

Faithfull Study Guide

Faithfull by Marianne Faithfull

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Plot Summary

Faithfull is the autobiography of Marianne Faithfull. Throughout the book, she discusses her days spending times with the Rolling Stones. From the middle of the 1960s until 1970, she had a relationship with Mick Jagger. She was perhaps best known for her relationship with this famous figure. During part of that period, they lived in a house together. Marianne discusses the details of her relationship with Mick and the reasons for their eventual breakup. She spent a good part of this time on drugs. Further, Marianne was extremely sexually promiscuous and she writes candidly about her sex life with various members of the Rolling Stones and other people as well.

The book starts as Marianne discusses her childhood years. She was raised by her mother Eva von Sacher-Masoch. Her mother had roots as an aristocrat and had been a ballerina. Her mother's great grandfather was Leopold von Sacher-Masoch who wrote the book "Venus in Furs," which coined the term "masochism." Marianne's father was a British officer and also a psychology professor. Her parents split up when Marianne was quite young. She ended up living with her mother in a very poor neighborhood in England. She always knew that she wanted to be some sort of artist.

When Marianne was only about 19, she began traveling in artistic circles in London. She also met her first husband John Dunbar. Shortly thereafter, she also gave birth to his son. Marianne was discovered by the producer of the Rolling Stones Andrew Oldham. She met him attending a release party for an up-and-coming artist. Andrew brought Marianne immediately to Olympic Studio and she recorded the song "As Tears Go By." The song was written by Keith Richards and Mick Jagger.

When she split up with her husband, Marianne stayed for some time with Brian Jones from the Rolling Stones and his girlfriend Anita Pallenberg. Anita and Marianne became life-long friends. Marianne describes the details of her drug use and various escapades spending time with the Rolling Stones and their entourage. As Mick Jagger's girlfriend, she was under constant media scrutiny. The stress from the press attention provoked her to hide more and more deeply in the world of drugs.

When Mick Jagger and Marianne broke up in the 1970's, she lost custody of her son. During this time, her career and her health spiraled downwards. She lived on the streets for two years doing heroin. Eventually she got enrolled in a National Health program where she could get her drugs legally. Luckily, she was retrieved from living on the streets and brought back into the world of music. The constant drug abuse lowered the pitch of her voice and changed it significantly. She began recording new albums and released several. Marianne was still abusing drugs, but she was happy to have found her own identity, apart from solely being known as Mick's girlfriend. Perhaps Marianne's most popular record was Broken English.

The final chapters of Faithfull describe Marianne's eventual success in getting off of drugs. Part of the success stemmed from being at Hazelton rehab clinic in Minnesota for 6 months. While she was at the clinic, she met and fell in love with Howard Tose who



was also a drug addict with severe mental issues. Howard ended up committing suicide. This event deeply impacted Marianne and further helped her understand her drug dependency. Marianne candidly discusses her drug addiction and the various realizations that helped her break her dependency.



Childhood Living

Childhood Living Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 1 of the book, Marianne discusses her family history. Her mother came from an aristocratic background and married her father to get out of Austria during World War 2. Due to the fact that Marianne's grandmother was Jewish, they were in some danger during the war. Her father Major Glynn Faithfull was an unusual man. He was devoted to Utopian causes and set up a school for social research. As an Austrian, Marianne's mother Eva did not quite fit into British society.

When Marianne was about 12, her parents split up. She went to live in Reading with her mother and grandmother and they were quite poor. Her mother sent her to a local convent school, just so that she could have more free time to spend with her sick grandmother. Marianne converted to Catholicism to fit in. She also involved herself with music. One of her few friends at the school was Sally Oldfield.

Marianne's mother told her tons of fantastic stories. Marianne writes, "She remade reality as she wanted it to be." Included in the stories were tales of Spanish moors that were their ancestors. She found it challenging to hear these tales of her family of noblemen and their castles when she had no money. Eva was trying to make Marianne proud of her background.

Marianne joined a theatre group. She also knew innately that this work would be important in her life. Eva also assumed that Marianne would be an artist. Marianne sang folk music in coffee houses and clubs. She also had a little record player and listened to music. Marianne writes, "Rock n roll at that time meant Billy Fury and guys with bleached blond hair." She also went to London a great deal for cultural experiences like opera and jazz festivals. She writes that she tried to put together her persona out of various diverse elements.

In Chapter 1, Marianne also discusses her interaction with the opposite sex. She met her first love when she was 17. His name was John. She describes him as extremely hip and cool. He even talked about killing himself. He seemed to know everyone that you would want to know in London. The people she met created the scene in London, so Marianne got a chance to be part of the creation of the scene.

Chapter 1 Analysis

Chapter 1 of Faithfull discusses Marianne's early years. She was profoundly influenced by her family's aristocratic past. However, Marianne found it an unsettling juxtaposition that she was raised in such poverty. Marianne finds her niche when she starts to get involved in London's artistic scene. These were years of great cultural and artistic activity.



Another particularly influential event that takes place during the first chapter of the book was Marianne's meeting with her first love John Dunbar. This relationship was love at first sight. John was an intellectual studying at Cambridge and Marianne was quite taken by this aspect of his personality. Throughout her life, she had a deep love for books and learning. John was also tied into the artistic community. His parents were filmmakers and he was part of the "in crowd" in London.



As Tears Go By

As Tears Go By Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 2 of the book, Marianne details her first meeting with Mick Jagger. She was at a record party for a teenage star who was managed by the Rolling Stone's manager. At the party, she was with her boyfriend John. The Rolling Stone's producer Andrew Loog Oldfield approached her and asked her if she could sing. A week later she got a telegram to go to Olympic Studios. Andrew gave her the critical direction to sing close to the mike. She writes, "it was an invaluable piece of advice. When you sing that close to the microphone, it changes the spatial dimension. You project yourself into the song." She was given the song "As Tears Go By" to sing. This later became a huge hit. Marianne reflects that she could not fathom how Mick wrote such a deep song when he was only 20. She said it contained a great deal of foreshadowing about their relationship.

Andrew took Marianne to Newcastle for a promotional TV appearance. She stayed overnight in a hotel because they were too tired to drive back. At this time, she had sex with an Etonian pop star named Jeremy Clyde. Jeremy explained to her that love and sex were two separate things. She also had her first lesbian affair at that time with an Indian girl.

Marianne was shocked by the success of her song "As Tears Go By." Marianne's husband John was cool, collected, and tolerant of Marianne's pop career. Marianne left school during her last term and disappeared from her mother's life, heading off to live in London.

Marianne had an odd relationship with her newfound fame and the press. For example, she decided that start saying the first thing she thought of during interviews. Marianne writes, "The more outlandish I was with the press, the more Andrew loved it." She got the reputation of being part aristocrat and part bohemian. Due, in part, to her girlish looks and her young age, Marianne was still portrayed as an innocent naive figure. She felt that her real personality didn't suit this image at all.

In general, Marianne felt that Andrew was too overwhelming as a manager. She describes him as the mad hatter. He was very flamboyant and difficult to understand. During this period, she recorded a few new songs that were failures including Blowing in the Wind. She left Andrew for his partner Tony Calder. Andrew was hurt. Marianne felt as though she needed to distance herself from the Stones. The press was already reporting that she was the Rolling Stone's girlfriend when in truth she had barely spoken to them. Shortly after, she left Tony for Gerry Bron who was a "Straight, boring Jewish show-biz agent." She was trying to escape exotic people. Gerry Bron turned out to be a fool and booked appearances for her at horrible venues.



At the end of the chapter she describes her engagement to John Dunbar. She felt like he was the one person who would really understand her. Of course, an upheaval in the world of pop followed once she announced that she was getting married. She even had Roy Orbison's bass player smash up his hotel room in protest.

Chapter 2 Analysis

Once she left home, Marianne describes how things in her life started to fall apart. Marianne describes herself as "too young and sheltered." She had one night stands for over two years. Clearly, Marianne was having too much sex at too early of an age. She began to very much distance herself from her body and was quite flippant in who she slept with.

