after being hit by a van, and they need to stop it. Roland decides to ask Sheemie to guide them as to which mission they should undertake first.



Chapter 10, The Last Palaver (Sheemie's Dream), Chapter 11, The Attack on Algul Siento, and Chapter 12, The Tet Breaks

Chapter 10, The Last Palaver (Sheemie's Dream), Chapter 11, The Attack on Algul Siento, and Chapter 12, The Tet Breaks Summary

The group helps Sheemie Ruiz through his fit. Eddie Dean and Dinky Earnshaw speak outside about Sheemie's fit, the fourth he's had since teleporting Ted back to America. Dinky says they don't know how much longer Sheemie will last, maybe only to teleport them once or twice more before he dies. Jake Chambers asks Sheemie if they should try to save Stephen King's life first, or save the Breakers. Sheemie tells them of a dream he had, of a bloodied young boy, who asks Sheemie to save him soon because he won't last forever. Roland tells Ted they will need Sheemie to send them back to America if all goes well and the Breakers are freed.

(Chapter 11, The Attack on Algul Siento) Pimli Prentiss and Finli o' Tego meet in the master's quarters, both jittery for some reason. Finli says they are getting strange readings on their machines. Finli and Pimli meet the child of Roderick, Haylis, that Roland had wanted, carrying a basket of used tissues. They let him go, not discovering Haylis planted exploding devices in several of the buildings. Susannah sits on her cart, surveying their preparations and setting up laser guns they had found. The attack takes place at the changing of the guard. Inside Pimli's home, his servants are arguing when a fire starts in the building. Others smell smoke as well, and when the alarms go off, Ted Brautigan and Dinky Earnshaw begin directing the Breakers to safety. Susannah Dean begins shooting at the guards, taking down several and setting up lasers. Roland Deschain, Eddie Dean and Jake Chambers soon join in. Robot fire engines rushing to put out the fire also run over some of the guards and Breakers. Sheemie hides in his room during the fighting. He cuts himself on a piece of glass while leaving his room.

The group succeeds in freeing the Breakers, mortally wounding Pimli Prentiss and Finli o' Tego. Eddie kills Finli, however, Pimli shoots Eddie Dean in the head. (Chapter 12, The Tet Breaks) Roland and Jake kill off the rest of the guards while Susannah mourns her man. The gunslingers wait for Eddie to die, saying their goodbyes to him. Jake goes to smoke with Dinky, and he can feel Mordred watching them. Roland calls Jake to them, and they stay with Eddie while he dies, after warning them to watch out for Dandelo. Roland and Jake make plans to go back to America and save Stephen King. Susannah will take the train to meet them in Fedic if they don't come back to the Breaker's compound. Sheemie opens up a hole to send Jake and Roland back to America, the day of Stephen King's accident.



Chapter 10, The Last Palaver (Sheemie's Dream), Chapter 11, The Attack on Algul Siento, and Chapter 12, The Tet Breaks Analysis

The gunslingers learn that Sheemie's ability to teleport affects his body and has started to give him fits. Dinky Earnshaw says they don't know how many more times Sheemie will be able to do this before he dies, a concern for the gunslingers since they need to get back to America. Sheemie comes around and tells them of a dream he had, which each of the gunslingers have had. The boy in his dream is a symbol of the tower and the beams, and the boy is asking for help to protect him. The blood and wounds on the boy are symbols of the damages the breakers are doing to the beam and the tower. The gunslingers are successful in freeing the Breakers, although this is the last triumph they will have as a ka-tet. The ka-tet breaks when Eddie Dean is shot. The power of fate that held them together is now gone, and the gunslingers will have a much more difficult time ahead of them. The gunslingers grieve for Eddie, who has been there for them and was Susannah's husband. However, they know they must move ahead with their plans, because if they do not succeed in saving the writer, they will all be in danger. Roland, still obsessed with gaining the tower, knows that they need to save Stephen King if he has any hope of getting there.



Part 3, In This Haze of Green and Gold, Chapter 1, Mrs. Tassenbaum Drives South, and Chapter 2, Ves'-Ka Gan

Part 3, In This Haze of Green and Gold, Chapter 1, Mrs. Tassenbaum Drives South, and Chapter 2, Ves'-Ka Gan Summary

Roland Deschain, Jake Chambers, and Oy land in America, outside a general store in Maine. Inside, a woman named Mrs. Tassenbaum, one of the summer tourists, who is getting groceries. The storeowner sees Roland come in and runs, remembering the trouble Roland caused at the store when he visited in 1977. They take the shopkeeper's truck keys. Roland and Jake ask Mrs. Irene Tassenbaum to drive them to Turtleback Lane, where Stephen King will have his accident. Meanwhile, a man named Brian Smith is driving his van from a campground. He has a cooler of hamburger meat in the van, as well as his two dogs. Roland and Jake get to Stephen King's home, but he's not there. Jake tries to think of a way to slow Smith down, and Mrs. Tassenbaum suggests making him have to go to the bathroom. It works, and two women taking a walk watch the man stop his van and get out.

It doesn't take very long, and Brian Smith is soon back in the van. Both Roland and Jake know that one of them must die to save Stephen King, but Roland plans for it to be him. Smith's dog gets into the cooler of meat, but instead of pulling over, he tries to get the dog out of the cooler while driving. Mrs. Tassenbaum gets to Stephen King and pulls in behind him. Roland jumps out of the truck. (Chapter 2, Ves'-Ka Gan) Roland Deschain's bad hip fails him, and it is Jake Chambers who jumps in front of the van and pulls Stephen King out of the way. Jake is hit badly, which angers Roland, who wishes King would die instead of Jake. Roland goes to Jake, who says he is dying and Roland needs to see to the writer.

Roland tells King that things are going badly because King isn't working on the story of the Dark Tower. He gets King to promise to write the story until it is done. Roland goes to Brian Smith and tells him he was alone when he hit Stephen King. When Roland returns to Jake, he sees the boy has died. He asks Mrs. Tassenbaum to leave while he waits and watches the police. Roland buries Jake while the ambulance takes Stephen King for medical attention. Mrs. Tassenbaum stops at her home, John Cullum's old place, and leaves a note for her husband saying she won't be back for a while. Mrs. Tassenbaum picks up Roland, and tells him Jake said to take him to New York City. They stay in motels on their way into New York City, and they make love their second night together.



Part 3, In This Haze of Green and Gold, Chapter 1, Mrs. Tassenbaum Drives South, and Chapter 2, Ves'-Ka Gan Analysis

Roland Deschain, Jake Chambers, and Oy are successful in saving the writer, but their efforts have consequences. Roland intends to sacrifice himself so the writer can live, because he loves Jake Chambers and does not want to see him harmed. One reason for this is that he let Jake die once before, soon after they first met. Roland had to choose between Jake and the tower, and chose the tower. Jake is like a son to Roland, and by dying instead of him, he will redeem himself. However, Roland's hip fails him, and Jake must jump in front of the van and push the writer aside in his place. Whether his hip failing him is a coincidence or fate is up to interpretation. Roland is distraught that he cannot be there for Jake when he dies, but he and Jake both know he needs to take care of business with Stephen King and the driver who hit him, Brian Smith. Roland needs to convince Stephen King to continue to write his story of the Dark Tower, because it is the only way to keep the Tower from falling. Even though the Breakers are freed, the Crimson King is still out there and will continue to work to bring the tower down. Before he returns to Mid-World, Roland also plans to go to New York to see the work of the Tet Corporation, and to ensure they are protecting the rose.



