

# **The Dark Tower II: The Drawing of the Three Study Guide**

**The Dark Tower II: The Drawing of the Three by  
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# Contents

The Dark Tower II: The Drawing of the Three Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	4
Prologue: The Sailor.....	6
Part 1, Chapter 1.....	8
Part 1, Chapter 2.....	10
Part 1, Chapter 3.....	12
Part 1, Chapter 4.....	14
Part 1, Chapter 5.....	16
Shuffle.....	18
Part 2, Chapter 1.....	20
Part 2, Chapter 2.....	22
Part 2, Chapter 3.....	24
Part 2, Chapter 4.....	26
Reshuffle.....	28
Part 3, Chapter 1.....	30
Part 3, Chapter 2.....	32
Part 3, Chapter 3.....	33
Part 3, Chapter 4.....	35
Final Shuffle.....	37
Characters.....	38
Objects/Places.....	44
Themes.....	47
Style.....	49
Quotes.....	52



Topics for Discussion.....56



## Plot Summary

This second addition to the Dark Tower series brings the reader through a series of different times and places as its hero, Roland, continues on his quest for the Dark Tower. Roland develops strong friendships as he works to overcome a nearly fatal infection. However, the Dark Tower looms in the future and Roland realizes that his search for the Dark Tower might be both the beginning and the end of his relationships with his new companions.

Roland awakes on the beach after sacrificing Jake to continue on the quest for the Dark Tower. He is haunted by the man in black, Walter, a long-time negative force in his life. Roland narrowly avoids being eaten by the lobster creatures that inhabit the sea. To further complicate his problems, he is wounded by an attack by the lobster creatures. His supply of bullets is also damaged, greatly reducing his chances for survival. Roland is curious about a prophecy that has been made about his quest for the Dark Tower. He goes out to find the companions that are hinted at in this prophecy.

Roland's search takes him to a door in the desert. When he goes through the door, he finds himself in the mind of Eddie Dean. Eddie Dean is a heroin addict who is smuggling cocaine from the Caribbean. Roland figures out how to help Eddie avoid being detected by Customs by bringing the cocaine back to his own world. Though Eddie makes it out of the airport, he is then in more serious trouble when his drug dealer comes to collect the missing cocaine. Eddie narrowly misses being killed. Roland brings him into his own world.

Eddie and Roland go through a long illness. Eddie's illness is from drug withdrawal. Roland is fighting the infection that has taken over his body. Eddie recovers from his withdrawal a little faster than Roland manages to recover from his illness. Eddie hunts the lobster creatures in order to feed them both. When Roland's antibiotics run out, they must travel to find another door in order to find more medicine. Eddie follows Roland along the coastline in search of a new door.

As they travel to find another door, they grow weak again from the strain on their exhausted bodies. Roland urges Eddie to continue. When they finally reach the door, they discover that it belongs to the mind of Odetta Holmes/Detta Walker. This woman has a split personality resulting from a traumatic accident that left her in a wheelchair. Odetta Holmes is the good and sweet side while Detta Walker is evil and angry. When they enter the doorway, they meet Detta's personality. When Roland brings her through the door, she transforms into Odetta. Eddie falls in love with Odetta.

During the night, Odetta transforms back into Detta and attempts to kill them both. Roland, however, has stayed awake and is able to save them and restrain Detta. As Odetta and Detta take turns inhabiting the same body, Eddie falls deeper in love with Odetta and Roland grows increasingly scared of Detta.



By this point, Roland has grown too weak to be able to travel on his own any further. They make a plan by which Eddie pushes Odetta in the wheelchair to the next door and then leaves her there in order to return to Roland and take him to the same door in the wheelchair. The two of them find another door. Eddie leaves Odetta with a gun and returns to Roland. Roland is angry that Eddie has given a gun to Detta. They journey back to the door.

Roland enters the door by himself while Eddie stays behind looking for Odetta, who has disappeared. This door is the mind of Jack Mort, a sadistic man who kills people by making it appear as an accident. Coincidentally, he is the one responsible for Odetta's accident. Roland uses Jack's body to get the medication he needs to cure his infection. He also uses the doorway to make Odetta come to terms with her split personality. When Detta comes to the doorway to threaten Roland, she sees herself and the self of Odetta reflects in Jack Mort. When she sees herself through the eyes of Jack Mort, her two personalities become one.

The new combination of Odetta and Detta is renamed Susannah by Roland. She is able to save Roland and Eddie from the lobster creatures right before they could be eaten. Roland, Eddie, and Susannah continue on their journey together to find the next doorway that might lead them to the Dark Tower. Susannah and Eddie grow closer in their love for each other, while Roland contemplates his own willingness to sacrifice them for his obsession of reaching the Dark Tower.



# Prologue: The Sailor

## Prologue: The Sailor Summary

This second addition to the Dark Tower series brings the reader through a series of different times and places as its hero, Roland, continues on his quest for the Dark Tower. Roland develops strong friendships as he works to overcome a nearly fatal infection. However, the Dark Tower looms in the future and Roland realizes that his search for the Dark Tower might be the beginning and the end of his relationships with his new companions.

Roland falls asleep next to the ocean. He dreams that he is Jake, and feels himself drown. He curses himself for sacrificing Jake to his ambition for the Dark Tower. He wakes from his dreams and finds that the tide is beginning to come in. He worries about his guns and the effects of the water on their usefulness. As the waves rise, he sees a strange creature. The creature squeaks at him. He ignores it at first, but the creature lunges forward in attack. It bites off two of his fingers and snaps at his leg. Roland reaches for his guns but the water has ruined them. The creature attacks again. Roland grabs a rock and crushes the creature's spine with it. He continues slamming the rock and stamping his feet on the creature until it stops moving.

Roland dreams about the Sailor, a prophecy that is made to him by the Man in Black. The Man in Black has given Roland many hints about what is to come on his journey to the Dark Tower. In many ways, a deck of Tarot cards influences the prophecy. The Man in Black has shown Roland three cards that influence the future. These three cards are the Lady, the Prisoner, and Death. Roland is unsure what any of these cards mean but he knows that they are the key to his future on this quest.

Roland manages to pull himself far enough away from the coast to avoid the lobster creatures, but they remain a constant threat. Roland is also concerned about the condition of his weapons now that they have gotten wet. His strength lies in his guns and he is worried that he will not be able to take care of himself without proper weapons. In addition, the weapons that he carries have large historical and emotional significance for him because he has used them throughout the momentous times of his life.

## Prologue: The Sailor Analysis

Roland dreams of the Sailor, a symbol from the Tarot card that the man in black has shown him. The sailor symbolizes Roland's fate. Roland is already emotionally vulnerable because of his betrayal of Jake. He wonders what the Sailor could mean for his own future; and when he awakes near the ocean, his anxieties find greater fears in the mysterious creature that foreshadows the next stages of his adventure.



Roland's physical pain through his attack by the lobster creatures symbolizes the much deeper pain that he feels about his own choice to sacrifice Jake. Roland prides himself on his honor and therefore has a large psychological problem in defending his choices regarding the Dark Tower. At the same time, Roland is resigned to his need to find the Dark Tower and recognizes that any sacrifices that he must make will be worth this final attainment.

Roland's concern about his weapons shows that they are an extension of his self. The guns are a large part of his self-image as a gunslinger. To be a gunslinger without guns is to not have any identity. Roland is practical in terms of caring for his weapons but at the same time is unsure if he can survive without them. He relies on the weapons as a clue to who he is as a person and a connection to his past where he learned the noble gunslinger code. The condition of his weapons is a reflection on himself as a person and he worries that this shows that he is not worthy for the position of gunslinger or for the monumental quest that he has chosen to undertake.



# Part 1, Chapter 1

## Part 1, Chapter 1 Summary

Roland awakes from his exhaustion and takes stock of his wounds. He can still feel the parts of his body that have been eaten by the strange creature from the sea. He inspects his guns and shells and sorts out the ones that might be salvageable. He forces himself to eat and drink and drags his body across the sand. After several falls, he makes it to the shade of a tree where he stops to rest. He wants to sleep but he fears that he will be left vulnerable if he falls asleep. Instead, he gathers his courage and decides to walk north as far as he can as long as his strength lasts.

He begins walking. After about three hours and having traveled four miles, he stops, ready to pass out again. To his surprise, he sees a door standing closed in the middle of nothing. He moves forward to inspect the door, trying to figure out how it can be where he thinks it is. He circles the door and cannot figure out where it has come from. He opens the door and looks inside. Initially he is very afraid of what he sees. He sees the earth from a great height. He worries that if he steps through the door he will fall down from the sky and die on impact. He considers his possible choices for a few more moments. Suddenly he realizes that in looking through the door, he is actually looking through a window.

He opens the door and steps through. He is shocked by what he now sees. He is in a room full of people who are strangely dressed. The men are reading papers and writing on other papers. It is surprising for Roland to see so much paper, which is rare in his own world. A woman approaches him. She is wearing red pants. Roland has never seen a woman wearing pants before. She asks him if he needs something. He suddenly realizes that he is looking through the eyes of someone else; someone he thinks is called "the Prisoner".

Roland is surprised by everything that he sees around him and has a hard time reconciling it with what he knows from his own world. He misinterprets much of what he sees within the narrow vision of his own worldview. It takes him a while to realize that he is in the mind of another person. He knows nothing about this other person but can feel the stirrings of this strange consciousness. Roland is not sure why he has entered this person's mind but he is sure that it is important for the quest. In identifying this other person as the Prisoner, he acknowledges one of the cards in the prophecy of the Man in Black.

## Part 1, Chapter 1 Analysis

In his own world, Roland is full of self-confidence. He has a strong code of values that guides him in all of his actions. When he is first confronted with the other world of Eddie Dean, he is full of confusion. He does not understand how his own value system





translates into this new world. One big piece of information that shocks him is the relative ease of living. The abundance of paper products, which are rare in his own world, makes him think that the people in Eddie's world have wealth that they take for granted. Roland's conflict between his own world's values and the values he encounters in the worlds of Eddie Dean and Odetta will continue to be a source of confusion for his character and amusement for the reader.

Roland's experience on the airplane begins a long-term pattern in which Roland is exposed to the very different lifestyle of Eddie's world. Roland struggles to adjust his thinking to handle this new environment. On the one hand, he over-simplifies the terms and processes that occur in this world in order to make them fit in with his own preconceived notions about how the world operates. He often transfers concepts from his own world into Eddie's world without realizing that there is a large difference in the way people think about the world as opposed to just the technological and social differences.

Eddie Dean is labeled the Prisoner in this chapter, a label that Roland will continue to use for him covertly in later parts of the novel. It is interesting to consider the ways in which Eddie is a prisoner. He is imprisoned by his addiction to drugs as well as the emotional attachments that resulted in this drug addiction. At the same time, he is in real danger of being arrested and taken prisoner for his drug crimes. Eddie is, overall, a prisoner to his own situation and emotional dependency. He is often passive and allows events to happen to him instead of taking direct action.



