

# **Enigma Study Guide**

**Enigma by Robert Harris (novelist)**

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



# Contents

<a href="#">Enigma Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 1, Whispers: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 2, Cryptogram: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3.....</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 2, Cryptogram: Part 4, Part 5.....</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 3, Pinch: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3.....</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 4, Kiss: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3.....</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 4, Kiss: Part 4, Part 5, Part 6.....</a>	<a href="#">13</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 5, Crib: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3.....</a>	<a href="#">16</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 5, Crib: Part 4, Part 5.....</a>	<a href="#">19</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 6, Strip: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3.....</a>	<a href="#">21</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 6, Strip: Part 4, Part 5, Part 6.....</a>	<a href="#">23</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 7, Plaintext: Part 1, Part 2.....</a>	<a href="#">26</a>
<a href="#">Characters.....</a>	<a href="#">28</a>
<a href="#">Objects/Places.....</a>	<a href="#">31</a>
<a href="#">Themes.....</a>	<a href="#">33</a>
<a href="#">Style.....</a>	<a href="#">35</a>
<a href="#">Quotes.....</a>	<a href="#">38</a>
<a href="#">Topics for Discussion.....</a>	<a href="#">39</a>



# Chapter 1, Whispers: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3

## Chapter 1, Whispers: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 Summary

Enigma by Robert Harris focuses on Tom Jericho, who is a mathematical genius and cryptologist specialist for British navy during World War II. Jericho has cracked the notorious Shark code used by the Germans to destroy British navy boats. However, the Germans change the code and it is up to Jericho to crack it once again.

In Part 1, Tom Jericho is in Cambridge, England. It is a boring town. He is called back to Cambridge University, his alma mater which he graduated from in 1935. He is a 26-year-old, British man. He stays at the university boarding house. The staff is curious about him, since Jericho is very secretive, hardly talks at all and will not let anyone touch his suitcases. A servant opens a letter from Jericho's lady interest, Claire, but closes it. Jericho knows what the servant has done. It is Jericho's 26th birthday.

In Part 2, Jericho goes to the professor offices. They are exactly like he remembers. He remembers his mentor, Alan Turning, who is also a mathematical genius. He also has a flashback of meeting the famous professor of ancient history, F.J. Atwood, who said Turning recommended Jericho to become a cryptologist, or a person who decipher codes. He opens the letter from Claire. It is a breakup letter. Jericho falls ill, but still works for a few hours a day cracking codes.

In Part 3, Jericho comes to hear someone in his room. He thinks it is Claire and calls out for her. It is Guy Logie, his boss, who surprises Jericho by showing up at the college boarding house. Jericho thinks he is going to be fired. Jericho remembers how he was a hero when he cracked the notorious Shark code. It took 10 months and Jericho figured it out in a flash of brilliance. Shark is the German's secret code for U-boats. Shark has been so successful that British submarines, boats and military personnel have been destroyed or killed because of it. Jericho cracked Shark by assessing the Germans' weather report codes. It worked for a while until the Germans changed the code again. That is why Logie comes to see Jericho. He wants to take him back to the government communication headquarters to work on cracking this new code. Jericho leaves with Logie.

## Chapter 1, Whispers: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 Analysis

Jericho is an odd character whose motivations are not quite clear when the book begins. The reader sees him in the college boarding house, but he hardly interacts with anyone. The reader finally hears about Shark and what a brilliant mathematician he is. Now Jericho's elusiveness can be understood because he works for the British military.



His motivation is to keep his identity a secret and to not give out any information about the codes he tries to crack.

Jericho seems out of place at his alma mater. He does not quite have a sense of who he is. He sees his mentor, Alan Turing, as an absolute genius, but not himself. He is an outsider to his family because he is not fighting in the war like other young British men. The staff starts to assume he is a draft dodger. Thus to keep his identity secret is quite a weight on Jericho's mind. The stress of his secrecy manifests in his health, since he falls ill from exhaustion. This foreshadows that Jericho may have a break down sometime in the future if he cannot handle the stress.

The stress is brought on by exhaustion, but it may also be brought on by his love interest, Claire. The reader does not know much about her yet. Claire adds to his mania because he calls out for her when he hears someone in his room. This foreshadows that Claire may cause him to have a nervous breakdown.



## Chapter 2, Cryptogram: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3

### Chapter 2, Cryptogram: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 Summary

In Part 1, Jericho and Logie head back to Bletchley, the horrid railroad town that serves as the government communication headquarters. Jericho has a flashback to his first time at Bletchley. He met the other cryptologists and was happy with his work. Then in 1940, the Germans advanced and decoding was a major priority. Jericho and Logie arrive at headquarters. Jericho thinks about Claire who works there too.

In Part 2, Jericho sees the other cryptologists, who are surprised to see him. He asks Logie if Leonard Skynner, the head of Bletchley's naval section, knows he is back and Logie says yes. Jericho does not like Skynner. They go to Hut 8, which is the place where the cryptologists work. Hut 8 is small and not nice. It has a Registration Room that handles other incoming codes besides Shark. The Big Room is for constructing possible solutions. The Decoding Room has code machines clacking away, including the most mysterious machine, Enigma. It is German. Jericho stays awake even though he is sick and exhausted to start deciphering the code.

In Part 3, Enigma is an amazing machine. It generates many different codes. The circuits change constantly. There could be up to 60 different possible messages at one time. It has millions upon millions of starting positions. Enigma has one small flaw though. It does not decipher a letter as itself. For example, the letter A would never emerge as an A. Shark defies all logic. It causes a blackout, or a period of time where the navy cannot decode anything. Messages cannot be intercepted from the Germans, which mean that British submarines, ships and people would be destroyed or killed. No one can find a pattern, not even Jericho.

The shift changes at four o'clock in the morning. Jericho eats with the other cryptologists, but the whale meat disgusts him. He goes outside and sees Claire for a second, but it is dark and she does not see him. Claire works in Hut 3. Claire must be at work as a cryptologist processor. Jericho hears his bosses talking about him and the others, but walks away, not wanting to hear anything. He goes back to Hut 8 and works, but he cannot get his mind off of Claire and where she is going. He calls her hut, but the person says she is not there.

### Chapter 2, Cryptogram: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 Analysis

Enigma symbolizes the great Nazi empire. It is an elusive force of which many people did not realize its full potential in World War II. Yet, it grew in power with its elusiveness. The same goes for Enigma. It creeps up on them, wreaking havoc and causing problems. No one expects. Just when the cryptologists solve the problems, it changes



course, like the Nazis. Enigma is the most terrifying machine of all, much like the human machine of the Nazis. The scariest part about Enigma is it may win the war for the Nazis and then all of Europe would be Nazi territory. Thus like Nazis, Enigma must be manipulated and controlled. But Enigma has one flaw though: the lettering system. This foreshadows that this flaw may bring down Enigma and the Nazi empire at once. Jericho must figure out how to work the flaw to his advantage, which he does not know how to do yet.

Jericho begins to lose control of his mind. Instead of concentrating on code, he cannot stop thinking about Claire. She dominates his thoughts and he calls her work hut to no avail. He starts to lose it because of his love for Claire. Between the stress of Shark and Enigma and now Claire, he has a hard time with his sanity. This foreshadows he may have a breakdown very soon.



## Chapter 2, Cryptogram: Part 4, Part 5

### Chapter 2, Cryptogram: Part 4, Part 5 Summary

In Part 4, Jericho attends a meeting with cryptologists, two American naval officers and three British naval officers. Skynner, the head of the naval section, runs the meeting. They discuss how a convoy of 127 merchant ships departed New York on Monday and Tuesday. They carry food, supplies, etc. On board are 9000 merchant seamen and 1000 passengers. They include Red Cross women, Christian missionaries and a lot of children. The British navy tracked 46 German U-boats heading towards the convoy on Thursday, but it has not found the U-boats since then. The convoy has military escorts but it is the commander's first mission. Skynner's boss asks him if it is possible to crack Shark in the next four days. Skynner says yes, but Jericho disagrees out loud. He thinks it will take 10 months. Everyone is shocked that Jericho spoke out of turn and undermined Skynner.

