

A Great Deliverance Study Guide

A Great Deliverance by Elizabeth George

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Plot Summary

Elizabeth George's first novel, *A Great Deliverance*, finds Inspector Thomas Lynley of New Scotland Yard in the small northern village of Keldale on the wild Yorkshire moors. Inspector Lynley, who also happens to be the 8th Earl of Asherton and a born aristocrat, is investigating a murder there with Sergeant Barbara Havers. Sergeant Havers was recently demoted for being difficult to work with, and the William Teys murder case is her opportunity for reinstatement at CID (Criminal Investigations Department of the British Police). There is a problem, however. Havers detests Inspector Lynley. He is a womanizer and a rogue as far as Havers is concerned. Havers is convinced that Lynley looks down his nose at anyone other than the high-born and beautiful: Havers is neither. Living in the working-class neighborhood of Acton, Havers is painfully aware of the class difference which exists between herself and Lynley. Living with her aging, ailing parents, Havers knows that getting back into CID is her ticket out of poverty and squalor.

Roberta Teys, the murder victim's youngest daughter, has confessed to decapitating William Teys with an axe. Subsequently, Roberta is sent to Barnstingham Mental Asylum by her cousin, Richard Gibson, who stands to inherit William Teys' farm. When Inspector Lynley and Sergeant Havers arrive in Keldale, the village is deserted. After checking into Keldale Lodge, however, the peaceful village becomes the site of petty jealousies, romantic rivalries, and deadly secrets. It seems that William Teys was someone who was well-liked and respected in his community. It is strange then that Teys' young wife Tessa would abandon him and their two daughters shortly after Roberta's birth. It seems even stranger that Roberta's older sister, Gillian, would run away from home at the age of sixteen never to be heard from again.

The inhabitants of Keldale are a colorful lot. The parish priest, Father Hart is a chain-smoker with a very nervous disposition. Mrs. Burton-Thomas, an eccentric aristocrat, has turned her ancestral home, Keldale Hall, into an upscale destination for travelers with money. Ezra Farmington, the handsome local artist, was never on good terms with William Teys. Nigel Parrish, the snooty church organist, has quite a few secrets of his own. The startlingly beautiful Stepha Odell seems to know details associated with the murder case that no one else in Keldale knows. And finally, there is the matter of the baby ghost whose cries originate from the stones of ancient Keldale Abbey.

Inspector Lynley and Sergeant Havers have their hands full and the folks in Keldale are determined not to make this an easy investigation for the unlikely pair.



Chapters 1 - 4

Chapters 1 - 4 Summary

Inspector Thomas Lynley is dispatched to Yorkshire to investigate the decapitation of a church-going, God-fearing farmer. Lynley's partner on the case is one Sergeant Barbara Havers, a woman with a reputation for being impossible to work with. Neither Lynley nor Havers can fathom why they have been put on the case together. When they arrive in the seemingly peaceful village of Keldale however, Inspector Lynley and Sergeant Havers find that not only do they have a murder on their hands, but they find that life in Keldale is not as pleasant as the locals would have them believe. With the arrival of New Scotland Yard, the tiny village on the Yorkshire moors must relinquish its secrets once and for all or remain a prisoner of its own dark past.

Father Hart arrives at London's King's Cross Station. He is out of his element in such a large city. Father Hart is on his way to New Scotland Yard.

Superintendent Malcolm Webberly and his superior, Sir David Hillier, are married to sisters Frances and Laura, respectively. Hillier's marriage and career are both very successful. Webberly's, on the other hand, are not. Malcolm Webberly's wife is a shrew and a shameless social climber.

New Scotland Yard is investigating thirteen murders in five weeks at train stations in and around London. The killer has been dubbed "The Railway Ripper." All of the Ripper's victims are "transient types. Broken nails. Dirty. Badly cut hair. Body lice" (pg. 14.)

Father Hart discovered the body of a murder victim in the small Yorkshire village of Keldale in northern England. The local Yorkshire authorities agree that Father Hart should be the one to deliver the pertinent case information to New Scotland Yard.

In Chapter 2, Superintendent Webberly chooses Inspector Lynley to head the investigation into the Yorkshire victim's murder. Webberly also wants to give Sergeant Barbara Havers the opportunity to work with Lynley. Sergeant Havers was put "back in uniform" eight months ago. Havers was demoted because of her inability to work well with the other members of CID or Criminal Investigations Department.

Barbara Havers is shocked at Superintendent Webberly's decision to pair her with Inspector Lynley. Thomas "Tommy" Lynley has a reputation as a womanizer — something Havers would not need to be concerned with as she is somewhat unattractive. Consequently, Havers is both angry and pleased to be back in CID. Havers' first assignment is to go to Chelsea to retrieve Lynley, who is at a wedding reception. Havers vehemently detests Lynley because he is upper-crust. Inspector Lynley is the 8th Earl of Asherton. Havers, on the other hand, is decidedly lower middle-class.



Inspector Tommy Lynley is attending the wedding of his close friend, forensic examiner Simon Allcourt-St. James. At one point in their friendship, Lynley and St. James were involved in an automobile accident which crippled Simon Allcourt-St. James. Lynley, who was intoxicated at the time, was the driver. Havers arrives and she and Lynley have a few words prior to departing. Sergeant Havers meets Lady Helen Clyde at the wedding reception. There is some unexplained tension between Lynley, St. James and St. James' new wife, Deborah. Havers surmises that Lynley is or was in love with Deborah Allcourt-St. James.

In Chapter 3, Lynley, Havers, and Superintendent Webberly talk to Father Hart at New Scotland Yard. The Yorkshire victim's name is William Teys. Teys was decapitated. Roberta Teys, his younger daughter, has confessed to cutting off her father's head with an axe.

It seems that Father Hart came upon William Teys's body when he visited the Teys family farm after noticing the family's absence from mass one Sunday. Father Hart found Roberta Teys sitting not far from her father's body. The family dog, Whiskers, had been killed as well. Roberta Teys had been especially attached to Whiskers and Father Hart expresses his doubts about Roberta's supposed guilt. At the time of his death, William Teys was engaged to Olivia Odell, who has a small daughter named Bridie.

It is agreed that Inspector Lynley and Sergeant Havers will leave for Yorkshire the next morning.

Sergeant Havers lives in Acton, a working-class section in west London, with her parents. Havers' mother is on the verge of senility. Havers' brother, Tony, died of leukemia at a young age.

In Chapter 4, Simon and Deborah Allcourt-St. James arrive at Keldale Hall, the ancestral home of the eccentric Mrs. Burton-Thomas. Mrs. Burton-Thomas has turned Keldale Hall into a kind of upscale hotel for well-off vacationers. Simon and Deborah have come to Keldale Hall for their honeymoon.

Shortly after they arrive, Danny, one of Mrs. Burton-Thomas' unofficial "nieces," tells Simon and Deborah about the baby ghost of Keldale Abbey.

In Acton, Havers has a brief conversation with her father, Jimmy. Havers' father always refers to himself in the third person. Jimmy Havers suffers from emphysema caused by smoking cigarettes. Although Jimmy promises Barbara he has quit smoking, he still sneaks down to Mr. Patel's convenience store to buy snuff, which Barbara regularly confiscates. Havers dislikes her father intensely.

The following morning, Havers goes to collect Inspector Lynley at home. While Lynley and Havers are having breakfast, Lady Helen Clyde arrives. Lady Helen and Simon Allcourt-St. James have been putting together a presentation on blood spatter. Lady Helen has mixed up the materials being used in the presentation and she asks Lynley to help her sort things out. However, since Lynley and Havers are on their way to



Yorkshire, and St. James is away on his honeymoon, Lynley offers to call another friend who is a forensics expert to assist Lady Helen.

Sergeant Havers tells Lady Helen that she and Lynley are on their way to Yorkshire to investigate a decapitation. Lady Helen claims not to know anything about Keldale. The implication is that she is lying.

Chapters 1 - 4 Analysis

In the novel's opening chapter, Father Hart is introduced as he travels from Yorkshire to New Scotland Yard in London. Hart's reasons for going to New Scotland Yard are not immediately revealed. The sub-plot of the Railway Ripper murders is also introduced in this chapter. There is also quite a bit of background information given on the murders.

Sergeant Barbara Havers and Inspector Lynley both enter the narrative in the second chapter. One possible reason for introducing the main protagonists in the second chapter could concern the author's decision to privilege the story itself over the personalities assigned to solving the mystery. Also, the author sets the Lynley-Havers partnership in motion by giving character background information before the characters actually interact with one another. Knowing why Havers is being assigned to the case with Inspector Lynley is another mystery. In this case, however, the reader is left to determine for him/herself exactly what the motivation is for having the two characters work together.

The issue of social class is brought up in reference to Havers and her feelings toward Lynley. Havers' attitude about Lynley as a member of the English aristocracy serve to add tension to their already unlikely pairing. Tension is also revealed during the episode which takes place when Havers must go to Chelsea to inform Lynley that he is needed back at New Scotland Yard. Havers correctly assesses the situation, guessing that Lynley is in love with Deborah Allcourt-St. James. This realization plays into a minor sub-plot having to do with Lynley's relationship to the bridegroom, Simon Allcourt-St. James. Lady Helen Clyde also enters the narrative in Chapter 2 as another in Lynley's circle of upper-class associates.

During the meeting with Father Hart at New Scotland Yard, the details of the Teys case are revealed, making it clear to the reader that the case will be anything but easy to solve. The fact that Roberta Teys is in a mental institution refusing to talk to anyone complicates the plot. Although she confessed, Roberta will give no details.