During Marianne's earliest days as a pop star, she also felt that there were so many stupid interviews, radio shows, photo sessions, and events. She felt quite uncomfortable with the insipid questions. During the actual performances, Marianne was terrified. This was the explanation for why she remained so still when she sang. At the same time, she also found she felt strangely safe on stage. No one could get near her.



What's a Sweetheart Like You Doing in a Place Like This

What's a Sweetheart Like You Doing in a Place Like This Summary and Analysis

Chapter 3 of *Faithful* describes Marianne's pregnancy in 1965. She was thrilled to be having a baby. In fact, she believed the baby and new husband would ground her. She was 18 and he was 22.

Much of this chapter describes how she had the chance to meet Bob Dylan who she worshipped. John was away at Cambridge, and Marianne found herself at the door to his room. She felt intimidated by everyone. They seemed to be extremely hip. She did, however, feel comfortable talking to Allen Ginsberg as they had in common interest in intellectual matters.

When she went to Bob Dylan's hotel room, she describes the most dynamic person in the room being Bobby Neuwirth. He also gave her her first joint. She describes Dylan as "simply the mercurial, bemused center of the storm, vulnerable and almost waiflike." She spent days at the Savoy Hotel with him and his entourage.

Finally, she ended up alone with Bob. Marianne was terrified of this happening. Dylan was quite taken by Marianne and spent time explaining his songs to her. But she found him extremely daunting. She writes "As if some god had come down from Olympus and started to come on to me. It was, I imagine, what Leda must have felt." When Dylan found out that Marianne was pregnant and about to get married, he ordered her out of her room. He also ripped up the song that he had written about her. Bob Dylan was extremely angry that Marianne rejected his advances and chose her husband over him.

Later John and Bob Dylan met. Bob Dylan could not believe that he had been turned down for a student. He told Marianne that she was making a mistake.

Chapter 3 Analysis

Marianne describes giving birth to her baby as one of the most beautiful moments of her life. She looked at him and thought maybe there is a god after all. After the instability of the rock scene she was being exposed to, she definitely had the urge to retreat to some form of normalcy.

In this chapter, it is clear that Marianne is torn between her desire for a stable life with her son and husband and her urge to spend time with rock stars and drugs. She felt herself uncontrollably drawn to Bob Dylan's hotel room. She obviously was exhibiting a great deal of fascination for rock stars and their "god-like" status.



Courtfield Road

Courtfield Road Summary and Analysis

Marianne started going to Courtfield Road a year after her son was born. She felt the need to leave the flat. She also felt trapped. She began to find her husband John and his brainy friends to be tiresome. Plus, John wouldn't allow Marianne to smoke pot at home, so she also enjoyed hash at Courtfield Road.

Marianne describes her time staying at Courtfield Road with her friends Brian Jones and Anita Pallenberg. She said it was a home away from home. Brian Jones was a member of the Rolling Stones and Anita was his dynamic girlfriend. They lived together in a bohemian setting and did lots of drugs. Marianne writes, "Anita and Brian were like two beautiful children who had inherited a decrepit palazzo." Marianne does point out that Brian was physically abusing Anita. She always had bruises on her arm.

Mick Jagger would drop in to Courtfield Road from time to time, but he was horrified by this exhibition of truly bohemian living. Keith Richards did spend a great deal of time at Courtfield Road doing drugs with his friends. At this point, Marianne had not yet become interested in Mick romantically. However, she did hook up with Brian and during this period of time.

John and Marianne were beginning to become estranged from one another. John was irritated that Marianne would spend a ton of money when she went out. At this point in her life, she was a shopping addict. He also was growing increasingly irritated that she was spending all of her time at Courtfield Road.

Chapter 4 Analysis

Marianne analyzes some of her various thoughts and feelings during this period of time. She writes, "The more arcane aspects of adulthood had eluded me: sex, money, social life, parenthood." In fact, Marianne points out that she felt that she was still a child. She felt like all her attempts of being an adult were like a child playing make-believe.

She also describes that she was not looking for happiness, but that she was looking for "the Holy Grail." Marianne liked her domestic life, but at the same time, she felt it was very dull. In the atmosphere at Courtfield Road, there was intellectual chit chat, drugs, aristocrats, and naughtiness. Marianne was highly intrigued by this lifestyle and ultimately it won out over her domestic life that she had set up for herself.



Colston Hall

Colston Hall Summary and Analysis

Marianne admits that there were better things she could have done at the age of 19 than to get into a relationship with Mick Jagger. In this chapter, Marianne describes her first real conversation with Mick. It was about one of Roman Polanski's films. She describes Mick as being very romantic and sensitive. She writes "Mick was affectionate, interesting, funny and very attentive." She also noted that Mick was far less messed up than Brian.

She also received a beautiful letter from John begging her to come back to him. She literally threw it out the window. Clearly, at this point, she was done with John Dunbar and ready to move on with her life.

She describes taking acid with Mick and the other members of the Stones. On one occasion, she decided to leave to go home. Keith called to tell her she had broken the bond of the group. Marianne didn't realize that there was a bond established when you take acid with a group. She promptly returned as Keith requested.

That night, she ended up having sex with Keith. She writes, "my night with Keith was the best night I've ever had in my life, as a matter of fact." She writes in Faithfull that she had always been a little in love with Keith. Keith ended up brushing her off, and telling her that Mick was crazy for her. Marianne was disheartened, as she really wanted to be with Keith more than Mick. However, she dutifully took his suggestion and began dating Mick.

Chapter 5 Analysis

One interesting aspect revealed in Chapter 5 was that Marianne initially was more intrigued by Keith Richards than she was with Mick Jagger. Keith and Marianne managed to never let Mick find out about the fact that they slept together. Once Marianne had been told that she was supposed to be Mick's girlfriend, she easily gave in. This shows that she was very easily influenced as to who she should be with. There was nothing in particular that immediately drew her to Mick. She really would have been as happy dating Keith.



Harley House

Harley House Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 6, Marianne describes the early days with Mick, which were quite happy. For example, she writes that going shopping with Mick was similar to being with another girl. This was the kind of exuberance of the first stages of a love affair.

Mick was still dating Chrissie Shrimpton when he began his relationship with Marianne and so things started slowly. The relationship really picked up steam in Italy where they lived together in a little villa. Marianne and Mick took off on a boat together, which was quite romantic. They also gave an interview together to the Daily Mirror. Some photos of Marianne and Mick were taken for the story, and they went on to be very famous images. Marianne explains that this same visual image came back to haunt them later.

At Harley House, Mick and Marianne spent a lot of time alone. Mick would play music for Marianne and she would show him books. Mostly the drugs that they did consisted of acid and pot. She said that there were no hard drugs around. She explains that Mick wasn't all that into drugs. She explains that as Mick's girlfriend, her life was fair game for the press. She found that factor to be frustrating and stressful. While people felt that her life was ideal, Marianne did not feel completely happy.

Marianne also describes hanging out at the recording sessions in Chapter 6. These sessions were actually social events. During the recording sessions, Marianne and Mick would often go to the top of Olympic Studios and make love.

She explains a bit of rock history about how the song "Ruby Tuesday" was created. Brian was initially just playing a little melody on the recorder. This melody turned out to be the famous riff in "Ruby Tuesday." Ultimately, the collaboration for Ruby Tuesday was the last one involving Brian. Brian was becoming estranged from the group more and more. Marianne speculates that perhaps Brian could sense that and wanted to create a memorable song for his legacy. She found Brian's descent during The Stone's rise to fame be confusing and unexplainable.

Chapter 6 Analysis

In Chapter 6, Marianne moves into Mick's Harley House in London. This is where he previously lived with his last girlfriend Chrissie. Marianne compares her relationship to that of Mick and Chrissie. It was always quite dramatic and vicious. Marianne points out how you can hear the ferocity in some of their early records. She writes, "It never occurred to me that whatever happened to Chrissie would eventually, mutatis mutandis, happen to me. Mick and I had a very different relationship, of course, but certain things would inevitably repeat themselves." Marianne finds it very interesting that Mick had certain patterns in his relationships with women that would repeat themselves again and again.