# Part 1, Chapter 2

## Part 1, Chapter 2 Summary

Roland slowly comes to realize that he is in the head of another person. Though Roland is not given his name, the reader finds out that this is Eddie Dean. Eddie Dean is on an airplane, coming back from a recently completed drug deal. He has two pounds of cocaine strapped on his body and he is worried about passing through Customs when the plane arrives in New York. When he goes to the bathroom, he looks at himself in the mirror. Instead of seeing his own eyes, he sees the blue eyes of someone else. This scares him. He returns to his seat and passes out.

Eddie is unable to understand what is happening to his body. His own drug addiction is too overpowering for him to notice what is going on around him or within him. Instead of investigating what is happening to his mind, he slips into a passive sleeping state. The details of Eddie's position slowly leak into Roland's consciousness but Roland does not understand what they mean. Roland must first attend to his own needs before he can figure out what Eddie needs.

Roland realizes that he is in someone else's body but he does not know how much he can control it. He thinks that it might be possible to take over this body if he needs to in the future. His first priority is to find something to eat to boost his strength. He has Eddie ask the stewardess for a sandwich. The stewardess, Jane, is suspicious of Eddie because she notices that his eyes have changed color. She brings him a sandwich but does not see him eat it. Roland figures out how to transport the sandwich back to his own body in the other world. When Jane returns she notices that the sandwich has disappeared but she assumes that Eddie somehow ate it very fast. She resolves to watch Eddie very closely just in case he is up to no good.

## Part 1, Chapter 2 Analysis

Roland discovers several qualities about the transition between worlds in this chapter. He finds out that his own ability to control Eddie within Eddie's own body is stronger than Eddie's ability to fight against him. In addition, he discovers that he can transport things from this world to his own. This ability will prove extremely valuable to both Eddie and Roland. At this point, the plan to rescue Eddie is not elaborated, but it is clear that Roland's ability to navigate through the strange circumstances will be key to helping both of them survive. One element that introduces Roland's knowledge from his home world is the way he is able to understand the actions of the stewardess and come to a basic understanding of what problems Eddie faces in this situation. The transfer of Roland's gunslinger instincts to the events in Eddie's world will continue to be a source of strength for Roland, even as they result from and cause a lot of confusion.



Roland's gunslinger instincts are the single-most defining feature of his difference from Eddie and the people of Eddie's world. The people that he observes are open and exposed as far as he is concerned. They do not know how to hide how they feel or to put together a structured or elaborate plan for action. They do not watch around themselves to prepare for potential danger. This gives Roland an advantage over them while at the same time showing the key difference between his world and theirs. In Roland's world, there are many life or death decisions to be made and people like Roland are trained to respond to these circumstances. In Eddie's world, whoever, these types of life or death decisions are more rare and therefore met with greater trepidation. The people in Eddie's world are unprepared for dealing with issues at this level in their daily lives and therefore are unprepared for it.



# Part 1, Chapter 3

## Part 1, Chapter 3 Summary

Eddie's behavior has made the stewardess suspicious. From inside Eddie's mind, Roland watches her actions and worries that she will do something to stop Eddie from doing whatever it is he has planned to do. Roland does not completely understand what Eddie is doing, but he knows that Eddie needs to clear the Customs officials without letting them discover the cocaine that is strapped to his body. Jane, the stewardess, begins to think that Eddie is a terrorist and puts together a plan to stop him from being able to get a supposed weapon out of his bag. The weapon turns out to just be his passport, and Jane is relieved. However, she shares her suspicions with her coworker, who labels Eddie as a drug smuggler. The two of them tell the captain what they suspect.

Roland puzzles over the information that he gets from Eddie's consciousness. He is not sure of the terms that Eddie uses or the processes that Eddie's brain describes. He begins to understand some of Eddie's concern about Customs but mixes the Customs regulations with a more profound ritual. Roland compares Eddie's world to his own world and comes up with some conclusions that do match with the overall intent of the Customs procedures but miss the point of them. Roland does not understand the subtle points of the procedure but is able to see the overall magnitude of the consequences of being caught.

Inside Eddie's mind, Roland realizes that Eddie has been discovered. He thinks that he might be able to take the cocaine away from Eddie and hide it in his own world so that Eddie can pass through Customs without being detected. He experiments with a coin from Eddie's pocket but discovers that he will need Eddie's assistance in order to pull off the transfer of the cocaine. He speaks to Eddie in his mind and explains his plan. He directs Eddie to go to the bathroom. While locked in the bathroom, Roland pulls Eddie into his own world and rips the package of cocaine off of him. He returns Eddie to the world of the plane just as the pilot and Customs officers bust into the bathroom. Eddie pretends to have digestive problems to explain his long sojourn in the bathroom and the officers drag him away.

## Part 1, Chapter 3 Analysis

Roland's ability to transport Eddie from the airplane to his own world proves to be the thing that saves both of them. Roland's small experimentation with the sandwich shows how he learns new things. It also shows his cautious nature. Roland is able to quickly apply his knowledge to a larger situation when he gets Eddie to come out of his own world and remove his cargo of cocaine. Another thing that is established in this chapter is Roland's dominance over Eddie. Roland is by far the more level headed of the two men and often acts as a father figure to Eddie. While at this point, Roland's care of



Eddie is motivated by self interest, in the future the bond between them will grow stronger as they survive more challenges together.

Eddie's character also goes through development in this chapter. Up to this point, Eddie has behaved like the pawn of larger forces. Indeed, with Roland, he shows his need to be led by someone stronger and more experienced than himself. However, much of Eddie's success in getting rid of the cocaine relies on his own character. His use of humor as a distraction shows his own quick mind. He is not completely passive but is able to really help in his own rescue. These qualities will continue to develop as Eddie is put in situations that are more dangerous and must choose between saving himself and descending into a passive emotional dependence.

Eddie's emotional stability will continue to be an issue throughout the remainder of the novel. Because he has spent so much of his life letting other people make decisions for him, he has difficulty making such tough decisions for himself. Similarly, his emotional dependence on others, resulting from his long-time dependence on his manipulative brother and mother, makes him vulnerable to being taken advantage of. This will become a key problem as Eddie develops an emotional bond with Roland and then with Odetta.



# Part 1, Chapter 4

## Part 1, Chapter 4 Summary

The Customs officers interrogate Eddie for two hours. They are unable to find any evidence of his crime but are determined to keep him until they can. During this interrogation, Roland has to leave Eddie's mind for a few minutes in order to return to his own world. He drags his body out of the clutches of the strange sea creatures. When he returns to Eddie's mind, the Customs officers are forced to let Eddie leave for lack of evidence. When Eddie leaves, several unmarked cars immediately follow him. Eddie realizes that some of these followers are connected to the Customs investigation but that others are related to his drug boss, Balazar. Because Eddie's interrogation has been so short, there is suspicion that he has given evidence against Balazar.

Eddie takes a cab from the airport. Several government cars follow him as he leaves the airport. He has the cab stop off at a newspaper stand. He buys hot dogs and aspirin and gives them to Roland. Roland takes them back into his own world to feed and medicate his dying body. The sugar from the soda gives Roland some energy and the aspirin soothes his infection. Roland returns to Eddie's mind as Eddie takes the subway home to his apartment. Roland helps Eddie identify some of the agents who are following him. Roland is worried and suspicious as he watches the world from Eddie's eyes.

Outside of Eddie's apartment are some of the men who work for Eddie's drug dealer/boss, Balazar. They tell Eddie that they are holding his brother, Henry, who is also a junkie, at Balazar's building until Eddie comes and presents the cocaine. Eddie knows that he is suspected by Balazar's men, and worries that they might kill him or his brother. He accompanies them back to Balazar's building. In the van, Eddie is both nervous and feigning self-confidence to keep the henchmen from knowing his true feelings. He tries to appear solid, using the advice that Roland keeps telling him.

Balazar's building contains a bar called The Leaning Tower. When Roland sees the sign, he mistakes it for the Dark Tower that he has been searching for. Inside the building, Balazar sits at his desk, building towers out of playing cards. His henchmen keep Henry in the next room. Balazar plans to kill both Eddie and Henry after learning what has happened to his cocaine. Eddie's brother Henry is surrounded by guards who are keeping him busy while they wait for Eddie to return. Henry's behavior shows how weak his mental reasoning is. Henry is not in good health, either physically or mentally, and this reflects the long-term drug abuse of himself and his younger brother, Eddie.

## Part 1, Chapter 4 Analysis

In this chapter, there is a lot of information given to the reader that the characters do not know. Throughout the chapter, the experience of each character is told within their limited perspective. The reader, however, is able to piece it all together. One of the

mounting conflicts in this chapter is that between Balazar and Eddie. In this instance, Balazar seems the heavy favorite to win because of his large network of support and his power and experience. Eddie seems destined to lose no matter what happens because he is isolated and does not have a lot of experience in dangerous situations.

The key to helping Eddie, however, lies in Eddie's head. This refers both to Roland's presence there and to the latent intelligence that lies buried in Eddie's brain. Though Eddie has been slowed down considerably by his drug addiction and his relationship with his brother, he still has a strong instinct for self-preservation. He takes the extra information given by Roland and uses it in combination with what his own senses tell him about the situation he has gotten himself into. This combination of experience and ingenuity will help both of these men escape from the imminent danger.

Eddie's brother Henry provides more clues to Eddie's history and personality. Henry is clearly mentally deficient from the extended drug abuse. His condition shows the level to which Eddie must take care of his brother and protect him from the larger evil powers in the world. Though Henry is older than Eddie, he is much weaker than Eddie in both physical and mental stamina.



# Part 1, Chapter 5

## Part 1, Chapter 5 Summary

Balazar's henchmen bring Eddie into the building. He meets with Balazar and tells him that he will exchange the hidden cocaine for his brother. What he does not know is that his brother has been given a fatal dose of heroin and is already dead in another room. Balazar strip searches Eddie to search for the cocaine but cannot find anything. Eddie tells Balazar that he will go into the bathroom alone and then come back with the cocaine. Balazar sends one of his henchmen, John Andolini, into the bathroom with Eddie.

Balazar is determined to kill Eddie no matter what the outcome is but he is willing to indulge Eddie in this strange request to conjure the drugs by magic. He doubts that Eddie has any sort of secret plan and he hopes that this distraction will give him time to put his own plans into motion. Eddie's comic powers come into play in the bathroom as he jokes with his captors in order to catch them off guard. He needs Andolini to be distracted and contemptuous of him in order to take advantage of him.

