

# **Green Darkness Study Guide**

## **Green Darkness by Anya Seton**

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# Plot Summary

Green Darkness, by Anya Seton explores the lives and relationship of Celia Marsdon and Richard Marsdon as well as their 1550's counterparts, Celia de Bohun and Stephen Marsdon. The novel is centered around the concept of reincarnation and the ability to mend past tragedies by reliving them. Seton weaves her tale in 1968 England as well as Tudor England. She uses historical characters to shape the time lines and stories of her protagonists.

The book begins at a house party in 1968, that Celia Marsdon is throwing for her new husband. Celia cannot figure out why Richard has suddenly become cold to her. It all started when the couple visits the ruins around Marsdon Place, their home. During the house party, guests, such as Dr. Akananda (an Indian Doctor) and Lily (Celia's mother) become worried about Celia because she is having episodes of some sort. Celia begins to act differently. She tries to gain Richard's attention, but when he will not return it, she pursues Sir Harry Jones, who is also attending the house party. Richard is outraged by Celia's actions. When they are alone at night in their bedroom. Richard confronts Celia, and she yells at him. Richard grabs Celia and carries her to the school room and rapes her. Mrs. Simpson, one of the guests at the party, walks in on the scene. Richard realizes what he has done when he looks down at Celia. She appears to be dead. He runs from the room.

Lily and Dr. Akananda take Celia to the hospital. None of the other doctors believes she will make it through the illness, and no one can really figure out what is wrong with her. Dr. Akananda feels that Celia must go back in time and relive whatever tragedy occurred in her former life. Dr. Akananda decides to lead Celia through the journey.

It is now 1552. The lovely Celia de Bohun is fourteen years old. She has come to live with her aunt, Lady Ursula, who lives at Cowdray Castle. Ursula is not the owner of Cowdray, even though her family used to own it. Now, Sir Anthony Browne owns the Castle and its lands. He lets Ursula stay there out of kindness. It is at Cowdray that Celia meets Stephen Marsdon, a young monk, who lives at St. Ann's Hill and leads all the masses at Cowdray Castle. Stephen begins giving Celia reading and writing lessons, as well as lessons on the Bible.

England is in a state of political disarray because King Edward is sickly. He visits Cowdray Castle and because of this, many of Sir Anthony's friends come to stay. This is when Celia and Lady Ursula meet Magdalene Dacre and Dr. Julian Ridolfi. Celia and Ursula are invited by Magdalene to go visit her family in Cumberland. Ursula decides this is a good idea because she can separate Celia and Stephen from one another. Although she has no proof, Ursula senses that there is something between the two.

Lady Ursula and Celia go to visit Maggie up North. Celia is saddened because she had gone to Stephen and declared her love for him and he rejected her. When Celia arrives at Naworth Castle, Maggie's home, she is pursued by Maggie's brother, Leonard. At first Celia knows that his attentions may lead to marriage and security, but Leonard is rough



with her. Maggie catches Leonard trying to rape Celia and stops him before he can complete the act. Leonard then asks Celia to marry him, and even though Celia refuses, her aunt and Leonard's parents decide the two will marry. Close to Celia's wedding date, however, one of Leonard's family members die and the wedding never takes place.

When Lady Ursula and Celia return home, many things have began to change. Mary is queen, so Sir Anthony has acquired much wealth. His wife has also passed away. Celia is reunited with Stephen, but he is cold towards her. Sir Anthony begins entertaining people to celebrate his good fortune. At one of his fiestas, Celia meets Sir John Hutchinson as well as Sir Thomas Wyatt. Both men are taken with Celia.

Not all people are happy that Mary is Queen. Thomas Wyatt leads a rebellion against the Queen. He and his band of men go throughout England ransacking and pillaging homes. Wyatt comes to Cowdray Castle and takes its inhabitants hostage. He sees Celia and decides that he must have her. Celia leads Wyatt upstairs. While she thinks that she will enjoying being with Wyatt she quickly realizes that she doe snot want to have sex with him. Wyatt becomes aggressive and Celia begins to scream. Stephen storms into the room and rescues Celia. The two begin to kiss and are caught by Lady Ursula. Stephen flees. Ursula is so upset that she sends Celia to marry Sir John Hutchinson.