Chapter 3, New York Again (Roland Shows ID), and Chapter 4, Fedic (Two Views)

Chapter 3, New York Again (Roland Shows ID), and Chapter 4, Fedic (Two Views) Summary

Susannah Dean travels to Fedic on the train, certain that another of their group is dead, although she knows not who. Mrs. Irene Tassenbaum and Roland Deschain get to New York City. They walk to the Tet Corporation building, Roland's hip no longer hurting now that Stephen King rightfully has the pain. They find the Tet Corporation, a huge tower. They stop at a park across the street, where there is a turtle statue. Mrs. Tassenbaum says she will wait here for Roland while he goes into the Tet Corporation. He sees the rose, roped off in a little garden in the lobby of the building. He meets a woman in the lobby who knows who he is, and shows him a sign in front of the garden. She takes him up to the corporation's offices, and tells him she is the granddaughter of Aaron Deepneau's brother, Nancy Deepneau.

Roland Deschain meets Moses Carver and his daughter, Marian Carver. Marian checks his gun to be sure he is Roland, and they lead him into the inner offices. They drink tea and talk over Roland's journey. Roland says stopping the Breakers was mainly a means to reach the tower for him. Moses Carver tells Roland they have been using telepaths to work for them, based on ideas they got from science fiction books. Marian Carver tells Roland they have gifts for him. They tell him Eddie said something important to Jake before he died, who said it to Mrs. Tassenbaum. Roland believes Oy is the one who got the message. Nancy tells him of a group of workers at Tet who only read and cross-reference Stephen King novels. She gives him a book, *Insomnia*, which should help him in his quest, and tells him to look out for a man named Patrick Danville. They also give him a watch, powerful enough to run true, at least until he is very near the tower, and the cross necklace he had given John Cullum.

Roland meets with Mrs. Tassenbaum again to say goodbye. Oy tells him Eddie's message is to watch for Dandelo. (Chapter 4, Fedic (Two Views)) Roland goes to the Dixie Pig and enters to get back to Fedic. Susannah waits for Roland there. Oy greets her happily, and then howls to let her know Jake is dead. Susannah wants to turn away from Roland, but goes to him. Susannah tells him Sheemie died on the train to Fedic, from the cut on his foot, which caught the poison of the air. Ted Brautigan and the other breakers have gone, but they found a path to get Roland and Susannah into the lands of Discordia. Roland tells her they need to watch out for Dandelo. Stephen King is at



home, still writing the Dark Tower saga. He thinks about how a writer's work is never completely under his control, and Jake's death surprised even him.

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Chapter 3, New York Again (Roland Shows ID), and Chapter 4, Fedic (Two Views) Analysis

Susannah Dean waits for Roland Deschain, Jake Chambers, and Oy. However, she knows in her heart that one of them will not be coming back from this journey. Susannah is beginning to get disillusioned with their quest for the Dark Tower after the death of her husband, Eddie Dean. However, she still believes they need to save the tower. In New York, Roland Deschain meets the descendents of the original founders of the Tet Corporation, as well as one of the founders. Roland is amazed at how the company has been built up since 1977, and is impressed with all the founders have accomplished.



The founders have also analyzed Stephen King's other works, including *Insomnia*, and have found some helpful hints for Roland. They believe he will meet Patrick Danville, a character in *Insomnia*. Roland then returns to Fedic and Susannah, who is saddened to learn of Jake's death. She wants to turn away from the mission, but goes to him anyway. In the Keystone World, Stephen King thinks about Jake's death and how it surprised him as a writer. Even though he is the one responsible for what happens in a novel, he knows writers are never in complete control and the path of the story can change without planning it.



Part 4, The White Lands of Empathica, Chapter 1, The Thing Under the Castle, Chapter 2, On Badlands Avenue, and Chapter 3, The Castle of the Crimson King

Part 4, The White Lands of Empathica, Chapter 1, The Thing Under the Castle, Chapter 2, On Badlands Avenue, and Chapter 3, The Castle of the Crimson King Summary

Roland Deschain, Susannah Dean and Oy make their way through Fedic. They find a portrait of Mordred standing over Arthur of Eld's white horse, and Roland tries to destroy it. However, they realize that painting and another of the Dark Tower, which have been done by Patrick Danville. Susannah asks if she will have to die for Roland to reach the tower. He says Oy and she will be there when he climbs to the top, but she believes this is a lie. Susannah dreams of Eddie and Jake, who again warn her of Dandelo. They continue on their journey, Roland carrying Susannah in a harness. They go through the maze of tunnels under Fedic, having trouble finding the door that will lead them to Discordia. They finally find the correct way, but realize something is following them.

The monster chases them, but Susannah uses fire to drive the beast away, giving them enough time to escape. (Chapter 2, On Badlands Avenue) Susannah finds a cart so Roland can pull her. They stock up on canned goods and keep going to get away from the beast. They only have limited fuel for a fire, and Roland says they probably won't find more since the Crimson King has ruined the land. The weather gets colder as Roland, Susannah, and Oy continue. They test the watch Roland was given and find it is still running true. Roland Deschain hopes they can trap Mordred in the Crimson King's castle. They believe the castle is deserted. (Chapter 3, The Castle of the Crimson King) They come to the Castle of the Crimson King and see a sign welcoming them.

Three men, all who look like Stephen King, exit the castle. The two in front greet Roland and Susannah, claiming they are shape changers. One is polite, one is rude, and the other acts as a referee, named Fimalo, Feemalo, and Fumalo. They bring food in baskets. Fimalo says they are responsible for removing The Crimson King, who kept them as a pet. He says he will help them if he can, but won't go out of his way. They say the group's victory at the Callas and Algul Siento has driven the king completely mad, and he left to get to the tower first. They say the King is now un-dead, and Roland's guns are useless against him. They offer them clothes and food, but Roland and



Susannah refuse. The men start to bring guns out of the baskets, but Roland and Susannah Dean shoot two of them. Fimalo is the only one left, and turns back into an old man, the baskets only full of decomposing human limbs and snakes. Roland and Susannah leave, but Roland tells Fimalo to warn Mordred that Roland will kill him if he keeps following. Mordred arrives, angry that the man did not trap Roland, and kills him.

Part 4, The White Lands of Empathica, Chapter 1, The Thing Under the Castle, Chapter 2, On Badlands Avenue, and Chapter 3, The Castle of the Crimson King Analysis

Roland Deschain and Susannah Dean find their first indication of Patrick Danville under Fedic. They find two paintings done by Danville, one of the Mordred's possible triumph, and one of the Dark Tower. Roland is angered by the picture of Mordred, but when he sees the Dark Tower, he is overcome. Susannah knows that the other members of the ka-tet have died during their quest to reach the tower, and she is afraid the same fate awaits her. Roland tries to reassure her, but she knows that it is likely. As they continue on their journey, they are faced with several obstacles to overcome. They must beat the beast in the caves, and then they meet an old servant of the Crimson King who tries to trick them. However, Susannah and Roland will not be overcome and use their wits to outsmart the monsters and escape. Roland is merciful with the old man, since he did not actually come that close to harming them, and leaves him alive to give a message to Mordred. However, Mordred is not as merciful as Roland and kills the old man for failing to stop Roland. Mordred is now getting stronger, and seems to be getting closer to challenging Roland.