Roland and Eddie open the doorway into Roland's world and drag Andolini in with them. There is a gun battle. Andolini is wounded and Roland feeds him to the strange lobster creatures that live in the sea. Roland gives Eddie one of his guns. Upon returning to Eddie's world, Eddie overhears that his brother is dead. Fueled with vengeance, he and Roland shoot their way out of the bathroom and kill all the other people in the room. Eddie wants to give up now that his brother is dead, but Roland convinces him to join his quest for the Dark Tower. They go back to Roland's world.

## Part 1, Chapter 5 Analysis

The gun battle in Balazar's office clearly shows the way that Roland and Eddie are able to work together as a team while still relying on their own strengths as individuals. Roland's skills in battle give him the advantage over the people in Eddie's world. Eddie, at the same time, gains strength beyond his normal ability based on his strong emotions for his brother. This combination provides clues into the deeper nature of each man. Roland is ruled by reason and skill. Eddie is motivated by his emotional connection to other people. The difference in their natures shown in these events foreshadows many other events in their relationship where they make different choices based on their emotional attachment to others or the lack thereof.

Eddie and Roland are able to work together but their motives are different. This difference in motivation foreshadows many of the conflicts that arise between them on the search for the Dark Tower. While Eddie is much more interested in the bond between himself and Roland, and later between himself and Odetta, Roland is concerned only with other people as far as they contribute to his quest. Roland's bond



with Eddie, therefore, never reaches the same level of trust because Roland reserves part of himself for the quest. His emotional connection to Eddie is much less than Eddie's emotional connection to him. Roland recognizes this contradiction at several points during the journey. While he is disappointed that this state of affairs has to be, he also feels that he must give in to the overwhelming obsession of finding the Dark Tower.



# Shuffle

## Shuffle Summary

The next week or so is a blur for both Eddie and Roland. Roland writhes in the pain of his fever and infection while Eddie struggles with detoxification and withdrawal from his drug addiction. As they both surface from their private demons, Eddie takes charge in taking care of them both. He uses the gun to shoot the strange lobster creatures in the sea and then serves the cooked meat to Roland. As Roland slowly regains his strength, Eddie tells him the story of his life and his relationship with his brother, Henry.

Eddie demands to know what they are going to do. Roland states that they will follow their Ka, or destiny. Roland tells Eddie that they should continue walking north. He shows Eddie something in the distance. As they walk closer, Eddie sees that it is a door marked "The Lady of Shadows". Eddie insists on going through the door alone and threatens Roland with the gun. Roland disagrees and insists that Ka does not permit Eddie to enter alone.

Roland and Eddie continue to trade roles in their relationship. At several points, Eddie must take care of Roland by killing the lobster creatures. At other points, Roland assumes leadership because he believes that he knows where they need to go in order to complete the quest. When both of them are in reasonable health, they fight against each other for dominance. Roland, however, is generally the stronger personality and he is able to convince Eddie that his course is correct.

## Shuffle Analysis

Eddie's life story provides clues to why he has developed in the way that he has. His strong emotional connection to his brother both helps and harms him. The drug addiction fueled by his brother is just one instance in Eddie's life where his emotional ties to another person end up in his own downfall. Eddie's relationship with his brother foreshadows Eddie's difficulties when he meets Odetta Holmes/Detta Walker. Just like his brother, Odetta/Detta are split between the side that loves and supports Eddie and the side that seeks to destroy him. Roland recognizes the discrepancies in Eddie's story of his life with his brother but does not know how to convince Eddie of them. Roland's inability to counsel Eddie about his emotional dependency on his brother will occur again when Roland realizes Eddie's feelings for Odetta. In this situation, Roland will have to help Eddie to recognize the dangers behind the person that he loves. However, Roland will have real difficulty in doing this because he is himself so emotionally withdrawn.

Roland's relationship to Eddie is strongest at this point because Roland himself is at his most vulnerable point. Because Roland is physically weak, his source of emotional strength is also weakened. Roland is open to Eddie in a way that would not be possible



under other circumstances. At the same time, Eddie is given the responsibility of taking care of another person. This continues Eddie's own emotional pattern of taking on responsibility for those around him. Just as in the past, Eddie's connection to responsibility and care for others is something that builds a strong bond between him and another person. At the same time, however, the reader understands that Roland is not capable of feeling the same way toward Eddie.



# Part 2, Chapter 1

## Part 2, Chapter 1 Summary

The world inside the door contains the split personalities of Odetta Holmes and Detta Walker. Odetta Holmes is the only surviving child of a black millionaire. She lives in luxury in New York City and devotes herself to the Civil Rights Movement. Her period in time is shortly after the Kennedy assassination. During a subway train accident in 1959, Odetta suffers an injury that cuts off the lower half of her legs and puts her in a wheelchair. This physical break also causes a mental break that creates Odetta's alternative personality, Detta Walker.

Detta Walker represents all the bad and forbidden sides of Odetta's nature. She is heavily invested in her sexuality and is a compulsive shoplifter. It is in the mind of this Detta Walker personality that Eddie and Roland first glimpse her world.

Eddie and Roland look into the world and Eddie figures out that it is his world at an earlier period in time. Roland insists on entering Detta's mind in order to discover this new world. Eddie wants to go in alone in order to find some heroin to relieve his withdrawal symptoms. Roland knows this and refuses to let him go in alone. Roland tells Eddie that he is going in by himself. Eddie threatens to kill Roland's body in his own world if Roland goes without him. Roland chooses to go anyway and Eddie begins to fulfill his promise of killing Roland's body.

## Part 2, Chapter 1 Analysis

When Roland and Eddie discover a new door, they have both accomplished their mission and experienced the first signs of division between them. Roland goes into this new world alone. Eddie, so newly recovered from his drug withdrawal and the loss of his brother, feels abandoned and isolated when Roland leaves without him. He strikes out at Roland physically because Roland does not respond to his emotions.

The character of Odetta Holmes/Detta Walker is introduced in this chapter. She stands as a stark reminder of the division between the good and evil qualities in one person. In many ways, she symbolizes both Roland and Eddie, who each have noble natures that are crippled by their own weaknesses. Odetta Holmes/Detta Walker introduce an interesting commentary on race relations that does not seem to go with the rest of the book. Each side of the woman's personality speaks to a different black experience. Odetta Holmes is concerned with civil rights and ending oppression while Detta Walker is concerned with acts of violence and racism. It is interesting to note how these ideas about race contribute to the splitting of her personality.

The split between Odetta and Detta gives a literal expression of the conflicts occurring inside of Roland and Eddie. This psychological break gives some clues, in particular, to Roland's own psychological break between his relationship with Jake and Eddie and his



obsession with the Dark Tower. In many ways, Roland also has a split personality. On the one hand, he builds and develops the relationship between himself and Eddie. On the other hand, he separates himself from others in order to justify his eventual betrayal of them.

The doorway and the prophecy refer to Odetta/Detta as The Lady. This seems ironic given the circumstances that they find Detta in. When Roland and Eddie observe her, she is shoplifting at Macy's, a decidedly unladylike thing to do. The reader, however, has more information about Odetta/Detta than either Roland or Eddie do. The reader sees Odetta in her much more ladylike locations, such as her apartment or her civil rights work. In this way, the reader is able to justify the Lady label much more easily than can Roland or Eddie.



## Part 2, Chapter 2

### Part 2, Chapter 2 Summary

Odetta's psychotic break and creation of Detta is explained in detail. After being pushed off the subway platform, Odetta's legs are cut off. As she is rushed to the hospital, she splits into two personalities. On the one hand, she is cultured Odetta Holmes with polite manners and a calm voice. On the other hand, she is Detta Walker, an angry black woman who speaks in curses and has a strong hatred of all white people. Detta has a compulsion to steal, though she has no real reason to. The two sides of her personality form directly after the accident, to the great confusion of the attending medical student who tries to save her.

Eddie invades Detta's mind just as she is stealing some jewelry. The shock of it scares her and she screams. This attracts the attention of the security guard, who chases after her. She quickly wheels herself into a dressing room where Roland pushes her through to the other world. The first view that Roland and Eddie have of Odetta/Detta is the Detta side of her personality. Roland is able to stay in charge of her mind despite her strong struggles against him. He and Eddie puzzle over her behavior that they observe through her mind. Neither one of them can understand what is going on or how it is significant for the quest for the Dark Tower.

### Part 2, Chapter 2 Analysis

Odetta's injuries are important because they provide connections with characters, such as Jack Mort, who is introduced at a later point in the story. In describing the events of Odetta's accident, the author is able to offer the reader some context clues that will help them put together other elements of this event. However, in describing the break between the two personalities, there are many elements left out of the story. Many of these elements will have to be provided by Odetta/Detta herself in order to describe the much deeper causes of her psychological problems.

The reaction of other people to Odetta/Detta's psychological confusion comes at an interesting point. The doctor who arrives on the scene to help her is struck by the differences and is unable to come to any reasonable description of them. His confusion foreshadows the confusion that Eddie and Roland will feel when they get to know the two sides of Odetta/Detta's personality. While the quick change over between the two women gives the doctor the ability to see both personalities at once, other characters do not have that luxury. In later parts of the novel, the switch between Odetta and Detta comes as a long-term surprise.

Odetta's entrance into Roland's world gives a very interesting picture of her psychological break. When inside of Detta's mind, Roland feels the evil and negativity of her personality. For this reason he is less trusting of her Odetta personality than is



Eddie. Because Eddie has not experienced the Detta side from within her own mind, he can convince himself that his own observation of Detta in Macy's is invalid and his impressions of the kinder Odetta are the true representation of her nature. Both Roland and Eddie struggle with explaining what is going on with this new addition to their group. Roland tries to urge caution but Eddie is unwilling to put limits on the bond he wants to develop with Odetta. Eddie is willing to believe Odetta's side of the story while dismissing Roland's apprehensions.



## Part 2, Chapter 3

### Part 2, Chapter 3 Summary

Detta enters the other world with Roland and transforms back into Odetta. Roland can feel the change within her mind as it shifts from Detta to Odetta. Odetta listens to the explanations that the two men give her but she does not believe them. Instead, she insists that she must have been injured on her trip to Oxford, Mississippi and is suffering a hallucination. Eddie, who has fallen in love with her, tries to explain the situation to her but she is adamant in her story.

She believes that she was watching television in her home before she arrived in this strange, new place. She recounts an incident in her childhood when she is hit on the head by a brick while walking with her parents to the train station. The brick leaves a scar on her head and puts her in a coma for several weeks. Her mother tells her that she speaks during her coma and dreams things that she cannot remember. She prefaces her story about the brick with another experience she had at a wedding. This story ties together the incidents remembered as "Detta" or the negative side of Odetta.

