

For the Sake of Elena Study Guide

For the Sake of Elena by Elizabeth George

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Plot Summary

Elena Weaver is a student at St. Stephen's College, one of the colleges belonging to prestigious Cambridge University. Elena is beautiful, lively, sexually precocious, and extremely troubled. Any number of men would have jumped at the chance to be involved with Elena, but only one of them could have killed her. Raised by her divorced mother, Glyn, Elena Weaver is the daughter of Professor Anthony Weaver, a well-respected history scholar and a don at Cambridge. After leaving his wife when Elena was just five years old, Anthony Weaver believes that Elena's arrival at Cambridge will give him a chance to make up for lost time. Weaver's second wife, Justine, is resentful of this newfound relationship with his daughter, but this proves to be a minor matter in light of their seemingly perfect ten-year marriage. At this point in his life, Anthony Weaver's main concern is winning back the love of the daughter he abandoned.

Suddenly, Elena Weaver is found dead. She was murdered. Detective Inspector Thomas "Tommy" Lynley, of New Scotland Yard, is assigned to the case. Along with his longtime partner, Sergeant Barbara Havers, Lynley is dispatched to Cambridge to solve the killing of Elena Weaver. Lynley is more than happy to oblige his superiors since he has another reason to visit Cambridge. Lady Helen Clyde, the woman Lynley has been in love with for some time, is in Cambridge and staying with her sister Penelope for a short while. Inspector Lynley hopes to rekindle his relationship with Helen, which went awry when Lady Helen refused his proposal of marriage.

Meanwhile, Sergeant Havers has problems of her own. Her elderly mother suffers from dementia and Havers is ill-equipped to care for her mother alone. After a string of disasters with hired caregivers, Havers now faces a difficult decision to either continue with things as they are or put her mother into a care facility.

The investigation into Elena Weaver's vicious murder seems to generate more questions than answers. On the grounds of prestigious Cambridge University, there are those who belong and those who do not. Conflicts within the local constabulary threaten to slow the investigation. More than one character harbors murderous intentions. Past hurts and resentments are played out and secrets abound among the illustrious faculty. Cambridge University, with its impressive architecture, its sprawling campuses, and its strained history with those living in town, becomes a place of suspicion, lies, and mayhem.

Amid all this, Inspector Lynley is faced with the task of unraveling a mystery while piecing together the complicated and often shocking personal life of Elena Weaver.



Chapters 1 - 6

Chapters 1 - 6 Summary

At the beginning of Chapter 1, Elena Weaver wakes at six a.m. after a late night out. She goes out for a run alone. During her run, Elena remembers making love to a man the night before. An unidentified woman is supposed to join Elena on her run but her companion never shows up.

Elena resents her father's presence in her life. While running, Elena sees two figures on the path through the thick fog and one moves away as Elena approaches. She trips over an old coat stuffed with rags. It is then that someone attacks and kills Elena Weaver.

Sarah Gordon enters the narrative in this chapter. Gordon has come to Sheep's Green to draw. Sarah Gordon has been contemplating suicide seven weeks before now. She is finally getting back to her first love, which is painting. Sarah becomes anxious, feeling as though she might be sick to her stomach. She changes her location and finds a different view of the bridge at Fen Causeway to sketch.

In Chapter 2, Superintendent Daniel Sheehan of the Cambridge Constabulary is on the scene. Sheehan has been on the force for 29 years. He is edgy about investigating a murder at Cambridge since a previous investigation at Emmanuel College the year before had gone badly.

The city of Cambridge and the eponymous university have a long year of symbiosis. Malcolm Webberly, New Scotland Yard Superintendent, meets with his team in London. The Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University has contacted Webberly, requesting that New Scotland Yard investigate the murder of Elena Weaver. Webberly's daughter, Miranda or "Randie" was an acquaintance of Elena Weaver's. A preliminary report states that Elena Weaver was beaten and then strangled.

Detective Sergeant Barbara Havers enters the narrative. Havers's sixty-three-year-old mother suffers from long-term dementia. Havers is solely responsible for her mother's care. The two live in Acton, a section in west London. Mrs. Gustafson, a neighbor, cares for Barbara's mother while Barbara is at work. Havers is wary of having Mrs. Gustafson watch her mother but there is no other alternative at the moment. Recently, Havers is contemplating placing her mother in an assisted living home called Hawthorn Lodge.

In Chapter 3, Dr. Anthony Weaver is introduced. Weaver is Elena's father and a don or professor at Cambridge. Anthony Weaver is also having an affair. Elena's mother and Anthony's first wife, Glyn Weaver, have come up from London to stay with Anthony and Justine, his second wife. Glyn blames Anthony for Elena's death and she resents Justine's involvement in Elena's life. Justine was Elena's running partner. The night



before her death, Elena telephoned Justine to say that she would not be running the next day, which is the day she died.

Detective Inspector Thomas Lynley of New Scotland Yard arrives in Cambridge at 5:30 p.m. the day after Elena Weaver's death. Lynley visits Lady Helen Clyde, an old friend and former flame, at the home of her sister Penelope, whom everyone calls "Pen." Lady Helen is looking after Penelope's twin son and daughter, Christian and Perdita, respectively, after the birth of Penelope's third child. Penelope's husband, Harry Rodger, is conspicuously absent. Lady Helen has been with her sister for nine days.

In Chapter 4, Lynley has tea with Terrence Cuff. Cuff is the Master of St. Stephen's College. Elena Weaver was a student at St. Stephen's. Robinson Crusoe's Island, where Elena Weaver was murdered, is frequented by people living in town and not by university students. "Townees" are people unaffiliated with Cambridge University. During his meeting with Cuff, Lynley learns that Elena Weaver was deaf and that she had some problems adjusting to life at St. Stephen's her first year in Cambridge.

Apparently, Elena Weaver's difficulties manifested themselves in missed lectures and not turning in her work. On more than one occasion, she had shown up intoxicated to meetings with her advisers. Elena's parents, particularly her mother Glyn, had done all they could to "normalize" Elena.

Gareth Randolph was assigned to Elena as an undergraduate guardian. Anthony Weaver, however, did not relish the idea of Elena keeping company with handicapped people. Randolph is active in the deaf community at Cambridge. Gareth Randolph is active in an organization called DeaStu or the Deaf Student Association at Cambridge University.

Anthony Weaver is being considered for the prestigious Penford Chair in History and being awarded the Penford Chair would mean complete academic freedom for the rest of Weaver's career. Cuff is reluctant to say whether or not Elena's troubles would affect her father's being awarded the Penford Chair.

Later that day, Lynley visits Anthony Weaver at home. Weaver demonstrates the Ceephone, which is a special telephone used by deaf people. The Ceephone would have been used by Elena Weaver the day before she died. Justine admits to going for a run the previous morning without Elena. She informs Lynley that she took a different route. Anthony Weaver is suspicious of Gareth Randolph.

Justine Weaver's family came into a great deal of money when her great uncle died. Descended from German Jews whose family name was once Weiner, Justine Weaver did not have the support of her parents when she married Anthony. Justine met Anthony at the University Press, where Anthony once worked as an editor. Justine senses however that her husband is unfaithful to her. Anthony Weaver keeps a box of condoms in his bedside table.

In Chapter 5, Sergeant Havers drives her mother to Mrs. Flo's Hawthorn Lodge. Her mother becomes increasingly agitated as they leave Acton. Barbara's brother died at the



age of ten. Just after arriving at Mrs. Flo's, Havers has an attack of guilt and takes her mother back to Acton.

Inspector Lynley visits Miranda "Randie" Webberly. Miranda is accompanying a choir on her trumpet while they practice in one of the chapels at Cambridge. Randie is the daughter of Malcolm Webberly, Lynley's boss.

Randie Webberly tells Lynley what she knows about Elena Weaver. The two girls shared a "bed-sit" or a small suite of rooms. Elena was popular with men. Although she spent a great deal of time with Gareth Randolph, Randie says that Elena was dating Adam Jenn, Anthony Weaver's graduate student assistant.

Randie also informs Lynley that she believes Elena and Gareth Randolph argued the night before Elena's death. Randie is not certain what their argument was about but Gareth had left Elena's rooms in a huff.

Randie Webberly goes on to tell Lynley that she also saw Lennart Thorsson in Elena Weaver's rooms in the evening on more than one occasion. Thorsson is also a don at Cambridge. Elena often referred to Thorsson as "Lennie the Lech."