Chapter 4, Hides, Chapter 5, Joe Collins of Odd's Land, and Chapter 6, Patrick Danville

Chapter 4, Hides, Chapter 5, Joe Collins of Odd's Land, and Chapter 6, Patrick Danville Summary

The nights continue to be cold and miserable. Roland Deschain, Susannah Dean, and Oy continue to the Dark Tower. Mordred is also cold. Roland and Susannah hunt a herd of deer to get food and their hides to make clothing. Susannah dreams about Eddie Dean and Jake Chambers that night, seeing them in Central Park in New York City. (Chapter 5, Joe Collins of Odd's Lane) They come to a village at Odd's Lane and Tower Road. They meet Joe Collins, a jolly old man. Collins said he was from America once, and invites Susannah and Roland in. He is very friendly and makes them laugh. He has a robot called Stuttering Bill, which cleans his home. Collins shows them a Polaroid of the Dark Tower, saying he has been there a few years ago. He says he never heard of the lands called Empathica, only the White Lands. Susannah is sure he is lying, but Roland tells her to let it go.

Joe Collins says he was a comedian when he was in America. He tells them how he came there, but Susannah doesn't quite believe him. He begins to show them his comic act. Roland and Susannah laugh very hard, and Susannah accidentally hits a sore on her mouth. It starts bleeding, and she goes to the bathroom to take care of it. Joe looks mad that they interrupted his routine. In the bathroom, she finds a note saying here comes a 'deus ex machina.' The note tells her to think about the phrase Odd's Lane, or Odd Lane. Susannah hears Roland laughing harder and harder in the other room. She realizes it is an anagram for Dandelo, and goes out to the other room to find Roland choking. (Chapter 6, Patrick Danville) Susannah's gun is still by her seat, although the shells are in the pocket. She finds Roland on the floor, choking, and Joe looking younger after sucking the life from Roland.

Susannah Dean hits Dandelo with all her might as Oy attacks. She seizes Roland's gun and shoots Dandelo. Roland gets to his feet and thanks her. She shows him the note she found in the bathroom, from Stephen King, saying that they saved his life and now he saved theirs. They also find a copy of the poem "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came" by Robert Browning. Roland says this poem must have inspired Stephen King. They hear a noise and find Patrick Danville chained as a prisoner in the basement, with his tongue cut out. They free him, and he signals that Dandelo had fed on his emotions. Patrick finds his pencils and drawing pad, and Susannah is amazed by his skill. They also meet Stuttering Bill, the robot that plows the roads. He takes them on in his plow. Mordred, now a man of twenty, still follows.



Chapter 4, Hides, Chapter 5, Joe Collins of Odd's Land, and Chapter 6, Patrick Danville Analysis

Roland Deschain and Susannah Dean continue their journey, but it is becoming clearer that Susannah's heart is not into it. She has begun dreaming about her husband, Eddie Dean, and Jake Chambers, and both of them are trying to tell her something. Before she is able to figure out what they are trying to tell her, she and Roland come across Joe Collins, an supposedly old man living alone on Odd's Lane. Susannah, who has a sore on her mouth, accidentally hits it and it starts bleeding. When she goes in the bathroom, she finds a note from Stephen King, which leads her to discover Dandelo's true identity. They also find a poem by Robert Browning that seems to detail some of the events that Roland has experienced. Roland and Susannah realize this poem must have been the inspiration for Stephen King to write about Roland's quest. They also free Patrick Danville, who is mute after the vampire wounded him and tore out his tongue. The vampire has kept him in the cellar and fed on his emotions on a regular basis. Nevertheless, Patrick doesn't seem as scarred as his ordeal as he might be and is eager to join the gunslinger. A talented artist, he may prove useful to Roland during the quest for the Dark Tower.



Part 5, The Scarlett Field of Can'-Ka No Rey, Chapter 1, The Sore and the Door (Goodbye, My Dear), and Chapter 2, Mordred

Part 5, The Scarlett Field of Can'-Ka No Rey, Chapter 1, The Sore and the Door (Goodbye, My Dear), and Chapter 2, Mordred Summary

Susannah Dean finds herself prone to bouts of weeping more and more as they travel. Bill the Robot takes Roland Deschain, Susannah, Oy and Patrick Danville to an outpost. They stop to rest, and Bill makes them a cart for Susannah and Patrick to ride. Roland is eager to move on to the tower. Bill leaves them, and they give him directions to sound a horn if he hears Mordred. However, they don't hear it that day. Susannah dreams of Eddie Dean again, and a door labeled The Artist. The next night, they sense Mordred getting closer. Susannah tells Roland she is dreaming of an unfound door, and Eddie and Jake want her to find it. The next night, while Susannah is watching, Patrick draws her. She is touched by the picture, and realizes the drawing is the answer. She has him erase the sore on her mouth in the drawing, and it erases from her face in real life.

Susannah has Patrick draw her a picture of the door, and once it is complete, she begins to watch for the door. She offers to take Patrick with her, but he indicates he is too scared to go. They find the door. Susannah asks Oy to go, but he chooses to stay with Roland. Roland tries to convince her to stay, that she doesn't know what's actually there. Susannah says she needs to take the chance and rides through the door. (Chapter 2, Mordred) Mordred has fallen ill after eating the corpse of Dandelo's horse, but still follows Roland Deschain. He plans to attack them that night, while they are asleep. Roland and Patrick Danville come across a rose that is singing. Patrick draws two pictures of it for Roland. They continue through the rose field. Oy won't eat anything Roland cooks, and Roland thinks he will soon starve himself to death.

Roland Deschain needs to sleep, so he builds up the fire and tells Patrick Danville to keep watch. A pulse from the Dark Tower makes Patrick sleepy, and Mordred begins his attack in his spider form. Oy jumps in front of Mordred before he can get to Roland, and Roland awakes to see the billy-bumbler in Mordred's grip. Mordred breaks Oy's back, but the billy-bumbler still holds on. Mordred finally shakes him off, and Oy is impaled on a branch. Roland kills Mordred, and the Crimson King calls out in anger. Roland goes to Oy, who licks his hand and dies. Roland believes Oy is the last loved one who will die for him. Patrick begins to draw, but Roland takes the eraser from him, since they need it to last.