Eddie explains the Roland that Odetta thinks that this world is a hallucination. Roland sees that Eddie has fallen in love with Odetta. However, he tries to explain to Eddie that the body of the woman that they see is inhabited by two personalities and that one of these personalities is evil. Roland is unsure if his explanation has had any effect on Eddie or his feelings for Odetta. He worries that Odetta might change back to Detta at some point. Because he personally experiences Detta's mental workings when inside of her mind through the doorway, he is convinced that something evil lurks behind her kind exterior.

Roland's attempts to convince Eddie fall on deaf ears. Eddie refuses to believe anything bad about their new companion. Roland, however, remains vigilant. He is unsure about how Odetta and Detta's personalities are related or what might trigger a change from one to another but he is sure that something is wrong with her. His gunslinger instincts tell him to remain suspicious and he considers how he can protect himself and Eddie without destroying their chances of finding the Dark Tower. He knows that Odetta is crucial to his quest.

### Part 2, Chapter 3 Analysis

In this chapter, Roland and Eddie both suffer from confusion about who this new person really is. Roland's feelings within her mind are of pure negativity and evil, yet when she emerges from the doorway she transforms into Odetta, who is all goodness. Roland is confused by this change and is suspicious of it. He tries to convince Eddie that something is not right. Eddie, however, is quick to establish an emotional bond with Odetta and does not listen to Roland's warnings. This continues the pattern of their





divergent personalities. Roland is cautious and relies on his own intuition on which to base his decisions. Eddie, on the other hand, is rash in placing his heart in the control of a person that he has just met and does not really know anything about. Eddie's emotional connection outweighs his own experience of seeing Detta in the department store. He wants to believe that Odetta is good, while behind her goodness lurks evil. Just as in his other relationships, Eddie is unwilling to believe that someone that he cares about could be evil or do bad things to him.

Part of the problem resulting from Eddie's bond with Odetta is his willingness to reject the possibility that there could be something dangerous in her. In this way, Eddie refuses to acknowledge the bad intentions of other people, especially in regard to himself. Eddie's bond with Odetta mirrors his bond with Roland. Both bonds are based on Eddie believing the best in each person, though it is quite possible that each person does not have the best intentions for him. Roland openly acknowledges in his own mind that he would willingly betray Eddie in order to reach the Dark Tower. His standoffish attitude toward Eddie should give Eddie a hint about his real feelings, but Eddie refuses to believe this. In the same way, Odetta's clear contradiction of facts that Eddie knows to be true should give Eddie some clue about the problems with her mental health. Eddie, caught up in the idea of a loving relationship with Odetta, refuses to acknowledge these clues.



## Part 2, Chapter 4

### Part 2, Chapter 4 Summary

Later that night, as Eddie sleeps, Odetta transforms into Detta. In Detta's mind, she has been tortured and starved by the two white men. She wakes and immediately moves to attack. Luckily, Roland has anticipated that this might happen and has remained awake. When Detta attacks Eddie, Roland is able to stop her. The two men tie her into her wheelchair. For the next several days, the three of them travel across the beach heading north to find the next door. All along the way, Detta curses the two men and tries to topple over her wheelchair to slow them down. Roland is growing weaker and weaker as his infection reappears.

Detta's behavior is troubling to both men but only Roland is capable of linking Odetta and Detta together. Eddie wants to believe that Odetta is hiding inside of Detta and will return to him soon. His hope keeps him going as he struggles to push Detta in her wheelchair across the sand. Detta's own mental state is a source of interesting information for the reader because it provides an alternative version of their journey together. In Detta's mind, Roland and Eddie are plotting to rape and murder her. She hallucinates many conversations and events in which they express their intentions to hurt her. In Detta's mind, Roland is referred to as The Really Bad Man. Many of Detta's ideas revolve around white men who enjoy hurting her.

Finally, Roland grows weary of Detta and tries to play against her in her mind. He challenges her memories about what has happened, forcing her to break down. She screams out her confession about breaking her aunt's plate before turning back into Odetta. Roland's challenge to Odetta/Detta's frame of mind upsets the precarious balance between the two personalities. He calls upon her inner goodness to come through the badness of Detta's control. The struggle is exhausting and damaging to Odetta/Detta but provides some semblance of control by Odetta over her evil personality. The process of transformation allows Roland to understand the balance of power within the split personality of Odetta and Detta.

Eddie takes up his relationship with Odetta as though there has been no break between her personality and Detta's. Odetta and Eddie become closer though Odetta refuses to acknowledge her other half. Eddie does not challenge her in her beliefs and Roland decides not to press the matter any further. Just as Eddie settles down with Odetta, Roland collapses from the strain. His own infection has grown too strong for him to fight against and he has run out of antibiotics. One of the new motivations for their continued journey is to find a doorway that opens on a world with a large supply of medicine to cure Roland's infection before he succumbs. As they travel, the landscape changes from the sandy seaside to a more rugged terrain of rocks and scraggly plants.



## Part 2, Chapter 4 Analysis

While Eddie's trusting nature would have gotten both him and Roland killed, Roland's cautious intuition saves both of them. Roland is clear and levelheaded in his approach to the Odetta/Detta problem and is able to act quickly to solve it. At the same time, Eddie is extremely wounded emotionally by the change in Odetta. His love for her is not challenged, however, and he firmly believes that the goodness is inside Detta. This follows Eddie's pattern of trusting those he loves despite clear evidence that they are capable of doing bad things to him. He refuses to accept that Detta is part of Odetta and waits patiently for Odetta to return. In making this assumption, he leaves himself vulnerable to the evilness in Detta.

Roland manages to get to the truth of Odetta/Detta's psychological break. He challenges Odetta to take control of her evil half and manages to gain some ground. In this way, he appeals to her higher nature despite the evidence of the evil inside of her. This follows his interactions with Eddie, as well. Instead of dismissing Eddie for his weaknesses, Roland challenges him to be a better person. Eddie has responded to this treatment and Roland hopes that Odetta will be able to as well. However, Roland's relationship with Eddie is strained by Eddie's refusal to admit the problems in Odetta. Roland's inability to relate to Eddie on an emotional level both help push Eddie to need love from Odetta and leave Roland himself more vulnerable to Detta's evilness. The conflict between Odetta and Detta is reflected in that between Roland and Eddie.

Detta herself provides an interesting point of view for the reader. Detta sees the world differently than do Roland or Eddie. She sees them as horrible monsters and herself as an innocent victim. She is convinced that they are planning to hurt her and invents many episodes to prove her theory. Detta's insistence on this aspect of her relationship to the two men provides insight into the racial and sexual nature of the accident that caused her psychological break. Detta attaches negative motives to all white men and constantly calls the two men by racial epithets. This shows the way that her mind has chosen to deal with the many instances in which she feels discriminated against and was made to feel in danger.



# Reshuffle

## Reshuffle Summary

Eddie and Odetta's relationship becomes extremely close. They make love under the stars and confess their love for one another. Because of Roland's advanced infection, they make a plan. First, Eddie will push Odetta to the next doorway. Then he will return to Roland with the wheelchair and push Roland to the next doorway. Once all three of them are assembled, they will cross through the next doorway together. Roland is worried that Odetta will transform back into Detta and ruin their plans. He cautions Eddie not to leave the gun with her.

When Eddie and Odetta reach the door, however, Eddie is worried that there might be dangerous wild animals around. He gives Odetta the gun before returning to get Roland. Eddie is convinced that Odetta will not change back into Detta. His own love for her clouds his judgment. Instead of seeing the potential danger of Detta, he sees only his own vulnerable lover. He gives her the gun despite Roland's explicit warnings not to do so.

When he gets back to where he left Roland, Roland is angry with him for leaving the gun with her. Eddie pushes Roland to the place where he left Odetta and the door. Odetta has disappeared and has transformed into Detta. Detta hides in the forest, watching Roland and Eddie and planning to make her move. Roland goes through the doorway by himself in order to find some medicine for his infection. He is worried about what might happen to Eddie at Detta's hands. At the same time, however, he acknowledges that the qualities that make Detta a fierce adversary might also make her a firm ally if the good side of her personality controlled the bad side.

Eddie waits anxiously for Detta/Odetta to show herself. He wanders the coastline looking for her and calling out her name. He hears the roars of the wild animals in the nearby forest and worries that she has been carried off and eaten. Eddie refuses to acknowledge that Odetta might have transformed back into Detta. He holds onto the positive memories and strong bond that he shares with Odetta. Instead of seriously considering the possibility that she has changed into the evil side of her nature, he worries about her safety.

## Reshuffle Analysis

The ongoing struggles between the characters are put to the test in this chapter. Eddie and Odetta become extremely close, thus weakening Eddie's ability to use caution. Eddie trusts Odetta and gives her the means of his own destruction. By giving Odetta the gun, Eddie gives Detta the power to kill him and Roland. Roland understands this and strongly cautions Eddie not to do it. However, Eddie does not listen to his



levelheaded friend and instead thinks with his heart. This puts both men in the uneasy position of having to wait and see what happens with Detta.

To further complicate matters, Roland goes through the doorway alone, leaving Eddie alone. Eddie does not have the strength or fortitude that Roland does and is not as capable of defending himself as Roland is. Eddie is also extremely vulnerable because of his feelings toward Odetta. He is unable to come to terms with the evil side of her personality and leaves himself open to being hurt or killed. His emotional bond to Odetta will continue to be a source of danger for him as well as Roland.

The balance of power between the three companions is in danger of tipping or being destroyed all together. In this way, the idea that bad might triumph over good is a real possibility. This very physical struggle between Detta as predator and Eddie as prey symbolizes a more emotional danger that lies in each of the companions. Within each of them are a bad side and a good side. Just as Odetta and Detta are split from each other, Eddie and Roland each carries within them destructive qualities that might result in the death of both themselves and their companions.



# Part 3, Chapter 1

## Part 3, Chapter 1 Summary

Roland enters the world of Jack Mort. Jack has the peculiar habit of seeking out strangers and performing random actions that lead to their death or injury. The first person that Roland sees Jack plotting to kill is a version of Jake, the little boy who he sacrificed in his own world. Jack Mort plans to push little Jake into the street while he's walking to school. At the last minute, Roland takes over Jack Mort's body and stops him from fulfilling his plan.

Roland is very surprised to see little Jake in this world. It brings up many questions in his own mind about the nature of the universe and how Jake's death affects his own world and his own future. Roland feels regret for the treatment he gave to Jake but at the same time is resigned that the past cannot be changed. However, his reflections on Jake bring up unsettling questions in his own mind about his new relationships with Eddie and Odetta.

Next, Roland watches as Jack Mort drops the brick on Odetta Holmes that gives her a head injury. He does not see Jack Mort push an adult Odetta in front of the subway, but his intuition tells him that Jack Mort is also responsible for this act. As he watches some of Jack Mort's memories, he realizes that he is inside the mind of someone who is purely evil. When he stops to consider the prophecy that led him to this doorway, he thinks that he has misinterpreted it.