Upon returning to his guest rooms at Ivy Court, Lynley cannot keep his mind off Lady Helen Clyde. Lynley had asked Helen to marry him quite some time ago and Helen had refused. Looking out his window, Lynley sees a mysterious woman with "rich, dark, and plentiful" hair just across the courtyard in the dark (pg. 98.) It appears to Lynley that the woman is waiting for someone.

In Chapter 6, Tommy Lynley meets with Superintendent Sheehan the morning after his conversation with Randie Webberly. Sheehan and Lynley agree that Elena Weaver's killer knew her movements. Both men surmise that Elena Weaver knew her killer.

Lynley and Sergeant Havers go to Elena Weaver's room to look for clues. Elena was fond of unicorns. They collect some of Elena's clothes to send to forensics for possible fiber match.

Lynley finds Elena's calendar for the past several months. Everything seems straightforward until Lynley comes across a fish symbol written on different days. He and Havers speculate about the fish's significance. Another notation appears on the calendar that reads, "31 Seymour Street - 2:00." The notation signifies that Elena Weaver had a meeting scheduled just days before she died.

Randie Webberly tells Lynley and Havers that Elena planned to file sexual harassment charges against Lennart Thorsson. After a visit to his classroom, Thorsson informs Lynley and Havers that Elena Weaver had already filed the charges against him.



Chapters 1 - 6 Analysis

The first chapter of *For the Sake of Elena* introduces us to the title character, Elena Weaver. Interestingly, the author opens the novel with her murder. The narrator reveals not only the particulars of the murder but even goes so far as to chronicle the victim's actions before the murder takes place. The reader learns some things about Elena Weaver that Detective Inspector Lynley and Sergeant Havers will have to work into the puzzle after the official investigation into Elena Weaver's death begins.

Several key characters are introduced in the first six chapters of the narrative. First of all, Sarah Gordon makes an early appearance as the discoverer of Elena's corpse. Sarah Gordon's discovery and Lynley's subsequent nebulous suspicion of Gordon provides foreshadowing as to Sarah Gordon's eventual impact on the overall narrative.

Sergeant Havers is introduced in Chapter 2 and the back-story provided gives some insight into the personal matters which play on the character's mind and emotions. The information concerning Havers' elderly mother complicates the narrative by making the reader aware that Havers focus is split. In other words, Havers has something on her mind other than her work. In addition, this adds texture to the Havers character. Also, Superintendent Sheehan of the Cambridge Constabulary, a secondary character, is introduced in the second chapter.

The introduction into the narrative of Anthony, Glyn, and Justine Weaver provides more background information of which Lynley and Havers are unaware at the outset. The fact that Anthony Weaver is having an affair with an unidentified woman also provides foreshadowing. For the time being, however, his liaison remains a mystery, as does the reason for his daughter's resentment.

Superintendent Webberly and the other members of Lynley's New Scotland Yard team are introduced. However, they have little to do with the narrative proper. The Webberly character, however, has a daughter Randie who is acquainted with Elena Weaver.

Detective Inspector Thomas Lynley of New Scotland Yard, Lady Helen Clyde or Lynley's love interest and Helen's sister Penelope "Pen" Rodger enter the narrative in Chapter 3. It is interesting that the first thing Lynley does upon his arrival in Cambridge is to visit Helen. This indicates that he too has a split focus and that the Elena Weaver case is not uppermost in his mind. Also, Pen Rodger's problematic home life is a primary plot point.

Lynley's first meeting with Dr. Terrence Cuff throws into play the matter of "town vs. gown," an allusion to the friction which exists between those affiliated with Cambridge University and those who live in town. Elena Weaver's deafness first comes to light in Chapter 4, which further problematizes what the reader already knows about her family relationships. In this way, the author manages to fashion Elena Weaver as a mysterious character herself. It becomes clear at this point in the narrative that in order to find out who killed Elena Weaver, it becomes necessary for Lynley and Havers to "reconstruct" Elena Weaver herself.



Gareth Randolph is introduced in Chapter 5. Randolph serves as a representation of a deaf person who is completely different from Elena Weaver. Randolph embraces his deafness and the deaf community in a way that Elena Weaver did not.

Also in Chapter 5, Randie Webberly, Mrs. Flo, and Lennart "Lenny" Thorsson are introduced. Thorsson and Randolph both become suspects, in light of their connection to Elena Weaver. Furthermore, in the same chapter, another mystery lies just below the surface. The matter of the woman Inspector Lynley sees from his Ivy Court window provides a foreshadowing of events which unfold on the Cambridge University campus.



Chapters 7 - 12

Chapters 7 - 12 Summary

In Chapter 7, it is revealed that Lady Helen Clyde's oldest sister, Iris, lives in the United States. Harry Rodger, Pen's husband, finally comes home. He and Pen squabble which upsets the children. Harry leaves for his rooms at Cambridge. Rodger is a lecturer at Cambridge who has rooms there. Pen feels oppressed by motherhood. She feels as though she gave up her entire self just to have children, which is what Harry wanted. Harry is not equipped to deal with Pen's postpartum depression and is unable to care for the twins and a newborn alone.

Lynley and Havers drive to the village of Grantchester to talk to Sarah Gordon, the woman who discovered Elena Weaver's body. Sarah Gordon is an accomplished painter who lives in an old renovated school. Sarah has not created any art for months. She makes up her mind to stop procrastinating the morning she came upon Elena's corpse. Gordon reveals that she knew Elena Weaver. Anthony Weaver was a student of hers and Elena had sat as a model for one of Gordon's drawing classes.

Lynley recognizes Sarah Gordon as the woman he had seen from his Ivy Court window the night before. Sarah Gordon has hair the color of coffee. While Lynley and Havers are questioning Sarah Gordon, Anthony Weaver leaves a desperate message on Sarah Gordon's phone.

In Chapter 8, Lynley and Havers have lunch in a crowded pub. He tells Havers about seeing Sarah Gordon waiting in the dark the previous evening. Lynley and Havers brainstorm about Gordon's possible involvement in Elena Weaver's death. Sarah Gordon had no idea that it was Elena's body she had found. Sarah Gordon's neighbors confirm her alibi about the time she left her house the day Elena was killed.

Lynley cannot explain his suspicion of Sarah Gordon. He thinks that her appearance on Robinson Crusoe's Island the morning of the murder is too much of a coincidence. Also, there is the unresolved matter of Sarah Gordon's relationship with Anthony Weaver. Havers accuses Lynley of not being objective. Havers believes that Lennart Thorsson is a stronger suspect than Sarah Gordon because of Elena Weaver's sexual harassment claim against him.

Lynley sets out to investigate the Seymour Street address written on Elena's calendar. Lynley stops at Ivy Court to find out who the mystery woman from the night before might have been waiting for. When Lynley arrives at Ivy Court, he sees Anthony Weaver's name on one of the front doors. Upon entering Anthony Weaver's rooms, Lynley can tell that Weaver's second wife, Justine, was the person responsible for decorating the bedroom.



Lynley has a conversation with Adam Jenn, Anthony Weaver's assistant. Jenn began working with Weaver in anticipation of Weaver's being granted the Penford Chair. He admits knowing Elena Weaver, but tells Lynley that Elena never phoned her father's rooms the night before she was killed. If Elena did call her father on the Ceephone, Jenn was already gone for the night.

Lynley decides to run to Crusoe's Island. While there, he meets with Cambridge police.

In Chapter 9, Anthony and Glyn Weaver go to the mortuary. Earlier that morning, Anthony had taken his ex-wife to the police station, where Glyn demanded to see Elena's body. When the police gently deny her request, Glyn asks to be permitted to observe the autopsy. Again, the police inform her that it will not be possible. Glyn flies into a rage and causes a scene, prompting Anthony Weaver to feel ashamed. He wonders what brought the two of them together in the first place.

Glyn wants an open casket public viewing of Elena's body. She blames Anthony for their daughter's death and she wants others to see her murdered daughter in order to shame Anthony. Glyn had raised Elena alone in a rough section of London. Anthony walked out on his wife and daughter when Elena was just 5 years old.

Glyn chooses the most inexpensive coffin there is and Anthony becomes angry. Glyn is forty-six-years old and realizes that she will never bear another child. This is the true source of her anger toward Anthony, whose second wife, Justine, is still of childbearing age.

Lynley reaches the scene of the crime. He enters a workshop where three local men are repairing boats. The men are convinced that the police are looking to pin Elena Weaver's murder on someone from the town, rather than someone from the university. Returning to the south end of the island, Lynley re-examines the area where Elena Weaver's body was found. He notices a pool of vomit nearby and wonders again about Sara Gordon's part in the killing. Havers joins Lynley and they have tea in Lynley's rooms while discussing the case. Elena Weaver was pregnant at the time of her death.