Skynner's bosses leave. He is furious with Jericho. Logie says to blame him because he did not brief Jericho on the type of meeting it was supposed to be. Skynner makes Jericho stay for a talk. He says he never wanted Jericho back because he cracked under the pressure last time. He is a mess. Logie wanted him back, which is the only reason Jericho is there. Jericho imagines hitting Skynner but does not act on it. Skynner demotes Jericho to work on statistics and Jericho must leave Bletchley. He makes a nasty comment about how Jericho should find a woman more suitable for him. Jericho takes a swing at Skynner, but misses.

In Part 5, Lieutenant Jimmy Kramer, an American, gives Jericho a ride home. Kramer tells Jericho that the British navy is corrupt and that Jericho was right in saying what he said. Jericho wants to be let out of the car. He does not want to hear these accusations. Kramer says the British navy steals money. They have only built 50 bombes in two years. (A bombe was a device used by British cryptologists to crack German codes during World War II.) 360 bombes can be built in four months. The huts run out of supplies and have below average conditions. Kramer infers these are all signs of money laundering. Jericho wants out of the car again, but Kramer stops him and says he knows Jericho's father died in World War I. Kramer's brother died in World War I too during a Shark blackout. Kramer says he and Jericho should stay in touch and lets him get out of the car.

### Chapter 2, Cryptogram: Part 4, Part 5 Analysis

Skynner represents the ultimate power over Jericho. He is Jericho's nemesis. He adds to Jericho's mania by upsetting him and making a rude comment. Jericho takes a swing and misses. This is the start of his breakdown. He is exhausted and heartbroken. His mental state officially begins to collapse, pushed by the menacing Skynner. The reader does not know if his mental state will recover in time to crack Shark.



Kramer represents the voice of reason. Jericho was right during the meeting, but he was out of line. Kramer is the logical force in revealing the truth. He knows Skynner is concealing something, but he chooses to confront Jericho alone when no one else is there. This is the logical decision vs. Jericho who speaks out of turn.

Both Jericho and Kramer lost a close relative in World War I. This ties them together for a common purpose. Right now, they are opposite people. Kramer is thoughtful and careful. Jericho is nearly insane and undermines the authority. This creates a relationship where both need the other. This foreshadows that Jericho and Kramer may be working together closely in the future to crack the code and get to the truth of the British navy.





# Chapter 3, Pinch: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3

## Chapter 3, Pinch: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 Summary

In Part 1, Jericho moves to a guest house in the town of Bletchley. Bletchley is a depressing, railroad town. The guesthouse owner, Mrs. Ethel Armstrong, prepares for Jericho's stay. She moves his books, which are boring math books. She grows bored of snooping in his things. She is shocked because Jericho pays up front without a fight and does not ask for change. He also gives her his ration book, which allows Armstrong to buy a lot of groceries. She demands them of the guesthouse boarders, collecting food for herself. Jericho agrees to her strict rules.

Alone in his room, Jericho remembers receiving a handshake and check from Winston Churchill for his work. He falls asleep and dreams about when he met Claire on the train. He is instantly attracted to her but she does not notice him. Five minutes before he is supposed to get off at Bletchley station, she has light conversation with him. He wakes up. He has slept all day. Jericho eats a proper dinner in the dining room with the other boarders. He goes back up to his room and Mrs. Armstrong hears him leave at 10:30 at night.

In Part 2, Jericho goes to Claire's cottage. He knocks on the door and her roommate, Hester Wallace, answers. He asks if Claire is there and she says no. He asks if he can wait for her and stops the closing door with his foot. She says no and forcefully shuts the door. He hides and waits until Hester leaves for her shift. He locates the spare key and goes into the cottage. It is exactly as he remembers.

He has a flashback to the train with Claire. They get off the train and walk together and she says she is 20. She asks him to a concert. They go on a series of dates. They reveal personal information about each other, which Jericho has not done before. He goes back to her cottage and Claire lets him look at Hester's room. He stays in there a bit too long and Claire tells him to leave the room. He infers that they have sex.

In Part 3, Jericho goes into Claire's room and starts pulling out everything in a fury. He steps on a loose floorboard. He finds a knife in the kitchen and opens it up. There are documents inside. They have codes and signals that are not naval. He cleans up her room. He realizes how bad this is. Jericho hears someone and calls out hello. No one answers. The front door is open. He sees tire tracks and a man's footprints. He closes the door and tears a hole in his coat and puts the documents in there. He leaves and bikes back to the guesthouse.

## Chapter 3, Pinch: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 Analysis

Mrs. Armstrong represents the typical, British matriarch. She is strong and self-sufficient. She demands strict behavior from her boarders. They must follow her rules. Yet she takes from them. She demands the boarders to give her their ration cards,

which allow them to buy groceries. She takes this away from them to hoard all the food for herself. She also offers average accommodations and charges a hefty price. The reader can see her as a scam artist. She symbolizes Britain and how Britain pulls a scam on Jericho and Kramer and cheats the cryptologists of money. The only way to conquer Mrs. Armstrong and Britain is to fight them head on.

In the flashbacks, the reader can see Jericho's motivations toward Claire. He loves her from the beginning. She brings out a side of him that he normally does not share. His motivations toward Claire are purely of sexual attraction and love. He wants to be her partner. She, on the other hand, wants to have a good time. She does not seem as interested in him as he is in her. Her motivations seem to be either to have a good time or for some other motivation the reader has yet to discover.

Finding the documents foreshadow that Claire might be an informer or a spy. The documents could be of great importance to help Jericho crack Shark. This foreshadows a situation where Jericho may need Claire, but he does not have access to her.



# Chapter 4, Kiss: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3

## Chapter 4, Kiss: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 Summary

In Part 1, Jericho has a flashback to when he slept with Claire. She rummages through his pockets and drawers. He thinks it is amusing. She finds Turing's paper on theoretical machines. She pronounces German perfectly. She finds the paycheck from Winston Churchill and he gets mad. Claire says he must have broken a major code to get this money. He gets mad and throws her violently on the bed. He feels terribly. The next morning, he wakes up, cashes the check and buys her a diamond ring. At that same time, things get bad for Jericho. The Germans move to a new code and Claire loses interest in him. Claire unofficially dumps him.

In Part 2, back in present time, Jericho hides Claire's secret documents behind the painting in his guestroom. He cannot betray her. He wonders if she is a spy. The documents are strange. They are cryptograms, but they do not have the usual sticky, paper strips and there are no traces of these strips. The cryptograms are untouched. Jericho decides to give Claire one last chance. He goes to work. Logie is looking for him, but Jericho dodges him and slips into Hut 3, where Claire works. A suspicious colonel questions him, so Jericho says he is looking for Dr. Walter Weitzman. Weitzman plays poker with him, so he plays along and tells the colonel that he is expecting Jericho. Jericho and Weitzman privately discuss Claire. They go talk with Claire's female boss, who says she never came into work today. This is the first time she has done this. The boss drops some papers with signals and Jericho sees them. Jericho asks her for Claire's family's address and phone number. She reluctantly agrees. Weitzman grows worried.

Jericho asks Weitzman one more thing: about the German Book Room. Weitzman reluctantly answers Hut 3 is a factory line of decryption. The German Book Room is where every proper name is indexed. The German Book is the very end of the process where everything comes together. It is an exact transcription of all decoded messages in their mother tongue. It is a purely clerical job, but if Claire works in the German Book Room, she has unlimited access to all the details of the German operational forces. Weitzman leaves and says not to come to him again.

Jericho calls Claire's father from a pay phone. He answers, but he has never heard of Jericho. He says he does not know his daughter's whereabouts and hangs up. Jericho thinks it is a strange reaction to have for a father. When Jericho tries to call back, the line is busy.

In Part 3, Jericho wanders to the church and church graveyard. He walks in the church as mass ends. Hester Wallace, Claire's roommate, is there. Jericho asks to speak with her and she finally agrees. He confronts her about Claire's whereabouts and Hester says she probably overslept at a man's house. She grows annoyed by the questioning. Jericho confesses he broke into their cottage and about calling Claire's father. Hester



keeps repeating it is none of her business. Then he asks her what the letters ADU mean. He says she can find him in Hut 8. She stares as he walks away.