Instead of looking for a fourth companion, instead he realizes that he is the fourth companion in the form of Death. He acknowledges that he himself is the bringer of death, just as the Man in Black has been the bringer of death. This realization brings together his regrets about Jake and other people with his apprehensions about what he might have to do to his new companions. He decides that the three people involved in the riddle are himself, Odetta, and Eddie. As he watches from Jack Mort's perspective, he feels Detta Walker enter Jack's mind. Roland is afraid to do anything to catch her attention because he thinks she might be plotting to kill him if he returns to his world.

## Part 3, Chapter 1 Analysis

Jack Mort provides more answers to the problem of Odetta/Detta. His two actions lead up to her psychological break and neither of these actions has any purpose other than to be violent and evil. Jack Mort's character is aptly named based on the Latin root of Mort, or Death. Jack Mort's evil is different from the other versions experiences in the novel. Unlike the violent Balazar or the tricky Walter, Jack Mort is outwardly normal and even respectable. His appearance adds another element to the theme that there are evil and good sides to every nature. His evil is hidden within him.



Roland begins to form a plan to solve a larger problem. He knows that his body is vulnerable to Detta in his world. He also knows that Jack Mort is intimately connected to Odetta/Detta. He starts to consider how to link the two people together in order to force Detta/Odetta to come to terms with her psychological split and to recognize what is happening to her. In this chapter, the elements of that plan begin to come together and will continue to develop throughout the remainder of the novel.

Roland's emotional turmoil churns inside of him but he does nothing to let people on the outside see him. He tries to stay away from Detta because he worries about letting her exploit his physical vulnerability. This is a difficult position for Roland to be in because he usually relies on his physical as well as mental strength to save him from harm. However, Roland realizes that there is little choice for him in the matter. Roland struggles with his own mind even as he contemplates the evil personified in Jack Mort and Detta. He realizes that he is capable of many horrible acts and cannot judge the others as objectively as he would like. Roland is able to justify his attitudes by his obsession with the Dark Tower. He accepts that he is capable of evil as well.



## Part 3, Chapter 2

### Part 3, Chapter 2 Summary

Back in Roland's world, Detta lays in wait. She plans how to convince Roland to take her back to her own world while still allowing her to kill both men. She watches Eddie wander around, calling for Odetta. She decides that she must wait before she kills Eddie, fearing that killing him might sever the bond between her world and Roland's, thus trapping her here forever. Instead, she figures out how to trap Eddie and then use him as bait for Roland. Detta stalks Eddie like a predatory beast and waits for the best time to strike. Though she would prefer to kill both men, she feels that she needs Roland to take her back to her own world. She must find a way to force Roland's hand so that he must agree to take her back to her home world.

She rigs up a noose out of rope and uses it to tie Eddie up while he is asleep. When he wakes up, he discovers that he has been tied up and cannot escape. At first, he thinks that Detta is only tying him up, but then he realizes that he is tied up next to the ocean where the lobster creatures can reach him. As he falls asleep again, he waits for night to come and the lobster creatures to eat him. Eddie is passive during these events and gives up his chances of survival. He accepts that there is nothing he can do to save himself and does not even hope that Roland will return to save him. Detta sits and waits for her chance to get to Roland through the door.

### Part 3, Chapter 2 Analysis

Detta's evilness is motivated by self-preservation at this point. While her own inclination tells her to kill those around her, she is unable to do so because she needs Roland's help to return to her own world. Detta is very adaptable in this strange new world and is able to use the tools around her to accomplish her goals. This is very interesting for the future because this part of Detta's nature is also part of Odetta that is silenced by their psychological split. In the event of their reunification, this element of Detta's character will prove valuable to Odetta and her companions.

Eddie's capture by Detta shows the extent that his own love for Odetta coupled with his own lack of physical stamina contributes to his own demise. Eddie does not want to acknowledge that Detta is alive and well. He concentrates his feelings on the goodness of Odetta. When Detta traps him, he does not change his opinion of Odetta and refuses to acknowledge that Detta is part of the woman who he loves. Eddie's psychological break regarding Detta and Odetta is similar to the very psychological split that divides the two personalities. Eddie plays into this idea by disregarding the actions of Detta as having a connection to Odetta.





## Part 3, Chapter 3

### Part 3, Chapter 3 Summary

Roland takes over Jack Mort's body. Jack Mort's mind rebels against Roland but Roland is the stronger consciousness. Roland uses Jack Mort's body to locate shells for his guns and medicine to treat his infection. Roland takes Jack Mort's body to a gun shop and finds the right type of shells in a gun catalog. He tries to purchase the shells but is stopped because he does not have a permit to carry a weapon. When the clerk informs him of this, he devises a scheme. He hides his wallet in the store and then goes outside to a pair of police officers. He claims that the clerk has robbed him. The police accompany him back inside the gun shop to settle the dispute.

Roland seizes an opportunity and pulls a gun on both the police officers and the clerk. He takes the shells and gets directions to the nearest pharmacy. He ties up the police officers and the clerk at the gun store. In the pharmacy, he takes a large supply of penicillin at gunpoint. He leaves his expensive Rolex watch as payment. The pharmacist is shocked at what has happened. The transaction is very confusing for both sides because Roland struggles with explaining what he wants. Roland does not really understand how things work in this world and he has to translate some of his own customs into the alien world that he has entered.

Back on the other side of the door, Eddie is waiting for the night to come and the lobster creatures to rise out of the sea to eat him. Eddie is resigned to his fate for the most part. He tries to think of ways that he might possibly be able to escape. He does not understand why Detta has chosen to do this to him and wonders why she does not kill him more quickly. Eddie is scared of the pain that he will feel when the lobster creatures rise out of the sea. He understands that he has little chance of surviving and wants his last moments to be as painless as possible.

### Part 3, Chapter 3 Analysis

Roland's experiences in the gun shop and the pharmacy illustrate his confusion about Eddie's world. However, his instincts generally serve him correctly. Roland accomplishes his own goals through deception, showing that the balance of good and evil within his character allows him to accomplish things that he might not otherwise be able to do. This draws interesting parallels to Odetta/Detta, who is also able to use her intelligence and cunning to trap and deceive others. The message here is that the elements of one's nature that allow one to commit immoral acts can also be the elements that save one's life or the lives of others.

Roland's deception of the police officers shows how he is able to adapt to the different conditions of Eddie's world by using his strong observation of people. Though he does not understand many of the more subtle aspects of Eddie's world, he remains a good



judge of character. He understands which of the people he meets is capable of opposing him and which will have to give way to his greater force of purpose. Roland's estimations of people turn out to be much more valid than his estimations of social processes or the value of technology or other things. While the things change significantly from one world to another, it is shown that the people do not essentially change. Roland's psychological observations of people are one of the few things that he can easily transfer from one world to another.



## Part 3, Chapter 4

### Part 3, Chapter 4 Summary

The police officers recover from the take-over in the gun shop and free themselves from their restraints. They hear on the police radio about the robbery in the pharmacy and assume the perpetrator is the same person who attacked them. The police enter the pharmacy and start a gun battle with Roland. Roland is shocked by the level of violence the police are capable of and believes that such indiscriminate shooting would not be tolerated in his own world. Roland tricks the police and manages to escape.

He steals the police car and drives to the same subway station that Jack Mort once pushed Odetta Holmes in. When they get inside the subway station, another pair of police officers pursues them. Roland acknowledges that these police officers are good gunslingers that combine thinking with shooting. He acknowledges his respect for their techniques. The police shoot and hit Jack, but instead of killing him, the bullet hits his cigarette lighter. Jack thinks that he is dying but Roland knows that he has not suffered an immediately fatal wound.

The fluid from the lighter sets Jack's body on fire. Roland forces Jack to get up and move toward the subway tracks. Jack is confused and scared so he does not fight against Roland. Roland pushes Jack's body in front of the subway train. He calls on Detta and Odetta to look and see their torturer about to die in the same way that they were injured. Detta comes to the doorway and looks inside. The shock of seeing Jack Mort's death forces the two sides to see each other for the first time. Each personality sees the other personality for the first time and is forced to accept this division of her nature.

As Roland reenters his world, Detta and Odetta struggle to control each other. While Detta fights against Odetta with hate, Odetta responds with love. Finally, Odetta is able to embrace Detta and put the two sides together into one whole. After accomplishing this exhausting task, she turns her attention to helping Eddie and Roland. She then goes to help rescue Roland and Eddie from the lobster creatures. She calls upon a great source of inner strength in order to accomplish this task.

### Part 3, Chapter 4 Analysis

The unification of Odetta and Detta is painful for her. However, once she possesses both sides of her nature she transcends them to become a whole person. Her cunning and instincts, which previously were trapped in Detta, are now in the service of her emotional bonds with Roland and Eddie. Her ability to save them results from the combination of her good and bad sides. The shock of seeing the man responsible for her accident is small compared to the larger shock of seeing each other in the altered



perception of the doorway. This allows Odetta and Detta to see each other for the first time and acknowledge that they are one and the same person.

When the two sides of Detta and Odetta are combined together, they are capable of amazing results. The personal strength and instinct combined with a loving nature allow Odetta to overcome her physical limitations in order to rescue her new friends. It is the combination of the two sides, rather than the dominance of one side over another, that permits Odetta to summon her full strength. The joining of the two sides comes when Odetta embraces the evil that is within her instead of rejecting it. When she is capable of making this acknowledgement, she is capable of using all of her strengths to accomplish her goals.



# Final Shuffle

## Final Shuffle Summary

Roland, Eddie, and Odetta slowly recover from their various wounds. They travel inland from the sea and slowly recover their strength as they get more green food to eat. Slowly, over time, Roland begins to dream again of the Dark Tower. Odetta's name changes to Susannah. Roland realizes that he might need to sacrifice one or both of his companions in order to reach the Dark Tower.

The greater conflicts of this portion of the series are resolved but the underlying problem of Roland's intentions towards his companions remains. Roland acknowledges that he has bad thoughts about his companions and that he would not sacrifice his obsession in order to protect them. In doing so, he sets up a tension between himself and the other two. Eddie and Odetta, on the other hand, grow stronger in their bonds with each other and with Roland. They see themselves building a firm partnership together in order to accomplish the goal of reaching the Dark Tower. Neither of them suspects that Roland might not be able to fulfill his share of this partnership.

## Final Shuffle Analysis

Odetta transforms into Susannah, a person who is capable of both good and bad, strength and cunning. While Roland has bonded with Eddie and Odetta during the various trials of his life, he realizes that he would be willing to sacrifice them for his overall quest. In this way, the reader is again shown how the many sides of a character combine to create who they are. Just as Roland is noble and strong, he is also motivated by his own self interest and puts this self interest over the lives of his new companions.