Background on Havers' life with her parents in Acton adds texture to the character. It also partially explains Havers' resentment toward Lynley and his friends.

Simon and Deborah Allcourt-St. James' arrival at Keldale Hall lets the reader know that Lynley will come in contact with them again, thereby providing the character an opportunity to interact with his former lover and her husband again. Coincidence, in this case, ultimately furthers the possibility of resolution, as Lynley will undoubtedly be surprised that Simon and his new bride are honeymooning in Keldale.



Mrs. Burton-Thomas, Danny, and Hank and JoJo Watson enter the narrative in Chapter 2. The characters at Keldale Hall are all minor players in the narrative. Specifically, Mrs. Burton-Thomas and the Watsons function as comic relief. The Watson's are stereotypical American tourists. They are loud, flamboyant, and rather provincial.

Also, the story of the crying baby at Keldale Abbey is a foreshadowing of information which will be revealed at a later point in the narrative.

Jimmy Havers, Sergeant Havers' father, is introduced, which further explains Havers' perceived bitterness over her current life. It is clear that Havers views herself as being trapped in the lower-class and that working for CID is, in some way, her ticket out. Jimmy Havers represents everything that is ugly about Barbara Havers' life. Her father serves as a reminder of the need to escape as soon as possible.

Lady Helen Clyde does not tell Inspector Lynley that Allcourt-St. James and Deborah are in Keldale. Her motivation for holding back this piece of information is never revealed. Two possibilities exist however. The first possibility is that Lady Helen does not wish to upset Inspector Lynley. The second possibility is that Lady Helen could be in love with Lynley herself.



Chapters 5 - 8

Chapters 5 - 8 Summary

Chapter 5 opens with Inspector Lynley and Sergeant Havers on their way to Yorkshire by train. Sergeant Havers finds it difficult to believe that Roberta Teys would kill the family dog, Whiskers. Havers also wonders why, if Roberta killed her father, the young woman would go to the trouble of wiping her fingerprints off the axe. Also, Havers is especially curious about the lack of blood spatter evidence at the scene of the crime. Havers surmises that Whiskers died before William Teys was murdered. Chief Superintendent Nies of the Richmond Constabulary enters the narrative in this chapter. Richmond is located close to Keldale in Yorkshire. Chief Superintendent Nies hates Inspector Lynley passionately.

Back at Keldale Hall, home of Mrs. Burton-Thomas, Simon and Deborah St. James hear more about the baby ghost of Keldale Abbey. Simon and Deborah meet American tourists Hank Watson and his wife JoJo. Hank tells the newlyweds about Danny's experience with the wailing baby. Apparently, Danny and her boyfriend Ezra Farmington, a local artist, were at Keldale Abbey one night when they heard a baby crying. They located the baby but it was too late. The baby had already died of exposure. It is said that the dead baby can be heard crying in the abbey at night.

As Lynley and Havers are riding in Lynley's Bentley, Havers asks Inspector Lynley about the animosity between himself and Chief Superintendent Nies. Lynley tells Sergeant Havers that when Lynley's brother-in-law, Edward Davenport, was murdered five years ago, Nies mistakenly arrested Lynley for the killing.

When Inspector Lynley and Sergeant Havers arrive in the tiny village of Keldale, it is deserted. Lynley and Havers check into their rooms at Keldale Lodge. At this point, Stepha Odell enters the narrative. Stepha owns and operates Keldale Lodge and is the former sister-in-law of Olivia Odell, William Teys' fiancée. Stepha Odell informs Lynley and Havers that Roberta Teys has been placed in an asylum.

In Chapter 6, Inspector Lynley is livid that Roberta Teys was institutionalized without first being examined by a psychiatrist. It also comes to Lynley's attention that Roberta Teys is not being represented by a lawyer. Lynley is unhappy with the way the case has been handled up to this point.

Stepha shows Lynley and Havers to the bar. Hanging on the wall are two of Ezra Farmington's watercolor renderings of Keldale Abbey. Through the window, Father Hart can be seen talking animatedly with a man and a woman.

Stepha reports that Roberta Teys is being held at Barnstingham Mental Asylum and that she refuses to speak to anyone. Stepha then tells Lynley that Richard Gibson, William



Teys' nephew, was given the keys to Teys' farm after Roberta was taken to Barnstingham. It seems that Richard Gibson stands to inherit the Teys family farm.

The story goes that Richard Gibson left Keldale several years earlier to go into the barley growing business. Upon Gibson's return to Keldale, he noticed that his cousin Roberta, who is twelve years his junior, had become quite obese. This fact alarmed Gibson and he called William Teys to task for Roberta's shocking weight gain. Gibson contended that Roberta's weight gain was due to Teys ignoring her. Roberta had always been an avid reader. When Paul Odell was alive, Roberta would visit Keldale Lodge everyday to read the local daily newspaper. After Paul's death, Roberta stopped coming to the lodge. Stepha Odell thinks Roberta Teys was in love with her twin brother Paul.

Inspector Lynley and Sergeant Havers pay a call on Richard Gibson, William Teys' nephew. Currently, Richard Gibson and his wife and family live on St. Chad's Lane, in what is considered by many to be the wrong part of town. When Lynley and Havers arrive at the Gibson home, Richard Gibson is arguing with his wife Madeline. Apparently, Richard and Madeline Gibson argue on a regular basis. Gibson informs Lynley and Havers that his wife does not want to live on the Teys farm. Gibson goes on to admit that he is ripe as a suspect in his uncle's murder, but that he was in bed with his wife when William Teys was killed.

Hank and JoJo Watson find Simon and Deborah St. James and insist on taking the newlyweds to see "the death hole" at Keldale Abbey (pg. 127.) Hank tells JoJo, Simon and Deborah that he believes gypsies abandoned a baby there.

Inspector Lynley and Sergeant Havers visit Gemblar Farm, William Teys' former home. After inspecting the barn, Lynley tells a surprised Sergeant Havers that she is right about William Teys' murder taking place somewhere else. Also, Lynley realizes that Chief Superintendent Nies failed to mention Whiskers, the Teys' dog, in his report. Lynley also realizes that if he is to receive anything further from Nies, it will have to be painstakingly extracted from the man," as if [Lynley] were a surgeon probing for shrapnel" (pg. 132.)

Lynley and Havers come upon a shrine to Roberta's mother Tessa. The sight takes Havers aback. It reminds her of the shrine her dead brother Tony's room has become. Lynley and Havers are somewhat surprised at the existence of the shrine since William Teys was engaged to Olivia Odell at the time of his death. Havers and Lynley continue their search of the farmhouse. They find a library filled with stacks and shelves of books. This seems odd, given that Stepha Odell had informed them earlier that Roberta had no books to read at home. Inspector Lynley then comes across a huge Bible, opened to a passage in Exodus. The passage contains a clue as to the novel's title.

Havers finds a photograph of the Teys family which shows William Teys holding Roberta. Lynley also uncovers photographic evidence of the presence of another girl in the Teys household. Perhaps this is Tessa's sister, Lynley thinks. When Lynley and Havers examine Roberta Teys' room, they find nothing out of the ordinary on the



surface. However, when they turn over the girl's mattress, they find a large stash of rotting food inside the box spring.

Lynley and Havers walk from Gembler Farm back into Keldale to the Dove and Whistle pub. On the way, Lynley puzzles over Havers' strange behavior that afternoon. He knows something is bothering Havers, but he cannot imagine what it might be. Havers later apologizes to Lynley for her outburst at the farmhouse. When their dinner of chicken and peas is brought to them, Havers is forced to leave the table. Chicken and peas remind Havers of her father Jimmy's squalid room and her home in Acton.

In Chapter 7, Nigel Parrish enters the narrative. Parrish is the organist at St. Catherine's Catholic Church. Nigel Parrish tells Lynley and Havers that he saw Ezra Farmington arguing with William Teys one evening just prior to Teys' death. Ezra was trespassing on Teys' land. During the course of their heated disagreement, Teys ripped up several of Ezra's sketches and Whiskers bit Ezra on the leg.

After Havers retires for the evening, Stepha Odell gives Lynley a packet of case files delivered by Nies earlier that day. Lynley learns from Stepha Odell that Gabriel Langston, the local constable, buried Whiskers. She then informs Lynley that Whiskers' throat had been slit. Lynley wonders if Whiskers was killed to prevent the dog from foiling an attempted robbery before William Teys was murdered. Lynley then shows Stepha one of the photographs that he and Havers found at Gembler Farm. Stepha identifies the young woman as Roberta's older sister, Gillian. Stepha says that Gillian Teys was something of a wild child who drank to excess and ran around with various men. After Gillian Teys left Keldale eleven years ago, William Teys destroyed all evidence of his daughter Gillian, including her birth certificate.

The following day, Lynley and Havers pay a call on Olivia Odell, William Teys' fiancée. Olivia has a nine year-old daughter named Bridie (MacBride). Bridie's constant companion is her pet duck, Dougal. Olivia tells Lynley and Havers that Tessa Teys did not die; she left William shortly after giving birth to Roberta. Before he was murdered, William Teys hired a private investigator who had managed to locate Tessa.

Lynley visits Harry Houseman, the private detective hired by William Teys. Houseman tells Lynley that Tessa married a second time without divorcing Teys. Lynley meets Havers and the two go to Tessa "Teys" Mowrey's home.

At the beginning of Chapter 8, Tessa believes Lynley has come to talk to her about her second husband, Russell Mowrey, who has not been seen in two weeks.