## Chapter 4, Kiss: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 Analysis

The fact that Claire pronounces German perfectly foreshadows the fact she may be a spy or working with the Germans in some way. Claire's motivations are to find something in Jericho's room, since she has a particular interest in searching it. Claire is a frivolous, beautiful girl as described by others, including Weitzman and her boss. She has many male suitors, thus it is strange that she picks Jericho as a boyfriend or male companion. Her relationship with Jericho also foreshadows that she may be working for the enemy. However, the enemy may be working in the British military.

The German Book Room represents the pinnacle of gaining knowledge for Jericho. Ironically, Claire has this full access, yet he does not. The German Book can help him in ciphering code, but the Huts do not work together. Again, this foreshadows corruption or spies in the British government communication headquarters. Jericho himself begins to grow suspicious, but out of love, he does give Claire's secret away. Jericho's motivation is to protect Claire, even though she is not worthy of protection. Claire captured his mind and he cannot let go of her. This foreshadows that Claire may be his ultimate downfall.

Weitzman represents the Jewish population of World War II. He is a German Jew, but the Nazis forced him to immigrate to England, which happened at the very start of the Nazi regime, before they began to exterminate the Jews in concentration camps. So far, the reader has not seen a Jew in the book. Weitzman is portrayed as smart, useful and loyal to the British. But he serves his own interests to stay out of trouble. This foreshadows that though Weitzman wants to stay out of trouble, Jericho will bring him right back in. And the punishment if caught may be worse for a Jew.



# Chapter 4, Kiss: Part 4, Part 5, Part 6

## Chapter 4, Kiss: Part 4, Part 5, Part 6 Summary

In Part 4, Jericho finally returns to Hut 8. Logie tells him Skynner can fire him, but Jericho says he never touched Skynner. Logie says Skynner wants him to leave immediately. Jericho says Skynner is a fool, but Logie says he should not have embarrassed him in front of everyone. Jericho tries to convince Skynner to give him a couple more days. In his mind, he thinks he needs access to the Park so he can find out about Claire. Logie says Jericho said that they could not crack the code in four days, so why is he now saying he can do it in two days? Jericho says Skynner will listen to him if he backs Jericho up. Logie thinks he is insane to suggest the idea. A cryptologist knocks on his door and interrupts their meeting. They go into the Registration Room. They have decoded traffic analysis and they believe they have found a pattern. The German U-boats' signals have been silent, which means they are at their battle stations. Everyone is silent. It is 2000 German submariners against 10,000 Allied seamen and passengers.

The German U-boats' technique is to find the Allied convoy and shadow it. The Germans will send signals every two hours and wait until dark to attack. Fires from the hit ships will illuminate the other Allied targets. They have a day to crack the code.

Lieutenant Kramer, the American, asks Jericho how he cracked the Shark blackout. They promoted a German officer as a decoy and the Germans sent out signals of excitement, which the cryptologists predicted. It took three weeks, but they decoded it because of all these signals. Jericho asks for the keys to the Black Museum, snatches them and goes.

The Black Museum is located in the big mansion, which is part of the Park. He walks in unnoticed and walks to the cellar where cryptanalysts hide their information from Hut 6 and Hut 8. He finds documents and charts for Enigma. He finds the weather cipher booklet. He takes it and goes back into Hut 8.

Jericho tells the others what he has discovered. The U-boats will send signals every two hours during the 12 hours of daylight in the North Atlantic Ocean. They can read all of these U-boats signals and crack the codes. The flaw is that these U-boats must be in attack position. There are a lot of ifs though, as Jericho's colleagues point out. The Germans must signal every two hours, the code must be the same as the weather cipher book, etc. Jericho disagrees and says they can read all those signals and crack Shark again. He says even if the U-boats find the convoy, they can give the convoy warning to fight. Logie commends Jericho, but says he must talk to Skinner to get his job back.

In Part 5, Hester cannot sleep. She keeps thinking about ADU, what Jericho told her. She cannot place the letters. Hester smiles about a memory where a man she did not like kissed her at the Hut 6 Christmas party and Claire told her how to handle it. Hester



thought learning German would be her salvation to a more interesting job, but it has not been. She hears a noise downstairs. She finds two officers from Welfare looking for Claire. One man goes upstairs to search. They ask her all types of questions about Claire. She thinks to herself how stupid and silly Claire is, but she does like her as a person. Claire is extravagant and someone to notice. Her presence is there, even though she is not.

In Part 6, Jericho is busy trying to supervise on how to crack the code. Jericho also reads three months of Shark decrypts to bring him up to par. He keeps thinking about Claire. He thinks of how crazy he is to keep her documents. Logie tells him he told Skynner about the plan, but not about Jericho continuing to work there. He keeps calling Claire's father and either gets a busy signal or the phone just rings. He calls him at work. Edward Romilly, Claire's father, works at the Foreign Office. Jericho rings the German Desk. The secretary says he is not there.

Jericho stays away from strangers and lets him into the guesthouse. He has a visitor. It is a man from the Foreign Office named Douglas Wigram. They go upstairs to Jericho's room to talk. Wigram quizzes Jericho on Claire's whereabouts. Jericho tells him everything he knows—almost. He quizzes Jericho on his relationship with Claire, asking him personal questions that Jericho does not like or answer. Wigram says Claire spent time in Berlin due to her father's assignment there. He asks Jericho about his colleagues and cracking the code. He says the Germans will not give up and that Enigma may be unbreakable. He leaves and Jericho burns Claire's documents.

## Chapter 4, Kiss: Part 4, Part 5, Part 6 Analysis

Jericho goes to the Black Museum, which is up in the mansion. The Black Museum represents a secret place where things are hidden. These dark secrets are found in the cellar. Only Jericho has access to them at the moment and only he knows where to look. Jericho has all the power at this moment, even though he is about to be fired. Jericho's motivations though are to save his job to find Claire and to figure out if she is a spy or not. He is about to lose his job, but he is still motivated by love.

Hester Wallace symbolizes the opposite of Claire. She has none of Claire's qualities such as being beautiful and silly. Hester is religious, pious and she feels women are strong. She tries to learn German to advance her job, but her plan does not work. On the contrary, Claire speaks German fluently and has access to the German Book, thus giving her a great amount of power.

The British military treats women as second-class citizens. This is direct social commentary by the author. The women figures in this book all try to fit into a male-dominated world and it is nearly impossible. The men do not think they are smart enough to handle the exciting and challenging jobs. Claire is given a clerical job with the German Book, but everyone thinks she is just a silly girl filing papers. No one can believe she may actually understand the codes and use them to her advantage. When Claire goes missing, her female boss says she probably just overslept at a man's

house. That is the first explanation given. Thus females are mere sexual objects or secretaries. When Claire searches through Jericho's things, he finds it cute and endearing at first. He does not assume she has the intelligence to understand what she is looking at. In Britain in the World War II years, women are not taken seriously in the workforce or at home, as Robert Harris, the author, says in the book.



# Chapter 5, Crib: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3

## Chapter 5, Crib: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 Summary

In Part 1, Hester goes into Claire's room and looks through her makeup. Makeup is a luxury in England during the war. Women go to extremes to look beautiful such as making lipstick out of beetroot and mascara out of shoe polish. Hester puts on Claire's makeup, something she usually would never do. She looks in the mirror and sees her reflection. She is unexcited.

In a flashback, Claire remembers how she got hired to work at the Park. She won a crossword puzzle contest and from there, she was ordered to work for the government communication headquarters. She had to go. The male crossword winners, who placed lower than her, received the cryptanalyst jobs, but she, the grand prize winner, only received a clerical job. Her work day involves being bossed around by men who are not as intelligent as her. It is a silly job where the women clerks swoon over the handsome cryptanalysts. Hester composes lists all day long.

Back in present time, she goes into her job at Hut 6. Her male boss gives her a ton of orders before she even removes her coat. She speaks to him in private about her request for a transfer. He is annoyed. She says she has been learning German and he said that speaking German would make a transfer likely. He suggests she takes off a couple days with him. He wants to have sex with Hester, but she tells him she would rather die. He calls her a bitch.