In Chapter 10, it is revealed that Elena Weaver was eight weeks pregnant at the time of her killing. Havers believes that whoever fathered Elena's unborn child may also have arranged her death. Havers still believes that Lennart Thorsson is the prime suspect. Lynley, on the other hand, wonders if Elena got pregnant in London while on a break from school. Havers receives a message about her mother. She leaves for Acton immediately.

Lynley returns to the Weaver home. Justine tells him that Anthony and Glyn are making funeral arrangements. In conversation, Justine tells Lynley that she knew Elena Weaver was sexually active and that her sexuality was something Elena flaunted openly. Justine saw Elena's behavior as a way to make herself seem normal in Anthony Weaver's eyes. Justine also informs Lynley that Elena became sexually active at the age of 14. In addition, she tells Lynley that Elena Weaver wanted to get pregnant. Gareth Randolph's name comes up in Justine's conversation with Lynley. Randolph had escorted Elena to



a Christmas Ball. Justine denies knowing Sarah Gordon, the painter who discovered Elena's body.

After Lynley leaves, Justine Weaver drives into Cambridge with Elena's dog, Townee, in the backseat. She meets a man named Victor, who is also involved with the university in some way. Justine learns that Elena told Victor that he was the father of her child. Victor, who is married, tells Justine that once he found out Elena was pregnant, he planned to leave his wife and marry Elena.

In Chapter 11, Inspector Lynley meets with Gareth Randolph. Randolph tells Lynley through an interpreter that he and Elena Weaver were not lovers. Lynley asks Randolph if he knew who Elena was seeing. Gareth denies knowing who Elena was involved with but Lynley thinks Gareth is lying. Randolph tells Lynley that Elena never wanted to be part of Deaf culture.

After meeting Dr. Cuff at chapel, Lynley asks him about Lennart Thorsson and the harassment charge. Cuff never mentioned the matter to Lynley because Elena was dead. Therefore the point of the claim is now moot. Cuff was unaware of Elena's pregnancy. Lynley then receives a message that one of Thorsson's neighbors saw Thorsson arrive home shortly before 7am on the day Elena Weaver died.

In Chapter 12, Rosalyn Simpson is introduced. Ros is a student at Queen's College. Ros is involved in a relationship with a woman named Melinda. Roslyn has just returned from a visit with her parents in Oxford during which she came out to them.

Melinda shows Ros a DeaStu poster with Elena Weaver's picture on it. Ros knew Elena because Elena was her chief competitor in the Hare and Hound running club, where Elena "ran like a god" (pg. 237.) Ros wants to go to the police with information concerning the day of Elena's death.

Lynley considers all the possible suspects in the Elena Weaver killing. They are Gareth Randolph, Justine Weaver, Lennart Thorsson, and Sarah Gordon. Lynley has nothing concrete to prove that Sarah Gordon had anything to do with Elena's death except for her connection to Anthony Weaver.

Lynley visits Lady Helen at Pen's home. Lynley asks Pen questions about Sarah Gordon and about art in general. Their conversation seems to brighten Pen's mood. Lynley and Lady Helen plan to attend Randie Webberly's jazz concert the following evening.

Chapters 7 - 12 Analysis

In Chapter 7, the reader is introduced to Harry Rodger, Pen's husband. Knowledge of Harry and Pen's relationship is necessary at this point as Pen contributes significantly to the narrative in the later chapters in terms of the Elena Weaver case.



In the same chapter, Lynley learns more about Sarah Gordon. Gordon's admission of a student-teacher relationship with Anthony Weaver foreshadows her deeper involvement in Elena Weaver's life. Secondly, the fact that Lynley recognizes Gordon as the woman he saw from his window thickens the plot. To the best of Lynley's knowledge, Sarah Gordon has nothing to do with Cambridge University. At this point, however, Lynley holds on to the information, allowing its significance to unfold on its own. Confirmation of the existence of an intimate relationship between Sarah Gordon and Anthony Weaver comes by way of Weaver's telephone message. Also, Sarah Gordon's neighbors provide corroboration of her alibi. Even so, Lynley's instincts tell him that she is nevertheless involved in Elena Weaver's death in some way. Lynley's suspicion of Sarah Gordon signifies that the character is multidimensional where he allows his feelings to impact an investigation which must be based on factual information.

In Chapter 8, Lynley comes closer to satisfying his suspicion about Sarah Gordon's appearance at Ivy Court the night before when he visits Anthony Weaver's rooms. Adam Jenn is introduced in Chapter 8 as well and his name is added to the list of possible murder suspects. Jenn is represented as something of an opportunist. He admits to choosing to work with Anthony Weaver primarily on the basis of Weaver's candidacy for the Penford Chair. Therefore, it would not be completely unthinkable that he could be Elena's killer.

Glyn Weaver's inner workings are further illuminated in the mortuary episode in Chapter 9. The basis for her hatred of Justine is revealed and this provides foreshadowing for a subsequent meeting with Lynley in which Glyn revels in the idea of Justine being apprehended for Elena's murder.

A second and very salient plot thread is uncovered while Lynley and Havers are having tea, which is Elena Weaver's pregnancy. This ties in with the character's remembrance of making love to a man in the opening chapter.

In Chapter 10, two rather important pieces of information come to the forefront. They are the knowledge that Elena Weaver uses her sexuality to humiliate her father and that Justine Weaver meets with a man named Victor who is believed to be the father of Elena's unborn child. In addition, Justine Weaver manages to cast the light of suspicion onto Gareth Randolph who escorted Elena Weaver to a Christmas Ball.

Lynley's meeting with Gareth Randolph in the DeaStu office in Chapter 11 functions to establish the basic difference between Gareth Randolph and Elena Weaver. Randolph considers himself to be "Deaf," whereas Elena Weaver does not. Randolph explains the concept of Deaf Culture to Inspector Lynley.

Lennart Thorsson's possible involvement in Elena Weaver's death is solidified. In other words, the fact that Thorsson's neighbors saw him arriving home at 7am the morning Elena Weaver was killed could signal his role as the murderer. This could also be information which has no bearing on the killing at all.



Ros Simpson and her lover Mel Powell enter the narrative in Chapter 12. Simpson's alarm at seeing the poster with Elena Weaver's picture allow for the possibility that Ros could also be a victim. Ros, like Elena Weaver, is a member of Cambridge's Hare and Hounds running club. However, Ros Simpson has a secret; one that is important enough to warrant a conversation with the police.

Inspector Lynley's consideration of the possible suspects in Elena Weaver's murder functions as a kind of score-card, enabling the reader to separate the more important characters to those secondary to the narrative. In addition, this signals the reader that all possible suspects in the murder of Elena Weaver have been accounted for. From this point on, the novel concerns itself with solving the puzzle and the resolution of various characters' personal dilemmas.

Lynley's conversation with Lady Helen's sister Pen foreshadows the eventual resolution of Pen's personal problems and moves the plot along to the next phase. Also, Lynley learns more about Sarah Gordon's celebrity as a painter.



Chapters 13 - 18

Chapters 13 - 18 Summary

In Chapter 13, Detective Sergeant Barbara Havers is at home with her mother in Acton. Mrs. Gustafson has been caring for Mrs. Havers, but when Mrs. Havers becomes disoriented and insists on leaving the house, Mrs. Gustafson deters Barbara's mother by making Mrs. Havers believe that the vacuum cleaner hose is a snake. Barbara remains conflicted about how best to care for her mother. Mrs. Havers is lucid for a short while after Barbara returns home, but the dementia eventually takes over again. Barbara Havers feels guilty and resentful at the same time.

In Chapter 14, Lynley and Havers pay a visit to Lennart Thorsson at home. They are there to question Thorsson about his recent comings and goings. Thorsson admits to seeing Elena Weaver the night before she died. Thorsson claims to have met with an undergraduate the following morning to return a paper the student had written. Lynley has Havers read Thorsson his rights before collecting several items of black clothing from Thorsson's bedroom.

After leaving Thorsson's home, in Chapter 15 Lynley and Havers stop at the Cambridge Constabulary to discuss the case with Detective Inspector Sheehan. It seems that Drake and Pleasance who are the Cambridge Constabulary forensics experts cannot come to an agreement as to the actual cause of Elena Weaver's death. Their petty feud has been the source of annoyance for Sheehan for some months now. Lynley suggests calling in an outside forensics expert whose work Drake and Pleasance could sign off on. Sheehan seems satisfied with this suggestion.