Also in retrospect, Marianne reflects that she ended up being the source of songs, just like Chrissie had. Chrissie was painted as the "vapid, boutique and disco-haunting bitch who gets her due. I was to become the tormented specimen, the butterfly writing on the pin." She found it was flattering, yet unnerving to be featured in songs. Looking back, Marianne clearly sees a great deal of foreshadowing in her life. At the time, she was young, doing lots of drugs and unable to see the big picture.

Redlands

Redlands Summary and Analysis

By 1967, there were people in the government who saw Marianne's group as "enemies of the state." Diplomats starting planning for the Rolling Stone's downfall. Marianne points out that Mick holds her responsible to this day for much of what happened. He said she talked about too many dangerous things and it attracted negative attention. The Rolling Stones and their friends were accused of being drug addicts and anarchists. Marianne points out that the Rolling Stones were too disorganized to cause any kind of anarchy.

As Marianne describes the chain of events that led to the arrest of several members of the Rolling Stones, it is clear that she believes there was a conspiracy. She said that David Schneiderman was brought in from California with lots of LSD and they were set up to be arrested. She and her friends from the Stones went to a party in Redlands, which was Keith's house in Sussex. Clearly, the authorities knew in advance where they would be and that drugs would be involved. They ended up getting arrested while they were still on acid. Of course, at the time, since they were on drugs, they could not take the arrest seriously and even laughed at the cops. The cops took various objects as evidence.

Chapter 7 Analysis

During and after the arrest, it became clear that she felt like an outcast from society. She also felt above the law with her friends who were so wealthy and famous. Marianne writes about the police officers, "They were one genus and we were another, like the two races in HG Wells's Time Machine, the ones who live under the ground and the ones who live above."

Aftermath

Aftermath Summary and Analysis

After the drug bust, Marianne writes about how quiet things were. Charges were brought against her Mick, Keith, and Robert Fraser. They were released on bail. As it turned out, The Stones didn't want Marianne to testify, and she was pissed off about that. She didn't want to look like a helpless victim of the bad boys. However, ultimately, Mick took the blame for Marianne and she said that was very noble.

Meanwhile, Mick was devastated to be tried and sent to prison. He even broke down crying in front of Marianne. She told him to pull himself together, but later regretted saying that. She did mention, however, that some of his turmoil of being in jail ended up in the very famous Satanic Majesties record. The press was obsessed with Mick's behavior in prison. They analyzed what he ate, smoke, and wore. Mick ended up with 3 months in jail.

Finally, a Times editorial changed the view of the Stones and they began looking like victims. The article said that the case was flimsy and raised questions about the British Judicial system. Soon the Stones were looking like scapegoats. She said that Mick's dandyish clothing worked in their favor, making him look like persecuted royalty.

During this period of time, Keith Richards became more famous as well. He seemed like a folk hero. People also came to believe that he was a symbol of the demonic and his imagery worked to his advantage.

Chapter 8 Analysis

As Marianne views the arrest of the Rolling Stones in retrospect, she realizes that the overall assault backfired. It ended up empowering the Stones. It made them seem equal in power to the government. Soon they were on the level of the Beatles. For Marianne, however, the impact was very different. She began to get hate mail. She said that that is why she always wanted to live alone after this. She didn't want anyone to influence her.

As the Rolling Stones became more and more famous, Marianne was feeling more insignificant. She was very confused about the way she was constantly portrayed by the media. She didn't want to be portrayed as an innocent figure who just followed Mick around and didn't have a mind of her own. Marianne's inner turmoil grew during this period and eventually led to her use of heavier drugs.

Marianne describes how her mother was another casualty of what happened at Redlands. She began drinking heavily and not going to work. She couldn't deal with the scandals or the shame. This started her mother's serious battle with alcoholism. Clearly, Marianne felt extremely guilty about her effect on her mother, and wanted to cover up her emotions with drugs.



Chez Satanic

Chez Satanic Summary and Analysis

In the ninth chapter of *Faltherfull*, *Chez Satanic*, Mick gets out of prison and gets back to making music. Marianne and Mick's relationship was going fine. She flew out to Genoa to surprise him while he was on tour. She waited for him in his room and found that he didn't even acknowledge her. He was totally possessed. In fact, he walked over the the bend and hit her. She said it was just like he was taken over by a demonic force. She said that frenzied power caused many deaths in the 60s. But Mick typically channeled his demons into his music. Nevertheless, Marianne was shocked to be beaten by Mick.

On the other hand, Mick wanted them to get married and have children. Everyone agreed that it would be a good PR move. Marianne wasn't even divorced yet, but also she didn't want to get married again. John did show up yet again to try to get Marianne back. He was very upset he never saw his son too. Mick had virtually adopted Marianne's son, but Nicholas missed his father. On one occasion he even took a bus to go off and see his father.

Marianne also describes taking off with Anita and Brian to visit Morocco. They decided it made sense to go somewhere where it was normal to smoke. They smoked a lot of hash. Marianne also performed in a play of *Three Sisters* in London with Glenda Jackson. However, more turmoil was occurring in Brian's life and his drug use was getting out of control. Brian began to get shut out of the relationship. In fact, Anita started dating Keith, who was appalled that Brian had been beating her. During this time Marianne and Anita became closer friends.

Marianne believes that the acid Mick took in the 60's really helped him. He got less petty and guarded. He was much more open. However, in more recent interviews, Mick has stated that he regrets this time and says he was not really himself.

Chapter 9 Analysis

Marianne writes that one of the reasons she was so troubled while dating Mick was that she learned to disregard herself as a sexual entity. Mick was the only sex object and Marianne was feeling lost. Perhaps in hopes of reclaiming her sexuality, Marianne made a soft core porn movie called *Girl on a Motorcycle*. During the filming, she had an affair with Tony Kent. She didn't think Mick would find out, but he was sending Marianne roses daily, so she assumed he expected that she was cheating on him. Marianne loved having affairs because they were secret, unlike her life with Mick.

Through the Looking Glass

Through the Looking Glass Summary and Analysis

Mick and Marianne became friends with the actor James Fox and his girlfriend Andee Cohen. Mick was intrigued by James and visa versa. Marianne was attracted to Andee. Marianne had bought a tremendously large bed and they all hung out in it. Mick was constantly having antics pretending that they were all having sex. However, one night Marianne and Andee made love in front of Mick and James.

Brian kept the Stones from touring too much in 1967 and 1968. Mick begun getting restless. He even had the idea to be a Labour Member of Parliament. When that idea faded, he decided to become a moviestar. In 1968, Donald Cammell approached them with his idea of a reclusive rock star and a gangster. The movie was Performance. At first this all sounded like a good idea. Everyone would be playing themselves. The movie had Anita, James Fox, etc. But even before shooting began, the film was full of incestuous relationships, drugs, and other negative elements. Marianne wanted to stay away and moved to Ireland with Nicolas and her mother. Marianne was also pregnant. Mick came to visit every other weekend. Donald's method of directing was to set up a vortex full of disorienting things.

During the shoot, Marianne felt she did not have anything to be worried about. She didn't suspect that Mick and Anita would be sleeping together. Now she sees Anita as the victim of this. Mick found the process of shooting to be bewildering, and painful compared to performing onstage. However, Marianne was in denial and trying not to think about it. After all, she had her own affairs too. Keith had to avoid the set of the movie because this was too painful for him. He thought it would break up the band. Instead he focused on his music.

After the film shoot, their usage of drugs took a "quantum leap." Also Anita went crazy after this for years. She said that their world really collapsed. The movie changed everything for them.



If I'm Mary Shelley, Where's My Frankenstein?

If I'm Mary Shelley, Where's My Frankenstein? Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 11, Marianne details information about living with Mick at Cheyne Walk in Chelsea. They established a domestic life. However, the sexual side of their relationship had pretty much stopped. They went to bed and read together instead of having sex. She called it a "agreeable intimacy." Marianne also writes about how there were long periods of boredom.