She goes to her work station and thinks about Claire and ADU. The other women do their jobs mindlessly, but Hester is too intelligent for her job and she is bored. Claire used to make fun of the other women whom they worked with. Claire made fun of Hester's boss whom she never met. Claire had quite the sense of humor. Hester misses her. Claire loved to describe everything as boring. Hester thinks about ADU again and tries to secretly slip in the Index Room.

In Part 2, Jericho is on his third day at the guesthouse. He has almost gone to the Foreign Office a couple of times to tell them everything he knows. But something stops him. From his window he sees two policemen and a dog. He believes they are searching for Claire. He gets out his telescope and sees there are four men and two dogs. There are probably many more in town. Jericho receives a letter. It is from Hester who wants to meet at the church. He meets her that evening. She asks him why he chose the letters ADU. He says she does not want to know. She gets insulted because she thinks he is being a typical man and treating her as unintelligent. Finally, he tells her that ADU is the call sign on a series of four intercepts stolen from Hut 3. It is what was in Claire's secret documents. Hester asks why Claire would help the Germans and Jericho says he does not know. He believes the Germans know Enigma is being broken.





In a flashback to earlier that day, in the Index Room, Hester finds a ledger with ADU. ADU is the call sign of a German Army Signals Unit. It is based in the Ukraine, under the direction of Wehrmacht. She copies the information and leaves the Index Room. She goes to the Reference section and asks the clerk to reference the information for her. Hester is scared the clerk will check up on her. Instead the clerk tells Hester she has never seen anything like this. The file Hester asks for is empty.

Back in present time, Hester tells Jericho this information. He says it is a low target, but there are several complications. Hester tells Jericho that the Reference clerk showed her that the serial numbers had been reclassified and withdrawn and that all enquiries should be addressed with the director general. The date on the slip is March 4. She researched and found nothing recorded until March 4 when four interceptions came on that day. Jericho does not know what to make of it. He looks at Hester's notes. This key is broken nearly every day. Hester says Claire was behaving oddly before she disappeared.

Jericho says he does not understand why Claire stole the cryptograms. He says someone must know something about it because that person must have broken the traffic and translated it. Claire is jealous because she figured she knew Claire well, but she does not. She feels like she would be like Jericho if she had the opportunity to go to university. Her parents only sent her brother.

Hester goes back to her work and tells her boss that he was right. She does not want a transfer, but she does want to go to the intercept station. She wants to go alone, but will tell him all about it one evening when she returns. She infers that she will have sex with him, even though she only wants permission to go to the interception station to solve the mystery surrounding Claire. Her boss agrees because he thinks Hester will have sex with him when she returns.

Jericho and Kramer talk. Kramer says they can use a Turing machine, or the machine that helps cipher code in calculations hundreds or thousands of times faster. He says the government is making a super machine to do this as well. Nothing will ready until much later because of money. Kramer says he is going to London, so Jericho asks to borrow his car. Kramer agrees. Jericho finds out that Kramer knows Claire, but does not know how well.

In Part 3, Jericho must remember how to drive. He does and drives off. Policemen are everywhere. Hester gets in the car. She slides down in the seat so no one sees her. They pass a police checkpoint, and afterwards, she sits up. They drive to Beaumanor, which is the interception station. They finally become friendly and address each other by their first names. Beaumanor Hall is a huge, countryside home. They meet the major, who is kind to them. They go to the interception station of the Eastern front. All women work there, listening in to interceptions. They intercepted everything until they were not allowed to the week before. Hester's boss is the one who gave the orders to stop the interception. He did not give a reason. They meet a woman who listens to the interception in man's Morse code. Then two copies of the interceptions are logged and



filed chronologically. The woman distracts the major and Jericho purposely drops his scarf.

He goes back to get his scarf on the way out. The major hesitantly lets him go. He searches for the files. The woman comes up behind him and asks if he is making sense of this. He says yes. She puts the scarf around his neck and he leaves with the files.

## Chapter 5, Crib: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 Analysis

Hester symbolizes the repressed woman of World War II England. Women of that age were not given the opportunities of today. They were seen as feminine figures that were not as intelligent as their male counterparts. Hester resents this inequality. Unlike the other frivolous women who mindlessly do their jobs, Hester is very intelligent and she wants a challenge. She wants more in her life than to find a man and look pretty. She finds the attempts to look beautiful as silly and over-the-top. For example, she says women use shoe polish as mascara. Once Hester puts makeup on, she is unexcited. Her new look symbolizes submitting to the female stereotype of the time period. This saddens her. Thus Hester is a true feminist for World War II England. However, as a feminist, she does not survive well in this world. She does not use her feminine wiles or her beauty. Instead she downplays her looks. In contrast, Claire used her beauty to get what she wanted. Hester uses Claire as a model and uses her feminine wiles and beauty to charm her male boss and receive permission to go to the interception station. This is a major transformation for Hester, since she does not believe in these female games. But in order to get what she wants, she must play them like all the other women.

Kramer somehow knows Claire. This foreshadows that he may be in on the mystery with Claire. Kramer is an outsider in this world. He is an American. He believes the system is corrupt and says so in an aforementioned chapter. Kramer represents the hero character because he does not seem afraid of the authorities. He is American, so he can be seen as a character of dominance. But Kramer keeps a low profile, choosing only to voice his concerns to Jericho in private. Kramer may be the key to finding Claire.

The woman at the interception station represents another intelligent, repressed woman during World War II. However, unlike Hester, she lets the man figure it out. She protects Jericho and helps him, but she maintains her role as just an interception operator. She is not willing to step out of that role. Thus she represents the norm of English, female society. Meanwhile, Hester secretly steps out of her woman role, but no one knows about it except for Jericho. This foreshadows it is only a matter of time until Hester must leave the female role entirely to solve this mystery's in a man's world.



## Chapter 5, Crib: Part 4, Part 5

### Chapter 5, Crib: Part 4, Part 5 Summary

In Part 4, the major does not want them to leave, but they have to go before people get suspicious. Jericho must return to work that night. They take another small tour with the major who asks Jericho what he does at the Park. Jericho says he works in cryptoanalytics, but he cannot say his division. They drive off and Jericho says the major is probably calling now to find out about him.

Jericho has the documents. He compliments Hester on how well she did. They stop in the forest and read the log sheets Jericho has stolen. Hester recognizes one signal as coming from Berlin. He notices the call sign in Berlin changes. It is the call sign of Gestapo headquarters in Berlin. They try to construct a thesis. The German army sends signals to the Gestapo in a Russia-front Enigma key. That has not been done before. Hester says it is highly unusual to stop interception. The cryptologists always tell them to intercept everything because it is the incompetent people who mess up the signals and that is how they can break the codes. Hester's boss must have received higher orders to stop the interception. He probably forgot to give the orders immediately and the signal was sent out without crypt. Claire must have seen the virgin messages and hidden the documents. It was the perfect disguise because Claire was not supposed to read the messages. Her boss told Jericho that Claire seemed more attentive lately. Jericho realizes Claire stole them to read them.

Claire needed help from someone with access to Hut 6 and who could look up the Enigma settings for Vulture, the German key. Claire had to have an accomplice who was skillful at using the machines. Jericho remembers that when he broke into their cottage, there were a man's prints in the snow. If only he had seen this man.

Jericho must go back to work, but the car will not start. It finally starts and he and Hester drive. Hester gets the newspaper but it does not have a missing person's report on Claire. Hester thinks about Claire and why she would steal the cryptograms. An idea pops in her head. The prints from the man who was in the cottage when Jericho broke in, recognized Jericho's voice and left. He told Claire that Jericho had been there. She figured Jericho took the documents and was going to turn her into the authorities. So Claire fled. Jericho asks Hester about all Claire's boyfriends. She lists only the ones at the Park and it is a long list. Kramer is on that list, but Hester says he was only a friend to Claire. Hester says Claire never mentioned Jericho, but talked about the other boyfriends in a negative way.

They speed past the police because Jericho has the stolen log sheets. Hester would have to steal settings so they can crack these codes. It is too dangerous though. Jericho must find Claire's accomplice. Hester gets out of the car and they go their separate ways.