Moments later, Sheehan receives word that another woman's body has been discovered and he has to go to the crime scene in the village of Madingley with Havers and Lynley.

Bob Jenkins and his border collie Shasta found the body. Jenkins neither saw nor heard anything suspicious. The victim is tall, slim, and dressed in athletic clothes. She had been killed with a shotgun.

Glyn tells Justine that she does not want Justine to attend Elena's funeral. When Justine looks to Anthony to protest, Anthony does not respond. Justine then tells Anthony and Glyn about Elena's pregnancy. Glyn blames Justine for Elena's sexual promiscuity.

Adam Jenn remembers the first time he met Elena Weaver. She wore a clingy black dress and dangling onyx earrings. Elena was not at all what Adam Jenn expected. Elena was beautiful, lively, and sexually precocious. However, Adam Jenn had never even so much as tried to kiss her.



Anthony Weaver arrives at his rooms in Ivy Court. He assumes that Adam was the baby's father. Jenn corrects Weaver and Weaver breaks down, giving voice to his own embarrassment that Elena was not "normal."

In Chapter 16, Melinda Powell returns home to find police and a crowd of students gathered outside the building where she lives. She hears people talking about another young woman's murder and she fears something has happened to Ros. Ros had promised not to go running alone until after Elena's killer had been caught. In a panic, Melinda runs to her room to find Ros lying on the bed.

Glyn Weaver waits for Justine to go out for a run before snooping around the house. Glyn is convinced that Justine has something to do with Elena's murder. The Madingley victim's name is Georgina Higgins-Hart. Higgins-Hart was also a member of Cambridge's Hare and Hounds running club. Georgina Higgins-Hart was also a Renaissance literature scholar. This fact is not lost on Havers that Lennart Thorsson is also a Renaissance literature scholar. Thorsson is an expert on Shakespeare. When Lynley later examines Higgins-Hart's calendar, however, he finds no mention of Lennart Thorsson. Simon Allcourt-St. James, forensic examiner, agrees to help Lynley with the Elena Weaver case.

In Chapter 17, Melinda Powell decides that she and Ros are both in danger and she prepares to leave Cambridge. The day before, Ros had talked to Gareth Randolph and not to the police. Ros could tell that Gareth Randolph was in love with Elena. Ros feels somewhat jealous about Elena Weaver's attractiveness to men. She secretly wishes the same would happen to her. Melinda leaves Cambridge without Ros.

Havers and Lynley are at the Bliss Tea Room when a young woman named Catherine Meadows approaches them. Meadows provides an alibi for Lennart "Lenny" Thorsson for the morning Elena Weaver was killed but not for the previous night. Meadows and Thorsson are lovers, but not exclusively, as Meadows learns when she finds out that Thorsson had not stayed at his home the night before. Meadows claims that Elena Weaver lied about Thorsson sexually harassing her and claims that Thorsson did not ask her to speak to Lynley and Havers.

In Chapter 18, Lynley arrives at Pen's house to pick up Lady Helen for the jazz concert. Lynley and Pen discuss the painter Whistler, and his libel suit against an art critic named Ruskin. Harry Rodger, Pen's husband, returns.

Chapters 13 - 18 Analysis

Sergeant Havers' home life continues to take its toll in Chapter 13. When she realizes that Mrs. Gustafson is a less than ideal caretaker for her mother, Havers decides to take her mother to Mrs. Flo. However, this move only proves to make the character even more anxious and uncertain. When Havers who is overcome by guilt takes her mother back to Acton, the character's emotional state comes into question.



Lynley and Havers' visit to Lennart Thorsson's home would seem to further incriminate Thorsson as Elena Weaver's possible killer. This is compounded by the fact that Elena filed a sexual harassment grievance against Thorsson. Thorsson, however, does not behave like someone who has committed murder. And while it is true that Thorsson has a very large ego, and that his comings and goings are suspicious, the tension between Thorsson and Sergeant Havers does play a significant role in his arrest.

The feud between Drake and Pleasance of the Cambridge Constabulary complicates the Elena Weaver case from the perspective of law enforcement. If the two cannot come to some agreement, the investigation could be stalled completely.

The discovery of a second female runner's body in Madingley adds a twist to the plot. Lynley, Havers, Sheehan, and the others believed they were looking for a killer who knew Elena Weaver personally. The only connection between Georgina Higgins-Hart and Elena Weaver is Hare and Hounds. The two women were not social friends and Higgins-Hart was a graduate student. This second murder means a broadening of the investigative scope. In addition, the two women were killed by two different weapons. The use of a shotgun in the death of Georgina Higgins-Hart means that her death was not necessarily personal.

Justine Weaver's revelation to Anthony and Glyn that Elena was pregnant when she died does not have the intended effect. Justine tells Glyn and her husband about Elena's pregnancy in an effort to shock Anthony primarily, into understanding that Elena was not the loving, caring daughter he had believed. Justine's plan backfires when Glyn blames Justine for Elena's sexual escapades. Anthony Weaver finally comes face to face with his own shame concerning Elena's deafness during his conversation with Adam Jenn.

Ros Simpson's secret becomes a larger issue when Mel suspects that Ros has been murdered as well. The fact remains, however, that the secret has yet to be revealed.

Lennart Thorsson ceases to be a suspect in Elena Weaver's killing when Catherine Meadows talks to Lynley and Havers. It also becomes apparent that Elena Weaver's sexual harassment claim against Thorsson may have been valid. Thorsson is involved with an undergraduate called Meadows and may be involved with someone else as well, as Meadows learns.

Inspector Lynley's relationship with Lady Helen Clyde is still somewhat tenuous. However, their attendance at Randie Webberly's jazz concert proves to be pivotal to the overall narrative.



Chapters 19 - 24

Chapters 19 - 24 Summary

In Chapter 19, Lynley and Helen attend Randie Webberly's concert. Two men are playing darts. The younger of the two yells out to one of his professors, issuing a challenge. The professor's name is Troughton, but the young man playing darts refers to him as "Trout." Upon hearing this, something falls into place in Lynley's mind. After Lynley introduces himself, Victor Troughton escorts Lynley and Lady Helen to his rooms. Troughton admits to having an affair with Elena Weaver. He is disenchanted with his marriage. Troughton had a vasectomy, which proves that he did not father Elena's child. Troughton knows Elena only slept with him as a way to get back at Anthony Weaver. Lady Helen is unimpressed with Victor Troughton. Nonetheless, Troughton informs Lynley and Lady Helen that he was in love with Elena and wanted to marry her even if it cost him his career and his family.

In Chapter 20, Lynley and Havers question Gareth Randolph in the murder of Elena Weaver, thinking that he is probably the father of Elena's child. Gareth tells Lynley through use of the CeePhone that he and Elena had sex only once. Gareth says that to Elena it was just sex and that she had laughed at Gareth when he told her he loved her, leaving him feeling humiliated and rejected. Lynley and Havers notice that Gareth Randolph has a temper. He is also a bantam weight boxer. Elena did, however, tell Gareth Randolph that she was seeing someone. Gareth claims to have seen Elena leaving Victor Troughton's room the morning she was killed. Gareth Randolph cannot provide an alibi for the time of Elena's death. He also does not have an alibi for the time when Georgina Higgins-Hart, whom Gareth also knew was killed. Lynley and Havers do not think Gareth is a suspect in the Higgins-Hart murder. Lynley and Havers take Gareth Randolph's boxing gloves to forensics. On the way back to the car, Lynley and Havers meet Rosalyn "Ros" Simpson. Ros tells them that she had been running along the River Cam on the morning of Elena Weaver's murder. Ros is convinced that she saw Elena's killer.

Glyn, Justine, and Anthony Weaver all speak harsh words to one another. Glyn calls her ex-husband a coward.

In Chapter 21, Ros Simpson tells Havers and Lynley that on the morning Elena was killed, she saw a slender woman with light hair dressed in a tracksuit. Ros says she and the woman nearly collided and that the woman's tracksuit bore no school emblem. Ros is certain that the woman got a good look at her and that Georgina Higgins-Hart was killed instead of her.

After taking Gareth Randolph's boxing gloves to the police station, Lynley returns to Anthony Weaver's house. Glyn Weaver believes that Lynley has come to arrest Justine. Glyn's hatred of Justine is more than obvious to Lynley. Not finding Justine at home, Lynley prepares to leave. Glyn Weaver then hands Lynley some sketches and drawings



which she believes prove how much Justine hated Elena. One canvas especially looks to have been deliberately destroyed. Lynley takes the canvas to Pen for examination.