As the group heads off onto their next adventure, there is unknown division among them. Eddie and Odetta do not suspect that Roland intends to sacrifice them if necessary. Instead, they feel that the struggles the group has overcome together have bonded them irrevocably. Roland's secret shame sets him apart from Odetta and Eddie at a level that they are not aware of. This tension among the characters will contribute to how they relate to each other in further episodes of the series.

This provides a counterpoint to the exercise in self-discovery taken on by both Odetta and Eddie. While they have struggled with and conquered some of their inner demons, Roland's inner demons continue to be a source of problems for the group. Roland's inner demons, unlike Odetta and Eddie's, however, are not understood by anyone but himself. Therefore, it is more difficult for Odetta and Eddie to help Roland to overcome them and avoid the potential disruption and possible destruction of the group.



# Characters

## Roland

Roland is a gunslinger, one of the last to be trained in this art. His training provides him with the stamina, strength, and cunning to navigate through a maze of different worlds and their many different ways of life. He analyzes the behavior of others and is always looking out for the weakness in others that he might be able to exploit. He prides himself on his training and expertise and generally finds other people to be slower or weaker than himself. He is able to gauge the strengths and weaknesses of other people in order to control them. Roland is very powerful. When he enters the minds of other people by entering the doorways, he is able to instantly take control of their minds and use their bodies for his own will. On the other hand, he is also intelligent and adaptable enough to use the little information that he can get about other worlds in order to figure out what to do.

Roland's major life events culminate with his quest to find the Dark Tower. He is willing to sacrifice everything to this goal and has done so in the past. His first major sacrifice is young Jake. Even as Roland grows closer to Eddie and Odetta, he realizes that he would also be capable of sacrificing them in the same way if this is necessary to reach the Dark Tower. This provides the reader with clues into Roland's darker side and balances his noble acts with his overwhelming self-interest.

Roland is the character who links the other characters together. He is also the key to the prophecy and the many doorways that exist between the worlds. Eddie and Odetta are less clear about what their role is in the overarching quest. Roland is the acknowledged leader. He directs the others about where to go and what to do. He also keeps most of the knowledge that he has about the prophecy, his own personal life, and his own personal doubts to himself. He does not share his problems or struggle with the other two. This sets him apart from Odetta and Eddie, who do not know that there is potential danger in Roland.

Roland's own past is quite difficult of the reader to understand. He alludes to many instances in his past where he is forced to back a decision that goes against his principles and which he later regrets. Roland is concerned about his connection to the Man in Black, Walter. While Roland believes the Walter is the source of pure evil, he is often confronted with the possibility that he himself might have a great deal of evil within him and that he might be forced to make choices that reinforce evil rather than good.

## Jake

Jake is a little boy who is killed on the way to school. Instead of dying, however, he is transported to Roland's world. Roland chooses to sacrifice Jake to Walter, the man in black, in order to continue on his way to the Dark Tower. Roland is haunted by this



sacrifice though he still believes that it is absolutely necessary. When Roland sees Jake again in Jack Mort's world, he is reminded of what he did to Jake. He also begins to question the nature of his universe and how Jake's life is intertwined with his own.

Jake's presence is a reminder of past mistakes for Roland. Roland keeps Jake in mind a lot and regrets what he feels he was forced to do. Jake stands as a symbol for other people that Roland creates relationships with, such as Eddie. In both cases, Roland is a father figure to the younger male. While Roland has already betrayed Jake in his quest for the Dark Tower, he realizes that he is also capable of betraying Eddie to the quest. This reflection on his own role as a mentor lines up against his own betrayals of his own previous mentor, Cuthbert. Because Roland's psyche depends so much on the gunslinger code of honor, these twisted father-son relationships mean a great deal to him.

## The Man in Black

The Man in Black is also known as Walter. He has plagued Roland throughout his life and leads to the death of Roland's father and mentor. The man in black prophesies Roland's future, including his meetings with Eddie and Odetta. The man in black is a source of terror for Roland, who is not usually afraid of anything. Roland worries about encountering the man in black again.

On some level, Roland questions how much he might have in common with this man in black. While he is able to reason with himself that Walter is evil, he slowly acknowledges the similarities that he has with him. When he inhabits Jack Mort's body, Roland momentarily wonders if he is in Walter's body. When considering many of his past and future actions, Roland wonders if he is doing the same things that the Man in Black wants him to do. Roland is unsure of his real role in the quest for the Dark Tower, though he admits that it is the consuming passion in this life. He is unwilling to further examine how the Man in Black relates to his quest for the Dark Tower and how much the two things might be related.

## Eddie Dean

Eddie Dean is a young man caught up in a drug deal that is about to go wrong. He tries to smuggle cocaine from the Caribbean to the United States and is only able to escape legal trouble because Roland transports the cocaine to his own world. Eddie's problems go deeper than his drug abuse, however. His drug abuse comes from the influence of his older brother, Henry, who has made Eddie feel dependent on him his whole life. Henry's drug addiction inspires Eddie's. Eddie remains with his brother through thick and thin because he feels that he owes his loyalty to him. The aftermath of the drug deal causes Henry's death. Eddie has to finally break away from his brother and try to turn his life around on his own.

Eddie's emotional dependency on Henry continues in his relationship with Odetta Holmes. Eddie's attachment to her blinds him to the evil side of her personality, Detta.



Just as with his brother, Henry, Eddie's love for Odetta makes him vulnerable to her attacks and puts the lives of himself and his companion, Roland, in danger. Eddie is unable to separate himself from Odetta and ends up on the verge of death because of his trusting nature.

Eddie's trusting nature is a constant source of trouble for him. Beginning with his trust of his brother, which leads to his possible arrest or death in the drug deal gone badly, Eddie's life is full of instances where his emotional dependence on others puts his own life in jeopardy. Throughout the course of the novel, Eddie is continually put to the test in his relationships with other people. While Odetta is the strongest case in this segment of Eddie's life, she is not the only one. Eddie's trustfulness of Roland is also a major issue for him. Eddie trusts Roland and follows him blindly. While Eddie feels that their bond is strengthened, Roland is still determined to sacrifice Eddie for the Dark Tower when the time comes. Eddie does not anticipate any problems with Roland because of what he thinks of as their strong emotional bond built through mutual struggle to survive.

## Henry Dean

Henry Dean is Eddie's older brother. Throughout their childhood, Henry and his mother convinced Eddie that they have made extreme sacrifices for him. Eddie believes this and follows his brother willingly into adulthood. When Henry returns from Vietnam, he turns to drugs and helps Eddie become addicted as well. After going through several levels of drug dependency, Henry convinces Eddie to smuggle cocaine into the United States in order to get a larger supply of heroin. Eddie follows Henry blindly though he realizes that Henry has been mentally weakened by his drug addiction. Balazar's henchmen kill Henry. This act spurs Eddie to kill the rest of Balazar's men and escape to Roland's world.

## Odetta Holmes

Odetta Holmes is the daughter of a wealthy African American family. She is concerned with civil rights and participates in many aspects of the civil rights movement in the 1960s. She is an avid supporter of civil rights causes. As the sole inheritor of her father's fortune, she is very wealthy and lives with a servant in an exclusive Manhattan apartment.

Tragedy strikes Odetta when she is five years old. As she is walking down the street, a brick falls on her head. When she is an adult, she is pushed in front of a subway car. This accident amputates her legs and leaves her in a wheelchair. This accident also results in the split of her personality into good and evil sides. The evil side is called Detta Walker. Odetta does not know anything about the Detta side and has long periods of blackouts during the times when Detta is in control of her body.

When Odetta arrives in Roland's world, she falls in love with Eddie. At the end of the novel, when Odetta is forced to confront Detta, she recombines both sides of her nature and is renamed Susannah. The unification of Odetta and Detta comes on terms of love,





not of hate. While Detta pushes to destroy Odetta by hate, Odetta embraces Detta with love and acknowledgment. Odetta's tactics are successful in reuniting the two sides of her nature. After their reunification, Odetta is able to act as a full person and rescue the man she loves. She is able to combine the cunning and ingenuity of Detta with the goodness and loving nature of Odetta.

Roland's renaming of her recognizes that the reunification of the two sides has resulted in something bigger and better than either side was before. Her new identity as Susannah creates more than just the combination of Odetta and Detta. She has become a new person with the capabilities of both good and evil as a source of strength. Her role as the third companion comes into a new level, as she is able to contribute more of herself to Roland and Eddie.

The separation of Odetta and Detta serves as a continual symbol of the division of good and evil within all people. Though her split is literal, the other characters also carry many of the same struggles within themselves. Eddie, as he turns between drug addiction and love, struggles to recapture the good side of his nature while overcoming the bad part. Roland is an even more interesting contrast to the Odetta/Detta split. He is the one who challenges Detta and calls on her better half to wrest control from the evil half. His challenge gives Odetta some confidence in her ability to win over Detta.

## Detta Walker

Detta Walker is the evil split personality of Odetta Holmes. Detta's personality comes from many sources of childhood anger. The largest source of anger is the racism that results in her childhood accident. Because her family is black, they cannot get a taxi to the train station. As she walks down the road, a white man hits her in the head with a brick. Similarly, in her accident in the subway, a white man pushes her on the tracks. This creates large anger against white men and white people in general in Detta's mind. Detta speaks in an exaggerated accent, attempting to imitate poor blacks from the South of the United States.

Detta is suspicious and violent toward Roland and Eddie. In her mind, they commit horrible acts against her. Her mind fabricates many conversations and actions on the part of the two men. She is convinced that they mean to do her harm. However, as she struggles to fight against them, she also acknowledges that she needs Roland's help in order to return to her home world. She is not sure how to accomplish this for herself and therefore comes up with an elaborate plan to force Roland to help her. She uses Eddie as bait to draw Roland out and force him to help her, in return for his friend's life. Her attempts to kill them, however, are not successful, because she is reunited with Odetta at the last minute.

Detta fights against reunification with Odetta. Her weapons are hate and fear. Odetta, however, is able to battle against these negative forces with positive forces of her own. Odetta embraces Detta and takes her inside of herself. In this way, Detta and Odetta



become one. Detta's negative forces become a source of strength for the reunified Odetta because she can use them to save Eddie and Roland from imminent death.

## Jack Mort

When Roland enters the third doorway, he enters the mind of Jack Mort. Jack Mort is an evil person who finds ways to injure and kill people by making it seem like a random accident. He attempts to push young Jake into traffic but Roland controls his mind and keeps him from doing it. By searching through Jack Mort's memories, Roland discovers that Jack is also responsible for both of Odetta Holmes' accidents. Jack Mort drops the brick onto Odetta's head as a child and pushes her into the subway as an adult. In each case, Jack Mort plans his moves meticulously in order to avoid suspicion. When Roland enters Jack's mind, he is able to take control of him. Jack Mort has a very wealthy appearance and so others quickly respect him. Roland uses this to his advantage, eventually resulting in Jack's death in a subway very similar to how Jack had injured Odetta.