In Part 5, Jericho thinks about what he is going to say to Kramer. He and Hester agree to act normal. He should go to work on time and so should she. He hides the cryptograms in the lining of his overcoat. Hester goes back to her cottage. It has been ransacked by the police and others to find Claire. She thinks about what a scary day tomorrow will be. In Hut 8, all of the cryptologists are nervous. Skynner comes in to wish them luck. It is a decisive night in code history. Logie hands out copies of the Short Signal Codebook, but to Jericho, he gives the original. Jericho says they will need 30 contact reports to break this code. That would mean eight to nine German U-boats signaling. Midnight comes with no excitement. The cryptologists eat and fall asleep.

## Chapter 5, Crib: Part 4, Part 5 Analysis

The reader and Jericho begin to realize Claire is definitely not a simpleton. She, like Hester, is an intelligent woman who wants to be challenged. The only thing she finds not boring is the cryptograms she stole. She deviates from the norm by reading and stealing these cryptograms. She joins in the female ranks, like Hester, to be seen as feminist and a powerful, female figure. The book begins to take a turn to where the females seem to be in charge of the situation. They almost know more than their male counterparts. Claire also treats her male interests like a man. Instead of making an emotion connection with each man, Claire simply uses them and tosses them aside. She speaks negatively of them and makes fun of them. Therefore, she exhibits typical, crass male behavior when dating. The interesting part is that the men seem to accept the tables being turned on them. Again, it is Claire with all the power, not the men.

Even Jericho accepts Claire's treatment of him as a fact. He is not surprised to hear about all her boyfriends, though he may be hurt, but tries to hide it. Jericho, a mathematical genius, is usually ruled by logic. But when it comes to Claire, he submits to her spell, like all the other men. For Jericho, love is one area of his life that is not logical. Jericho represents the stage of love young often accompanied by confusion. Though Claire dumps him harshly, he still will not turn her in. Either he is a fool, or he really loves Claire unconditionally.



# Chapter 6, Strip: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3

## Chapter 6, Strip: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 Summary

In Part 1, Bletchley Park knows everything about German U-boat 653. The night Jericho and Claire spent together was the night this U-boat slipped into a French naval port. 653 joined 10 other U-boats in the patrol. It had 12 torpedoes and fired four of them. The commander messaged on March 3 that the U-boat would not return. The cryptologists could read the code up until March 9 when the Germans changed their weather codebook. It was a Shark blackout. The Allied forces could not see anything anymore.

On March 16, 653 has no heat. The only torpedo left is defective. It is time to go home. A submariner watches through the periscope. He sees a quick flash of light. It is someone lighting a cigarette. They set off the alarm. They have caught up to the Allied convoy. 653 comes out its emergency dive and the submariners sit quietly to track the convoy. It is far ahead of them, but 653 sees the convoy in the distance. Enigma turns on.

In Part 2, messages begin to come through in Hut 8. Logie sends a few cryptologists home to rest, but Jericho remains. One person tracks the convoy's course while the others try to crack the code. They find that German U-boat headquarters orders all their submarines to the attack zone. They tell the convoy commander what is happening. Signals come in, but they cannot crack the code. Jericho remembers Enigma's single weakness: no letter is ever itself i.e. A is never A, B is never B, etc.

Four U-boats now shadow the convoy. Jericho feels personally responsible. He tries to crack seven signals from the U-boats. He is focused on the task, forgetting about Claire. The cryptologists do not stop for lunch or dinner. They focus on cracking Enigma. The convoy makes an emergency turn to the southeast. But the convoy keeps running into German U-boats coming to attack. The convoy is as good as dead. The cryptologists now have 10 signals from five U-boats.

Hester has hardly slept. She tries to think of where the record of settings is kept. She goes through all the different rooms and realizes it is in the Machine Room, where the cryptanalysts work. She makes a first attempt to enter the Machine Room, but it does not work. The second attempt works. There are actually no machines in the Machine Room, only desks, wire baskets of signals and shelves of files. She knows no one in there, but then she remembers Don, a man who placed lower than her in the crossword puzzle contest but received the better job. She goes back to Hut 6 and his boss questions her about the interception station. He says he knows Jericho took her there and is not happy about it.

The ocean buzzes with signals. Jericho has 19 contact signals. Logie takes Jericho into his office. Jericho looks haggard because he has hardly slept. Logie gives him a



Benzedrine tablet to keep him awake. Jericho takes it. Logie cannot let him rest because he needs Jericho to crack the code. Logie tells him Wigram is looking for him.

Logie comes in with a bottle of scotch and says it is for the first cryptologist who comes up with a menu for the codes. The bottle is from Skynner. 10 U-boats are in contact. Jericho says he needs the Germans' weather report. He gets it right before there are no more signals. Meanwhile, Hester has her evening meal with the other girls in her hut. She thinks about how to talk with Don. She leaves and goes to talk with him.

The commander of the convoy forgets to signal his second change of course. He now has no protection for 1000 miles in the sea or the air. The first torpedo hits the convoy.

In Part 3, the police raid Jericho's room. The police inspector looks for Wigram, but is mad he cannot find him.

## **Chapter 6, Strip: Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 Analysis**

Jericho's motivations change drastically in the first half of Chapter 6. Instead of focusing on Claire, he focuses on the signals and possible convoy attack. When the U-boats edge closer, he feels personally responsible. He is now immersed in the crisis, unable to let his mind wander. Thus Jericho's logic returns and his love for Claire is on the backburner. Jericho needs to be guided by logic at this point if he wants to crack the code and find Claire. Relying on his heart does not work in this situation. As it turns out, it does not work with the situation with Claire either. To work by emotion is not a good motivation. To work by logic works the best for Jericho, since that is all he usually knows, and as a mathematical genius, that is how he has come so far in life.

Logie gives Jericho a Benzedrine tablet. He presents the cryptologists with a bottle of scotch. Both things symbolize possible contamination of the mind. Is Logie providing them because he cares for the cryptologists, including Jericho, or is he simply in on the plot. His motivations are extremely unclear at this point. Both the tablet and scotch foreshadow that Logie may be behind this entire plot. Is he trying to drug Jericho and poison him with alcohol, since Jericho is the cryptologist that will most likely crack the code? The reader does not know. But the possibility is there.



## Chapter 6, Strip: Part 4, Part 5, Part 6

### Chapter 6, Strip: Part 4, Part 5, Part 6 Summary

In Part 4, Jericho carries the bombe, or machine used to crack codes. It is heavy and futuristic-looking. The bombes are prepared for Shark. There are 12 working bombes in total. The drums on the bombes turn and the readings on the drums would be checked and tested. The bombes are there to give the cryptologists the Enigma settings, but it has not happened yet. The real work begins. They must construct another weather codebook. This entails a rigorous process of taking the meteorological data from the convoy and weather signals surrounding the U-boats. They must match them together and test for new patterns. The war against Enigma is ongoing. Logie says he is returning to his home to sleep. He releases a few others as well, but not Jericho because he is too important. Logie gives Jericho the keys to the Black Museum and tells him not to forget his prize, the bottle of scotch. He opens the bottle and they drink to Jericho's future. Jericho says he does not want the scotch.

So far a freighter and a cargo ship are on fire in the convoy. They sink to the bottom of the ocean. The third boat is on fire and keeps circling. Half the crew is lost. It is a horrible attack. The convoy will continue to be tracked as each ship goes down one by one. The people onboard just wait their turn to die. U-boat signals begin to pick up. Jericho leaves. Benzadrine and scotch cloud Jericho's mind. He goes down the cellar to the Black Museum and replaces the codebook. He has the idea of putting the stolen cryptograms there, but then realizes it is a bad idea. He has a hard time leaving. In the Black Museum are insights into the enemies' brains. He finds an Enigma bombe that is in perfect condition. It lights up. He types the cryptogram and the letters C-L-A-I-R-E spell out.

Hester convinces Don to find the file for her in the Machine Room. He believes her whole story. He is very eager to help and asks to have a drink sometime. Claire meets Jericho at a phone booth at midnight. She tells him the numbers are on the phone. He says to meet him there again at five. She sees this as a victory. She reprimands herself for thinking it is a victory. A huge car comes toward her.