She describes that she did not mind that Mick was sleeping with men. She was still having sex with Saida, who had been her lover for years. She did not feel as though having a girlfriend was being unfaithful. Marianne began to have more affairs with men as well. She said that Mick did not have any idea how promiscuous she was.

Marianne and Anita were taking acid a lot and dressing up. Marianne says that she was in love with Anita and they had sex together. She writes about how she had more in common with Anita than she did with Mick. They loved to talk and read to one another.

During this period, Marianne tried her first line of coke. She also did smack that year. She even did it right before her entrance in *The Three Sisters*. She felt that heroin was different from other drugs in that it ceased all sensation. Shortly thereafter, she was invited to play Ophelia in Tony Richardson's production of *Hamlet*. Tony was also in love with Mick and cast Marianne in order to get closer to him. She started dating Tony Nicol who played Hamlet. He also was a dealer to the Stones. She said that Mick also never found out about this affair, but if he had it would have reinforced his negative view of women.

Marianne said she became Ophelia to an unhealthy extent, and she even considered drowning herself in the Thames. Drugs were destroying her. She was even getting a hit of heroin from Tony before her mad scene as Ophelia. She said that drugs gave her an excuse to not get involved in life.

Marianne wrote a song called *Sister Morphine*. She said that it is a parable of a junkie's last hours. She wrote it after she had only taken smack once, but she was thinking about what it would be to be an addict. However, by the time the song came out, Marianne was the character in the song due to her increased dependency on drugs.

When *Sister Morphine* came out, it was successful, but it caused Marianne to lose her way even more. At this time, she began to consider that her whole career had been just a fluke. "At best I was a curious anomaly in the mechanics of pop. As a performer I was only average."



When the song came out, it was immediately yanked off the shelf. Presumably, it was too corrupting. She said this factor reminded her of being busted for drugs and brought back bad memories. Also the record companies did not want her to break out of her ridiculous innocent image.

Marianne writes in Faithfull, "Sister Morphine was my Frankenstein, my self-portrait in a dark mirror. But, unlike Mary's, my creation wasn't going to be allowed to see the light of day." She felt that this was her inner vision and that it would go unrecognized. Things began to unravel as a result of this.

Chapter 11 Analysis

In Chapter 11, Marianne explains how Mick was very English in his behavior. This means that you do not really talk about emotional things with other people where "personal feelings and anxieties are taboo." Keith was like that as well. Marianne said that she was also at fault as she held back in discussing her feelings.

One important thing that was left unspoken was the fact that Marianne had a miscarriage. She was too anemic for the baby to thrive. Marianne felt really guilty about this and began turning to drugs to block it out. Yet, she was surprised how quickly Mick recovered from the loss. The fact that Marianne felt like she had to deal with the miscarriage on her own really ate her up inside. Mick wrote "You Can't Always Get What You Want" during this period of time. She says he knew they couldn't be together much longer and could only express it in song.

In this chapter, Marianne also describes how Brian died after he drowned in his pool. Brian felt like no one ever cared about him. Marianne found his death really troubling. She identified with him, especially since she had a similar pattern of drug addiction. She was extremely troubled by Brian's death and felt like the rest of The Rolling Stones moved on and forgot about him too easily.



Suicide by Mistaken Identity

Suicide by Mistaken Identity Summary and Analysis

Mick and Marianne had been cast in a movie called Ned Kelly and they flew to Sydney. During the trip Marianne was still deeply troubled about Brian's death. She was taking so many drugs and she forgot both where and who she was. She looked in the mirror and didn't recognize herself. She said she saw Brian in the mirror. She thought Brian was her twin.

She overdosed on pills thinking that she should be dead too. She even tried to open a window to commit suicide, but lapsed into a coma that lasted for 6 days. During her coma, she felt that Brian was beckoning to her from the street. She imagined that he had brought her to him so he could have someone to talk to. Brian told her "Death is the next great adventure" and invited her to join him. However, she realized that there was a reason that she didn't die. She thought that there were things that she had not done in her life that she wanted to accomplish.

Meanwhile, Mick took her to the hospital and she was finally revived from the coma. In retrospect, Marianne believes she had some brain damage from the episode. Shortly after Marianne's coma, Andrew Oldham issued a greatest hits album of her songs to try to cheer her up.

Marianne's mother showed up and tried to cure her with religion. Marianne saw a psychiatrist who tried to help her. She writes, "In families there's always one person- almost always a woman- who is designated to be the mad one. In my circle I was the one elected, and since we lived our lives on the pages of the tabloid press, I became famous for it."

Chapter 12 Analysis

Marianne took the 150 sleeping pills out of revenge. It was the only way she could make her point that people weren't taking Brian's death seriously enough. She was thinking "I'll show you" when she took the pills. It seems as though she was trying to not only get revenge on her friends, but also on herself.

Let It Bleed

Let It Bleed Summary and Analysis

In Chapter 13, Let it Bleed, Marianne discusses this album which she says is her favorite. She mentions that the song You can't Always Get What You Want is about her. Also she believes that the album was ahead of its time. It was prophetic.

Meanwhile, The Beatles were getting less popular, and the Rolling Stones were actually getting more famous. After Let It Bleed came out, people thought that Mick was a disciple of the devil. She said that Mick liked the glamor of the devil, but never got into magic seriously. He only dabbled in magic like he did in drugs.

Chapter 13 Analysis

During the time that Let It Bleed came out, Marianne's relationship was still falling apart at a fast pace. She felt like Mick's inability to separate himself from his image was painful. Everything was about his image. She writes in Faithfull that she felt like she was living with a vampire and he was preying on her. He needed to replenish himself with other peoples and souls. She says he got his energy from being around drug addicts. Clearly, the relationship was getting rather unhealthy.



Ahmet's Curse

Ahmet's Curse Summary and Analysis

In the 70's, Mick began to try to live the high life. He was going to different castles and formal dinners. Marianne didn't fit in and felt these people were boring. At one dinner, Marianne took five pills and passed out in her soup. Mick stopped inviting her to go to these dinners. Mick needed someone more glamorous and fashionable. Bianca Jagger better fit this role. Mick felt that he always had to look great and fit a certain image.

She discusses one very important moment in her life. She heard Mick and Ahmet talking at their house at Cheyne Walk. Ahmet was the head of Atlantic Records. Ahmet was saying that Marianne could "jeopardize everything." He explained that she would drag Mick and everyone else down into a bottomless pit with her drug addiction. The company was putting up 30 million dollars and wanted a guarantee that Marianne wouldn't blow everything.

After this conversation, Marianne realized she had to end the relationship immediately. Marianne already felt that Mick was villainizing her. She noticed a pattern in which he made other people the demon and ostracized them. First he had done it to Brian, then to his manager Andrew. Marianne said that once she left, Anita was the next one to be villainized.

Then another turn of events occurred in Marianne's life that was deeply traumatic for her. A vicious court case arose in 1970 with John Dunbar. He wanted a divorce for adultery. Her reputation went downhill. Before everyone had thought she was a helpless victim, but now she was viewed as evil.

Chapter 14 Analysis

Marianne felt her retaliation towards Mick was quite vicious. Since Mick idealized her, she decided to destroy herself to torment him. Looking back, she says that what she would do differently would be not to take drugs. She says that, in part, she think she self-destructed because it was the only way that Mick would release her from the relationship.

She points out that even though people thought she was living a fairy tale life with Mick, she actually cried all the time. No one could understand her misery. It was important for people to believe that her life was blissful. When she left Mick, she said that It was as if I "committed some terrible crime in the eyes of the press and the eyes of Mick and the eyes of the world."



The Wall

The Wall Summary and Analysis

About a year before Mick got married, Marianne met Lord Paddy Rossmore. She describes him as "clever and bookish." She saw being with him as a respectable way out of her relationship with Mick. He was in love with her so she got married to Paddy. He didn't know about her drug addiction. When he found out, he took her to see a doctor. The therapy was to give her Valium. Paddy ended up leaving her after about 9 months. At that time, Marianne let her mother completely take over her life.