Tessa tells Lynley and Havers that she married William Teys when she was just sixteen. When Gillian was born, Tessa tells them, William became very religious and wouldn't allow Tessa to have access to Gillian. Eight years later Roberta was born. The following year, Tessa left William and the girls.

Leaving Tessa Mowrey's house, Lynley and Havers discuss the case. Lynley thinks he saw Russell Mowrey at Scotland Yard. Havers, on the other hand, believes that Gillian



Teys left home because of her father's religious zeal. Neither Lynley nor Havers has any idea who built the shrine to Tessa at Gemblar Farm.

Inspector Lynley and Sergeant Havers then travel to Barnstingham Mental Asylum to speak with Roberta Teys. Dr. Samuels, Roberta's psychiatrist, tells Lynley and Havers that Richard Gibson was the person responsible for having Roberta Teys committed while awaiting her trial. Lynley tells an unresponsive Roberta about Bridie Odell cutting her own hair. Then he promises Roberta that he will find her sister Gillian. Havers sees Lynley's compassion toward Roberta Teys and she suddenly realizes that she has misjudged Inspector Lynley.

Chapters 5 - 8 Analysis

At this point in the narrative, the real detective work begins. Havers begins to show Lynley that she knows her job. The introduction of Superintendent Nies adds tension to the main plot. However, the true source of Nies' hatred of Inspector Lynley seems to stem from the Superintendent's resentment of Lynley's social standing rather than anything related directly to Lynley's personality. Nies is a peripheral character at best.

Hank and JoJo Watson provide comedic contrast to Simon Allcourt-St. James and his new wife Deborah. The Americans are cast as boorish and unrefined, whereas the newlyweds are represented as very genteel and well-mannered. Hank Watson's version of the baby-in-the-abbey story serves two purposes. First of all, the unknown baby's parentage becomes a secondary plot point. Also, it is at this point that the artist Ezra Farmington enters the narrative. Both pieces of information foreshadow the revelation of Ezra Farmington's role in an unrelated birth as well as adding texture to the Teys murder plot point. In addition, the baby in the abbey functions to alert the reader that there is more to the story than any of the characters currently know.

The introduction of Stepha Odell adds another secondary character to the narrative. At the same time, it adds one more name to the list of possible suspects. Keldale is a small enough town that everyone can be considered a suspect when Lynley and Havers first arrive on the scene. That Stepha Odell is an exceptionally beautiful woman also foreshadows Lynley's brief encounter with her later in the narrative. Stepha is set up as a contrast to Havers, as are all of the attractive women in the story. In addition, it is now known that Stepha is indirectly connected to William Teys. Somehow, Stepha knows of Roberta Teys' whereabouts. This is somewhat suspicious, as Stepha is not related to Roberta. However, in a small town, news travels quickly. It is also suspicious that Roberta has been institutionalized rather than placed under arrest and held at the local constabulary. In addition, the presence of two of Ezra Farmington's paintings in Keldale Lodge foreshadows the discovery of his one-time relationship with Stepha.

When Stepha informs Lynley and Havers that Richard Gibson, William Teys' nephew, stands to inherit Gemblar Farm, Gibson automatically becomes a suspect. Furthermore, Gibson's suspect status is solidified when Lynley learns that it was Gibson who had Roberta Teys placed at Barnstingham Mental Asylum.



The narrator offers background information on Richard Gibson and his connection to the Teys family. It is assumed that Gibson is the son of William Teys' sister, although Teys' immediate relatives are never mentioned. In addition, Roberta Teys' startling weight gain serves to alert the reader that something significant happened to the girl while Gibson was away from Keldale. Stepha's assertion that Roberta Teys had been in love with her brother Paul Odell is conjecture. However, the fact that Roberta would come to Keldale Lodge each day to read the daily newspaper is a foreshadowing of Havers' finally locating Roberta's missing sister, Gillian.

Gibson's volatile relationship with his wife Madeline paints the character as someone who is less than trustworthy. Gibson realizes that he is a suspect in William Teys' murder and the alibi he gives Lynley and Havers is obviously a lie. Gibson has a secret that might have little or nothing to do with William Teys' death.

On their first visit to Teys' Gembler Farm, Sergeant Havers begins to piece together the murder case and Lynley is on the verge of taking her seriously. The missing information on Whiskers the family dog only serves to reinforce the fact that Superintendent Nies' dislike of Inspector Lynley is affecting Nies' ability to do his job objectively. Lynley realizes this, however, and takes it in his stride. Upon their discovery of the shrine to Tessa, Havers loses some of her perspective. It is almost as if Havers is looking into a mirror of her own experience and for a moment, the scene affects her adversely. Stepha Odell's assertion that Roberta Teys had no books to read at home proves to be important in later chapters. This first experience at Gembler Farm also sets in motion the idea of one sibling offering some sort of deliverance to another.

When Havers and Lynley find the photograph of Teys holding Roberta and another photograph which shows a young (as yet) unidentified Gillian Teys, the theme of *Secrets* becomes firmly implanted in the narrative. Turning over Roberta's box spring is an indication that there is certainly more to the Teys family than meets the eye. The food under the box spring is decayed, dead, rotting. This is symbolic of the Teys family structure: everything appears normal on the surface, but beneath the veneer, there is something repugnant.

Upon their return to Keldale and the Dove and Whistle, Havers' apology to Lynley is a sign that the character is aware of her own frailty. However, Havers' shame resurfaces when the chicken and peas are brought to their table. For Havers, chicken and peas are emblematic of the sickness that waits for her back in Acton.

Nigel Parrish enters the narrative and he reveals more of the story of William Teys to Lynley and Havers. Parrish's gossip serves to advance the plot and enables Lynley and Havers to home in on Ezra Farmington as a suspect in Teys' murder. However, Nigel Parrish's delight in telling Lynley and Havers about Farmington's argument with Teys is disproportional to the situation. Nigel's dislike of Ezra Farmington is a precursor to the discovery that they are both in love with the same woman. Nigel Parrish is jealous of Ezra Farmington, that much is clear, but Lynley will not learn the true source of Nigel's jealousy until much later in the novel.



Stepha Odell's identification of Gillian Teys in a photograph provides Inspector Lynley with another piece of the puzzle. Stepha's assessment of Gillian Teys' character is only the first in a confusing series of descriptions of the missing girl.

Olivia Odell and her young daughter Bridie are introduced into the narrative, along with Bridie's duck, Dougal. Lynley and Havers learn that Tessa Teys is still alive. This information complicates the story, and Havers and Lynley are learning that the Teys' family was anything but normal. Additionally, Lynley and Havers now have the task of finding out what motivated Tessa Teys to abandon her husband and two young daughters. Lynley's brief visit with Harry Houseman advances the plot in that Houseman has, indeed, located Tessa Teys.

When Tessa is confronted by Lynley and Havers about her reasons for leaving William and her young children, she tells them that William wouldn't let her have access to Roberta and Gillian. This foreshadows Gillian's real reason for running away from Keldale as well as Roberta's confession of murder. Lynley's recollection of Russell Mowrey is tangential to the Teys case, but Mowrey's disappearance is significant for another reason.

When Lynley and Havers visit Roberta Teys at Barnstingham Mental Asylum, Havers comes to the realization that she has been wrong about Lynley. She witnesses what it is that makes Lynley so different from others of his social ilk: Lynley is a compassionate and caring individual. Havers' misjudgment of Lynley mirrors the ways in which others have misjudged her based on appearance.



Chapters 9 - 12

Chapters 9 - 12 Summary

In Chapter 9, Inspector Lynley and Sergeant Havers arrive back in Keldale only to witness Nigel Parrish having an argument with a young man. Lynley learns from Parrish that the young man is none other than Ezra Farmington. Parrish lies about the source of his vehement disagreement with Ezra. Parrish, a former prep school music teacher, has lived at Rose Cottage for a number of years. Lynley is convinced that Parrish is hiding something. Upon his return to Keldale Lodge, Lynley learns that Stepha Odell has booked Lynley at Keldale Hall for dinner. Somehow, Stepha knows that Lynley and Havers had been to see Roberta Teys at Barnstingham.

Havers is not at all pleased to be having dinner at Keldale Hall. She is convinced that she will be surrounded by members of Lynley's elevated social class. However, when Mrs. Burton-Thomas answers the door, Havers' fears are laid to rest. Mrs. Burton-Thomas is dressed eccentrically, to say the least (pg. 216.) Lynley is crestfallen when he learns that Simon and Deborah Allcourt-St. James are honeymooning at Keldale Hall. It is revealed that Lynley and Deborah St. James were once intimately involved. Deborah chose Simon over Lynley. Lynley and Havers leave the dinner party at their earliest opportunity. Later, Deborah tells Simon that she feels responsible for breaking Tommy Lynley's heart.

In Chapter 10, Chief Superintendent Nies is waiting for Lynley when he and Havers arrive at Keldale Lodge. Nies does nothing to hide his utter hatred of Lynley. Nies brings Lynley a carton containing everything he and his department have gathered concerning the Teys murder. Roberta Teys' bloodstained Sunday dress and shoes are included in the carton.

Lynley and Havers try to piece together a motive for Roberta's confession. Lynley surmises that Roberta Teys found her father's body the morning after he was killed. Lynley figures that Roberta would have been waiting for William Teys to take her to church on Sunday.

The following morning, Lynley awakens consumed with thoughts of Deborah Allcourt-St. James. In an effort to shake off his discomfiture, Lynley goes for a walk in the graveyard at St. Catherine's Church. He sees Deborah Allcourt-St. James in the graveyard, taking photographs. Deborah and Lynley share an awkward moment before they are surprised by the appearance of Father Hart. The three stand next to the grave of the infant discovered by Danny and Ezra Farmington at Keldale Abbey. Father Hart admits to Lynley and Deborah that William Teys was like a son to him and that after Gillian ran away, William was never the same.