Back at the Cambridge Constabulary station, Simon Allcourt-St. James who is Lynley's friend and forensic examiner tells Havers that the weapon responsible for smashing in Elena Weaver's face was neither a champagne bottle nor one of Gareth Randolph's boxing gloves. Shortly thereafter, Lynley, Lady Helen and Pen all arrive at the station. Pen, an art restorer, uses x-ray photography to discover what had originally been painted or drawn on the slashed canvas which Glyn Weaver gave to Lynley.

A series of photographs reveals that the painting was one of Sarah Gordon's works. Pen recognizes Allcourt-St. James's crude sketch of the object used to kill Elena Weaver as a muller. This is a tool used by artists who make their own paints.

In Chapter 22, Sarah Gordon remembers killing Elena Weaver. She also remembers when Elena would come to her studio to sit as a model.

Lynley, Havers, and Allcourt-St. James head for Sarah Gordon's house in Grantchester. On the way, Lynley stops at the river Cam to have another look around. A bicyclist tells Lynley that there is a footpath leading from Grantchester into Cambridge. The path is about a mile and three quarters long. Lynley deduces that Sarah Gordon must have walked into Cambridge, murdered Elena Weaver and then walked home again. Sarah Gordon then drove back to Robinson Crusoe's island in time to "find" Elena Weaver's body.

When Lynley and the others arrive at Sarah Gordon's home, they see Anthony Weaver's car parked out front. Lynley notices a box of shotgun shells on the front seat of Weaver's car. Rather than surprise Weaver, Lynley opts for trying to enter the house from the backyard.

Inside, Anthony Weaver threatens Sara Gordon with the shotgun after hearing Sarah admit to killing Elena. She tells Weaver that she killed Elena to get back at him for destroying her painting and her creativity. When Sara accuses Anthony Weaver of being concerned only with the Penford Chair, he denies it, saying that he called off their affair because Justine demanded it. Their breakup resulted in Sarah Gordon's inability to create art for several months. It turns out that Weaver himself had slashed the painting at Justine's behest, in front of Sarah Gordon. When Lynley finally makes it into the house, he calls Weaver's name. The shotgun goes off, wounding Sarah Gordon. Although Weaver is taken to police headquarters, he is not arrested for any crime. The police think that if Weaver were brought up on charges, a jury would acquit Weaver anyway in sympathy of Elena's murder.

In Chapter 23, Anthony Weaver returns home to his wife, Justine. Weaver is distraught over the incident with Sarah Gordon. Justine and Anthony Weaver had been married for ten years. It was Justine who prompted Anthony to enroll in one of Sarah Gordon's art classes. This happened when Anthony and Sarah Gordon's affair began. When Justine found out about the affair, she insisted that her husband accompany her to Sarah



Gordon's house with a painting of Elena that Gordon had given Anthony Weaver. Sarah Gordon had watched Anthony Weaver destroy her painting of Elena in her own home.

Justine questions Anthony about where he has been. He admits to visiting Sarah Gordon but does not tell his wife that he shot Gordon. Finally, Anthony Weaver destroys one of his own paintings.

Sergeant Havers returns home to Acton later that day. When she arrives, Mrs. Gustafson is there with her mother, and so is the coiled vacuum cleaner hose. Mrs. Havers is slumped in a chair and she has soiled herself. Seeing that her mother is afraid, confused, and non-responsive, Barbara finally decides to take her mother back to Mrs. Flo at Hawthorn Lodge.

In Chapter 24, Lynley and Havers arrive at St. Stephen's College just after 11am the following day. Lynley learns that Sarah Gordon may never paint again. At Elena's funeral, Lynley and Havers discuss Sarah Gordon's motive for killing Elena Weaver. Gordon believed that if she could cause Anthony Weaver the same kind of pain he had caused her, she would be able to go on with her life.

Anthony Weaver is awarded the prestigious Penford Chair in History. Lady Helen Clyde arrives just as Havers takes her leave of Inspector Lynley. Helen has decided to return to London with Lynley and give their relationship a second chance.

Chapters 19 - 24 Analysis

The final six chapters of *For the Sake of Elena* provide the answer to Elena Weaver's murder as well as the resolution of all the major plot points. At the concert, Lynley is finally able to discover the significance of the fish drawn in Elena Weaver's calendar. Victor Troughton once again enters the narrative and his involvement with Elena serves two purposes. First of all, the mystery of the fish is solved. Secondly, however, and perhaps more importantly, Troughton's thoughts on his marriage and his affair with Elena tell Lynley something about himself. Lynley comes to realize that his wanting to marry Lady Helen was based solely on his own selfish motives. Lynley had never even considered what it would mean for Helen to be his wife. Troughton is portrayed as egocentric and shamelessly selfish. While Troughton is, admittedly a character that does not evoke a lot of sympathy, he is nonetheless eliminated as both a suspect in Elena Weaver's murder and as the father of her unborn child.

Gareth Randolph, on the other hand, becomes a stronger suspect after he tells Lynley and Havers about seeing Elena Weaver leaving Victor Troughton's rooms on the morning of her death. Additionally, Randolph's boxing ability and his volatile temper stand him squarely in a position of interest in at least one killing.

Rosalyn Simpson's secret is revealed when she informs Lynley that she saw Elena's killer. It also becomes clear that it was Ros, and not Georgina Higgins-Hart, who was the intended second victim.



Glyn Weaver's vehement hatred of her husband's second wife, Justine, comes full circle when she gives Lynley the destroyed artwork. Although Glyn is convinced of Justine's guilt, it is somehow obvious that even Justine's arrest would not satisfy Glyn Weaver. Glyn is hell-bent on seeing both her ex-husband and Justine completely destroyed.

The results of Lynley's consultation with Pen Rodger provides the final piece of the mystery of Elena Weaver's murder. Furthermore, Pen rediscovers her love for her work. In the scene in which Pen, Lynley, and Helen all leave Harry Rodger to look after his own children, Pen finally returns to her authentic self. Pen's work with Lynley frees her from her internal sense of oppression. She leaves Harry to mind the house and the children is a sign that things in the Rodger household are about to change drastically. Also, it is Pen's expertise which solidly establishes Sarah Gordon's guilt.

Lynley's discovery of the footpath between Grantchester and Cambridge comes at just the right moment. The climax is set in motion when Lynley, Havers, and Allcourt-St. James make their way to Sarah Gordon's house in Grantchester. Anthony Weaver's car parked out front, along with the shotgun shells on the front seat, complete the circle of the mystery.

Benefiting from the conversation with Victor Troughton, Lynley and Helen are able to resume their relationship and return to London. Havers is finally able to admit to herself that she can no longer be solely responsible for the care of her elderly mother, and Havers turns her mother over to the capable, efficient Mrs. Flo. Anthony Weaver is awarded the Penford Chair in History. Sarah Gordon, while she will survive the shotgun would inflicted by Anthony Weaver, will probably never be able to paint again. In this way, Gordon pays twice for killing Elena Weaver. Obviously, she will go to prison for the murder. Finally, it is monumentally ironic that Sarah Gordon's killing of Elena Weaver is actually connected to her art.



Characters

Detective Inspector Thomas Lynley

Tommy Lynley is an aristocrat as well as a policeman. Lynley was born into the English nobility. He has been an inspector at London's New Scotland Yard for some years now. The violence and mayhem that Lynley has witnessed have not left him jaded. Quite the contrary, the Inspector is a thoughtful and romantic man who cares a great deal for the people in his life and most of all, Lady Helen Clyde and his partner, Sergeant Barbara Havers. Lynley is stylish and well-bred. Educated at Oxford University, Lynley is very much at ease in the world of Cambridge University. Lynley is aware of the class distinction which exists between himself and Sergeant Havers but he does not make an issue out of it. Lynley is more apt to point out the similarities that exist between himself and Havers rather than their differences. He is rather tall, has dark eyes, and "perfectly clipped blond hair" (pg. 21.)

Tommy Lynley is in love with Lady Helen Clyde and he had asked her to marry him once. When Helen refused, Lynley was confused and somewhat disillusioned. However, being a tender soul, he cannot help but visit Helen at her sister's house when he is assigned to the Weaver murder case. Lynley eventually learns what keeps Helen from wanting to marry him and he comes to understand the selfishness behind his proposal as well. When he encounters Victor Troughton, Lynley feels as though he is looking in a mirror. Toward the end of the narrative, Lynley finally accepts that his wanting to marry Helen Clyde had little to do with her and more to do with his own wishes and desires. Only after coming to this realization and sharing it with Helen, is Lynley able to relax into a new phase of their relationship and one which does not necessarily include marriage. At the end of Chapter 24, Lynley and Helen return to London together. Presumably, the two will become closer and eventually become husband and wife.