Marianne found living without Mick was much harder than living with him. He had been protecting her. She was approached by Kenneth Anger who asked her to be in the film *Lucifer Rising*. She was crawling around Gaza soaked in blood. It further contributed to a fiendish image the media had of Marianne.

During the early 1970's, Marianne hung out in bombed out buildings in Soho. There were junkies and winos. She was still wearing exquisite clothing and looked quite odd. She had wanted to be an addict ever since she read *Naked Lunch*. She writes, "when I was high, however, things didn't seem too bad at all!" In May 1971, Mick married Bianca Jagger. When Marianne heard of this fact, she got extremely drunk. However, she was still on Valium. She ended up getting locked up after passing out in a restaurant.

As a homeless person, Marianne loved the fact that she had no address and nobody knew her. Her home was a wall in St. Anne's Yard. Soho was a very odd place full of junkies and prostitutes. She was happy she never would run into anyone from her old life. No one tried to find her. During this time, her life got even worse. Finally, a friend introduced her to Alexander Trocchi. He got her on the National Health Program. That got her a prescription for heroin pills. She was in a trance most of the day. Every now and then she went home and had a terrible fight with her mother who couldn't bear her addiction.

Meanwhile, John was trying to take Nicholas away and finally managed to get custody. Of course, she lost her son and was seen as an unfit mother. "The saddest consequence of the trial was that Nicholas thought that because I no longer lived with him, I no longer loved him." She didn't see Nicholas for years. Eva also tried to kill herself after losing Nicholas. In retrospect, Marianne felt very selfish as she didn't consider how everything she did would effect her mother.

It was Oliver Musker, an Etonian aristocrat, who saved Marianne at this stage of her life. She said "without him I wouldn't be alive today." One night she decided to go a party in Chelsea. She met Oliver and he immediately fell in love with her. He took her to Bexley hospital to help with her addiction. They were famous for helping addicts. He then went to see her every day to encourage her to get better. Marianne was in rehab for 8 months. Once she was released, Oliver took her to India , Bali, and Singapore. She



knew she couldn't be with him in a relationship permanently, but she had a wonderful time with him traveling and was grateful for his help. Oliver proposed to Marianne, but couldn't go through with it. She knew she didn't fit into his aristocratic circle. "I'm an outsider and I belong on the outside."

Chapter 15 Analysis

Once she left Mick, Marianne's life and mental state declined. She had hatred for herself and the person she became. She felt that her beauty was a curse. She even tore up her face with a razor. She wanted to establish a new identity for herself, but did not know how to do so. She was so overwhelmed by all the events of the past years. All she wanted to do was lose herself in drugs and numb her pain.

On the other hand, Marianne found it fascinating how kind people were to her on the street. She writes, "It was junkies and winos on the street who restored to me my faith in humanity." They cared about her and did not even know she was Mick Jagger's former girlfriend.



Broken English

Broken English Summary and Analysis

In 1976, Marianne met Ben Brierly her second husband. She actually met him looking for smack. They lived together in a flat in Fulham. They didn't have a lot of money and moved into a "squat" in Lots Road. She describes the early days of her relationship with Ben as very romantic.

For a short while, it was a happy time. Ben and Marianne hung out with the punks. She shared the same dealer as Sid Vicious. They moved to a variety of squats. Because they needed money, they approached NEMS the record company who booked a tour for Marianne in Holland. However, they had to put together a band. Marianne didn't feel that Ben was a talented enough musician to be in her band. He was only good enough for a punk band. However, Marianne felt good to be back involved with other musicians.

Ben and Marianne had music and sex in common. She says it was the most passionate relationship she ever had and also the one that caused her the most pain. Ben was constantly cheating on Marianne. He was gorgeous and women were always approaching him. She started to feel very jealous.

One fortuitous event occurred with Marianne's music career. A well regarded music business guy named Denny Cordell got in touch and said that he heard a poem that was perfect for one of her songs. The poet was Healthcote Williams. When Marianne heard the poem, she felt it perfectly reflected her inner anguish. It was called "Why'd Ya Do It." This ended up being one of the most popular songs on her album. Marianne worked with the band for 2 years before they cut the record Broken English.

In this chapter, Marianne goes into detail of the various inspirations for the songs on the Broken English record. She felt this was the album that finally shattered her image of being a perfect doll. She wrote, "Broken English dispelled the cobwebs and let me be an artist in my own right. It was the height of the punk era and Broken English was exactly on the pulse. With my trusty murmurous band i was now ready to conquer the world.

Chapter 16 Analysis

When Marianne finally had the opportunity to make her own records, she started to finally feel empowered. She actually was able to contribute to the songs and the style of music. This was very different from her earlier music career when she was told exactly what and how to sing. Marianne writes, "By the mid- seventies, I had reluctantly come to the conclusion that if I was ever to obliterate the past, I'd have to create my own Frankenstein, and then become the creature as well."

Although Marianne was still doing lots of drugs and in an unhealthy relationship, at least she was able to express her voice through her music. This was something that meant a

lot to her and she got recognition for her talent. Broken English was a very successful record and that meant a great deal to Marianne.



Dylan Redux

Dylan Redux Summary and Analysis

In an earlier chapter, Marianne described how enamored she was with Bob Dylan. She met up with Dylan again in 1979. This was after her album *Broken English* came out.

Dylan was at a low point in his life. His movie was a failure, he was divorced and thrown out of his home. He met up with Marianne at her dealer's flat and was thrilled to see her. Bob said he never forgot when they first met. He had vivid memories of her. He said he always regretted tearing up the poem. In fact, Bob Dylan still had a photo of Marianne from when she was 17.

Chapter 17 Analysis

When Marianne met up with Bob Dylan in the 1970's, she found that Bob Dylan's fascination with her made her nervous. She decided that Dylan seemed very needy. She ended up asking Dylan if he understood her various songs. Then she proceeded to explain them to him. This was an empowering moment for Marianne as she was turning the tables. She wrote that this was, "an evening of respect in my otherwise squalid life."



The Lost Years

The Lost Years Summary and Analysis

Soon everything changed in her relationship with Ben. Due to Marianne's rising fame, he felt that she had more power and control than he did. Marianne's new manager felt that Ben was a liability. Meanwhile, Ben was cheating on her with Christina Monet, the wife of the owner of Z Records. Marianne was devastated. She even walked in on them having sex by accident. She knew her relationship with Ben was over.

Broken English brought them interest from the cops too due to all the bad language. They were busted all the time as the cops were convinced that Marianne and Ben were dealing drugs. Every time the police showed up they were shocked how they were living in squalor. They were continuing to be heavy drug users.

Due to Marianne's success in the US, she and Ben got a flat in New York. Nicholas was 17 and came to visit Marianne. She offered him some coke and he said "Marianne, what are you thinking of? Of course not!" She got a large check from Broken English and started to spend it all on drugs. She spent a good deal of her time in the bathroom.

One day Marianne felt like she had to get out of New York immediately. She left for Jamaica and cleaned herself up. Shortly after, there was a big drug bust involving Ben. He was deported. Luckily, Marianne wasn't involved. Marianne's next album *A Child's Adventure* came out. She said it was her most desperate album. It had a "pervading sense of hopelessness, somewhat masked by the jaunty production."

Chapter 18 Analysis

Marianne's album *Broken English* ended up going platinum. She describes visiting New York to promote the record. During the trip, she felt nervous and yet excited to finally be accepted for who she was as an artist. She said the trip to New York was magical for her. Her music had nothing to do with The Rolling Stones, and yet, people loved it.

However, Marianne's relationship was mirroring her past issues with Mick. The cheating and the drug use was clearly a pattern that she was repeating. However, this time the roles were reversed. Rather than Marianne being frustrated by Mick's success, Ben was threatened by Marianne. While there was some hope in Marianne's life during this period, there was clearly still a great deal of misery.



Howard

Howard Summary and Analysis

Marianne continued living in New York and moved in with a musician Hilly Michaels. She said Hilly was the worst of all the men she lived with. He also looked like Dracula. She also felt that he was partially using her to help his career.