Jack Mort is shown to be pure evil. His outward appearance is very respectable and other people who see him believe that he must be good because he has expensive clothes. This allows him to get away with many things that would have made other people suspicious. Jack values his social position and uses it to his own advantage. His career as an accountant is based on careful cultivation of the right look and contacts. When he is taken over by Roland, however, he is unable to fight off Roland's stronger mental force. He becomes passive and watches everything that he has worked for fall away.

## Cuthbert

Cuthbert is Roland's mentor. Roland learns the art of gunslinging from him but eventually is forced to turn against his mentor and kill him. Roland often looks back on Cuthbert with fondness. Roland's relationship with Cuthbert represents an early point in Roland's life where he is forced to sacrifice a relationship for something he deems more important. In the ongoing saga of father and son-like relationships, Cuthbert is the father that Roland has betrayed. Roland thinks of Cuthbert in relation to his own relations to Eddie and Jake, who look up to him as a father figure. Roland's own betrayal and the betrayal he has done or plans to do against his own metaphorical sons stays in his mind and haunts him during the journey to the Dark Tower.

## Balazar

Balazar is the head of a large drug syndicate. He pressures Eddie to smuggle cocaine into the United States. When Eddie is delayed in Customs, Balazar plans to kill him. When Eddie reaches Balazar's office, however, Balazar is unable to kill him immediately. Instead, Eddie goes into the bathroom to retrieve the lost cocaine. In the

meantime, Eddie learns that Balazar's henchmen have killed Henry. This makes Eddie angry so he kills Balazar in revenge.



# Objects/Places

## Ka

Ka is one's destiny or fate. A person must act in line with one's ka and cannot fight against it.

## The Dark Tower

The Dark Tower is the focus of Roland's quest. The Dark Tower represents many things to Roland and to others throughout the series. It is both an unattainable goal and an obsession for Roland. He is willing to sacrifice everything in order to attain this goal, including those he forms close friendships with.

## Roland's World

Roland's world is described as a place where everyone has moved on. Roland is one of the last in a line of gunslingers, men trained in the art of gun fighting. In Roland's world, there is very little technology and most basic goods, such as paper and glass, are very expensive. Roland is often shocked by the abundance that he sees in other worlds. Roland's world serves as a meeting point for many doorways into the worlds of Eddie and Odetta. The part that is described predominantly in this novel is the coastline, which is inhabited by carnivorous lobster-like creatures.

## Eddie's World

Eddie lives in the mid 1980s in the world that is familiar to the reader. Eddie's personal experience is in New York City. Eddie and his brother are deeply involved in the underground drug community in the city.

## Odetta's World

Odetta lives in the mid 1960s in the world that is familiar to the reader. Odetta's personal experience is concentrated in Mississippi and New York City.

## Jack Mort's World

Jack Mort lives in the mid 1970s in a world that is familiar to the reader. His experience is not as time-specific as that of Eddie or Odetta.



## Lobstrocities

Lobstrosity is the name given to the lobster creatures that live in the sea in Roland's world. They are a constant threat to Roland and his companions. They wound Roland very badly in the beginning of the novel and almost succeed in eating Eddie and Roland at the ending of the novel.

## Keflex

Keflex is a type of antibiotic. Roland suffers a dangerous infection and almost dies. Eddie steals Keflex from the bathroom cabinet of Balazar; however, this is not enough to heal Roland's infection. Roland steals more Keflex when he enters Jack Mort's body.

## Brick

Jack Mort drops a brick onto the head of Odetta Holmes when she is five years old. This begins the psychological break in Odetta's mind.

## Christopher Street Subway Station

Odetta is waiting for a train in this station when Jack Mort pushes her in front of the train. The train slices off her legs but she manages to survive. This event causes her split personality. Roland brings Jack Mort's body to this station again in order to kill him and to show Odetta/Detta the reality of their split personality.

## Winchester rifle

Roland carries the equivalent of a Winchester rifle in his own world. During the opening chapters, most of his ammunition gets wet and no longer functions. When he enters Jack Mort's body, he goes to a gun shop and buys more bullets to use in his gun.

## Wheelchair

Odetta Holmes uses a wheelchair because of her accident involving the subway train. Eddie has to push the wheelchair across the landscape in Roland's world. He pushes Odetta first and then must return and push Roland there as well.

## The doorway

There are a series of doorways in Roland's world. Each of them opens into a different world. The three worlds explored in this novel are all set in the world recognizable to the reader, though they are at different periods.



## **Airplane**

When Roland enters Eddie's mind, Eddie is on an airplane going from the Caribbean to the United States. On the airplane is a suspicious stewardess who alerts the Customs officials about Eddie's potential drug smuggling.

## **Macy's Department store**

Detta Walker tries to shoplift in Macy's when Roland enters her mind and brings her into his world.

## **Katz' Pharmacy**

When Roland enters Jack Mort's mind, he goes to Katz Pharmacy to get some Keflex to medicate his infection.



# Themes

## The Quest

The quest is the dominant theme in this work. Roland is on a quest to the Dark Tower. His motivation to reach this place provides him with a reason for everything that he does. In taking on this quest, Roland is determined not to give up for any reason. Even as he makes new friends like Eddie and Susannah, he realizes that if the need arises he will have to sacrifice them to his goal.

While Eddie and Susannah do not originally know anything about this quest to the Dark Tower, they are quickly caught up in it as well. They follow Roland across his world in search of doors to enter new worlds and gain clues in their search for the Dark Tower. Roland is never really clear about where they are going or how they will get there, but Eddie and Susannah tag along willingly. Both of them have a lot missing from their own lives, and Roland's obsession with the Dark Tower soon becomes their own. The difference, however, is that neither of them would sacrifice each other in order to obtain it. For Eddie and Susannah, the quest represents a companionship that they have never had before. They bond together as a group and do not really worry about the final destination.

Within the larger quest for the Dark Tower, there are many smaller quests taken on by the three main characters. Each search for a new doorway becomes a new mini-quest. Then, when entering each new world, there is also a mini-quest to find or discover some new thing. In addition to these mini-quests, there is also the larger metaphor of the quest to find oneself. This quest is a major issue for all the characters as they begin to examine who they are and why they might be significant to the world.

## The Division of the Self

All three of the major characters presented in this part of the Dark Tower series have a conflict within themselves. Roland, Eddie, and Susannah all live within their own small world experience. When they are brought together, however, they are able to examine who they are as individuals. This brings on many disturbing questions for all three of them; but in the end, forces them to integrate the different parts of their personality in order to become stronger and more capable people.

Roland's inner struggle is deeply connected with the search for the Dark Tower. His self-image is very firmly grounded in his experience and training as a gunslinger. He defines himself as a very level-headed and reasonable person. This is shown throughout the novel in the way that he approaches problems and relates to other people. However, the quest for the Dark Tower has changed his priorities significantly. He often questions whether it is right that he must sacrifice others to his obsession, but he is resigned to this fact of life.



Eddie's personal conflicts reflect Roland's in many ways. On the one hand, other people have largely defined Eddie for most of his life. He accepts the lies given to him by his mother and brother and feels immense loyalty to those that do not have his best interests at heart. Eddie struggles with the loyalty he feels for his brother Henry alongside the increasing self-awareness of how his family has exploited him in the past. This issue continues in his relationship with Odetta /Detta, where he blindly follows the good side of her personality while ignoring the bad side.

Odetta Holmes/Detta Walker is the clearest case of the division of the self. She is divided into two personalities. One of these personalities is very good while the other is extremely evil. Only in the end, when she is confronted with her two selves, is she able to merge them together and make one coherent self that encompasses both good and bad qualities.

## Differences Between Worlds

There are two worlds examined in this novel. The first is Roland's world, the land of the last gunslingers. The other is the world that is recognizable to the reader. Eddie, Odetta, and Jack Mort all live there, but they exist at different periods. This shift in periods as well as physical reality adds another interesting twist to the narrative.

Roland's world is technologically backward. There is little mechanization and a great shortage in most goods. Roland expresses wonder at the other worlds where items such as paper and glass are available in such abundance. Roland has great difficulty in understanding what is going on in the other world and often makes faulty assumptions based on his own experience. The part of Roland's world that is shown in the novel is an empty and sparse desert coastline.

The other world that is presented in depth is that of Eddie and Odetta. The doorways from Roland's world lead into this world, though they enter at different periods. This world is more easily recognizable by the reader. The 1960s through the 1980s are shown here in the lives of various characters. Overall, however, these periods blend together and there is little significant difference between each period. The larger difference remains between Roland's world and this one.



# Style

## Points of View

The story is told in the third person omniscient. Each character's thoughts are given in detail while an overall narrative voice provides background detail that is missing from the specific thoughts and dialogue of the characters. The reader learns the individual thoughts of each character as well as the ways that these thoughts interact with each other in the actions of the characters.

The point of view allows the reader to learn different pieces of information from different characters. This allows the reader to have a more complete picture of what is going on than any individual character has. In this way, the reader is able to anticipate many events as well as understand why characters act in the ways that they do. The reader is able to get a more in-depth picture of each character by reading the combination of their thoughts and actions.

One major point of view issue is the shifting between different minds as a character enters a doorway. Roland has the opportunity to explore new worlds through the minds of people who live in them. In this way, he is able to learn the terms and slang that he does not know. Roland is often confused in this way by words that he does not understand. He often translates the words into things or concepts more familiar to him in his worldview. The reader is given the opportunity to figure out what he is referring to. This is often humorous as the reader decodes what Roland is learning about the world.

The other interesting element of point of view is when the narrative slides into the mind of Detta Walker. The mind of Odetta Holmes is less provocative because her thoughts generally follow along with the narrative that the reader is already familiar with. Detta Walker, however, is shrouded in a mysterious point of view that often clashes with what the reader is familiar. The reader is often shocked by the details that Detta invents to justify her hatred of the white men. This contradiction in points of view allows the reader to examine a situation from several angles in order to get a clear picture of why Odetta/Detta behaves in the way that she does.

## Setting

The book is split between two worlds. Roland's world is a world set in the past before major technological advancement. The part of his world presented in the novel is a dusty desert coastline that is populated by dangerous creatures. Roland's world serves as a counterpoint to the other world presented in the novel. Roland's world also provides a philosophical difference in his understanding of order and public interaction. Roland's world is often described as "having moved on"; implying the Roland himself does not have a place within his home world. Roland often looks back on his past and



his home life in relation to what he sees happening in the other world. The world he describes is one of very sparse population and archaic social codes.