Lynley returns to the Odell house and has a brief conversation with young Bridie.



Over breakfast, Lynley and Sergeant Havers discuss the conflicting information they have been receiving from the locals about Gillian Teys. Stepha Odell describes Gillian as "wild" while Father Hart described her as "sunshine" (pg. 249.)

Lynley instructs Havers to take Russell Mowrey's photograph around Keldale to find out if anyone saw him around the time of William Teys' murder. Lynley then has a conversation with Richard Gibson. Lynley questions Gibson's motives for having Roberta Teys put into an asylum without the benefit of legal representation. Gibson becomes angry and tells Lynley that his cousin Roberta had become a stranger during the time that Gibson was away from Keldale. Gibson then admits having a sexual relationship with Gillian Teys. Gibson says that he left Keldale at the age of nineteen because he was afraid of what William Teys would do if his relationship with Gillian was discovered.

Next, Lynley pays a call on Miss Marsha Fitzalan. Ms. Fitzalan lives in the same neighborhood as the Gibsons, but the difference between her home and theirs is like night and day. Marsha Fitzalan tells Inspector Lynley that Gillian Teys was "the loveliest creature [she had] ever known" (256).

In Chapter 11, it is revealed that Marsha Fitzalan is a schoolteacher. She taught Tessa Teys and Tessa's daughter, Gillian. Roberta Teys idolized her older sister. Marsha Fitzalan goes on to describe Gillian Teys as energetic, intelligent, and open about her feelings. She then informs Lynley that Gillian wanted to be a teacher. Lynley learns that right after her sister left Keldale, Roberta Teys developed a strange rash.

Lynley then returns to Gemblar Farm in search of clues as to the real identity of Gillian Teys. He searches Roberta's room once more, as well as the rest of the farmhouse, but finds nothing. As he is leaving Gemblar Farm, Lynley encounters Ezra Farmington, who is just coming down from High Kel Moor. Lynley asks Ezra about the quarrel he had with William Teys. Ezra's anger over Nigel Parrish is obvious to Lynley but seems somewhat displaced. Ezra's version of the argument with Teys is the same as that given to Lynley by Nigel Parrish. Ezra's alibi for the time of William Teys' death is flimsy.

Later at the Dove and Whistle, Havers tells Lynley that she had no luck showing Russell Mowrey's picture to the Keldale locals. Lynley and Havers plan to return to Gemblar Farm the next morning — something Havers is not looking forward to, given Lynley's description of his most recent venture there. They agree that the conflicting descriptions of Gillian Teys are somewhat suspicious. Someone is lying but the reason remains unknown.

Lynley and Havers meet Constable Gabriel Langston. Langston tells Lynley and Havers that he buried Whiskers behind his cottage because he didn't want to see Whiskers cremated. Whiskers, it so happens, was a good pal of Gabriel Langston's two highland terriers. Lynley makes up his mind to enlist the forensic expertise of his friend, Simon Allcourt-St. James, to examine Whiskers' body.

Stepha Odell comes to Lynley's room at Keldale Lodge that night.



After spending the night together, Stepha tells Lynley in Chapter 12 that her twin brother Paul killed himself. Paul had advanced Huntington's disease. Stepha is a carrier and is afraid that her children would be afflicted with the disease. Stepha also tells Lynley that she, Paul, and Nigel Parrish all went to college together. Stepha refused to marry Nigel because of her status as a carrier of Huntington's. Nigel Parrish moved to Keldale to be near Stepha. Stepha then tells Lynley that Olivia is still not over Paul's death and that she agreed to marry William Teys because Teys would have been a strong male presence in Bridie's life just as Paul had been. While Stepha is naked, Lynley sees that at one time, Stepha Odell had given birth.

Lynley and Havers have a heated confrontation at Gembler Farm. Havers is upset that Lynley spent the night with Stepha Odell. Lynley leaves Havers at the farm, giving her three hours to "find" Gillian Teys. If Havers can find nothing, Lynley threatens to put Havers back in uniform, thereby crushing her dream of returning permanently to CID.

Lynley, Simon, and Deborah meet at the Keys and Candle pub in Newby Wiske. St. James gives Lynley the forensics test results on Whiskers and Roberta Teys' clothing. St. James tells Lynley that Whiskers was drugged prior to having his throat cut with a knife. The knife had not been found. The dog had ingested the same kind of barbiturate found in William Teys' blood. St. James then tells Lynley that Roberta Teys must have drugged and then killed Whiskers, because it was Whiskers' blood on Roberta's clothing. Lynley finds this hard to believe. St. James posits that based on the blood spatter found on her Sunday dress, either Roberta killed William Teys herself or she was there when someone else murdered him. Lynley, however, believes that Roberta Teys is covering up for the real killer.

Havers tells inspector Lynley that she "found Gillian Teys" (pg. 312.)

Chapters 9 - 12 Analysis

As talented as Nigel Parrish is, it is curious that he has chosen to settle in the tiny village of Keldale. Parrish seems to sophisticated for village life. His argument with Ezra Farmington proves that Parrish's dislike of the young artist is deep indeed.

Stepha Odell's knowledge of the matter of Lynley's visit to Barnstingham Mental Asylum means that someone is feeding her information. Hence, it becomes clear that Stepha is closer to the Teys murder situation than anyone can guess. Being booked at Keldale Hall for dinner furthers the plot, in that it allows Lynley to have another encounter with the beautiful Deborah Allcourt-St. James. This coincidence also gives Lynley the opportunity to learn about the mysterious baby-in-the-abbey story that Hank Watson is so fond of telling. Again, Havers' resentment and self-doubt rise to the surface, as the character convinces herself that she will be outnumbered by members of the English upper crust. Mrs. Burton-Thomas proves to be the catalyst which allays Havers' fears about not fitting in.



The re-appearance of Superintendent Nies proves to be a momentary annoyance for Inspector Lynley. Lynley is less concerned with Nies' vitriol than he is with having all the evidence Nies has collected. This encounter between Nies and Lynley is, in fact, their last. What is more important is that Lynley now has Roberta Teys' Sunday clothes. This fact provides a foreshadowing in that the forensic experts who would ordinarily handle the case do not get along with one another. Conveniently, Lynley's friend Simon Allcourt-St. James is nearby.

It is no coincidence that Lynley visits the graveyard at St. Catherine's Church the following morning only to run into Deborah. It is crystal clear at this point in the narrative that Deborah has moved on emotionally while Lynley continues to cling to the past. Father Hart's assertion that William Teys was like a son to him has yet to take on any importance. However, the priest's admission does foreshadow Hart's subsequent role in keeping Teys' incestuous deeds under the cover of secrecy. Furthermore, Father Hart's declaration that William Teys never recovered from the loss of Gillian should be a red flag for Lynley, but the remark goes unnoticed.

The conflicting reports Lynley and Havers receive concerning Gillian Teys' true personality set in motion their need to find Gillian. Gillian Teys, and her reasons for running away from Keldale, become part of the main plot point. The possibility also exists that either Father Hart or Stepha Odell is lying, which begs the question, "Why?"

Lynley's questioning of Richard Gibson about institutionalizing his cousin Roberta Teys paints Gibson as something of a wild card in terms of the investigation. Gibson's real motive has not yet been revealed. However, the fact that Richard Gibson was once sexually involved with Gillian Teys does complicate the matter significantly. It is clear that Gibson was afraid of what William Teys would do if he and Gillian were found out. It is still not entirely clear to Lynley what would motivate Teys to leave Gemblar Farm to Gibson.

More conflicting information as to Gillian Teys is received from her former teacher, Marsha Fitzalan. Fitzalan's home provides a point of contrast in relation to Richard Gibson and his wife. While Marsha Fitzalan and the Gibson's live not far from each other, Fitzalan displays a certain pride of place which is sorely lacking at the Gibson home. Fitzalan has only positive things to say about Gillian Teys. Miss Fitzalan's conversation with Lynley also serves to shed some light on the relationship between Gillian and her younger sister, Roberta.

Lynley's return to Gemblar Farm yields no new information on Gillian Teys. Nevertheless, Lynley's chance encounter with Ezra Farmington, and Farmington's questionable alibi, serve to reinforce Farmington's position as a strong suspect in the Teys murder. It is plain that Farmington and Teys disliked one another immensely.

Havers does not yet realize it, but Lynley is certain he has seen Russell Mowrey somewhere before. Havers does not understand Lynley's reasons for wanting her to show Mowrey's photograph to the locals. In terms of the Teys murder, Russell Mowrey becomes a dead end. The phrase "caveat emptor" is Latin for "buyer beware" (pg. 270.)



Lynley and Havers' meeting with Constable Langston only functions to reinforce the fact that Whiskers was well-liked. However, the fact that Langston buried Whiskers behind his cottage proves that Nies is not much of an investigator. Also, having Whiskers' corpse to examine could lead to new clues as to who decapitated William Teys.

Lynley's impromptu one-night stand with Stepha Odell is important insofar as it proves to Lynley that Stepha has given birth. This could possibly tie Stepha to the anonymous baby at the abbey. Lynley is embarrassed to learn that Havers could hear him making love to Stepha Odell the night before. Havers' reaction is out of proportion to the situation, proving that Havers is somewhat jealous of women who manage to garner Lynley's attention. Lynley's ultimatum to Havers brings the character back to reality and allows her to focus her energy on "finding" Gillian Teys. Lynley's threat is what Havers needs to push her closer to staying on with CID.