She said her life appeared normal, but every day she was waking up with pain and self-hatred. She said it never occurred to her to stop doing drugs. She writes, "The classic agony of addiction. You can't stop and you can't go on. And that's exactly where I was. The pain of living without drugs was as bad as the pain of living with drugs. When you use drugs in such a willful way, you are transgressing some elemental code."

One day, Marianne overdosed and she went into some sort of coma. Though she was still connected to her identity this time, unlike her coma in the 1960's. Marianne asked herself, "Do you really want to die in this strange place so far from the people who know you and love you and who you love? Is this how you want to end your life?" Her answer to this question was no. She was clearly getting very sick of how ambivalent she was about everything.

Marianne never finished the album she was working on. Instead, she got sent to Hazelden in Minneapolis in 1985. She said, "it was a blast of reality I desperately needed. " This was a serious detox program. She laid under blankets for a week shaking. She followed their program in a dedicated manner and stayed for 6 months. "From the program I learned that although you have to help yourself, if you help only yourself it's useless. The reason you go through these things is so that you can help other people too." She had had a chance to hold a dying boy's hand when she was in Bexley hospital and she refused to. She understood now that she should have done it, as it would have not only helped the boy, it would have helped her as well.

In Hazeldon, Marianne met a guy named Howard Tose. He was a person she really liked and ended up falling in love with him. He was addicted to drugs like Marianne, but he was also a manic depressive and schizophrenic. Marianne began to do better, but Howard was going downhill. He left treatment and would call her constantly. This kind of contact was forbidden by Hazeldon, but Marianne talked to him anyway.

She talks about how intense the therapy was for her. She learned that she felt that she had no story of her own and was only just attached to the Rolling Stones. One day the therapists presented her with one she couldn't handle. It was an exercise about "Destructive Behavior." Marianne left treatment and went to Boston to be with Howard. During this period, Marianne just didn't understand how sick Howard was. They lived together for 6 weeks while Howard stayed in a fetal position shaking. She thought that Howard's problems were from withdrawal. She had the fantasy he would get better.



Meanwhile, Marianne continued to stay off drugs and even got a sponsor to help her adjust to the real world.

When she finally decided to leave Howard and that the relationship could not go further, he jumped out the window and died. Marianne was devastated. At the end of the chapter, she is living in Boston with her mother who is now a full-blown alcoholic. Marianne is sober, but she feels her life is boring. Her mother also finds her dull when she is straight. She realizes that every day is the same without drugs.

Chapter 19 Analysis

Marianne reflects on her relationship with Howard in retrospect in Faithfull. She realizes that since everything had been taken away from her when she quit drugs, she was just clinging onto something familiar through her relationship with Howard. She thought that she had a lot in common with him and didn't realize that he was truly a sick individual.

Once she lost Howard, Marianne began having dreams about having lost someone important. She felt responsible and almost as though she lost a child. At this point, she felt like things were really over for her. She was told by therapists that this was a form of delayed reaction to the trauma. Many of the issues from Marianne's past were triggered by this death. For example, she began to think again about Brian's tragic death.

The issue of self-destruction is discussed in this chapter. Marianne discusses Freud's question, "How can the ego agree to its own destruction?" The answer that she writes is, "The ego can kill itself only if it can treat itself as an object- if it is able to direct against itself the hostility which it harbors towards others." When you are in a pattern of self-destructive behavior, you start to believe that you are made up of two halves. You are trying to get back at yourself and this involves annihilation of one of the halves.



Loose Ends

Loose Ends Summary and Analysis

The last chapter of the book ties up a few loose ends, hence the title "loose ends." Even sober, Marianne continued her artistic career. She began recording the album *Strange Weather*. It was dedicated to Howie. When it came out, one reviewer said, "From Marianne Faithfull, music to slit your wrists by." Recording this album helped Marianne to gain further closure on this relationship. Marianne also was cast in *The Threepenny Opera*, and she got great reviews. Mick and Jerry Hall sent her a bouquet and said, "Break a Leg."

Marianne's mother Eva died in 1990 at the age of 80. She said for the last 5 years of her life, Eva was a very sweet and radiant person. Marianne writes about how her mother loved her work and truly understood art. She even was an admirer of the edgy *Broken English* record. Marianne writes, "She knew the true aristocracy was that of art. All art is a tribute to the Goddess."

Chapter 20 Analysis

During the first year that Marianne was recovering from her drug addiction, she said she had allegorical dreams. They were extremely vivid. She even had a disturbing dream about Mick. She said that she saw a hooded messenger come into her room and tell her that Mick was dead. At that time, the walls began to crumble and fall. She saw a doctor about this dream wondering if it meant she wanted Mick to die. He said that it meant that her foundation had shifted. Marianne was grateful that Mick's influence was a thing of the past.



Characters

Marianne Faithfull

Marianne Faithfull is the author of the autobiography "Faithfull." In the book, she describes her various episodes with drug addiction and also her relationships over the years. Marianne's most famous relationship was with The Rolling Stones' lead singer, Mick Jagger. At times, Marianne's relationship with Mick was quite romantic. However, it also was very unhealthy to both of them in the long run. Marianne was increasingly doing more and more drugs. She describes in the book that she wanted to self-destruct in part to torture Mick. Mick and Marianne were also constantly cheating on one another. Marianne felt as though her personality was being overtaken by her role as Mick's girlfriend. Once she finally ended her relationship with Mick, she fell into a deeper abyss where she used more drugs. However, eventually Marianne was able to pull herself out of her addiction. She finally recorded several albums of her own, and some of them were met with great success. Marianne also loved acting and was in several movies and many plays.

John Dunbar

John Dunbar was Marianne's first love. In regards to her first meeting with John, Marianne writes, "when I saw John it was one of those things where everything else just pales around you." She describes him as being the hippest and the coolest. She had a "beautiful, sensitive face." When she met him, he was in his first year at Cambridge university. His mother was Russian and his parents were filmmakers. John and Marianne got married and had a son named Nicholas. However, as Marianne got more involved with the Rolling Stones, she decided to leave John. She took Nicholas and began living with Mick Jagger. John came by several times to try to get Marianne to come back to him. Eventually, he filed for divorce and gained custody of his son.

Mick Jagger

Marianne left her husband to live with Mick Jagger. He was already the lead singer of The Rolling Stones and a bit of a rock star when she first started dating him. Through their relationship, Mick only became more and more popular. The relationship between Marianne and Mick was extremely tumultuous. They were both taking drugs and cheating on one another. Mick wrote several of his songs for Marianne including "Wild Horses" and "You Can't Always Get What You Want." Eventually, Mick and Marianne split up in 1970.



Major Glynn Faithfull

Major Glynn Faithfull was Marianne's father. He was a British military officer and also a professor of Psychology. Marianne's father and mother split up when she was young, so she didn't spend too much time with him growing up.

Andrew Loog Oldham

Marianne met Andrew at a party at the same night that she met the Rolling Stones. He was the manager of the up-and-coming rock group. He instantly wanted to record Marianne singing. He spotted her star potential. Marianne was invited to Olympic Studio where she recorded "As Tears Go By." Andrew acted and dressed quite feminine and flamboyantly.

Bob Dylan

Marianne was always quite awed and intimidated by Bob Dylan. When she first met him, she was too overwhelmed and rejected his advances. Bob Dylan became very angry and ripped up the poem he had written for her. She later met up with him in 1979. Marianne wrote, "When mortals in Greek mythology encounter the gods, they come away dazed and confused." She always looked at Dylan as some sort of god-like figure.

Chris

Chris was Marianne's adoptive brother. Eva brought him to live with her because his parents were both extremely ill. It was very good for Marianne to have him around, and their relationship was non-sexual.

Brian Jones

Brian Jones was a founding member of The Rolling Stones. He was an extremely talented musician, but he was a tormented person. He abused drugs heavily and also physically abused his longtime girlfriend Anita Pallenberg. Eventually, Brian Jones was estranged from the rest of the Stones. He died by drowning in a swimming pool. Marianne was extremely traumatized by his death.