Part 5, The Scarlett Field of Can'-Ka No Rey, Chapter 1, The Sore and the Door (Goodbye, My Dear), and Chapter 2, Mordred Analysis

Susannah Dean finally reaches the point where she cannot go on. She knows that Roland's quest seems to bring death for all who participate, and her dreams of Eddie Dean and Jake Chambers have gotten stronger. She believes that fate is calling for her to turn away from the path and survive, and she believes this is the right choice for her. With Patrick's help, she is able to create the door that she has been looking for. Roland begs her to stay, for Susannah's leaving is almost like a death to him. He knows that he will be alone and separated from all the members of the ka-tet when he reaches the Dark Tower. However, Susannah is not swayed, for the love of her husband and her friends are more important to her than reaching the Tower. Oy, however, chooses to go along with Roland, and pays the price. He nobly saves Roland from being quickly killed by Mordred, but pays with his life. Oy seems to realize his death is coming, as he refuses food from Roland and he seems prepared to move on to the next life and hopefully be reunited with Jake. Roland despairs, but knows he must go on to the tower. Patrick will still go on with him, and his talents many prove useful as Roland challenges the Crimson King.



Chapter 3, The Crimson King and the Dark Tower, Epilogue, Susannah in New York, and Coda, Found

Chapter 3, The Crimson King and the Dark Tower, Epilogue, Susannah in New York, and Coda, Found Summary

Roland Deschain pulls the cart as he and Patrick Danville get close to the Dark Tower. They finally get in sight of the tower, and Roland sees it for the first time. They walk closer to the tower, but the Crimson King sees them and flings sneetches at them from a balcony. They hide behind a rock and steel barrier, Roland calling out and mocking the king for missing. He realizes he can't stay hidden forever, for the tower and roses are calling to him. Roland asks Patrick to draw the Crimson King, and Patrick complies, although he says it will be hard. Patrick finishes the drawing, but can't get the king's eyes right. Roland breaks from cover to grab a rose. Patrick sucks on the petals to create a paste, mixed with blood from Roland's wounds after he grabbed the thorns, and color the king's eyes red.

Roland Deschain gives Patrick Danville the eraser, and as he begins to erase the king screams in pain. The king disappears as all of the drawing, except for the eyes, disappear. Roland lets Patrick go back the way they came, back to Bill the robot and hopefully a door to America. Roland approaches the tower and calls out the names of those he has lost. He enters the Dark Tower. (Epilogue, Susannah in New York) Susannah Dean comes through the door into Central Park. She finds she has one of Roland's guns and throws it away, since it will never fire again. She meets Eddie, in this world that is not the main or Keystone World, but will do. Eddie says he has dreamed of her and heard voices telling him he would meet her. He introduces her to his brother, Jake, and says their last name is Toren. (Coda, Found) Stephen King, the author, writes that he is done telling the tale of Mid-World and Roland Deschain, although some people will want to know what is in the Dark Tower. He begs readers to be content with the image of Eddie, Jake and Susannah reunited, and a small dog resembling Oy will surely be along. However, for those who will not be sated, the story continues.

Roland Deschain hears a horn when entering the tower, a horn he often thought was his in dreams, but he had left his horn at the battle of Jericho Hill many years ago. He ascends the levels of the Dark Tower, seeing scenes from his life. He comes across the Crimson King's eyes, floating in space on the balcony, but ignores their final challenge. He comes to a door at the top, labeled with his name. When Roland opens the door, he realizes he has made this journey many times, with the same consequence. He is dragged back to time to the desert, to the moment when his quest became clear. He has



forgotten all that comes after that moment, but this time, he does have his horn with him.

Chapter 3, The Crimson King and the Dark Tower, Epilogue, Susannah in New York, and Coda, Found Analysis

Roland Deschain finally reaches the Dark Tower after a long, long journey. To gain entrance, he must defeat the Crimson King, who is trapped on a balcony of the tower. Roland realizes Patrick Danville has been sent there for a reason, and he uses Patrick's magical drawing ability to negate the Crimson King from existence. Satisfied that one of his companions has reached the tower alive with him, he sends Patrick on his way. When Roland enters the tower, he sees items from throughout his life, items which mark his journey and his quest. Roland feels as though when he reaches the tower, it is the fulfillment of his life. However, once he opens the door, he understands that his life is but a curse, a curse to relive the journey to the tower over and over. It seems that Roland will continue to make this journey until he realizes that love and friendship is more important than the obsessive need to reach the tower. Until he can save the tower without desiring to know the plans of fate and see what's at the top, he's doomed to repeat his journey. However, the appearance of his horn when he is sent back through time indicates that this time, he may change enough to break the cycle.



Characters

Roland Deschain

Roland Deschain is a gunslinger from Gilead and son of Gabrielle and Steven Deschain. He is on a quest to find the Dark Tower, the nexus of all worlds. During his quest, he has been joined by Susannah Dean, Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers, all of New York, and a billy-bumbler named Oy, forming a ka-tet. Roland goes with Eddie Dean to talk to Stephen King and later to convince John Cullum to form the Tet Corporation and protect the rose, the Keystone World's representation of the Dark Tower. He later engineers and takes part in the freeing of the Breakers, stopping those who wish to bring down the tower and end existence. He then goes with Jake Chambers to stop Stephen King from dying after being hit by a van in 1999. They are able to save his life, but Jake dies in the process. Roland later meets with Susannah Dean and the two continue to the Dark Tower. They find Dandelo, a vampire holding Patrick Danville, and Susannah kills him. They free Patrick and take him along. Roland is later attacked by Mordred, his son as well as the son of Mia, Susannah, and the Crimson King. Oy intervenes and saves Roland. Roland and Patrick reach the Dark Tower, and after Patrick draws and erases a picture of the Crimson King, taking him out of existence. Roland goes to the top floor of the Dark Tower, only to be dragged back in time, to the beginning of his journey.

Susannah Dean/Odetta Holmes/Detta Walker

Susannah Dean/Odetta Holmes/Detta Walker is a member of Roland Deschain's ka-tet and the common law wife of Eddie Dean. She lost her legs after a subway accident in New York City, before being pulled into Roland's world. Her original name is Odetta Holmes, but she had a violent split personality named Detta Walker. She changed her name after Roland helped her merge into a singular person. She has fallen in love with Eddie Dean and the two consider themselves married. The low men take Susannah to the Dixie Pig and through a door to Fedic. She and her other personality, Mia, are pregnant with the baby of the Crimson King and Roland Deschain. Mia separates from Susannah and gives birth to Mordred. Susannah fights her way out of the delivery room and meets with the other gunslingers, Roland, Eddie, Jake Chambers, and Oy. She helps free the Breakers who are bringing down the beams that hold the Dark Tower together. Her husband, Eddie, dies after the battle. Susannah continues to help Roland reach the tower, but dreams of Eddie lead her to choose a door that leads her to an alternate version of New York City. She meets alternate versions of Eddie and Jake.

Eddie Dean

Eddie Dean is a member of Roland Deschain's ka-tet and the common law husband of Susannah Dean. A former heroin addict, Roland pulled him from New York City into his



world. Eddie is a humorous man, often making jokes, but he takes his role as a gunslinger seriously. He goes to Maine with Roland to meet Stephen King, as well as to convince John Cullum to start the Tet Corporation and protect the rose. Eddie fights with the gunslingers to free the Breakers who are bringing down the beams that hold the Dark Tower together. However, he is shot by Pimli Prentiss immediately after the battle, breaking the ka-tet. He dies soon after from his wound, and is buried in Algul Siento.