In Part 5, Jericho opens the naval station safe. He puts everything before him: maps, codebooks, the stolen cryptograms and key settings. He has five hours before he meets Hester. He has the Enigma machine and he begins to decipher the last cryptogram. He looks at the days before and how many rotors of the machine were used. He sorts the rotors by day. The Enigma has a simple set up. Someone types the letter A and that illuminates the letter X. Jericho still cannot figure it out. Either the message has been superenciphered, which means it has been double-coded, or Hester wrote it down wrong. He believes it is Hester's mistake. He gets frustrated as he types because nothing cracks the code.





Hester rides in a car with Wigram. There are three other cars, an ambulance and an army truck. Hester is surprised by all of this. There are at a lake. There is a sign reading it is a deep, clay pit. Hester gets scared. Wigram shows Hester Claire's coat, high heel and white knickers (old-fashioned underwear), which has blood on them. He finally shows her a brick with blond hairs attached. Wigram says a man lured Claire out to the lake, killed her with a brick and threw her body in the water. Hester cries and says she wants to go, but Wigram says she must stay.

Jericho retypes the cipher. He slides off the rotors and the code begins to make sense. He begins to read the messages. It says yesterday there were human remains discovered near Smolensk. Meanwhile, Wigram tries to get Jericho's whereabouts through intimidation and kindness. Nothing works. Hester will not say a thing. His driver says a boat has been found with blood.

Jericho ciphers messages now. He has cracked the code. He must re-plug and re-rotor Enigma each time. The Germans discuss corpses upon corpses of Polish military victims. Jericho is excited he cracks the code. Other messages say in the Katyn forest, there are hundreds of dead, Polish military victims. They believe 10,000 dead in total. Jericho is shocked at this immense secret. 10,000 Poles had been killed by their allies, the Soviet Union. It makes sense that the Registry was cleared. Another message says chief names of Polish offices to come. Jericho does not write down any, but sees one name: Pukowski.

In Part 6, Jericho locks up the Enigma and the Black Museum. He leaves no trace he was ever there. Jericho does not want to be found yet. He has many questions to ask. His cryptologist colleague, Puck, slept with Claire, probably right after Jericho did. She agreed to help Puck. Puck wanted to avenge his Polish father, Pukowski, who was killed in Smolensk. Jericho believes Claire brought Puck the cryptograms and then Puck killed her. Jericho goes to the phone booth at five and waits for Hester. She does not come. He knows Wigram must be looking for him. He tries to leave Bletchley Park, staying in the shadows and moving. He realizes he has five minutes until the guard returns. He hoists himself over the fence. He goes to Puck's home. The landlady opens up and lets him in. His room is empty. The back door is unlocked. He follows Puck's large footprints, the same footprints from the night of the cottage, to the train station.

Jericho runs and sees Puck at the station platform. Jericho's Benzedrine wears off. He climbs aboard the train, topples into the compartment and blacks out. The train starts. He heads to Liverpool. He rips up the cryptograms. He finds Puck sitting with a foreign man. Jericho sees what happened that night at the cottage. Puck realized Jericho took the cryptograms and thought Jericho was going to turn Claire in.

Jericho asks what Puck did with Claire. Puck has a gun. A train guard sees the gun and lunges for it and gets shot in the stomach. Puck points the gun at Jericho. Jericho waits to be shot. Puck says he killed Claire and apologizes. Puck leaves. Jericho follows him. Someone shoots Puck five times and Jericho two times.





## Chapter 6, Strip: Part 4, Part 5, Part 6 Analysis

Jericho's logic has taken over. It helps him crack the code. Jericho also thinks creatively, which is how he cracked the code last time. Therefore, Jericho is a creative person in his own right despite his logic. This creativity enables him to unlock a gigantic, military secret. Hester and Claire also have creativity as well. They use creative means to survive in a man's world. For example, Hester uses her crossword puzzle win to advance herself in society, even though being a clerk is not the job she desires. Claire uses her creative intellect to read the codes at her job, which is unusual because the other girls do not read the messages or recognize anything as unusual. Thus, creativity, logic and intellectual cross gender barriers. The author seems to provide social commentary saying these traits are not male-dominated. Women are equally as gifted, but it is only their feminine form that puts them on a lower level.

Additionally, Jericho needs Hester and Claire to crack the codes and solve the mystery. At first he sees Claire as a sexual being, but then she turns into a person that will lead him to crucial information. Jericho does not see Hester as a sexual object at all. She is also a vehicle for information. Thus the male figure needs the female in this world. She is not just sexual or cute; she is a catalyst for change.

As Jericho leaves Bletchley Park, he leaves behind a world of power. Thus he symbolically loses his power. The Bensedrine wears off. Jericho becomes incredibly tired. He blacks out when he gets on the train. When Jericho is at the Park, he is awake and alive with motivation. But once he leaves for good, he becomes a normal human being. All his defenses are down. He cannot maintain the slick, cryptologist persona he has in the Park. On the outside, he loses everything. He loses his connection to Claire, Hester and his work. This powerlessness symbolically comes to a head when Jericho is shot and goes down. He is a fallen figure in the outside world. This foreshadows that Jericho may have to reconstruct his persona in the outside world to survive. He is no longer the heroic cryptologist. He is simply Jericho. He needs to figure out who Jericho is without cryptology and only then can he survive outside of Bletchley Park.



## Chapter 7, Plaintext: Part 1, Part 2

### Chapter 7, Plaintext: Part 1, Part 2 Summary

In Part 1, Hester has a memorial service at the church for Claire. She hopes Jericho comes. She knows he is alive because Wigram says so. Jericho enters the church, emaciated and gaunt, held up by Wigram.

Jericho was shot in the back and shoulder. He lost a lot of blood. There is an infection. He is in isolation in the hospital so he does not talk about Enigma. Logie visits and tells him 400 Americans have died. They break Shark because of Jericho.

Puck's father was Polish. Puck escaped to France and became a cryptologist. He made friends with a low level, Portuguese diplomat. Puck discovered his father was killed by the Russians in Smolensk. Puck wanted revenge against the Russians so he helped the Germans. Puck gave classified info to the Portuguese diplomat. As a result, the Germans changed their weather codebook. Jericho saw Puck and the Portuguese diplomat on the train. They discussed how a German U-boat would pick up Puck. The U-boat was intercepted. Claire is dead. The diplomat will hang. Puck died from the bullet wounds.

Jericho whispers to Hester after the memorial service that Claire is not dead.

In Part 2, Jericho gets on the train and is supposed to go to Cambridge, but Jericho gets off and reroutes to London. He talks with Claire's father, Edward Romilly. The real Claire died at six years-old. Edward agreed to let the Foreign Office use his daughter's name for the woman spy, who everyone thought was Claire Romilly. It was Wigram's idea to put a spy, the woman, in Bletchley Park. Wigram let her go to see what Puck would do with the secret info. The woman spy is alive. Jericho gets on a train and finally sleeps.

### Chapter 7, Plaintext: Part 1, Part 2 Analysis

Though Hester resists being a woman, she turns back to her womanly roots when she arranges Claire's memorial. She becomes a caretaker of sorts for Claire's memory, similar to what a mother would do for her deceased daughter. She fills the role of a secretary, or someone who makes the arrangements for the memorial. Though Hester is extremely independent-minded for a woman of World War II England, she knows she must return to fill the female role once in a while. And it comes naturally to her. To be a strong woman is not only to resist the female role, but at times, it is to embrace it when necessary.

Jericho must begin a new life. He starts out the book as a mathematical genius. He fulfills his role by cracking the code once again. But this part of his life is over. It is time for Jericho to take a self-journey to realize who he is. He thought he knew everything, but in reality, he did not know much. He did not even know his love interest, Claire, was

not really Claire. As the book ends, Jericho is on a train to nowhere, which is symbolic for Jericho starting a new life.



# Characters

## Tom Jericho appears in Enigma

Tom Jericho is a mathematical genius. He is 26 years-old. He graduated from Cambridge University. Jericho is a very logical person who lets pragmatism rule his life. He only has one emotional part of his life and that is Claire. He dated and fell in love with Claire. He told her everything, something he never did before. Then he receives a breakup letter from her. Jericho is devastated. However, he must focus on his job as a cryptologist, or one who cracks codes for the British navy. He resides in Bletchley Park, the government communication headquarters. He works in Hut 8, trying to crack the notorious Shark code. The pressure is on Jericho. He almost cannot handle it. The first time he broke the code, he had a breakdown. This is time he is near a breakdown because he has not slept in days and has fallen ill. Still, Jericho continues on, working hard to crack Shark once more.