When Simon Allcourt-St. James tells Lynley that Roberta Teys drugged Whiskers and then cut the dog's throat, Lynley has difficulty believing the evidence. Lynley knows, however, that Allcourt-St. James is never wrong. Rather than leading Lynley to believe that Roberta Teys could have committed such a brutal crime, Lynley convinces himself that Roberta was simply on the scene when someone else cut off William Teys' head.

At the end of Chapter 12, Havers is able to redeem herself by finally locating Gillian Teys.



Chapters 13 - 16

Chapters 13 - 16 Summary

In Chapter 13, Havers tells Lynley her theory about Gillian Teys and how Gillian managed to contact Roberta after leaving Keldale. Havers believes that Roberta Teys was looking for a message from Gillian in the local newspaper. A newspaper clipping Havers found at the farmhouse leads Havers to believe that Gillian Teys is living in London at a place called Testament House, which is a facility for teenage runaways.

Lynley takes Havers to the York train station. Havers is going to London to locate Gillian Teys and hopefully convince the young woman to return to Keldale. Lynley visits Tessa Mowrey at home once more.

Tessa Mowrey refuses to contact the police about her husband's disappearance. Lynley surprises Tessa when he tells her that Gillian, her oldest daughter, left Keldale when she was sixteen and that no one ever heard from her again. Tessa tells Lynley that Richard Gibson was well-liked when he was young. She agrees that Gibson would have been "torn limb from limb" if William Teys had ever found out about Gibson and Gillian (pg. 323). In addition, Tessa is shocked that William Teys would leave Gembler Farm to Richard Gibson and not to Roberta. It is at this point that Inspector Lynley realizes that Tessa "Teys" Mowrey knows nothing about who her daughters really are. Lynley then lies to Tessa, telling her that he does not know where Russell Mowrey is.

Upon his return to Keldale, Lynley stops at Ezra Farmington's house. When Ezra answers the door, Lynley can tell that the man is drunk. Ezra's living room is strewn with drawings and sketches of Stepha Odell. Ezra is visibly angry and bitter. He tells Lynley that on the evening he argued with William Teys, the only other person he saw was Nigel Parrish.

Havers arrives in the Camden Town section of London and goes to Testament House in hopes of finding Gillian Tees, who may be living under an assumed name.

Nell Grahame, formerly Gillian Teys, is married to Jonah Clarence, whose father founded Testament House. Jonah is an Anglican priest. He agrees to take Havers to see Gillian/Nell.

Lynley meets Simon Allcourt-St. James at Keldale Lodge and the two men have a drink. Lynley thanks St. James for his work on the Teys case. Simon and Deborah are scheduled to leave Keldale the next day.

Jonah and Havers arrive at the Clarence's home. When Havers tells Nell that she has come to question her, Nell locks herself in the bathroom.

In Chapter 14, Jonah refuses to move out of Havers' way and once the bathroom door is opened, it is revealed that Nell has scrubbed her skin bloody with metal brushes.



Havers phones Lynley to tell her superior about what happened at Jonah and Nell Clarence's house. Jonah had forced Havers out of the house. Havers hadn't called an ambulance for Nell and had left the house empty-handed. Lynley instructs Havers to return home to Acton. Havers is full of self-recrimination. She is convinced that her ineffectiveness has cost them the investigation.

Lady Helen Clyde arrives at Jonah Clarence's door. Jonah had lied to Havers about Nell being with him at the time of William Teys' decapitation. On the day of the murder, Jonah Clarence was in Exeter. Nell was to have accompanied him, but she stayed home with the flu.

Inspector Lynley goes to St. Catherine's Church to talk to Father Hart about the epitaph on the unknown baby's headstone. The implication from Lynley's conversation with the priest is that Father Hart believes the baby was murdered. Lynley returns to Keldale Lodge, looking for Stepha Odell. He enters Stepha's room only to find her in bed with Richard Gibson, William Teys' nephew.

In Chapter 15, Lady Helen Clyde, Gillian Teys and Sergeant Havers are met at the York train station by Inspector Lynley. Lady Helen chatters on, trying to sound lighthearted. She notices how worn and tired Lynley looks. Helen asks Lynley to have a word with Havers. She is certain that Havers blames herself for what happened at the Clarence's home. Helen also informs Lynley that Jonah Clarence left shortly after her arrival and has not returned. Lady Helen believes that Gillian/Nell is manipulative and that Nell, not Roberta, is the murderer.

Havers is certain that Lynley is going to fire her from CID for a second time.

Jonah Clarence remembers the first time he met Gillian Teys. Gillian looked much younger when he saw her for the first time at Testament House. Jonah meets Lynley, Gillian, Lady Helen and Havers at Barnstingham Asylum. They are met by Dr. Samuels, Roberta's psychiatrist.

Lynley and the others watch Gillian and Roberta through a two-way mirror. Gillian begins talking to her younger sister about her life with Jonah in London. Roberta sits motionless, staring without responding to her sister. At certain points during the conversation, Dr. Samuels answers for Roberta. Gillian continues talking to Roberta. From the next room, Jonah, Lynley, Lady Helen and Sergeant Havers listen as Gillian tells Roberta how their father molested her until Gillian was sixteen years old. Roberta remains silent, saying nothing, until Gillian stands and walks toward the door.

In Chapter 16, Roberta Teys finally tells her sister Gillian the horrible truth. William Teys began molesting Roberta immediately after Gillian left Keldale. Eventually, Roberta became pregnant. William Teys is the person responsible for murdering the baby in Keldale Abbey. It was Roberta's child by her own father. It is revealed that on the night she left Keldale, Gillian placed a key underneath Roberta's pillow. Roberta was to use the key to lock her bedroom door and thwart her father's advances. However, since



Roberta was so young at the time, she never realized what the key was for. Roberta left the key in the keyhole, giving William Teys access to Roberta whenever he pleased.

Roberta Teys then admits to killing Whiskers after giving the dog some of William Teys' sleeping medication. After cutting the dog's throat, she says, Roberta decapitated her father. Roberta says that eventually, her father turned his attention to Bridie Odell. It was at this point, Roberta says, that she decided to kill William Teys.

After the visit to Barnstingham, Inspector Lynley enters the confessional booth at St. Catherine's Church and confronts Father Hart about William Teys' crimes. Father Hart tells Lynley that what William Teys confessed to him was sealed by the sacrament of holy confession, not to be revealed to anyone other than the priest himself. Hart swears not to have heard Teys confess to killing Roberta's baby. Father Hart tells Lynley that after the baby's death, William Teys swore to the priest that he was "cured" (pg. 405). After that, Father Hart says, William Teys stopped coming to confession. After leaving Father Hart in the church, Lynley walks out into the graveyard and sees Gillian standing at the baby's grave.

Shortly thereafter, Sergeant Havers learns from Inspector Lynley that Tessa's husband, Russell Mowrey, was one of the Railway Ripper's victims.

Lynley walks through the village of Keldale one last time. He stops briefly to talk with Bridie Odell. Subsequently, Lynley confronts Stepha Odell. Some years following the death of her brother Paul, Stepha had an affair with Ezra Farmington and she gave birth to a child which was immediately put up for adoption. Ezra Farmington, like Nigel Parrish, is still in love with Stepha Odell.

Lynley leaves Keldale with Sergeant Havers and Gillian Teys in tow. Lynley and Havers drive Gillian to Tessa Mowrey's house in York where mother and daughter are finally reunited.

Chapters 13 - 16 Analysis

In the final four chapters of *A Great Deliverance*, the plot and sub-plots are resolved. At this point, Lynley and Havers still have no idea who murdered William Teys. There are, however, several suspects. The first and most obvious is Richard Gibson. Gibson is Teys' nephew and he stands to inherit Gemblar Farm. The second suspect is Ezra Farmington, the local artist. It is no secret that there was no love lost between Farmington and Teys. The last time the two men were involved in an altercation, Nigel Parrish saw Teys rip up several of Farmington's drawings. Also, Farmington gives Lynley a less than satisfactory alibi for the time of William Teys murder. Parrish's motivation for telling Lynley and Havers what he saw casts a shadow on the information itself. There is some speculation that there is bad blood between Parrish and Farmington. Roberta Teys is still the main suspect in her father's murder. The girl confessed to decapitating her father but said nothing about killing her beloved Whiskers. And since Roberta has been placed in a mental asylum without legal representation,



Lynley is loathe to identify her as the murderer. Also, Roberta refuses to speak to anyone about the murder. Instinctively, Lynley knows that Roberta is hiding something.

Havers' theory that Gillian Teys contacted Roberta through a newspaper ad proves to be correct.

Lynley's final conversation with Tessa Teys Mowrey confirms just how out of touch Tessa is with her two daughters. She has not seen Gillian or Roberta in at least fifteen years. At this point, it becomes clear that Russell Mowrey's disappearance has nothing to do with the murder in Keldale. However, it is unclear whether why Lynley lies to Tessa about her husband Russell's whereabouts.

Havers, now confident about being able to work with Lynley, goes to Camden Town to retrieve Gillian/Nell but falters at a pivotal moment and is caught off-guard when Jonah Clarence throws her out of his house. Once again, Havers must admit that she might not be meant for CID after all. Gillian's attempt to "clean" herself with metal brushes is an indicator of deep-seated emotional trauma. Also, Gillian becomes a suspect in Jonah's mind when he realizes that Gillian may have lied about staying home with the flu.