Jake Chambers

Jake Chambers is a member of Roland Deschain's ka-tet. He is originally from New York City, but first appeared in Roland's world after he was hit by a car and died. Roland met him while first chasing Walter through the desert, but Roland let Jake fall so as not to lose pursuit. He later saved Jake from being hit in New York, and with the help of Susannah and Eddie, pulled Jake back into his world. Jake is a full gunslinger and member of the ka-tet. His best talent is the touch, giving him the power to read other's minds, especially those of his companions. Jake is especially close to the billy-bumbler, Oy. Jake goes with Roland to save Stephen King from the van that will kill him, but Jake must jump in front of the van to stop it and he dies.

Oy

Oy is a billy-bumbler who befriends Jake Chambers and becomes part of the ka-tet with Roland Deschain, Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers, and Susannah Dean. He is a creature from Roland's world and is almost able to talk, limited to repeating words he hears spoken. He is killed while trying to protect Roland from Mordred.

Father Don Callahan

Father Don Callahan is a priest from Salem's Lot who befriends Roland Deschain and his group after dealing with them in the Callas. He and Jake Chambers storm the Dixie Pig to get Susannah back, but Callahan sacrifices himself so Jake can go on.

Mordred

Mordred is the son of Susannah Dean, Mia, the Crimson King and Roland Deschain. Susannah and Roland were both raped by a demon, and that combined with the Crimson King's raping of Mia created Mordred. He begins growing rapidly after birth and can transform into a spider. He follows Roland through most of the novel, but is thwarted by Oy when he finally attacks, and Roland is able to kill him.



Stephen King

Stephen King is the true novelist of the Dark Tower, but also serves as a character in the book. He is responsible for creating and writing about Roland's world, and Roland must ensure King keeps writing so their quest goes as planned. He is supposed to die when he is hit by a van in 1999, but Roland and Jake Chambers manage to alter this, with Jake dying in his place.

Patrick Danville

Patrick Danville is a boy from America who is stranded in End-World and captured by Dandelo. Susannah Dean and Roland Deschain free Patrick, and take him along to the Dark Tower. Patrick is a talented artist, and the things he draws are so life-like that if he erases something, it erases in real life as well. Roland has Patrick draw a picture of the Crimson King and then erase it, allowing Roland to get to the Dark Tower. Patrick returns back the way they came after Roland enters the tower.

Ted Brautigan

Ted Brautigan is one of the Breakers who rebels against the low men and taheen keeping them captive, in order to ensure the Dark Tower stands. He is the most powerful Breaker.

Dinky Earnshaw

Dinky Earnshaw is one of the Breakers who rebels against the low men and taheen keeping them captive, in order to ensure the Dark Tower stands.

Walter O'Dim/Marten Broadcloak/Randall Flagg

Walter O'Dim/Marten Broadcloak/Randall Flagg is a wizard or a dark man who appears to Roland and various times in his life. As Marten Broadcloak, he had an affair with Roland's mother, Gabrielle Deschain, and prompted Roland to take his manhood test early in hopes he would fail.

John Cullum

John Cullum is one of the founders of the Tet Corporation, which protects the Rose, the symbol of the Dark Tower on Earth. Eddie Dean and Roland Deschain convince him to start the corporation while they meet him in Maine.



Moses Carver

Moses Carver is one of the founders of the Tet Corporation, which protects the Rose, the symbol of the Dark Tower on Earth. He is the father of Miriam Carver.

Aaron Deepneau

Aaron Deepneau is one of the founders of the Tet Corporation, which protects the Rose, the symbol of the Dark Tower on Earth. He is the great-uncle of Nancy Deepneau.

Calvin Tower

Calvin Tower is the owner of a bookstore in Manhattan, and the original owner of the lot where the Rose stands. He signs over the title of the lot to Eddie Dean and Roland Deschain.

Mia

Mia is an alternate personality of Susannah Dean's. She comes forward when a demon makes Susannah pregnant. She is able to manifest from Susannah's body and gives birth to Mordred. Her son kills her soon after he is born.

Sheemie Ruiz

Sheemie Ruiz is a mentally retarded man who befriends Roland Deschain, Cuthbert Allgood and Alain Johns after Cuthbert saves him from being killed by the Coffin Hunters. He reappears in Algul Siento, and is the only teleport who has escaped the guard's notice. He helps Roland Deschain and his allies free the Breakers.

The low men

The low men, or can toi, are a group of taheen/human hybrids who wear masks to hide themselves. They are servants of the Crimson King.

The Breakers

The Breakers are a group of mentally enhanced beings, such as telepaths, who were taken to Algul Siento, where they work at breaking down the Beams that hold the Dark Tower together.



Finli o' Tego

Finli o' Tego, or the Weasel, is the head of security at Algul Siento. He is killed when Roland Deschain and his allies free the Breakers.

Pimli Prentiss

Pimli Prentiss is the warden of the Breaker's prison at Algul Siento. He is wounded when Roland Deschain and his allies free the Breakers, but mortally wounds Eddie Dean before he is shot by Roland.

Mrs. Irene Tassenbaum

Mrs. Irene Tassenbaum is a woman who drives Roland Deschain, Jake Chambers, and Oy to intercept Stephen King before he is killed by Brian Smith's van. She later takes Roland to New York, and spends the night with him.

Fimalo/Fumalo/Feemalo

Fimalo/Fumalo/Feemalo is a glammar created by an old man at the Crimson King's castle. He tries to trick Roland and Susannah, but they see through his lies.

Nancy Deepneau

Nancy Deepneau is the great-niece of Aaron Deepneau, one of the founders of the Tet Corporation.

Miriam Carver

Miriam Carver is the daughter of Moses Carver, one of the founders of the Tet Corporation.

Nigel

Nigel is a robot that Susannah meets after escaping from the low men. He carries her to a door to another world.

Dandelo/Joe Collins

Dandelo or Joe Collins is a vampire that lives on Odd's Lane. He traps Patrick Danville and feeds off his emotions.



Jack Andolini

Jack Andolini is a mobster in New York City who comes after Eddie Dean and Roland Deschain in 1977.

Greta Shaw

Greta Shaw is the housekeeper for the Chambers' family in New York City.

Brian Smith

Brian Smith is the driver of the truck that hits and almost kills Stephen King in Lovell, Maine.

Meiman

Meiman is a bird/human hybrid, one of the Crimson King's low men servants called taheens. He is killed by Father Don Callahan in the Dixie Pig Restaurant.

Flaherty

Flaherty is one of the Crimson King's men who pursues Jake Chambers below the Dixie Pig.

The Children of Roderick

The Children of Roderick are slow, deformed mutants, living in the lands near Algul Siento.

Stuttering Bill

Stuttering Bill is a robot that cleans Joe Collins' home and plows the roads nearby.

Gabrielle Deschain

Gabrielle Deschain is the mother of Roland Deschain and the wife of Steven Deschain.

Steven Deschain

Steven Deschain is the father of Roland Deschain and the husband of Gabrielle Deschain.



Cortland (Cort) Andrus

Cortland (Cort) Andrus is the gunslinger instructor in Gilead. He teaches Roland Deschain, Cuthbert Allgood and Alain Johns.