The other world presented in the novel is the one more familiar to the reader. This world is presented in three separate sections, divided by periods in time. Odetta Holmes represents the 1960s while Eddie Dean represents the 1980s. Other characters like Jack Mort bridge multiple periods. While there are some differences in the periods of time, for the most part, this world is shown in the same way. The major location mentioned in the novel is New York City, particularly parts of Manhattan.

Roland's forays into this other world are often comical while still being very plot-driven. Roland navigates through places and objects that he does not understand. The reader often has the humorous task of sorting out what he means by certain terms that he invents for what he sees in this other world. Roland is able to adapt quite easily, however, using the instincts he has honed in his home world. Roland is able to take advantage of many aspects of this other world, particularly when it comes to bullets and medicine, which are rare in his own world.

## Language and Meaning

Language and meaning play an important role in this story because of the connections between different worlds. The characters from different worlds speak a common language but there are large differences in slang terms used. Often they must explain terms to each other, particularly technological items. Roland often invents names of pieces of technology that he does not understand. He also spends a lot of time searching the minds of other people to discover what something is called.

Another issue in terms of language and meaning is the way that Detta Walker speaks. Detta speaks in an exaggerated accent of the black American south. Other characters often have a hard time understanding her. However, the point of her dialect is to show the strong connection that she feels with a stereotyped blackness that is not really reflected in her own real life or experience.

The language used throughout the novel is fairly simplistic and the average reader should have not real trouble following it. Because the novel changes periods very often, there are some meaning issues that might be clarified by a basic understanding of social conditions in the United States in the 1960s through the 1980s. Similarly, many of the items described in Roland's world might follow the terms familiar to viewers of Westerns and other stories about the Wild West era in the United States.

## Structure

The novel is divided into three major parts. The novel is presented like a Tarot card game and divided into a Shuffle, Reshuffle, and Final Shuffle. This structure follows the metaphor given to Roland that provides the tile, the Drawing of the Three. Each of the

major characters, including Eddie, Odetta, and Roland, are cards to be drawn in the game of the Dark Tower. Eddie is the Prisoner, Odetta is the Lady, and Roland is Death.

Within each section, there are three to five chapters. Each chapter usually focuses either on an event in the plot or on providing background information on one of the characters. This allows for a balance of plot and characterization that permits the reader to form judgments about the characters' thoughts and then compare how their actions follow their thoughts.

Within each chapter, there are several divisions. Each division marks the conclusion of one scene and the shifting to a new one. Usually a chapter focuses only on one person and each section of the chapter focuses either on a plot element or a character development element. Often actions are presented first and then the character background is given later as an explanation of why the character behaves in the way he or she does.



## Quotes

"The gunslinger came awake from a confused dream which seemed to consist of a single image: that of the Sailor in the Tarot deck from which the man in black had dealt (or purported to deal) the gunslinger's own moaning future." (Prologue)

"He still had his purse. That was one thing. He put it in his lap and then slowly dissembled his guns and performed the ritual of cleaning. By the time he was finished, two hours had passed and his pain was so intense his head reeled with it; conscious thought had become difficult. He wanted to sleep. He had never wanted that more in his life. But in the service of duty there was never any acceptable reason for denial." (Part 1, Chapter 1)

"Either the creature which had attacked him or any of the others could have torn this or the other open with one casual bite or slice of claw, but none had and the tide had spared it." (Part 1, Chapter 1)

"And Eddie, stoned out of his mind, had cackled madly, because he knew exactly what Henry was talking about. Henry, however, had not so much as cracked a smile." (Part 1, Chapter 2)

"For another, he was Roland. If dying was required, he intended to die as Roland. He intended to die crawling toward the Tower, if that was what was required. Then the odd harsh practicality that lived beside the romantic in his nature like a tiger with a roe reasserted itself. There was no need to think of dying with the experiment not yet made." (Part 1, Chapter 2)

"The gunslinger thought this man, prisoner or not, was probably better at the fine art of survival than any other men he had seen in the air-carriage." (Part 1, Chapter 3)

"The answer was so large and simple, so close to him, that he very nearly did not see it at all. It was the drug that the prisoner meant to smuggle in that would make Clearing the Customs so difficult, of course; there might be some sort of Oracle who might be consulted in the cases of people who seemed suspicious. Otherwise, Roland gleaned, the Clearing ceremony would be simplicity itself, as crossing a friendly border was in his own world. One made the sign of fealty to that kingdom's monarch-a simple token gesture-and was allowed to pass." (Part 1, Chapter 3)

"Balazar might have recognized Eddie's steel, but that didn't change the fact that Eddie was a junkie. A junkie could not be relied upon to be a stand-up guy." (Part 1, Chapter 4)

"There was nothing wrong with any of them on top, but Eddie recognized them for what they were nonetheless and it was like seeing those hidden images in a child's puzzle, which, once seen, could never be unseen. He felt dull heat in his cheeks, because it had taken the other to point out what he should have seen at once." (Part 1, Chapter 4)



"Glass gleamed mellowly everywhere, more glass in this one room than he had seen in all the years since his childhood, when supply lines had begun to break down, partially because of interdicting raids carried out by the rebel forces of Farson, the Good Man, but mostly, he thought, simply because the world was moving on." (Part 1, Chapter 5)

"In one corner was a sculpted creation of lights that rose and changed, rose and changed, rose and changed. Gold to green; green to yellow; yellow to red; red to gold again. Written across it in Great Letters was a word he could read but which meant nothing to him: ROCKOLA. Never mind. There was business to be done here. He was no tourist; he must not allow himself the luxury of behaving like one, no matter how wonderful or strange these things might be." (Part 1, Chapter 5)

"The gunslinger smiles and tries to black out but Eddie slaps him, slaps him hard. Roland's blue eyes fly open and for a moment they are so alive and electric Eddie looks uneasy." (Shuffle)

"There are people who need people to need them. The reason you don't understand is because you're not one of those people. You'd use me and then toss me away like a paper bag if that's what it came down to. God fucked you, my friend. You're just smart enough that it would hurt you to do that, and just hard enough so that you'd go ahead and do it anyway. You wouldn't be able to help yourself. If I was lying on the beach there and screaming for help, you'd walk over me if I was between you and your goddam Tower." (Shuffle)

"Yet part of her protested, horrified. In a world which had become a nuclear powder keg upon which nearly a billion people now sat, it was a mistake-perhaps of suicidal proportions-to believe there was a difference between good and bad shooters." (Part 2, Chapter 1)

"That movement up the aisle-the Lady, whoever she was, wasn't moving the way an ordinary person moved-wasn't moving, for instance, the way Eddie had moved when Roland looked through his eyes, or (now that he stopped to think of it, which he never had before, any more than he had ever stopped and really noticed the constant presence of his own nose in the lower range of his peripheral vision) the way he moved himself. When one walked, vision became a mild pendulum: left leg, right leg, left leg, right leg, the world rocking back and forth so mildly and gently that after awhile-shortly after you began to walk, he supposed-you simply ignored it. There was none of that pendulum movement in the Lady's walk-she simply moved along the aisle, as if riding on a track." (Part 2, Chapter 1)

"His business was the woman who had tumbled screaming into the tube of the tunnel in front of that fabled A train." (Part 2, Chapter 2)

"He had flushed the toilet and gone back to bed and fell asleep almost instantly and awoke to discover he still wanted to be a doctor, and that was a goddam good thing to know for sure, maybe worth the whole program, whether you called it Emergency Ride or Bucket of Blood or Name that Tune." (Part 2, Chapter 2)



"The view rushed toward the viewer and he wanted to put up the hand holding the knife to shield his eyes but all at once the sensation of looking through two sets of eyes was too much, too crazy, it was going to drive him crazy if he didn't shut it out, but it all happened too fast to have time." (Part 2, Chapter 3)

"Odetta swept out an arm (she had, he'd noticed, very strong arms-smooth but very strong) indicating the sea, the sky, the beach, the scruffy foothills where the gunslinger was now presumably searching for water (or maybe getting eaten alive by some new and interesting monster, something Eddie didn't care to think about). Indicating, in short, this entire world." (Part 2, Chapter 3)

The gunslinger watched all of this from one half-open eye. The fever was back, but not bad yet, not so bad that he must mistrust himself." (Part 2, Chapter 4)

"She turned, her face gleaming with sweat, and favored him with a smile that both weakened and strengthened him. He could have died for such a smile... and thought he would, if circumstances demanded it." (Reshuffle)

"They spoke solemnly in unison, boy and girl for this now, not man and woman as they would be later, when the dark was full and she called to ask him if he was asleep and he said no and she asked if he would hold her because she was cold." (Reshuffle)

"Traffic flooded the street the boy was waiting to cross-a street in the same city from which he had taken the Prisoner and the Lady, he realized, but for the moment none of that mattered." (Part 3, Chapter 1)

"If that little show had been put on for her benefit, might not that Really Bad Man have had another purpose in mind as well, one neither she nor Eddie was supposed to see?" (Part 3, Chapter 2)

"Her voice was muffled because the end of the rope was clenched in her teeth. A freshly cut end protruded from one side of her grin; the rest of the line, the part which led to the noose around his neck, protruded from the other side. There was something so predatory and barbaric about this image-the rope caught in the grin-that he was frozen, staring at her with a horror that only made her grin widen." (Part 3, Chapter 2)

"The gunslinger stared at the man blankly. This was all gabble to him. He understood none of it. His Mortcyclopedia had some vague notion of what the man meant, but Mort's ideas were too vague to be trusted in this case." (Part 3, Chapter 3)

"A thousand conflicting smells rose, creating one hell stench, and before he passed out, Katz again called upon God to rot his father for chaining this curse of a drug store to his ankle in the first place." (Part 3, Chapter 4)

"There ensued a short, violent struggle. The gunslinger won, but it was a surprisingly hard go. In his way, Jack Mort was as divided as Odetta. He was not a schizophrenic as she was; he knew well enough what he did from time to time. But he kept his secret



self-the part of him that was The Pusher-as carefully locked away as might lock away his secret skim." (Part 3, Chapter 4)

"Soon the tower would fill him again, but now he only blessed what gods there were that his aim was still true, and the thought of meat, and meat, and meat." (Final Shuffle)



## Topics for Discussion

What do you make of Roland's discovery that he is the card of Death?

What prompts Odetta's split personality?

How does Roland deal with the fact that he will willingly sacrifice the others?

How does Eddie's relationship with Odetta mirror his relationship with his brother Henry?

What motivates Eddie and Odetta to accept Roland's quest for the Dark Tower?

How do the different periods contribute to the story?

How adaptable is Roland to conditions in the other world?

What does the inclusion of Jake in Jack Mort's world do to Roland's view of himself?