After his conversation with Father Hart, Lynley may be thinking that the baby found dead at Keldale Abbey might belong to someone from the village. Lynley's reason for going to Stepha Odell's room at Keldale Lodge is unclear. It is possible that Lynley wants to discuss the anonymous baby. It is also possible that Lynley wants to talk to Stepha about the night they spent together. However, Richard Gibson's presence in Stepha's bed keeps Lynley from pursuing anything more with Stepha. The affair with Stepha Odell is the secret Richard Gibson was hiding.

The visit to Barnstingham Mental Asylum is the event that closes the case. Gillian Teys and her sister Roberta admit to one another that they were both sexually abused by their father, William. Lynley and the others also learn that sexual abuse was at the root of Roberta's startling weight gain. In addition, it is revealed that Roberta did, in fact, decapitate William Teys. However, Roberta did not kill her father for what he had done to her. Roberta murdered William Teys because she knew that eventually he would molest Bridie Odell as well. It is also revealed that the baby found at Keldale Abbey had been Roberta's. The baby's father was William Teys. Teys was the one who left the baby at the abbey. This justifies Father Hart's choice of epitaph for the baby's headstone. For indeed, in the case of William Teys and his daughter's baby, "murder [was] as near to lust as flame to smoke". Since Roberta is hospitalized, it is understood that she would probably not stand trial for William Teys' murder right away.

Gillian is finally able to resolve her past by admitting that William Teys molested her and that the sexual abuse was what prompted her to run away from home. In addition, it is brought out that Gillian is an emotional chameleon and someone who is willing and able to become whatever another person wanted or expected her to become. This accounts for the conflicting accounts given by Marsha Fitzalan, Father Hart, Stepha Odell and Richard Gibson.

When Tessa and Gillian are finally reunited, it is Havers who does the honors. In doing so, Havers proves to Inspector Lynley and to herself that she is worthy of a place in CID.



Characters

Inspector Thomas Lynley

Inspector Thomas "Tommy" Lynley is a detective at New Scotland Yard in London. Lynley, who just so happens to be the 8th Earl of Asherton, is an aristocrat with a finely-tuned sense of justice. Lynley was educated at Eton and Oxford. He is a man of privilege who does not allow his elevated social class to affect his dealings in the field. Lynley is unpretentious about his wealth and he wears his affluence with ease. Inspector Lynley drives a Bentley automobile and has a valet named Denton, who is having a relationship with the lady's maid of one of Lynley's close friends, Lady Helen Clyde. Lynley is a romantic at heart, who feels things more deeply than one would imagine. Inspector Lynley is in love with Deborah, wife of another close friend, Simon Allcourt-St. James. It is obvious that Lynley is still not over his feelings for Deborah, but he is learning to let go. Lynley was best man at Deborah and Simon's wedding. Although there is still some tension on Lynley's part, Simon Allcourt-St. James does not seem to notice.

At New Scotland Yard, Inspector Lynley has a reputation for being something of a ladies' man. However, the character admits that his past womanizing was simply a response to having been rebuffed by Deborah. Physically, Inspector Lynley is tall and very good-looking. He has blond hair and fine features. The narrator likens Lynley's "unaccountably timeless" face to a "Greek sculpture" bearing the unmistakable mark of aristocracy. Lynley's movements are lithe and graceful. He is unhurried in his demeanor and he possesses impeccable manners. Lynley is fond of classical music.

Although he is somewhat puzzled as to why he has been assigned to work the Teys case with Sergeant Havers, Lynley nonetheless treats Havers fairly and respectfully. However, when Havers explodes after Lynley spends the night with Stepha Odell at Keldale Lodge, Lynley reaches his limits and threatens to send Havers back into uniform. Inspector Lynley, it turns out, is the only one in CID who can work successfully with Havers. Lynley does not allow Havers the luxury of harboring a resentment against him. He manages to draw Havers into the case, giving her a new found sense of self-confidence.

Sergeant Barbara Havers

Sergeant Havers is thirty years old, and "a decidedly unattractive woman." Havers has "fine, shiny hair," which she wears in an unflattering "bowl" cut. Her mouth is thin, her eyebrows are "[heavy and] unplucked" and her eyes are especially small. Barbara Havers wears no makeup and her mouth seems to be "pressed permanently into a disapproving frown." She is described in the narrative as a woman who is "stubby, sturdy, and entirely unapproachable" (pg. 20.) Havers' brother Tony died of leukemia at



a young age. Havers' mother and father never visited their son in the hospital, claiming it was too wrenching to see their son in that condition.

Havers is painfully aware of her status as persona non grata at CID. She is somewhat difficult to get along with, due to the fact that she does not think very highly of herself. Sergeant Havers was demoted and sent back to uniform detail. The Teys case is an opportunity to redeem herself in the eyes of her CID superiors but Havers is confused as to why she has been assigned to work with Inspector Lynley. Havers resents Lynley, believing him to be a snob born with a silver spoon in his mouth. She sees Lynley's career at New Scotland Yard as something he does for entertainment rather than anything serious. Havers realizes that she is rather unattractive and this fact gets in the way of her forming a closer professional relationship with Inspector Lynley. Deep down inside, Havers secretly wishes that Lynley would find her attractive as well. Havers becomes jealous when she discovers that Lynley has spent the night with Stepha Odell. Eventually, however, Havers comes to view Lynley as something of an anomaly and a member of the upper crust who is actually a decent human being.

Father Hart

Father Hart is the parish priest of St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Keldale, Yorkshire. Father Hart discovers the decapitated body of William Teys in the barn at Gembler Farm. Father Hart has been hearing William Teys' confessions for years. Because of the seal of the holy sacrament of confession, however, Hart is prohibited from telling anyone about Teys' molesting his daughters. Father Hart knows the truth about the baby discovered in Keldale Abbey and the epitaph he chooses for the unknown baby's headstone is meant to be a clue to anyone who cares to investigate the baby's death more closely.

Lady Helen Clyde

At one time, Lady Helen was in love with Simon Allcourt-St. James. Lady Helen is "Lynley's longest-running mistress" and she currently works as Simon Allcourt-St. James' lab assistant. Lady Helen is stylish and very elegant, as befits a woman of privilege. Not very tall but quite slender, Lady Helen is described as having "a fall of chestnut hair, framing a perfect, oval face" (pg. 27.) Lady Helen is something of a human behavior expert and Lynley calls on her to bring Gillian Teys to Yorkshire in order for Gillian to visit Roberta at Barnstingham Mental Asylum. Lady Helen is perceptive even if a bit on the superficial side. She knows Lynley better than just about anyone. Lady Helen is self-assured and confident.

Simon Allcourt-St. James

Simon Allcourt-St. James is an independent forensics expert who once worked for New Scotland Yard. In spite of having been injured in a car accident in which Lynley was driving drunk, Allcourt-St. James remains one of Lynley's closest friends. The accident



left Allcourt-St. James "a cripple," while Lynley walked away without a scratch. Allcourt-St. James is married to Deborah, the daughter of one of his servants. Physically, Simon is extremely thin and not very attractive. He has dark curly hair which is described as "unruly" and he has eyes which are "the satin blue of a highland sky." Allcourt-St. James has hands resembling "the sensitive tools of an artist." He is good-natured and very good at what he does. Allcourt-St. James works with Lady Helen Clyde. It is implied that at one point in time, he and Lady Helen were romantically involved. It is said that Simon Allcourt-St. James is "a man who had known too much pain and sorrow at far too young an age" (pg. 35.)

Deborah Allcourt-St. James

Deborah Allcourt-St. James is the wife of forensic expert Simon Allcourt-St. James. Deborah is a photographer whose father worked as one of Simon's servants. Deborah is a former girlfriend of Inspector Lynley who chose Lynley's friend over him. Deborah Allcourt-St. James is aware that Tommy Lynley still has feelings for her, and she makes every effort to put Lynley at ease with her marriage to Simon. Deborah Allcourt-St. James is a very gentle and beautiful woman. She is rather slim and has long red hair.

Roberta Teys

Roberta Teys is the younger daughter of William and Tessa Teys. Gillian Teys is Roberta's older sister. Roberta and Gillian are eight years apart in age and until Gillian ran away from home, Roberta idolized her sister. Roberta was committed to Barnstingham Mental Asylum after confessing to her father's murder. Roberta is significantly overweight and is considered by some to be developmentally delayed. Roberta began eating compulsively shortly after Gillian left home. It was also around this time that William Teys began to molest Roberta. Roberta is an avid reader and kept to herself. Roberta was especially fond of the family dog, Whiskers. However, Simon Allcourt-St. James uncovers forensic evidence proving that Roberta drugged Whiskers before cutting the beloved pet's throat. Roberta Teys does not speak until the final chapter of *A Great Deliverance*. By the close of the novel, it is well-established that Roberta is severely emotionally damaged by incest and the rage that accompanies being victimized for years.

William Teys

William Teys is the father of Roberta and Gillian Teys. He is Richard Gibson's uncle. Teys is murdered and it is up to Lynley and Havers to solve the case. During the course of the narrative, it is revealed that Teys is a child molester, who violated both of his daughters. It is also revealed that Teys fathered a child with one of his daughters. William Teys admitted his wrongs to Father Hart in confession, saying at one point that he had been cured. Teys was a religious fanatic. William Teys married Tessa, the girls'



mother, when Tessa was sixteen years old. Teys was the owner of Gemblar Farm, which he arranged to leave to his nephew, Richard Gibson, after his death.