Cuthbert Allgood

Cuthbert Allgood is a member of Roland Deschain's first ka-tet along with Alain Johns and Roland's best friend.

Alain Johns

Alain Johns is a member of Roland Deschain's first ka-tet and one of his best friends, along with Cuthbert Allgood.



Objects/Places

The Dark Tower

The Dark Tower is the final destination of Roland Deschain's quest. Roland has vowed to reach the tower, but also works to save it throughout his journeys.

The Rose

The Rose is the symbol of the Dark Tower on Keystone Earth. The Tet Corporation purchases the empty lot where the rose grows to protect it.

The Beams

The Beams hold up the Dark Tower. If the Beams are broken telepathically by the Breakers, existence will cease to, well, exist.

Mid-World

Mid-World is the world where Roland comes from. It is a pivotal world, much like the Keystone World. It seems to be similar to Earth, but many years after modern technology has been lost and only remnants remain.

Keystone World

Keystone World is the main or true world. There are many worlds, but events which happen in the Keystone World are pivotal to the saving or wrecking of the Tower.

Maine

Maine is the home state of Stephen King, and is visited by Roland Deschain, Eddie Dean, and Jake Chambers throughout the course of the novel.

Turtle Maturin

Turtle Maturin is the turtle who holds up the universe.



The Dixie Pig

The Dixie Pig is a restaurant in New York City that is home to vampires. Jake Chambers and Father Don Callahan storm this restaurant to rescue Susannah when she is captured by the Crimson King's men.

Devar-Toi/Algul Siento

Devar-Toi/Algul Siento is the compound where the Breakers live under watch of the Crimson King's men.

Fedic

Fedic is a city in End-World. Doors from New York City open to this world, and it is a center hub for travel for the Crimson King's men.

Odd's Lane

Odd's Lane is the home of Dandelo, the vampire.

Can'-Ka No Rey

Can'-Ka No Rey is the field of roses, at the end of which the Dark Tower stands.

Taheens

Taheens are human-like animals, creatures that serve the Crimson King.

Ka-tet

Ka-tet is a group bound together by ka, or fate.

Tet Corporation

Tet Corporation is a company created to protect the rose, the Dark Tower's presence in the Keystone World. Aaron Deepneau, Moses Carver, and John Cullum create the company, which also thwarts the efforts of the Crimson King's men.

Holmes Dental Industries

Holmes Dental Industries is a company run by Susannah Dean's father, Daniel Holmes.



The Somba Corporation and North Central Positronics

The Somba Corporation and North Central Positronics are companies controlled by the Crimson King's men and create many robots and machinery used throughout the universe.

Cara Laughs

Cara Laughs is the home of the novelist Stephen King, in the Dark Tower universe.



Themes

Ka, or Fate

In *The Dark Tower VII: The Dark Tower*, fate, or ka, is the wheel that makes the world go around. Roland Deschain and his ka-tet, Susannah Dean, Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers, and Oy, have all been brought together by fate, brought together on an important quest. Fate helps them as they make their way to the Dark Tower, and other people are drawn to them by fate to help them succeed in their quest. Fate is what allows them to succeed and empowers them. Unfortunately, that empowerment is lost when Eddie Dean is shot and killed.

The power that has drawn the ka-tet together cannot stay when one of the members is dead. Roland knows that this means the remaining members will have a hard road ahead of them, which is proven true when Jake and Oy also die. Susannah, believing her fate is to now leave the quest and return to New York with another version of Eddie, decides to depart from Roland. However, Roland truly believes his fate is to reach the Dark Tower and climb to the top, even though others may fall along the way. He fulfills his part by saving the tower from falling, and believes his reward will be to see what is at the top. This correlates to learning the true nature of God, something a man should not be witness to. Roland is punished and sent back to the beginning of his journey without the knowledge of what is at the top. For a second, he realizes that fate has damned him to repeat the journey over and over, until he is able to change his priorities. It seems his true test will be to save the tower from the Crimson King, but be satisfied without the knowledge of what's at the top.

Author as Character

In *The Dark Tower VII: The Dark Tower*, the author, Stephen King, makes himself a character in the story. This is called meta-fiction, a type of fiction that self-consciously addresses the devices of fiction, such as acknowledging the characters are in a novel, or someone is writing a novel within the novel. Stephen King is the author, but he is also a character in the novel. This character does not necessarily have the same characteristics as the real-life Stephen King, but is a representation of him in the story. His presence is pivotal to the idea of Roland's story existing in the real world and Roland being able to talk to his creator. Stephen King can interact with his character, and by this interaction, consciously change the course of the novel to help out the characters. For example, Susannah and Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers and Roland Deschain realize that Stephen King purposely writes objects into the novels to help them on their quest. He gives Jake and Father Don Callahan the stone turtle at the beginning of the novel. King also saves Susannah and Roland from the vampire Dandelo, by leaving a note in Dandelo's bathroom that leads Susannah to discover the vampire's true identity. King also acknowledges this help as a "deus ex machina", or gift from the gods, a device used to give characters a way to get out of a tough situation. In



this and other instances, King references fictional devices in the novel, essentially writing about the process of writing. Overall, metafiction is a post-modern literary device that is used to create a story with deeper meanings or levels.

Violence

In *The Dark Tower VII: The Dark Tower*, Roland Deschain is a gunslinger, who comes from a long line of gunslingers. He is a mythical hero, and has trained others he has met along the way to become gunslingers, including Eddie Dean, Susannah Dean, Jake Chambers, and even Oy. He teaches them the way to use guns properly, to respect and revere their gifts that allow them to use the guns to maximum efficiency. Although the gunslingers do not engage in violence needlessly, their journey pits them against violent forces from the beginning of the novel. Roland has trained the gunslingers to use not just the gun, but also their whole body to shoot as destined by fate. To free Susannah, Jake and Father Don Callahan must fight a group of vampires and low men intent on ripping them apart. The ka-tet must also use their fighting skills to overcome the guards at Algul Siento and free the Breakers who are forced to break the Beams that hold the Dark Tower together. Although they know it is not the ideal solution, the gunslingers are not afraid to use force if it allows them to correct injustices and do what is right. The servants of the Crimson King will freely try to kill the gunslingers to stop them, and are not about to show mercy. The Crimson King himself is an insane, diabolical ruler who wants to bring the Dark Tower down, and is in no condition to listen to reason. In Roland's world, sometimes violence is the only answer, and the gunslingers must not be afraid to live and die by the gun.



Style

Point of View

The Dark Tower VII: The Dark Tower is told from a third-person omniscient point of view. The action is primarily seen through the eyes of the ka-tet members, which include Roland Deschain, Susannah Dean, Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers and even Oy. These are the main characters in the novel, the ones who are journeying to find the Dark Tower and save existence. By telling the story through each of the eyes, a different perspective on the events is shown. Even though they are all members of the same group, they still have differing opinions and takes on the events that transpire. It also allows other members of the ka-tet to continue the story after some of the members die.