Oliver Musker

Marianne attributes Oliver for saving her life during her darkest days. He booked her at a hospital to get off dope when she was living on the streets. He was very chivalrous and took her on a trip around the world once she recovered.



Ben Brierly

Ben Brierly was Marianne's second husband. He was a musician who played in a punk band. She wrote "he was funny, charming, vulnerable, and I fell in love with him." When Marianne's career began to improve in the 1970's, her relationship with Brierly deteriorated.

The Baroness Erisso

The Baroness Erisso or Eva was Marianne's mother. She was descended from Austro-Hungarian aristocrats. She was a dancer and actress in her early years, and then married Marianne's father Major Glynn Faithfull mostly to get out of Vienna. Her mother was extremely dramatic and never really fit in in England. Once she split up with Marianne's father, she moved to Reading and was quite poor. Eva ended up becoming an alcoholic.



Objects/Places

Reading, England

This was a very poor area of England where Marianne lived as a child. Once Marianne's parents split up, Marianne moved with her mother to this area.

Adrienne Posta's launching party

In March 1964, this party is where Marianne met Mick Jagger. Supposedly fell instantly in love with Marianne when he saw her. Adrienne Posta was a teenage singer whose record was being produced by Rolling Stone's manager. When Marianne first met the members of The Rolling Stones, she described them as "crass and boorish" in comparison with John Lennon.

Olympic Studios

Shortly after meeting Andrew Oldfield, he invited her to Olympic Studios recording studio in London. Marianne tried singing "As Tears go By, " which was the first song that Mick and Keith had written. The original song title was "As Time Goes By," but they had to change it since that was a song from Casablanca. The song was recorded in a few takes, and they told her she had a "number 6."

Savoy Hotel

This is the hotel in London where Marianne first met Bob Dylan. She spent time with his various entourage members who included Joan Baez, Allen Ginsberg and Bobby Neuwirth. Marianne worshipped Bob Dylan and was quite intimidated by his presence.

Courtfield Road

Courtfield Road refers to Brian and Anita's flat in London, which became Marianne's second home. This was considered a "bohemian dwelling," as it was disorganized and people sat around and did lots of drugs.

Harley House

Harley House was Mick Jagger's flat on Marylebone Road. Mick invited Marianne to live with him there shortly after they first started dating.



Cheyne Walk

Cheyne Walk was the location for the house in Chelsea where Marianne and Mick lived together in the end of 1968. Many people showed up for dinners. Mick and Marianne settled into a domestic pattern when they lived at Cheyne Walk. This was a 16th century house and had wobbly floors and a crooked staircase.

Hazeldon

Hazeldon was a drug rehab clinic where Marianne went in 1985. She finally took the instructions seriously, and this was a serious rehab facility. She stayed there for 6 months.

The Wall

Once Marianne split up with Mick, The Wall was where she lived in Soho. This was the remains of a crumbling building. Marianne basically did nothing but drugs during this time period. She chose The Wall because it was near her drug supplier.

Yew Tree Cottage

Mick Jagger bought Yew Tree cottage as a place for Marianne's mother to live while they were dating. Eva was always having financial issues, and Mick wanted her to have somewhere proper to live. After Eva's death, Marianne's son Nicholas wanted to live at Yew Tree Cottage. Marianne begged Mick to keep the cottage so that Nicholas could have it. However, Mick turned her down.



Themes

Self-Destruction

Faithfull is a book that details the true life story of a self-destructive individual. Through her drug taking, Marianne seeks to do harm to herself. Through much of her writing, she explores her feelings of self-hatred, confusion and anger. As Marianne was immersed in a rock 'n' roll lifestyle, it was easy for her to get access to drugs. Certain members of The Rolling Stones, like Mick Jagger, for example, could take drugs recreationally and not get too immersed in them. However, for Marianne, drugs were more than just entertainment, she wanted to do harm to herself in some way. She had a lot of unconscious urges and desires that manifested through her drug use.

At first, Marianne just does lighter drugs like pot and acid. During her teens and early twenties, it seems as though she is just taking the drugs to have a good time and relax. However, as Marianne continues to develop self-esteem issues and confusion about her career, she allows drugs to be part of her life more and more. There were certain key points in Marianne's life that seemed to traumatize her in some capacity. The book's reader can see how these incidents coincided with her increased desire to harm herself. In fact, when Brian dies from his drug use, Marianne feels guilty and blames this incident on herself to some degree. Shortly, after Brian's death, Marianne overdoses and goes into a coma.

Marianne had to hit bottom with her self-destructive habits before she was able to improve. The process of getting better took her many years. Marianne's drug taking habits escalate through the book. Eventually, she gets into harder drugs and ends up living on the streets. This was clearly her rock bottom. She is rescued from her life on the streets and goes to a rehab center. However, shortly after getting out of the rehab center, she started doing drugs again. While she may have temporarily gotten off the drugs, she still had mental issues and stressors that plagued her. She continued to hit more low points with her drug use. It was not until she gets to the Hazeldon clinic and starts discussing some of the issues that are at the root of her behavior that she starts to really improve.

Feminism

While feminism is not expressly discussed in Faithfull, it is clear that Marianne's thinking has a great deal of feminist ideology. Through her relationship with Mick, she is endlessly feeling frustrated and angry due to the fact that she is just viewed as "Mick's girlfriend." It was killing her that she didn't have a unique identity of her own. Further, Marianne's early music career promoted her as an innocent, beautiful singer. She felt like the media was viewing her just as a pretty doll. She was asked to sing meaningless pop songs. Additionally, whenever Marianne got interviews with the press, she found that she was being asked idiotic questions.



When The Rolling Stones were busted for their drug use, again Marianne wasn't taken seriously. She was there with the Stones and had been doing as many drugs as they had been. However, the press seemed to ignore her. They chose to believe that she was coerced into this behavior by her boyfriend Mick Jagger. Marianne was treated as though she didn't have a mind of her own. Further, she wasn't invited to testify. Everyone just wanted to protect her. On one hand, Marianne was happy for the protection. Yet, on the other hand, she felt angry and sickened by the fact that she was always viewed as just a stupid girl.

While there were many good points in Marianne's relationship with Mick Jagger, ultimately, she could not stand the fact that he got all of the attention and praise. Marianne felt like her own artistic career was shoved under the carpet. As Mick got more and more famous, Marianne felt increasingly insignificant. This was one of the reasons that she turned to drugs as an outlet. She also cheated on Mick repetitively to assert her own personal power and ability to choose for herself.

When Marianne finally started releasing the kind of music that she wanted to in the 1970's, it was mostly aggressive and angry music. Finally, her feminist thinking was coming through strongly. Many of these songs were about women taking control and power. Once Marianne was able to channel her anger into her own music and artistic expression, she started to feel some sort of redemption.

Unhealthy Relationships

Another main theme that Faithfull explores is relationships. For Marianne, her relationships were always some sort of power struggle. Most prominently featured in the book is Marianne's relationship with Mick Jagger. This relationship was obviously quite unhealthy. Marianne does describe some good times. She felt Mick was very intelligent and romantic. She also felt that he sought to protect her. On the other hand, their days together were full of fighting, cheating on one another and doing drugs.

Marianne felt overshadowed by Mick's image. She also felt that he sought to repress her true personality. He stifled her musical career and artistic expression. She also was angry that Mick was constantly cheating on her. However, she was cheating on him as well. It seems that part of Marianne's desire to cheat so much on Mick was due to her desire for revenge. In fact, she details in the book that she wanted to abuse drugs as well. She knew when she was harming herself, she was also harming Mick.

The constant drug abuse made Mick and Marianne's relationship one that was quite unhealthy. Some of their best times together occurred while they were taking drugs. As a result, it seemed like much of their connection was an illusion. The drug taking and constant cheating also clearly involved some codependent issues. Further, Mick wanted to present to the press an image of a perfect relationship. Marianne felt that he was trying to fit her into a box where she didn't belong. On various occasions, Marianne compares Mick to a vampire who was sucking the life out of her.