Detective Sergeant Barbara Havers

Detective Sergeant Havers is Lynley's long-time partner. Barbara Havers is single and lives with her mother in Acton. Havers' father passed away eight months ago and she had a younger brother who also died. Havers' mother, who is sixty-three years old, suffers from dementia and Havers is overwhelmed caring for her mother alone. After going through a series of caretakers, Havers is considering putting her mother in an assisted living facility. The demands of police work make it impossible for Havers to be with her mother as much as Havers would like to. Havers experiences a great amount of guilt around her mother. Havers fantasizes about living in a place of her own and the freedom that comes with having her mother in a facility. Havers would like nothing more than to simply be responsible for herself.

Physically, Havers is described as "squat and square" and it is no secret that she does not have much fashion sense (pg. 295.) Havers seems to have no interest in men,



although this may be attributable to the fact that she has been her mother's sole companion since the death of Havers' father. Also, Havers once had a brother who died at the age of ten.

Havers' working class background sometimes cause her anxiety in her dealings with Lynley and those of the upper-classes. However, Havers is a tenacious, persistent, and thorough policewoman and Lynley respects her immensely.

Elena Weaver

This character is a twenty-year-old student at St. Stephen's College, which is part of Cambridge University. Elena is murdered early one morning after she goes out for her regular run. Elena's father is an esteemed history professor at Cambridge. She has a strained relationship with her father. Elena's relationship with her step-mother Justine is tense even under the best of circumstances. Elena was born deaf. Elena's parents Anthony and Glyn did all they could to normalize the young woman. Elena could read lips and speak. She rarely used sign language to communicate with others. Elena Weaver was bright but her performance at St. Stephen's suffered because of her inability to adjust to college life. She was a passionate runner and a member of Cambridge's Hare and Hounds running club.

Elena's resentment of her father's absence from her life for so many years leads her into promiscuity. Her relationship with Victor Troughton as well as her subsequent pregnancy was intended to shock and humiliate her father.

Elena Weaver was beautiful and very alluring to men. She was tall and had hair that was "the color of sherry" (pg. 2.) Gareth Randolph and Adam Jenn also had romantic feelings for Elena. Elena, however, was never able to maintain a genuine emotional attachment to anyone.

Lady Helen Clyde

Lady Helen is Inspector Lynley's primary love interest. Helen once refused to marry Lynley and this put a strain on their relationship. Helen feels as though marrying Lynley would mean giving up her inner self and she is not willing to do this. What Helen fears most is becoming like her sister, Pen where she is saddled with children without a fulfilling career, catering to her husband's every whim. Eventually, however, Helen and Lynley resume their romantic relationship after the Elena Weaver case is put to rest.

Anthony Weaver

A respected don at Cambridge University, Anthony Weaver is a leading candidate for the Penford Chair in History. Weaver has been married twice, first to Glyn or Elena's mother and then to Justine, a younger woman. Weaver leaves Glyn when Elena is five years old. He and his daughter reconnect after Elena chooses to attend St. Stephen's



College in Cambridge. Weaver spends much of his emotional energy trying to make up lost time for the years he missed with Elena. Weaver is basically self-serving and narcissistic, putting his wants and needs ahead of others, except for Elena. Weaver's affair with the artist Sarah Gordon is an offshoot of his egocentricity and his inability to control his urges.

Weaver is rather tall and has small hands. His dark hair is graying and he wears thick spectacles. Weaver has a "dark, clipped mustache" and dresses casually yet elegantly (pg. 64.)

Justine Weaver

Justine Weaver is the second wife of Anthony Weaver. Justine is a perfectionist. She holds herself back emotionally and suffers for it in her marriage to Anthony. Justine has a career as a successful editor with the University Press, which is where she and Anthony Weaver first meet. Justine resents the fact that Anthony does not want any more children. She also resents Elena for taking up so much of her husband's time and energy. Justine feels like an appendage in Anthony Weaver's world.

Justine is in her mid-thirties. She is tall, blond and very attractive and somewhat icy. She has "smooth skin, blue eyes, knife-edged cheekbones and a firm jaw" (pg. 35.) Justine is described as "trim and fit," and lanky.

Glyn Weaver

Glyn Weaver is Anthony Weaver's first wife and Elena Weaver's mother. When Anthony left her, Glyn was forced to raise Elena singlehandedly. She resents her husband leaving her for Justine and she resents Justine because Justine is still able to bear children. Glyn's rage is directed primarily toward Justine, whom she views as a threat to her relationship with Elena. Glyn is vindictive and seeks to humiliate her husband whenever possible. Glyn Weaver is forty-six years old and lives in London. Physically, Glyn does not appear to be aging well. There are crow's feet at the corners of her eyes. Her flesh is beginning to sag. Glyn's long hair is streaked with gray and she wears it pulled back in a tight chignon. She is somewhat thick around the waist and hips and she dresses unflatteringly.

Miranda Webberly

Miranda "Randie" Webberly is a student at St. Stephen's College and an acquaintance of Elena Weaver. Randie is also the daughter of Superintendent Malcolm Webberly of New Scotland Yard. Randie is short, plump, and good-natured. She has beautiful curly red hair and pale blue eyes. Randie plays the trumpet and has an affinity for jazz. Randie wishes she were more attractive to men, but she does not let this hold her back as she is more confident about her musical abilities.



Penelope Rodger

Pen Rodger is the sister of Lady Helen Clyde. Pen is married to Harry Rodger, a lecturer at Cambridge. Pen enjoyed a very successful career as an art restorer at the Fitzwilliam Museum when she and Harry first married. However, at Harry's insistence, Pen has become a stay-at-home mother. After the twins Christian and Perdita are born, Harry pleads with Pen to have yet another child. Pen acquiesces and gives birth to their third child, an unnamed girl. Over time, Pen has become resentful and depressed at the thought of her husband having a career and a life outside the home while she is saddled with the burden of caring for the children and maintaining the household all by herself. When Lynley consults Pen about Sarah Gordon's paintings, he triggers a spark in Pen that she has not felt in a long time.

Gareth Randolph

Gareth Randolph is a deaf student at Cambridge University. Randolph is also the founder of DeaStu or the deaf student association at Cambridge. Randolph is also assigned to be Elena Weaver's mentor for a term in order to help the young woman adjust to life at Cambridge. Randolph believes that being deaf makes one a member of deaf culture.

Gareth has "hair the color of old wet straw" and a wide forehead (pg. 215.) He is rather tall and thin, with a "pallid complexion." His face bears the "scattered pits of old acne scars" (pg. 216.)

Adam Jenn

Jenn is the graduate assistant of Anthony Weaver. Jenn strategically chose to work with Weaver after finding out that Weaver was a candidate for the Penford Chair. To Adam Jenn, Weaver's success could do nothing but help to further his own academic career. Jenn was attracted to Elena Weaver and Anthony Weaver had hoped that something would develop between Jenn and his daughter. However, Jenn's relationship with Elena Weaver was nothing more than a friendship. Adam Jenn is something of an opportunist but he is a top-notch scholar nonetheless.

Sarah Gordon

Sarah Gordon is a well-known painter who lives in a restored school in the village of Grantchester, which is not far from Cambridge. Gordon is also Anthony Weaver's former lover and the murderer of Weaver's daughter, Elena. Sarah Gordon, like many artists, sees her creativity as an extension of who she is as a person. After Weaver destroys the painting of Elena that Sarah Gordon gave him, Sarah Gordon is unable to paint for many months, believing that Weaver killed her creative instincts. She kills Elena Weaver in order to inflict as much suffering on Anthony Weaver as he inflicted on her.



Gordon is an attractive and aloof woman. Her hair is the color of coffee. She lives alone with a cat named Silk and Flame, a small scruffy dog.

Rosalyn Simpson

Ros Simpson is "tall and fair" with "long, silky hair" (pg. 367.) Ros is lovers with Melinda Powell. Ros recently told her parents that she is a lesbian at Mel's insistence. Her declaration produces a great deal of anxiety in Ros's mother and father, who believe their daughter's lesbianism to be just a phase. Ros still wishes she could have some sort of relationship with a man.