Jericho does not talk much. He agrees to mostly everything as long as he is left in peace. When Claire disappears, he begins to break down emotionally because he breaks into her cottage and finds the stolen cryptograms. But he does not tell the authorities. He keeps the information to himself. He also keeps on task on cracking Shark. He is the star cryptologist and the British navy's only chance of cracking this code. He does not break under the pressure. He cracks the code using his logic. He continues to love Claire, even though she had many boyfriends beside him. Jericho leaves the Park, a broken man, but a man who needs to move onto a new life.

## Hester Wallace appears in Enigma

Hester Wallace is Claire's roommate and works at Bletchley Park. Hester has a large chip on her shoulder for being a woman in a man's world. Hester wants to be taken seriously and have the same responsibilities at work as her male counterparts. Hester is extremely intelligent, smarter than her male bosses. She won a crossword puzzle contest and was recruited as a clerk for the Park. But the men that placed lower than her in the contest received higher-ranking jobs as cryptanalysts. Hester is jealous of these men because she believes their job is rightfully hers.

Hester cannot relate to the usual, frivolous women. She does not converse with them or desire to be part of their group. She does not wear makeup or make herself look beautiful. She finds all these things silly. Yet Claire did all these things and Hester found Claire endearing. Hester lives before her time, since she is a feminist and strong woman. When she finally wears makeup and looks nice, she sees it as a means to get the information she needs. Hester is a religious woman who believes strongly in the Bible and Christian virtues, often using Bible passages to calm her. Hester is a daring person as well. She helps Jericho unlock the mystery of Claire's disappearance, going against the authorities. Hester does not believe in the authorities because they do not



treat women equally. Hester finally displays womanly emotion when she is told Claire is dead. She weeps openly. But after she deals with these emotions, her logical side returns, and she takes on the maternal role of planning Claire's memorial.

## **Claire Romilly appears in Enigma**

Claire Romilly is a beautiful and silly woman. She is a Nordic blond who works in the Park. She was Jericho's girlfriend, but dumps him. She has many boyfriends. She disappears, but has stolen cryptograms and hidden them in her room. In actuality, Claire was a British spy put in the Park. Her real name was not Claire because she took on the identity of a deceased girl.

## **Alan Turing appears in Enigma**

Alan Turing is an old professor of Jericho's. He was Jericho's mentor at Cambridge University. He recommended Jericho for the cryptologist job. He invented a cryptology machine.

## **Guy Loggie appears in Enigma**

Guy Loggie is Jericho's boss at Bletchley Park. He believes that Jericho is the best cryptologist and brings him to the Park to crack Shark.

## **Jimmy Kramer appears in Enigma**

Lieutenant Jimmy Kramer is an American. He tells Jericho that the British navy has a major secret. He was friends with Claire.

## **Ethel Armstrong appears in Enigma**

Ethel Armstrong is the owner of the boarding house where Jericho stays in the town of Bletchley. She demands strict behavior from her boarders, has strict rules and makes the boarders give her their rations coupons for buying groceries. She hoards the food for herself. She spies on all the boarders.

## **Leonard Skynner appears in Enigma**

Leonard Skynner is the head of Jericho's department. He hates Jericho. When Jericho tries to punch him and misses, he almost fires him. Skynner is a cocky and annoying boss who makes speeches about nothing.



## **Walter Weitzman appears in Enigma**

Walter Weitzman is a German Jew who the Nazis forced out of Germany. He works at the Park. He helps Jericho find out important information about Claire. He does not like undermining the authorities and only helps Jericho that once.

## **Douglas Wigram appears in Enigma**

Douglas Wigram is an agent for the Foreign Office. He questions Jericho on Claire's whereabouts. In actuality, he put Claire at the Park to find the spy who has been giving information to the Germans.



## Objects/Places

### Enigmaappears in Enigma

Enigma is a machine that generates many different codes. It has one flaw: it does not decipher a letter as itself. For example, the letter A would never emerge as an A.

### Sharkappears in Enigma

Shark is a code used by the Germans. It is impossible to crack.

### Bletchley appears in Enigma

Bletchley is the town where Bletchley Park is. It is a depressing, English town in the middle of nowhere.

### Bletchley Parkappears in Enigma

Bletchley Park is the government communication headquarters for the British navy. It is also referred to as "the Park."

### Cambridgeappears in Enigma

Cambridge is a town in England known for prestigious Cambridge University. Jericho studied there and was recruited into cryptology there.

### blackoutappears in Enigma

A blackout is cryptology speak for when a code cannot be cracked and the enemy's messages cannot be intercepted.

### Hut 8appears in Enigma

Hut 8 is the cryptologist headquarters of Bletchley Park. It is where Jericho and the other cryptologists work.

### Cryptogramappears in Enigma

A cryptogram is a coded or encrypted message.



## **Beaumanor Hall appears in Enigma**

Beaumanor Hall is the interception station where messages from the enemy are intercepted and logged.

## **U-653 appears in Enigma**

U-653 is the German U-boat that finds the Allied convoy and starts to send Shark messages via Enigma. U-653 begins the groundwork for the attack on the convoy.





# Themes

## Feminism

Feminism is a major theme in the novel. Hester is a feminist figure. She steps out of the woman role often and she does not feel comfortable as a woman. In World War II England, Hester feels women are treated unequally. For example, she won a crossword puzzle contest and was recruited to work as a clerk in Bletchley Park. Yet the men who placed below her in the contest receive the cryptanalyst jobs. As a feminist, Hester believes jobs should be awarded on talent and intelligence, regardless of sex. However, society does not believe what she does. Women are secretaries and clerks in Bletchley Park. They are there to serve the men and look pretty. However, Hester rejects wearing makeup and dressing up. Unlike the other girls, she does not go to extremes and use shoe polish as mascara, for example. She chooses to be a woman who does not get by on her looks.

Though Claire is not in the novel much, she is a feminist figure. Everyone thinks she is beautiful and silly, but in reality, she's a highly-trained and intelligent spy. She fools everyone, including the men who sleep with her. She acts like a man the way she treats her boyfriends. She uses them and discards of them immediately.

Another feminist figure is Mrs. Armstrong, the boarding house owner. She has her own business. She runs the business by her rules and demands strict behavior from her guests. She orders around everyone, including the men. In this society, she is a woman with power and she uses it frequently.

## Love

All the characters in the novel are in love in some way or another. As the novel opens, the reader finds out Jericho is in love with Claire. He loves her deeply, though he does not express this love outwardly. When she dumps him, he is heartbroken. When he finds out she hides the stolen cryptograms, Jericho does not turn her into the authorities because he loves her so much. Though he only dated her for a month, he loves the idea of Claire as a perfect human being. He cannot betray this love, so he does not betray her.

Hester loves Claire deeply. She cannot stand the other girls at Bletchley Park, but for some reason, she adores Claire's silliness and wit. When Claire disappears, Hester feels like she has lost a sister. She goes into Claire's room and thinks of her memory. She puts on her makeup. When she thinks Claire is dead, Hester cries openly for Claire. She organizes a memorial service for her. Hester is motivated by her love for Claire.

Jericho, Hester and Claire are in love with the excitement of a challenge. In fact, Claire usually does not show any interest in her job, but once she finds the untouched cryptograms, she shows enthusiasm. Hester loves the excitement of fulfilling her dream



of having a job a male would have. Going on a search for the naval secret enables her to have a job like a man. Finally, she is challenged intellectually, and she is excited by this challenge. Jericho loves to chase after the dual mysteries of the naval secret and Claire's disappearance. Both motivate him to be challenged, and since he is a genius, he loves anything that will challenge his intellectual abilities.