Stepha Odell

Stepha Odell is the owner of Keldale Lodge. Her twin brother, Paul, was at one time married to Olivia Odell. Stepha is Bridie Odell's aunt. Stepha is approximately forty years old, tall and very shapely. She has shoulder-length coppery red hair. At one point, Stepha gave birth to a child fathered by Ezra Farmington. Stepha is a carrier of Huntington's disease and because of this, she refuses to marry or have anymore children. Stepha is lovers with Richard Gibson, William Teys' nephew.

Richard Gibson

Richard Gibson is the nephew of William Teys and the cousin of Roberta and Gillian Teys. Gibson is a large man with a swarthy complexion. He is described as "enormous" and "bull-necked" and stands just over six feet tall (pg. 123.) Gibson has brown eyes and black hair. Richard Gibson is married to Madeline and is having an illicit affair with Stepha Odell. Gibson also admits to having a short-lived sexual relationship with his cousin Gillian. It is Richard Gibson who has Roberta Teys committed to an asylum after Roberta admits killing her father. Gibson's motive for hospitalizing Roberta is never made clear in the narrative. One can assume that it has something to do with Gibson's inheriting Gemblar Farm.

Gillian Teys or Nell Grahame Clarence

Gillian Teys resembles her mother, Tessa. She is quite petite, with short blond hair that makes her look significantly younger than she actually is. Gillian is the oldest daughter of William Teys and the sister of Roberta Teys. Gillian is a chameleon; someone who behaves according to the expectations, wants, and wishes of those around her. Gillian Teys ran away from home at the age of sixteen, the age Tessa was when she married Gillian's father. Gillian is currently married to Jonah Clarence, a young minister and the son of the founder of Testament House, a facility for runaways located in London. Gillian engages in compulsive behaviors having to do with being clean. This is her response to having been molested by her father for the better part of her life.

Tessa Teys Mowrey

Tessa Teys Mowrey is the former wife of William Teys. She is the mother of Gillian and Roberta. Tessa married William Teys when she was just sixteen years old. After the birth of her second daughter, Tessa abandoned her family and moved to York. Tessa is a very small woman with blond hair and childlike features. Tessa married her second husband, Russell Mowrey, without first divorcing William Teys. Tessa is the mother of two children



by Russell Mowrey. Russell Mowrey is killed by the Railway Ripper, a serial killer who finds his victims at London area train stations.

Olivia Odell

Sister-in-law of Stepha Odell and mother of Bridie. Olivia was married to Stepha's twin brother Paul, who took his own life in the advanced stages of Huntington's disease. Olivia subsequently became engaged to William Teys. Olivia is a thin woman whose "flesh lacked resiliency". Her hair is "wispy" and "windblown-looking" and she has "paper-fine skin and delicate features". According to the narrative, time and the aging process have not been kind to Olivia Odell. Olivia was engaged to William Teys, but was unaware of Teys' history as a child molester. Olivia is still grieving the death of her husband Paul.

MacBride (Bridie) Odell

Bridie Odell is the nine year-old daughter of Olivia and Paul Odell. She is Stepha Odell's niece. Bridie is bright and somewhat precocious. She spends a great deal of time with her pet, a lame duck named Dougall. Bridie has curly red hair which she cuts off, much to Olivia's dismay, because she wants to look like the Princess of Wales. Bridie is fond of Roberta Teys and does not mind that her mother is engaged to William Teys. Bridie tells Inspector Lynley that her father never said goodbye.

Nigel Parrish

Nigel Parrish is the organist at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Keldale. Nigel became friends with Stepha and Paul Odell when they attended college together. Nigel, who has been in love with Stepha Odell for years, moved to Keldale specifically to be near Stepha. Parrish is somewhere in his forties and was "blessed with features that middle age enhanced." Nigel Parrish is "not particularly tall," has thinning brown hair that is graying at the temples, a slender build, and "a firm, straight nose". He is described as being "striking rather than handsome" (pg. 124.) Nigel Parrish has an abiding hatred of Ezra Farmington, one of Stepha Odell's former lovers.

Ezra Farmington

Ezra Farmington is a resident of Keldale. An artist by trade, Ezra, like Nigel Parrish, is in love with Stepha Odell. During their short relationship, Farmington fathered a child by Stepha. This is a fact she never shared with him. Ezra Farmington is also "dating" Danny of Keldale Hall. Farmington was one of the last people to see William Teys alive. Ezra Farmington is somewhere in his thirties, with "rich, deep blond hair". Upon first meeting Ezra, Inspector Lynley muses that the young artist looks like the composer Fredric Chopin. Farmington has blue eyes, dark eyebrows, a cleft in his chin, a dominant nose and "sculpted lips" (pg. 265.)



Mrs. Burton-Thomas

Mrs. Burton-Thomas is owner and proprietress of Keldale Hall, her ancestral home. She is a very tall, older woman. Mrs. Burton-Thomas is "a combination of stately home and gothic horror." She has very broad shoulders, "the hands of a [laborer], the ankles of a dancer, and the face of an aging Valkyrie" (pg. 67.) Mrs. Burton-Thomas is an eccentric character, fond of dressing in outlandish clothes. She is not exactly a slave to fashion, regardless of her aristocratic background. Mrs. Burton-Thomas has blue , deep-set eyes and "a hook-shaped nose" (pg. 67.)

Jimmy Havers

Jimmy Havers, who refers to himself only in the third person, is the father of Sergeant Barbara Havers. Jimmy suffers from emphysema, although he refuses to stop using cigarettes and snuff. Jimmy Havers has been dying for the past ten years. Jimmy has badly stained teeth and small, piggish eyes. He is unkempt and does not bathe regularly. Jimmy sneaks down to Mr. Patel's convenience store to buy snuff, only to have it confiscated by Barbara shortly thereafter. It is a game father and daughter play. Jimmy wears oxygen to help him breathe. He periodically stops in at the nearby travel agency to pick up travel brochures for his wife, who is slowly going senile. Jimmy Havers is a disappointment to his daughter. Barbara Havers hates her father; partially because he refuses to die and partially because of what happened to her brother Tony.



Objects/Places

Gretna Green

This is a town in southern Scotland.

Acton

This is a working-class neighborhood in London.

Yorkshire

This is a large county located in northern England.

King's Cross

This is a large and very busy train station located in the city of London.

BBC-1

This is an English television channel. BBC is the acronym for the British Broadcasting Corporation.

CID

This is an acronym for Criminal Investigation Department.

New Scotland Yard

This is the headquarters of London's metropolitan police force.

Eton

This is also referred to as Eton College. Eton is a famous boarding school located in Windsor, England.

Devon

This is a county in southwest England.

Belgravia

This is an upscale district in central London.



Themes

Incest

The theme of incest underlies the entire narrative of *A Great Deliverance*. In fact, it is the incestuous relationship between William Teys and his daughters, Gillian and Roberta, which eventually leads to Teys' murder. In terms of crime, incest often goes unpunished and its effects are devastating and long-lasting. The fact that Teys molested his daughters for years is what is most striking. Prior to the revelation of Teys' wrongdoing, signs of an incestuous relationship are revealed in the physical appearance of his younger daughter, Roberta. When Richard Gibson, Teys nephew, returns to Keldale after an absence of some years, he notices that his cousin Roberta has become quite obese. Initially, the girl's extreme weight gain is attributed to William Teys not paying her enough attention, when, in fact, just the opposite is true. Roberta's weight gain is symptomatic of her feelings of powerlessness brought on by molestation at the hands of her father. Since Roberta could not control her father, thereby stopping the molestation, she sought to control her environment in the only way she could. Similarly, Gillian Teys is a self-mutilator. Gillian scrubs her skin raw and bloody with metal brushes in an effort to make herself "clean." This, too, is a response to her violation by her father. Gillian's feeling of being defiled is what leads her to attempt to scrape away the memory of her despoilment.

Secrecy

Although Keldale is a small town, its inhabitants nonetheless manage to hide certain things from one another. The most shocking secret is, of course, that William Teys molested both of his daughters and that he had plans to begin this pattern after marrying Olivia Odell, mother of nine year-old Bridie. Stepha Odell's secret is that at one point, she and Ezra Farmington produced a child together. The second portion of Stepha's secret is that she gave her child up for adoption, fearing the child would be a victim of Huntington's Disease. Nigel Parrish keeps his unrequited love for Stepha Odell under wraps, as does Ezra. Father Hart is bound by the sacrament of confession to keep the secrets of the congregants of St. Catherine's Church. Since this is so, Father Hart is unable to reveal the secret of William Teys' foul deeds. Father Hart counteracts the sanctity of the confessional by choosing a cryptic epitaph for the unknown baby's headstone. This would lead one to believe that Hart is aware of the dead baby's identity. Additionally, Gillian Teys escapes to Testament House and subsequently marries Jonah Clarence under the cover of secrecy. Gillian, having been violated by her father until she became a teenager, runs away from Keldale in an effort to reclaim her life and begin again in London. Danny, one of Mrs. Burton-Thomas' so-called nieces, keeps her relationship with Ezra Farmington a secret. In turn, Richard Gibson's sexual liaisons with Stepha Odell are also kept secret, as Gibson is a married man. Finally, Sergeant Havers keeps the details of her family life in Acton a secret from Inspector Lynley. This is as it should be as Havers has yet to establish a consistent and trusting rapport with



Lynley. Nonetheless, Havers remains tight-lipped about her personal affairs partially out of shame.

Social Class

Inspector Lynley and his partner, Sergeant Barbara Havers, are worlds apart when it comes to socio-economic standing. Thomas Lynley is the 8th Earl of Asherton. In this role, he enjoys a certain lifestyle that Havers has only ever dreamed about. Lynley is well-schooled, having attended prestigious Oxford University. He lives comfortably in a house in Belgravia, which boasts many prominent London residents. Lynley's friends are of his same elevated social class. Lady Helen Clyde is the daughter of an earl and Simon Allcourt-St. James is equally wealthy and privileged. Inspector Lynley, Lady Helen, and Simon Allcourt-Jones all have servants. Interestingly, Lynley's valet, Denton, is involved with Lady Helen's lady's maid, Caroline.