However, at some points, the point of view shifts to those outside the ka-tet, including servants of the Crimson King. In Algul Siento, the point of view for the guards is through the eyes of Pimli Prentiss, the warden. By doing this, it shows what the guards are thinking about the possible rebelling of the Breakers and how they react to the attack. It gives a fuller picture of the battle, including how prepared either side may be. The point of view of Stephen King, the character, is also used. This is a unique perspective, because Stephen King is a character but also writes about Roland and the gunslingers. He can give insight on the actions of the gunslingers, especially since he is not directly involved. Overall, the wide range of perspectives enhances the experience for the reader.

Setting

The Dark Tower VII: The Dark Tower, is primarily set in two worlds: the Keystone World, or the real world, and the world of Roland Deschain, Mid-World. The characters move back and forth between these two worlds through the use of doors, and are largely unseen by the greater population in the real world. The Keystone World is considered the real world during the latter part of the twentieth century. It is the world we all live in. However, Mid-World is a world that was perhaps once much like ours, but has moved on. It is similar to the American West in some areas, and most people have no modern things. However, some modern items do exist, showing that there was a technologically advanced society living at one time, although the knowledge on how to use these items has largely disappeared. Sections of Roland's world, mostly called End-World, have mostly been ruined by nuclear war, the remnants of which are still visible. Many of the animals and people in the world are mutated after being exposed to radiation. There are also not as many people living in that world as in the Keystone World. There are also several other worlds besides these two crucial worlds. Some of these worlds contain similarities to the Keystone World or Roland's world. The characters tend to know if they are in an alternate universe by the fact that there are different brand names, such as Nozz-a-la or Takuro. The use of these worlds gives the author a broad arena in which to move around the characters and gives them several broad worlds to experience.



Language and Meaning

Much of the language and meaning in the Dark Tower VII: Dark Tower is unique to the Dark Tower series of novels. For example, Stephen King uses ideas and phrases that illustrate the antiquated and western feel of Roland's world. For example, Roland uses the words *ka*, which means fate, and *ka-tet*, a group bound by fate. He lives his life by these concepts, for fate has guided him to this point and will continue to drive him to the Dark Tower. The other members of the *ka-tet* refer to Roland as their *dinh*, or father figure, since their journeys revolve around his. The use of created words like these enhances the experience for the reader by giving the novel an authentic feel. The gunslingers also meet characters from other worlds, and the use of special words draws the lines between the two worlds more clearly. It gives Roland's world a distinct feel and flavor that highlights the differences between it and the real world, or the Keystone world. Furthermore, sometimes Roland, who is not familiar with life in the Keystone World, does not understand things the other gunslingers refer to or pronounce, and they must be explained to him. Overall, the language used throughout the novel is primarily easy to understand. King refrains from using large words when unnecessary and the events of the novel are clear and easy to follow.

Structure

The novel, *The Dark Tower VII: The Dark Tower*, is primarily divided into five parts, an epilogue, and a coda. The first part, *The Little Red King*, introduces the gunslingers, Roland Deschain, Susannah Dean, Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers, and Oy, and begins to tell of their journey to the Dark Tower. It covers the birth of Mordred, the Crimson King's and Roland's son, as well as the reuniting of the *ka-tet*. The second part, *Blue Heaven*, tells of their attempts to free the Breakers from the control of the Crimson King's servants and save the Dark Tower from falling. It also details how the *ka-tet* breaks with Eddie Dean is shot and killed. In the third part, *In This Haze of Green and Gold*, Roland and Jake go to Maine to save Stephen King from dying after he is hit by a van, and Jake dies in the attempt. The fourth part, *The White Lands of Empathica*, tells of Roland and Susannah's journey to the tower lands, and part five, *The Scarlett Field of Can'-Ka No Rey*, tells of the last stages of the journey and Roland's triumph over the Crimson King. In the epilogue, *Susannah in New York*, it describes what Susannah encounters after leaving the quest for New York City, and *Coda, Found*, describes what Roland finds at the top of the Dark Tower. Within each part the story is divided into chapters, and those into sub-chapters. These divisions break the story down into manageable parts and create an even flow for the reader.



Quotes

"Pere Don Callahan had once been the Catholic priest of a town, 'Salem's Lot had been its name, that no longer existed on any map. He didn't much care. Concepts such as reality had ceased to matter to him." Part 1, The Little Red King: Ch. 1, Callahan and the Vampires, pg. 3.

"Battles that last five minutes spawn legends that live a thousand years." Part 1, The Little Red King: Ch. 1, Callahan and the Vampires, pg. 5.

"How many people got to meet their creators? Well ... Stephen King hadn't created Eddie Dean, a young man whose Co-Op City happened to be in Brooklyn rather than the Bronx— not yet, not in that year of 1977, but Eddie Dean felt certain than in time King would. How else could he be here?" Part 1, The Little Red King: Ch. 2, Lifted on the Wave, pg. 17.

" 'Then there's not stopping until we reach the Tower.' He held out his hands, watched them tremble minutely. Then he looked up at Eddie. His face was tired but unafraid. 'I have never been so close. I hear all my lost friends and their lost fathers whispering to me. They whisper on the Tower's very breath.' " Part 1, The Little Red King: Ch. 3, Eddie Makes a Call, pg. 52.

"For a moment only Mia seemed to realized what had happened, for her face began to lengthen with a kind of informed horror— and, perhaps, pain. Then her smile returned, that angelic madonna's smile. She reached out and stroked the still-changing freak at her breast, the black spider with the tiny human head and the red mark on its bristly gut. 'Is he not beautiful?' she cried. 'Is my son not beautiful, as fair as the summer sun?' These were her last words." Part 1, The Little Red King: Ch. 4, Dan-tete, pg. 67.

"They had killed him. Taken his life. Stopped his breath and pulse. Save perhaps for dreams, the Pere was now gone from the story. Jake began to cry. Like his smile, the tears made him once again look like a child." Part 1, The Little Red King: Ch. 5, In the Jungle, the Mighty Jungle, pg. 90.

"Why an armed woman should be afraid of an infant, Eddie didn't know, but he was sure that if she was, there must be a good reason for it." Part 1, The Little Red King: Ch. 6, On Turtleback Lane, pg. 115.

" 'We're the Three Toothless Musketeers, the Old Farts of the Apocalypse, and we're supposed to keep those two outfits from gettin what they want, by fair means or foul. Dirty tricks most definitely allowed.' John grinned. 'I never been to Harvard Business School' — Haa-vid Bi'ness School — 'but I guess I can kick a fella in the crotch as well as anyone.' " Part 1, The Little Red King: Ch. 6, On Turtleback Lane, pg. 125-126.

"So much you did and so much more you would have done, aye, and all without a check



or qualm, and so will the world end, I think, a victim of love rather than hate. For love's ever been the more destructive weapon, sure." Part 2, The Blue Heaven: Ch. 1, The Devar-Tete, pg. 141.

"Was it too late to become the God of All? Perhaps not. In any case, what harm in trying?" Part 2, The Blue Heaven: Ch. 3, The Shining Wire, pg. 174.

"You had to die, yes, and Jake hoped he could do it at least moderately well when the hour came. He'd had some training in how to do it, after all. It was the thought of all that grave-time that chilled him. That downtime. That lie-still-and-continue-to-be-dead time." Part 2, The Big Heaven: Chapter 4, The Door into Thunderclap, pg. 191.