## Logic vs. Emotion

Jericho is a very logical character. Logic dictates every part of his life. He works in a field that is dominated by logic. The way he goes about his job is extremely logical. He reads over all documents and files to find any clues. He does everything by the book. But then Claire dumps him. Logic starts to go out of his life and his emotional side takes over. He takes a swing at his boss. He cannot handle his emotions at work. He pines for Claire. Instead of decoding messages, his mind wanders to Claire. He does not turn her into the authorities, even though he finds hidden cryptograms under her floorboards. Logic finally returns when he absolutely needs it. When he must crack Shark at the eleventh hour, his mind focuses on the logical solution as he figures out Enigma. When he finds out Claire is not really Claire, he puts the pieces of evidence together. When Jericho needs to solve a problem, logic prevails. When he needs to express himself, emotion prevails.

Hester is logical as well. She dresses sensibly and does not wear makeup. She does not like silliness or pandering to man. She focuses on her doing her job, even though she does not like it. However, when Claire disappears, emotion takes over. She begins to wear makeup to attract men who can provide information about the mystery surrounding Claire. She openly weeps when she thinks Claire is dead. She worries about Jericho. She organizes a memorial service for Claire to express her heartfelt emotions. Logic returns to Hester when absolutely necessary. When she needs to help Jericho or con her boss, she uses logic. Hester uses logic to gain knowledge. She uses emotion to express herself, much like Jericho.



# Style

## Point of View

The novel is told from a third person point of view. It is a close, third person of the main character, Tom Jericho. The reader sees into Jericho's thoughts, emotions and how Jericho solves problems such as cryptograms and the mystery surrounding Claire. The reader sees locations through Jericho's eyes, since he describes them in details, such as the depressing Bletchley Park. However, the reader does receive an omniscient, third person point of view as well. To describe places in a general way or to explain a complicated concept or cryptology machines or codes, the omniscient point of view explains everything to the reader. There is also a third-person point of view for different characters that is close, much like Jericho. For example, with Hester, the reader sees into Hester's head as she analyzes situations and people. She is a critical character, and the reader sees how critical she is through this close, third person point of view.

The story is told through exposition and dialogue. Exposition details the places and locations the characters work in and visit. It also describes the technical concepts of cryptology and how the cryptologists work. The reader receives a sense of Bletchley Park and its inner working through exposition. There is a lot of dialogue in the novel. Characters break down difficult cryptology concepts to each other. They also explain the situations going on and how to solve the problems at hand. The dialogue keeps the book readable to break up heavy concepts and technical, cryptology language.

## Setting

The setting of the novel starts in Cambridge. Jericho goes back to his alma mater, Cambridge University. He stays in the university boarding house, which is average and filled with nosy servants. He then goes to Bletchley, which is a depressing, English town in the middle of nowhere. He works as a cryptologist in Bletchley Park, the government communication headquarters of the British navy. The Park is divided into sections called huts. The huts are separate from each other. They are small and lack any amenities. For example, for meals, the workers eat sea creatures that taste disgusting. The Park overall is not a nice work environment. Jericho works in Hut 8, which is average as well. At the Park, there is a mansion. Jericho visits the Black Museum in the mansion, which holds all of the old files from Hut 8. It is a dark cellar room. When Jericho is not working, he stays at the boarding house. His room is small and below average. The meals the owner cooks are the only nice thing about the boarding house.

Jericho and Hester visit Beaumanor Hall, which is the interception station. It is located in a field and has tons of wires running across. It has a dark, government feel to it. Hester and Claire's cottage is run-down, but has two floors. Their bedrooms are on the top floor. The kitchen is on the bottom floor. Claire's room has perfume, makeup and other girlie things. Hester's room is boring and only has German books. At the end of the



novel, Jericho leaves on a train to nowhere. It is not described. The reader is only told he is leaving Bletchley for good.

## Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is very formal. It is written in proper, British English. The language is not without rules as the author writes in a grammatically perfect way. The sentences follow grammar rules and complex rules of literature. There is not much slang, except for a few British expressions such as "old love." Technical language dominates the novel. It is technical language surrounding cryptology and espionage. The author breaks down the concepts for an average reader, so s/he can understand everything. The cryptology language can become dense at times, but dialogue breaks up the density.

The language overall is tight and well-constructed. Robert Harris, the author, describes a lot of scenery. He describes outside scenery much more; for example, he describes when the sun sets or the type of day it is or the weather. However, he does not describe indoor locations as much. For example, the inside of Bletchley Park seems like an average place. Kramer, the American character, informs the reader the huts are below average and the British navy does not allocate money for the Park. But he informs the reader in a snippet of dialogue. Instead, the author uses language to convey the technical jargon and complex concepts of cryptology and espionage. Language is powerful when Hester speaks because she is an intellectual figure in a man's world. She challenges the notion of being a woman in Bletchley Park. Hester shows the reader the challenges and despair of being a woman in World War II England from her language and overall viewpoint.

## Structure

This novel is comprised of seven chapters. Each chapter is divided into parts. The longest chapters have six parts. Each chapter has a number. It also has a name, which is a cryptology term and its definition, describing the theme for each chapter. Chapter length varies from 37 pages to approximately 78 pages long. The chapters have long paragraphs that describe complex concepts surrounding cryptology and espionage. The novel spans on a minute by minute basis as the mystery unfolds. Large gaps of time are only an hour or so when a character works or travels.

The plot of the novel is complex and has espionage subplots. The novel is about Tom Jericho, a cryptologist, who must crack Shark, the code used by the Germans. He must solve the mystery of his ex-girlfriend, Claire's disappearance, with the help of Hester, Claire's roommate.

The novel's pace is fast and moves very fast at times due to the mystery. It is an accelerated speed for a modern day reader, but for a reader of espionage novels, it is normal. It is a difficult read with some difficult, technical terms interspersed throughout the story. There are many cryptology terms. The plot engrosses the reader into this

world of cryptology and espionage. The story moves in linear fashion with many flashbacks of the characters' pasts and flashbacks of Claire. For example, Jericho flashes back to his days at university, his first days at Bletchley Park and when he meets Claire. Back story is heavy in regard to Claire, since she is not in the novel in present-time. The novel is a difficult read, but entertains as a whole.



## Quotes

"They've closed off our way into Shark, Tom. They've blacked us out again." Chapter 1, Part 3, p. 34

"Bletchley didn't use human beings. It used bombes." Chapter 2, Part 2, p. 62

"These signals had never been broken. Their secrets were intact. They were virgin." Chapter 4, Part 2, p. 136

"My daughter's movements are as much a mystery to me as they seem to be to you." Chapter 4, Part 2, p. 155

"As quiet as the grave." Chapter 4, Part 4, p. 168

"'The secret things belong unto the Lord our God.' (Deuteronomy 29: 29)." Chapter 5, Part 2, p. 219

"There's always someone else." Chapter 5, Part 2, p. 225

"A girl like Claire would probably see more operational detail about the German armed forces than Adolph Hitler." Chapter 5, Part 4, p. 257

"She stole the cryptograms to read them." Chapter 5, Part 4, p. 257

"Later it would transpire that Bletchley Park knew almost everything there was to know about U-boat 653." Chapter 6, part 1, p. 279

"The Enigma came on with a hum." Chapter 6, Part 1, p. 284

"The ocean was alive with signals." Chapter 6, Part 2, p. 291

"It never ended, this battle against Enigma." Chapter 6, Part 4, p. 302



## Topics for Discussion

How does feminism play a major role in this novel? Who do you see as feminists? Who do you see as anti-feminists? Are any of the male characters pro-feminist, and if so, how?

The reader does not see much of Claire in the novel. What kind of person is Claire? Is she silly or highly intelligent? What does Claire represent as a woman? How does she compare or contrast to Hester?

Do you see Jericho as a hero? In what parts of the novel is he a hero? In what parts, is he a failure? Does Jericho represent the everyman or is he exceptional? Explain your answer.

How does the war affect these characters individually? How do they each cope with the war and its consequences? When do the characters get emotional about the war?

How do the characters express love? Where do you see love in the book? How do the men express love differently than the women? Is love the dominating emotion of the novel, or is it something else entirely?

What is the woman's role in World War II England? How does she fulfill her role best? When is it necessary to step out of the woman role, and when is it necessary to be a woman?

The idea of war looms over the novel. How does war affect a society? When people do not go to war, such as those in Bletchley Park, how are they affected? Can their experiences with war relate to any current war today or the Iraq War?