Sergeant Havers, however, is decidedly working-class. Havers lives with her parents in Acton who are located in west London. Havers has never enjoyed the kind of privilege which Lynley and his friends seem to take for granted. Havers was educated in public schools and has had to work for everything she has. The narrative implies that working for CID is Havers' ticket out of the misery and poverty she witnesses at home. Whereas Lynley's mother gifted his father with a beautiful engraved cigarette case, Havers' father Jimmy gives Barbara's mother travel brochures to exotic places that the two of them will never visit.



Style

Point of View

The entirety of *A Great Deliverance* is written from the point of view of an omniscient narrator. This phenomenon is relatively standard in the novels of Elizabeth George. The use of an omniscient and objective narrator enables the author to set forth the story without the burden of editorial embellishment. In other words, the narrator does not interpret the information being given; the narrator simply lays out the plot, allowing the reader to come to his or her own conclusions as to what is happening. Also using an omniscient narrator means that none of the characters become more important than the story itself. Employing the voice of an omniscient narrator insures that plot lines are unencumbered by tangential information concerning the characters. Nor does the objective narrator voice privilege one character over another. Although it is true that Inspector Lynley and Sergeant Havers are the main protagonists in the majority of Elizabeth George's novels, the reader nonetheless engages the characters only as a result of their work as law enforcement officers. That is to say, the information given as to character internal landscape, emotions, and motivations, are revealed only because Lynley and Havers happen to be investigating a murder.

Finally, the voice of an omniscient narrator serves the mystery genre well in this case. Had George chosen Inspector Lynley or Sergeant Havers to be the narrator, the plot itself would become diluted and distorted, according to the interpretive filter of either of the main characters.

Setting

The majority of *A Great Deliverance* takes place in the north of England, specifically the village of Keldale located in Yorkshire. Yorkshire's landscape is somewhat wild. Farmlands and moors lend an even greater atmosphere of mystery to the novel. The village of Keldale is situated as an historic site as well as the abbey located therein. There is an understanding on the part of those residing in Keldale that theirs is a rich history, reaching back to the time of Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England during the 17th century. Keldale is home base for most of the characters in *A Great Deliverance*. Many of the characters, including Stepha Odell, Richard Gibson and Gillian Teys, leave Keldale only to return many years later. In a way, Keldale is something of an insular community, in that everyone there knows everyone else.

Part of the novel's action takes place in the city of London, the capital of England. It is in the Camden Town section of London that Sergeant Havers finally locates Gillian Teys. Also Inspector Lynley and Sergeant Havers are headquartered at London's New Scotland Yard. Additionally, Inspector Lynley's residence is situated in the upscale Belgravia section of London, while Sergeant Havers lives with her parents in the working-class neighborhood of Acton.



In the case of this novel, Yorkshire becomes the center of the narrative wheel. The events that happen in Keldale radiate out to other locations in England such as London and the city of York.

Language and Meaning

The novel is written in standard British English. Hence, there are words which are used in the narrative that an American reader may find unfamiliar, such as "loo" for bathroom, "lorry" for truck, "rubbish-bin" for garbage can, and "crisps" for potato chips. Also, certain words, while English, are nonetheless styled according to British conventions. For example, the author fashions "color" as "colour" and "behavior" as "behaviour." In addition, taking into consideration that the novel takes place in Yorkshire for the most part, there are characters who speak in Yorkshire dialect such as Danny, Mrs. Burton-Thomas' "niece." Finally, George pokes fun at Americans in the form of Hank Watson and his wife, JoJo. Watson has a penchant for slang such as "hellsapoppin" and for spelling out certain words. For example, he comically spells out "l-u-v" for "love" and "e-n-u-f-f" instead of "enough." The implication here is that Watson, in stereotypical American fashion, is unconcerned with proper grammar and usage and is therefore something of a fish out of water.

Furthermore, since one of the pivotal characters is an Anglican priest, there are words pertinent to that religious practice contained in the narrative as well. For instance, "vestry," and "cloister" are used.

Finally, at several points in the novel, the author inserts passages from canonical works of literature, including the Bible. Passages from Charlotte Brontë's classic work *Jane Eyre* on page 340, William Shakespeare's *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* on page 344, and John Dryden's poem *Alexander's Feast* on page 284 are all included.

Structure

The structure of *A Great Deliverance* holds no surprises. The four-hundred and thirteen-page novel is divided into sixteen chapters, each comprising between twenty and thirty pages at most. The narrative structure is straightforward as well. Each chapter serves to further the plot and each moves in a linear progression. There are moments in the narrative when past remembrances come into play. For the most part, however, the action takes place in the present day. Inspector Lynley and Sergeant Havers do not enter the narrative until Chapter 2. Narrative tension builds during the first nine chapters, with Chapter 10 serving as the pivotal chapter in terms of the downturn in the narrative arc. The resolution of the Teys murder is reached in Chapter 16.

The novel's plot is relatively uncomplicated where a murder takes place, suspects are introduced, evidence unfolds, secrets are revealed, the mystery is resolved. There are numerous sub-plots, all of which function in service of the main happening; the brutal murder of William Teys. In terms of the detective-fiction genre, George does not stray

from the formula at all. What adds texture to this novel are its underlying themes of incest, tensions between social classes, and secrecy.



Quotes

"[Lynley's] movements were graceful, fluid, like a cat's. He was the handsomest man [Havers] had ever seen. She loathed him" (Chapter 2, pg. 29.)

"What is this fixation Americans all have with their teek, I ask you? All straight and shiny. Well, God! Crooket teeth give a face a bit of dash, I say" (Chapter 4, pg. 68.)

"What could [Havers] possibly learn from Lynley? The right wine to order with dinner, a few dance steps, how to dazzle a roomful of people with engaging conversation?" (Chapter 4, pg. 81.)

"Barbara noticed for the first time that [Lynley] wore absolutely no jewelry - no crested signet ring, no expensive wrist watch to flash gold richly when it caught the light. For some reason, that fact was as distracting to her as an unsightly display of opulent ornamentation would have been" (Chapter 5, pg. 105.)

"[Havers] was so used to the frenetic pace of London and the desperate grime of her neighborhood in Acton that Yorkshire came as a bit of a shock" (Chapter 5, pg. 108.)

"[The Gibson's] was a relationship where every argument and discussion was merely a skirmish before the major battle of who would be master between the sheets" (Chapter 6, pg. 123.)

"That damnable shrine! The farm itself was bad enough with its ghastly lifelessness, but the shrine had completely unnerved [Havers]" (Chapter 6, pg. 139.)

"Women who desert husband and children should somehow end up in tenement buildings pungent with the odors of garlic and urine. They should daily subdue a bucking, quarrelsome conscience with liberal applications of soporific gin [...] Whatever they should be, Lynley was certain they shouldn't be Tessa Teys Mowrey" (Chapter 7, pg. 178.)

"The big man strangled as he sat at his desk, the dirty girl dead with the needle in her arm, the savage mutilation of a young man's corpse. Did one ever really get used to man's dark side?" (Chapter 9, pg. 212.)

"Lynley could see that Nies was a hair's breadth away from breaking under the stress of the Scotland Yard scrutiny of his competence" (Chapter 10, pg. 227..)

"It was as if there were no real Gillian [Teys] at all, but only a kaleidoscope that, juggled before viewing, appeared different to each person who gazed into it" (Chapter 11, pg. 262.)

"[Stepha Odell] was fire and cream, scented almost imperceptibly with the sweetness of Devon violets" (Chapter 11, pg. 286.)



"Had there been one insane moment when [Havers] had been so foolish as to think that Lynley might ever look at her and not see her for what she truly was: a plain, dumpy woman, angry at the world, bitter and friendless and terribly alone? Had she possibly [harbored] a secret hope that he might come to care for her?" (Chapter 12, pg. 301.)

"Behind [Lynley's] behavior, wasn't the reality that he had maintained his isolated celibacy this last, long year not because of Deborah but because he had become high priest in a religion of one: a celebrant caught up in devoted to the past?" (Chapter 12, pg. 311.)

"One sin, I know, another doth provoke. Murder's as near to lust as flame to smoke" (Chapter 14, pg. 344.)



Topics for Discussion

Who killed William Teys and why?

Who is Nell Graham and what is her connection to Roberta Teys?

What makes Roberta Teys confess to the murder of her father?

What is at the root of Sergeant Havers' intense dislike of Inspector Lynley?

What reason does Webberly give for assigning Havers to the Teys case with Lynley?

What is the history of Lynley's friendship with Simon Allcourt-St. James?

What secret is Stepha Odell hiding?

Why does Nigel Parrish stay in Keldale?

What prompts Tessa (Teys) Mowrey to abandon her daughters and leave her husband?

What reason does Father Hart give for choosing the epitaph that appears on the anonymous baby's grave?

Identify and discuss at least two of the characters in *A Great Deliverance* who serve as comic relief.

Discuss the ways in which Hank and JoJo could be seen as stereotypical Americans.

Discuss Inspector Lynley's past experience with Superintendent Nies. What is the primary source of Nies' animosity toward Lynley?

What is William Teys' reason for wanting to marry Olivia Odell?

Why was Sergeant Havers fired from CID? Cite examples from the text to substantiate the claims being made.