" 'Blue Heaven,' Roland said, and Jake realized why: all of the buildings except for the rock towers had tiled blue roofs. Not Narnia but Blue Heaven. Where a bunch of folks were busy bringing about the end of the world. All the worlds." Part 2, The Blue Heaven: Ch. 5, Steek-Tete, pg. 209.

" 'Because I'm a telepath,' Ted says. 'And that's what you're really looking for.' He tries to keep his poker face and thinks he succeeds pretty well, but inside he's filled with a great and singing relief. Because he's found a job? No. Because they'll shortly make him an offer that would make the prizes on the new TV quiz shows look tame? No. Because someone finally wants what he can do. Because someone finally wants him." Part 2, The Blue Heaven: Ch. 8, The Gingerbread House, pg. 283.

" 'We are ka-tet,' Roland said, and in unison they answered, 'We are one from many.' " Part 2, The Blue Heaven: Ch. 10, The Last Palaver (Sheemie's Dream), pg. 336.

"I'd have you see them like this; I'd have you see them very well. Will you? They are clustered around Suzie's Cruisin Trike, embracing in the aftermath of their victory. I'd have you see them this way not because they have won a great battle— they know better than that, every one of them— but because now they are ka-tet for the last time. The story of their fellowship ends here, on this make-believe street and beneath this artificial sun; the rest of the tale will be short and brutal compared to all that's gone before. Because when ka-tet breaks, the end always comes quickly. Saw sorry." Part 2, The Blue Heaven: Ch. 11, The Attack on Algul Siento, pg. 383.

" That was all. Eddie's eyes still looked at him, and they were still aware, but he had no breath to replace the one expended on that final word, that father." Part 2, The Blue Heaven: Ch. 12, The Tet Breaks, pg. 404.

"Oy sat by Jake's head, now silent, knowing his howls could no longer be heard by the one for whom he most grieved. What the gunslinger feared most had come to pass. While he had been talking to two men he didn't like, the boy who he loved more than all others— more than he'd loved anyone ever in his life, even Susan Delgado— had passed beyond him for the second time." Part 3, In This Haze of Green and Gold: Ch. 2, Ves'-Ka Gan, pg. 492.



"So far I've traveled, and so many I've hurt along the way, hurt or killed, and what I may have saved was saved by accident and can never save my soul, do I have one." Part 3, In This Haze of Green and Gold: Ch. 3, New York Again (Roland Shows ID), pg. 529.

"I believe it must have stopped at the same time we ended the Breakers' work. The Forge of the King has gone out, Susannah. Forever, if the gods are good. That much we have done, although it cost us much." Part 4, The White Lands of Empathica: Ch. 2, On Badlands Avenue, pg. 595.

"The man floated to his fate, shrieking and eyeless. He thrust his hands out in front of him, making warding-off gestures, and the spider's front legs seized one of them, guided it into the bristling maw of its mouth, and bit it off with a candy-cane crunch." Part 4, The White Lands of Empathica: Ch. 3, The Castle of the Crimson King, pg. 624.

"Standing up straight on her stumps, Susannah spread her arms, Roland's pistol clenched in her right hand, and made a Y against the sky. Then she screamed. There were no words in it, nor could there have been. Our greatest moments of triumph are always inarticulate." Part 4, The White Lands of Empathica: Ch. 3, Hides, pg. 634.

"Childe Roland, of Gilead, Susannah Dead, of New York, You saved my life. I've saved yours. All debts are paid. S.K." Part 4, The White Lands of Empathica, Ch. 6, Patrick Danville, pg. 691.

" 'Wait!' Roland cried, but she never turned, not looked at him again. She rolled through the door. It slammed shut behind her at once with a flat, declamatory clap he knew all too well, one he'd dreamed of ever since his long and feverish walk along the edge of the Western Sea. The sound of the singing was gone and now there was only the lonely sound of the prairie wind. Roland of Gilead sat in front of the door, which already looked tired and unimportant. It would never open again. He put his face in his hands. It occurred to him that if he had never loved them, he would never have felt so alone as this. Yet of all his many regrets, the re-opening of his heart was not among them, even now." Part 5, The Scarlet Field of Can-Ka No Rey, Ch. 1, The Sore and The Door (Goodbye, My Dear), pg. 749.

"She takes Eddie's hand— that familiar, well-loved hand. And when the fingers close over hers, she thinks she will die of joy. She will have many questions— so will they— but for the time being she has only one that feels important. As the snow begins to fall more thickly around them, landing in his lashes and on the shoulders of his sweatshirt, she asks it. 'You and Jake— what's your last name?' 'Toren,' he says. 'It's German.' Before either of them can say anything else, Jake joins them. And will I tell you that these three lived happily ever after? I will not, for no one ever does. But there was happiness. And they did live." Epilogue, Susannah in New York, pg. 813.

"He saw and understood at once, the knowledge falling upon him in a hammerblow, hot as the sun of the desert that was the apotheosis of all deserts. How many times had he climbed those stairs only to find himself peeled back, curved back, turned back? Not to the beginning (when things might have been changed and time's curse lifted), but to the



moment in the Mohaine Desert when he had finally understood that his thoughtless, questionless quest would ultimately succeed? How many times had he traveled a loop like the one in the clip that had once pinched off his navel, his own tet-ka can Gan? How many times would he travel it?" Coda, Found, pg. 827.

"The man in black fled across the desert, and the gunslinger followed." Coda, Found, pg. 830.



Topics for Discussion

Mordred is both the son of Roland Deschain and the Crimson King. How does having two fathers affect Mordred and his actions? Does Mordred listen to the will of one father over the other? Why or why not? How does he feel about each of his fathers?

Roland Deschain's journey to the Dark Tower causes him great losses along the way. What are some of these losses? Could they have been prevented? If so, how? How do his willingness or unwillingness to accept these losses reflect on him as a person? In your opinion, is it worth it?

Susannah Dean is the only member of the ka-tet besides Roland to survive, after she turns away from the journey to the Dark Tower. Looking at each of their deaths, do the others, Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers, and Oy, die so Roland's quest will succeed? Why or why not?

Susannah Dean's dream leads her to leave the quest and enter a door to an alternate version of New York City, where Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers, and Oy are alive, albeit alternate versions. Do you think she will be satisfied with this alternate life? Why or why not? Does the fact that this is an alternate version make a difference to her? Explain your reasoning.

Roland Deschain is the dinh, or father figure, in the ka-tet. Discuss how Eddie Dean, Susannah Dean, Jake Chambers, and Oy each view him. How do their actions reflect their feelings? Does Roland feel the same way about each of them? Why or why not?

Stephen King is not only the author of the Dark Tower, he is also a character in the book. How does this enhance or detract from the story? Does his presence seem like a gimmick, or is it integral to the plot? Why or why not?

Throughout the novel, several characters travel between worlds. How do the worlds that the characters visit differ? What is the importance of the Keystone world and of Mid-World? Which world is considered our own?

Roland Deschain sees reminders of his entire life in the rooms of the Dark Tower. Do you think this is how the tower looks for anyone who enters? Why or why not? What happens to Roland Deschain when he opens the door at the top of the Dark Tower? Do you think he will ever be able to escape this cycle? Why or why not?