Once Marianne broke up with Mick, she proceeded to get into other relationships with men which were also very unhealthy. Most of her relationships consisted of excessive drug taking, and cheating. For example, Marianne married Ben Brierly in the 1970's. He ended up cheating on her just as Mick had done in the past. Ben and Marianne lived in a dirty, disgusting apartment and were poverty stricken because they were always spending all of their money on drugs. This relationship also turned out to be a power struggle. Ben was frustrated and angry when Marianne's career started to outshadow his. As a result, the marriage eventually ended in shambles.

Marianne did not know how to lead a healthy relationship where both partners respect one another. She seemed to feel that if she was in love, the natural thing to do was to cheat on her partner and abuse drugs. The drug abuse clearly acted as a smokescreen and kept her from ever having to deal with her true emotions. As a result, she never was able to get the love and respect from her partners that she so desired. Further, Marianne's promiscuity over the years seemed to numb her towards the ability to be intimate with a partner.



Style

Perspective

Faithfull is the autobiography of Marianne Faithfull. The book is written entirely from her point of view and contains her various opinions and beliefs. Marianne tells her story in the first person. She wrote the book as an older woman, so she spends a good deal of the book reflecting back on various occurrences and how they impacted her emotionally. In retrospect, Marianne is able to see the most important events that occurred. She also notices the events that impacted her most negatively. Most stories from Marianne's life are told through an emotional window. She is always considering how she was thinking and feeling and how one event led to another.

Marianne is quite open and candid in the book. She talks to the reader as though he or she is her best friend and reveals extremely personal details. It seems that she does not hold much back. In fact, in Faithfull Marianne reveals details that she explains were deep dark secrets. For example, up until this book was published, no one knew that she and Keith Richards had slept together.

Marianne speculates a great deal about what other people in her life were thinking and feeling. However, ultimately, we only get her perspective on the various events. Therefore, her retelling of various events is highly subjective. The reader of the book does not know what Mick Jagger was thinking and feeling during their relationship. Faithfull only reveals Marianne's side of the story. However, on the other hand, Marianne doesn't do too much speculating on what other people were thinking. She is extremely self-involved and mainly looks at her story through her own emotional journey.

Tone

The tone of Faithfull is quite objective. She tries to openly and honestly reveal her take on various events in her life. Through this book, the reader also gets insight into what life was like in the 1960's. Marianne describes various environments in vivid detail. She also relays factual events in the history of The Rolling Stones including their recording sessions, trips, movies, and career highs and lows.

Despite her rampant drug use, Marianne has a great memory and details various personal events. Some of these events concerning The Rolling Stones have a great deal of historical significance. For example, Marianne was at the recording sessions for many of The Stones' famous songs. As a result, she has insight into how and why they were created. While Marianne may not be 100% accurate about the history of these songs, she presents her view as fact. She also was present the night that The Rolling Stones were arrested for drug abuse. While Marianne's views about The Rolling Stones and their songs may be somewhat biased, these ideas will obviously be of great interest



to the fans. After all, she was there witnessing these occurrences in person. Therefore, most historians and fans of the Stones will find that her version of history, while biased, is certainly better than none.

Through most of the book, Marianne seems to be seeking to understand two main issues through her text. The first issue is her relationship with Mick Jagger and how and why it ended. The second issue Marianne focuses her attention on was her drug abuse. Since the book was written through the eyes of an older, more experienced Marianne, she is able to reflect back on her life in retrospect. In many instances, she has grief or remorse for how she acted.

Structure

Faithfull is divided into 20 chapters that explore Marianne Faithfull's life in sequential order. She starts by describing her parent's life and her early childhood. Marianne then takes the reader on a journey through her life up until the 1980's. Faithfull was published in 1994 so it only explores the years up until that point.

Most of the book focuses on Marianne's life in the 1960s when she was dating Mick Jagger. She describes this period in the most vivid details. Every significant episode during her life with Mick is described. Clearly, it was her life during this period which impacted Marianne the most profoundly.

In the second half of the book, she ends her relationship with Jagger and moves on with her life. However, her experiences with Mick Jagger continue to show up in her thoughts. Marianne discusses her rock career in the 1970's and her continued drug addiction. Throughout Faithfull, Marianne relays her emotions and feelings about various events. She not only discusses her emotions at the time, but also her thoughts as an older person looking back on the chain of events. The book ends as Marianne finally is able to get off of drugs. At that point, it appears Marianne believes that her life became more mundane and less worth describing in great detail.

Faithfull is a highly detailed book, but it is also a page turner. Marianne's life was full of action and various intriguing events. She was constantly meeting various stars and royalty, taking trips and having emotional upheavals. The reader is drawn into Marianne's life, and despite all the negative things that she did over the years, she comes across in quite a personable and likeable manner.



Quotes

And I remember that it was at such a moment that I decided quite quietly: "I will set this right. When I grow up, I will bring her back her glittering world" (pg. 14.)

"I didn't know that it was possible to talk things over with people and not lose everything in the process. I thought the minute you confided anything it would disappear. This was definitely true of my mother. I learned very young to conceal my innermost thoughts from her" (pg. 17.)

" We decided, 'Right, this is our mission,'" and at once began to build the walls of our New Jerusalem- somewhat along the lines of the defenses of Paris in Gargantua and Pantagruel. Free love, psychedelic drugs, fashion, Zen, Nietzsche, Tribal trinkets, customized Existentialism, hedonism and rock 'n' rock" (pg. 19.)

"As Tears Go By was a marketable portrait of me and as such is an extremely ingenious creation, a commercial fantasy that pushes all the right buttons. It did such a good job of imprinting that it was to become, alas, an indelible part of my media-conjured self for the next fifteen years" (pg. 25.)

And I discovered that after the initial terror I loved the exhibitionism of performing. The feeling of safety. No one can get near me. The world as I want it to be!" (pg. 31.)

"I've always thought it was a very good match, an ideal relationship, really, because we were so alike. We could understand each other very well. With John i never felt that I was in a foreign country, speaking to people who didn't know my language. I know now that I did the right thing. I had a child with the right man and it was the best thing I ever did" (pg. 39.)

And then on November 10 1965, the light of my life was born. I looked down at Nicholas and decided that maybe there was a God after all. I wondered how something so pure could come into such a cruel, imperfect world. Nicholas gazed back at me with the eyes of a very old soul indeed. He had the answers, but he wasn't telling" (pg. 56.)

"As he moved his hands in stroboscopic flutters, they multiplied and fanned out, overlapping each other. The formality was incredible. He had become Shiva. I hadn't realizezd until then that I was living with somebody who at odd moments could turn into a god" (pg. 91.)

"But Performance changed everything. For one instant we looked back and, although we didn't become pillars of salt, I found that when I turned round again there was no ground beneath my feet" (pg. 155.)

"Heroin was different from any other drug I had ever tried. The other drugs had been taken in a quest for sensation. This was the cessation of all sensation. What is so



seductive about heroin is that there is an absolute absence of any type of pain- physical or otherwise" (pg. 161.)

"For Mick, the awful things was that I wasn't leaving for any reason he could see. He didn't know that I'd heard the exchange with Ahmet. I left him for a romantic ideal. I wanted to be a junkie more than I wanted to be with him. That was my idea of glamour!" (pg. 199.)

"Drugs are like a mask. When I finally got clean, I was horrified to find I had built up such an effective front I couldn't get it off. It was as if the mask had been glued on to me and stuck. It had to be peeled off layer by layer. I was afraid I was going to be trapped inside it for life" (pg. 294.)



Topics for Discussion

Do you think that the fact that Marianne became a star at such an early age negatively impacted her life?

Do you believe that Marianne felt that her beauty was a curse?

Would you describe Marianne as a feminist. If so, how?

Describe Mick's behavior towards Marianne. Do you think that he really loved her? Why or why not?

Do you think that the culture in the 1960's impacted the events in Marianne's life? Why or why not? Do you think that the same things would have happened if the story had played out in current times?

Describe Marianne's self-destructive behavior. Why did she seek to destroy herself?

Do you think that Marianne was a good mother to Nicholas?

Do you think that Marianne had a healthy relationship with her mother?