Harry Rodger

Harry Rodger is Penelope's husband and the father of twins Christian and Perdita. Rodger is a lecturer at Cambridge. When he and Pen were first married, their life seemed idyllic. However, Rodger pressed Pen to have children, which she did. With the birth of their third child, Pen becomes depressed and resentful of her husband. Harry does not help around the house, expecting Pen to raise the children and maintain the home while he comes and goes as he pleases. Harry Rodger is a selfish and self-centered man incapable of caring for his children and deaf to his wife's pleas for assistance. Rodger is less than fond of Lady Helen, his sister-in-law and even less fond of Inspector Lynley.

Lennart (Lenny) Thorsson

Lennart Thorsson, a Swede, is a Shakespearean scholar and a don at Cambridge. Thorsson is in his mid-thirties and has thick, shoulder-length strawberry-blond hair. He wears a "drooping mustache that [curves] round his mouth in a style that [befits] the early 1970s" (pg. 115.) Thorsson's female undergraduate students find him attractive and it is revealed in the narrative that he has had at least one affair with a student.

Superintendent Daniel Sheehan

Sheehan has been a member of the Cambridge Constabulary for twenty-nine years. He is married and has two children, Stephen and Linda. Sheehan is constantly dieting and chews gum to curb his appetite.

Superintendent Malcolm Webberly

Malcolm Webberly is Tommy Lynley's supervisor at New Scotland Yard and the father of Randie Webberly.



Victor Troughton

Victor Troughton, often called Troutie by the undergraduate population, is a former lover of Elena Weaver. Troughton has a "youthful, pixie-like face," despite the fact that he is nearly fifty years old. Troughton stands approximately five feet and eight inches in height and he has thinning, curly "toast-colored" hair (pg. 334.) Troughton is very physically fit. Lynley surmises that Troughton is a rower.

Mrs. Havers

The mother of Sergeant Barbara Havers, Mrs. Havers is a sixty-three-year-old widow who suffers from dementia. The death of her husband leaves Mrs. Havers with no one but her daughter to care for her. Mrs. Havers is eventually situated at Mrs. Flo's Hawthorn Lodge, a facility for the elderly with dementia.

Mrs. Gustafson

Mrs. Gustafson is a neighbor of Barbara Havers and her mother. Mrs. Gustafson has recently been Mrs. Havers' caretaker. Mrs. Gustafson is seventy-two-years old, has liver spots on her hands and wears a curly gray wig. She is partially deaf and does not seem to fully realize the depth of Mrs. Havers' dementia. Also, Mrs. Gustafson controls Mrs. Havers by telling Mrs. Havers that the vacuum cleaner hose is a snake. Mrs. Havers is afraid of snakes.

Mrs. Flo

Mrs. Flo is the proprietress and primary caretaker at Hawthorn Lodge, a facility for elderly dementia patients. Mrs. Flo looks "like a smart matron," wears a "modern wedge" haircut, and she smells like lemons (pg. 29.)



Objects/Places

Cambridge University

This is a prestigious English university consisting of thirty-one colleges.

The River Cam

This is a river which runs through the city of Cambridge, England.

Grantchester

This is a village on the river Cam in England.

Acton

This is a section of west London.

London

This is the capital city of England.

St. Stephen's College

This is one of the colleges of Cambridge University.

Bentley

This is an expensive kind of automobile.

New Scotland Yard

This is the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police located in London.

Players

This is a brand of English cigarettes.

The Potato Eaters

This is a famous painting by Vincent Van Gogh.



Themes

Town and Gown

Town and gown refers specifically to those living in Cambridge who are unaffiliated with the university and those who are, respectively. The word "townee" is a derogatory name for those who live in town. Whereas gown refers, of course, to an academic gown. The history of town vs. gown in Cambridge spans some six hundred years. The basis of this tension is a feeling that those who attend and work for the university somehow believe that they are superior to those who do not. In Elizabeth George's novel, however, most of the animosity lies with those who live in town. A university the size of Cambridge in such a small city is likely to be a major contributor to the local economy, as well as an entity with a substantial amount of influence over local governmental policy and policing. In addition, there is an undercurrent of perceived economic and social inequity, as though those attending Cambridge would somehow be better off than those who do not. It is true that the characters in *For the Sake of Elena* who do attend Cambridge are, for the most part, members of the privileged class. There are those who, for one reason or another, still find themselves on the fringes of university life. Gareth Randolph and Randie Webberly are two such characters. Both of them find it necessary to carve out a niche for themselves within the greater university population. Randolph achieves this by becoming involved in DeaStu, Cambridge's association for deaf students. Randie Webberly, who, even though her father is a high-ranking law enforcement officer with New Scotland Yard, throws herself into her music. Randie is somewhat plump and not classically beautiful. She is self-confident but still struggles with insecurities where romantic relationships are concerned. Randie uses music and performance as a way to engage socially with other students.

By extension, Lynley and Sergeant Havers could be said to represent one type of "town and gown" relationship. Havers, who comes from a decidedly blue-collar background, sometimes (quietly) resents Lynley's highborn status. To her credit, however, Havers does not allow Lynley's title and wealth to detract from their relationship as effective, successful co-workers. And in truth, both characters recognize that their differences highlight their strengths as people and as investigators.

Male/Female Relationships

The relationships between men and women represented in *For the Sake of Elena* are complicated and tenuous at best. At worst, the male/female dealings are destructive and traumatic.

Several of the characters are in unhappy marriages. Pen Rodger and her husband Harry, for example, are both disillusioned with their marriage and neither seems able to understand the other's position. Pen is resentful that she complied with Harry's request to have three children at the expense of an enjoyable and profitable career as an art



expert at the Fitzwilliam Museum. Harry, on the other hand, believes that Pen is simply being unreasonable and immature in her unwillingness to shoulder the entire burden of raising their children and maintaining a home.

Justine and Anthony Weaver, on the other hand, have no children. And while Justine initially agreed to a childless marriage, she now finds herself wanting to start a family. In addition, Justine is jealous of the attention that Anthony pays to Elena. She feels left out. Furthermore, Justine finds her husband's love affair with Sarah Gordon humiliating. Justine experiences dual rejection. Anthony's insistence on not fathering anymore children, coupled with his infidelity, have left Justine cold after ten years together. Furthermore, Justine and Anthony's relationship is complicated even more by the presence of Anthony's first wife (and Elena's mother) Glyn. Because of Glyn's hatred of her ex-husband and Anthony's guilt over the murder of their daughter, Anthony does not advocate for Justine.

Victor Troughton, Elena's lover, also feels trapped in his marriage. By the character's own admittance, he has lost desire for his wife over the years because her body is not young anymore. Troughton does not seem to realize that he, too, has gotten older and that he is less attractive than he was twenty years ago. Troughton's decision to have a vasectomy without informing his wife proves that the character is narcissistic and self-centered to an extreme degree. Ultimately, Victor Troughton seeks out sexual liaisons with younger women because he is insecure about his own mortality. Being with a younger woman means that he can convince himself that he is young. Additionally, Troughton's infidelities prove his inability to sustain meaningful emotional attachments.

Inspector Lynley and Lady Helen Clyde's relationship is by far the healthiest male/female involvement in the narrative. However, theirs is not without its share of problems. When Lynley initially asks Helen to marry him, he does so out of his own selfishness. In other words, his proposal is based solely on what being married to Helen can do for him, without considering what she might need in order to be an equal partner in a marriage relationship. After his conversation with Victor Troughton, however, Lynley comes to realize that in order for marriage between he and Helen to work, he must grant her the freedom to be an individual at the same time as being his wife.

Deaf Culture

Gareth Randolph and Elena Weaver are both deaf. Both attend college. The main difference between the two characters, however, is their individual attitudes toward what it means to be deaf in a hearing world.

Elena Weaver reads lips expertly and she does have speech, albeit imprecise and sometimes difficult to understand. Weaver's parents have done all they could to make Elena into a normal (i.e. hearing-like) person. Anthony and Glyn do whatever they can to assure Elena's successful assimilation into hearing culture, including not using sign language in their home. Their efforts, however, rob Elena of a feeling of camaraderie and community with other deaf people.



Gareth Randolph, on the other hand, is more than aware of his deafness. Gareth belongs to DeaStu, an organization specifically founded for deaf students at the colleges of Cambridge University. To Gareth, being deaf goes beyond some sort of physical lack or difference. To him and the other students of DeaStu, being deaf means belonging to a distinct culture. This was something Elena Weaver could never understand. Using sign language and special telephones is only part of the equation for Gareth Randolph. Being deaf means re-making the world around himself (and other deaf students) rather than attempting to fit into hearing society. To Gareth Randolph and the other members of DeaStu, being deaf means actively, purposely, fighting against society's efforts to normalize them and resisting the efforts of those who would prefer that the deaf simply assimilate.



Style

Point of View

The entire novel is told from the perspective of an omniscient narrator. The narrator's voice is entirely neutral throughout the narrative. In the first chapter, the groundwork for the mystery is quickly established with Elena Weaver's death. After walking the reader through Elena Weaver's brief morning, the narrator states that, "[Elena] had less than fifteen minutes to live" (pg. 4.) This signals the reader that (a) Elena Weaver is a key character and that (b) her death is the crux of what occurs in the remainder of the narrative. In addition, the introduction of the Sarah Gordon character soon after Elena's death establishes Gordon as another important figure in the story. However, her relationship to Elena is not illuminated until much later.

In the case of this novel, the use of an omniscient narrator insures that the reader has an objective view of everything that happens from beginning to end. Much of what takes place in the narrative happens without the immediate knowledge of the main protagonists, which adds a certain tension to the narrative as a whole. The novel itself is relatively standard fare as pertains to the mystery genre. However, what makes this an especially satisfying novel is the way in which Elizabeth George's narrator gives insights into the characters' lives and backgrounds. For instance, the reader learns that Superintendent Sheehan is a "chronic dieter" and that Superintendent Webberly's secretary is practically obsessed with the Prince of Wales (pg. 13.)

Setting

The entire novel takes place in and around the city of Cambridge, England. Specifically, Cambridge University is the main location. In addition, the villages of Madingley and Grantchester are important sites in the narrative. The author includes a comprehensive map of Cambridge and its environs, which provides a layout of the area around the University. The map also gives the reader an idea of the vastness of Cambridge University, which further reinforces the university's significant impact on the city itself. Finally, the map is very much like one which would be used by those characters investigating Elena Weaver's death. It is entirely conceivable that Inspector Lynley and the other law enforcement officers would certainly have such a map at their disposal.

Other settings in the novel include Acton, where Havers and her mother live. In addition, the small town of Greenford is mentioned as the location of Mrs. Flo's care center, Hawthorn Lodge. The city of London is also mentioned. However none of the novel's action takes place there. In addition, many locations on the campus of Cambridge's colleges are included in the narrative, such as Ivy Court, the Fitzwilliam Museum, Queen's College, and St. Stephen's College.



Language and Meaning

Although *For the Sake of Elena* is written in English, one must keep in mind that the action does take place in Great Britain. As a result, there are words and phrases used in the narrative which may seem strange to an American audience. Words such as "loo" meaning bathroom and "lorry" meaning truck are used. Also, the author includes words and phrases which are subject-specific, such as architectural terms like cupola and the names of various plants and trees. Furthermore, words used in the art world such as muller and patina are included throughout as well as names of famous architects like Christopher Wren, painters like Whistler and Picasso and musicians like Dizzy Gillespie and Chet Baker. One effect produced by the inclusion of so many references to art, architecture, and music is that their presence in the narrative paints a picture of Cambridge University and its colleges as places of ideas, movement, progress, and the gathering of knowledge for its own sake.

Language also comes under scrutiny in the narrative in that Elena Weaver was deaf. Sign language was never part of her world until coming to Cambridge. Elena speaks but does not hear. Consequently, her words are slightly different than those spoken by the other characters. For instance, Elena says "muh-owz" rather than "mouse" (pg. 2.) In addition, the use of the Ceephone gives the deaf characters a way to communicate with the hearing characters in the novel. Finally, there is a difference in the language used by upper-class characters such as Lynley and Lady Helen and those from the working class such as Barbara Havers.

Structure

The novel is divided into twenty-four chapters of varying lengths. The narrative progression is linear for the most part, although many of the characters' past experiences are included. For example, in Chapter 10, Justine Weaver reminisces about the beginnings of her relationship and eventual marriage to Anthony Weaver. Similarly, in Chapter 22, the artist Sarah Gordon relives the morning she kills Elena Weaver. Gordon also remembers, at length, her involvement with Anthony Weaver and the eventual breakdown of their romantic relationship. This technique of remembrance helps the author to keep the novel to a manageable length as well as divulging important back-story for the more prominent characters.

The narrative arc of *For the Sake of Elena* is standard as well, which is entirely in keeping with the mystery genre. The novel begins with Elena's murder and the investigation begins. The main protagonists are introduced, after which another murder takes place. Clues are discovered and pieces are put into place by Lynley and Havers and the final resolution comes in Chapter 22. Furthermore, also in keeping with the genre, by the end of Elizabeth George's novel, all of the narrative loose ends have been resolved. Elena Weaver's murder is solved as well as that of Georgina Higgins-Hart. Sergeant Havers' mother is safely tucked away at Mrs. Flo's Hawthorn Lodge, while

Penelope Rodgers rediscovers her passion for art. Inspector Lynley and Lady Helen begin a new phase in their relationship.



Quotes

"[The] three of them tucked into their own breakfasts with the martyred air of a family too long exposed to the unexpected mood-swings of the chronic dieter" (Chapter 2, pg. 13.)

"Accidents and murders brought out the worst in people" (Chapter 2, pg. 13.)

"In spite of the cold, [Drake's] cashmere greatcoat was slung indifferently round his shoulders like a cape, and he wore no scarf to detract from the crisp, clean lines of his Italian suit" (Chapter 2, pg. 15.)

"It had possibilities. And that's all Barbara [Havers] asked of life any longer, just the promise of possibility" (Chapter 2, pg. 31.)

"[Havers] hated [Lynley's] easy generosity. It made her his debtor, and she did not possess-would never possess-the coin with which he might be repaid" (Chapter 2, pg. 32.)

"[Anthony Weaver] began to weep-dry, hot, tear-less sobs for his daughter and his wives and the mess he'd made of every part of his life" (Chapter 3, pg. 38.)

"[Terrence Cuff] seemed to wear confidence with the same ease with which he wore his fawn trousers and navy jacket" (Chapter 4, pg. 55.)

"For an age, it seemed, [Justine Weaver] had been filled with outrage, distrust, and a need for vengeance that nothing had yet been able to satiate" (Chapter 4, pg. 75.)

"[Although] Barbara [...] kept a supportive hand fixed round her mother's arm, it was like leading an innocent animal to its death in a slaughterhouse in those last horrible moments when it first catches on the air the unmistakable scent of blood" (Chapter 5, pg. 81.)

"If [Thorsson] was intent upon playing the role of youthful indifferent rebellion, he couldn't have chosen a more successful costume" (Chapter 6, pg. 116.)

"[Sarah Gordon's] mind had to accept what her body was telling her. There are things far worse than finding a dead body" (Chapter 7, pg. 151.)

"Pushed right to the edge of truth's abyss, people always clung tenaciously to the same form of denial" (Chapter 8, pg. 169.)

"[Anthony and Glyn] merely fell into marriage, which after all, was the highest form of public validation he could possibly give to a mindless act of sex with a woman he didn't know" (Chapter 9, pg. 177.)

"[Justine] was, after all, so decidedly glad that Elena was dead" (Chapter 10, pg. 207.)



"For what young person could really resist the temptation of rubbing elbows with a rebel?" (Chapter 12, pg. 240.)

"Chew everything [Barbara's] mother would say, else you'll end up stiff like your auntie Doris" (Chapter 13, pg. 256.)

"One can hardly concentrate on destroying the self when the other becomes so much more important" (Chapter 18, pg. 322.)

"[Glyn] picked up the sandwich and took a hefty bite, chewing with a pleasure that seemed only marginally related to the food" (Chapter 21, pg. 381.)

"In the end, life is all about seeking reassurance, [Havers] thought, we're all engaged in looking for some kind of sign that will tell us we're not really alone" (Chapter 24, pg. 430.)

"[Lynley] felt unaccountably touched by the unadorned melody and he marveled at the human heart's capacity to be moved by something as simple as sound" (Chapter 24, pg. 437.)



Topics for Discussion

According to Gareth Randolph, what is the difference between "deaf" and "Deaf?"

Why does Lady Helen Clyde refuse to marry Inspector Lynley?

What is the source of Barbara Havers' reluctance to place her mother in a care facility?

What prompts Sarah Gordon to murder Elena Weaver?

What is a "townee?" Why is this a derogatory term?

Explain the conflict between "town" and "gown."

Discuss the class difference between Inspector Lynley and Sergeant Havers.

Why does Adam Jenn choose Anthony Weaver as his mentor?

What is at the root of Victor Troughton's infidelity?

What is Justine Weaver's occupation?