Celia never consummates her marriage with Sir John. The two are friends, but never become lovers. After four years of marriage, Sir John dies. Celia goes back to Cowdray accompanied by Edwin Radcliffe, one of Sir Anthony's men. Edwin falls in love with Celia and wants to marry her. Celia does not feel strongly about him, but thinks he is a nice gentleman. When she arrives at Cowdray, she learns that Lady Ursula is sick and the Sir John has married Lady Ursula's old friend, Magdalene Dacre. Celia takes care of Lady Ursula until she dies. Celia then begins planning on how she can marry Edwin. Celia asks Sir Anthony for his approval. Once she gains it, the wedding between Celia and Edwin is set.

Celia is ready to go through with the wedding until Stephen comes back to visit. Once Celia sees Stephen, she knows that she must be with him. She goes to see him at St Ann's Hill. Neither one of them can stop their feelings for one another and the two finally consummate their relationship. Stephen cannot believe what he has done. He tells Celia that he must leave and that she must marry Edwin.

Stephen leaves the next day and Celia follows him. She disguises herself as she travels to find Stephen. After three months she makes her way to Igatham Mote where she finds a job as a house servant. Igatham is owned by the Allens. Mrs. Allen is a handsome, yet cruel woman. She is infatuated with Stephen. For a time, Celia does not reveal herself to Stephen. She waits until he is in his garden alone and then reveals herself. Stephen is shocked to see Celia but also happy. She tells him that she pregnant. Stephen cannot believe the news and he does not know what course of action to take.



The next day is Lady Allen's birthday celebration. All the servants are allowed to come. Celia does not show at first, but Lady Allen demands that she come. Celia joins the rest of the servants. Celia is brazen and loud mouthed, performs with exuberant courtesy and offends Lady Allen. The rest of the night, Lady Allen stares at Celia. She notices Celia talk to Stephen and is jealous. Lady Allen then goes to Stephen's hut after the party. She witnesses Celia and Stephen making love. She also overhears the lovers planning to run away together the next day. Lady Allen goes back to the house.

When Celia leaves Stephen, she goes back to the castle. She is caught by Lady Allen and three men. Lady Allen begins to choke Celia. The next day Stephen searches for Celia everywhere, but he cannot find her. He does not understand where she could have gone because they are supposed to leave today. As Stephen passes by the Great Hall, he sees Lady Allen. She is having men re-lay bricks in the hall. One of the men starts to apologize to Stephen. He says that they did not know what they were bringing up from the dungeon. Lady Allen tells the man to be quiet. Suddenly Stephen understands and he throws himself toward the wall to stop the men from laying the bricks. Lady Allen tells him that he cannot touch it because Celia is almost dead. The three men take Stephen out of the room. Later that day, they find he has committed suicide.

When Celia Marsdon wakes up from her illness she does not remember the journey that she and Dr. Akananda have taken. They return to the house and find that Richard has had his own break down. The two lovers act like strangers at first. Dr. Akananda recommends they read the Marsdon Chronicle together. After reading it, the two realize that Celia was Celia de Bohun and Richard was Stephen Marsdon. The two realize that they can now be together because they have relived the events of the past and are now reunited in this lifetime.



# Part One: Chapter 1, (pg 1-34)

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Green Darkness, by Anya Seton explores the lives and relationship of Celia Marsdon and Richard Marsdon as well as their 1550's counterparts, Celia de Bohun and Stephen Marsdon. The novel is centered around the concept of reincarnation and the ability to mend past tragedies by reliving them. Seton weaves her tale in 1968 England, as well as Tudor England. She uses historical characters to shape the time lines and stories of her protagonists.

The book begins at the home of Celia and Richard Marsdon. Celia is a wealthy, American heiress, while Richard comes from a lineage of British wealth and gentry. Since marrying Richard, Celia has become Lady Marsdon. Although Celia comes from a wealthy family, she is nervous about entering into a family of British nobility. The book opens with Celia hosting a weekend party for some of her friends as well as some guests that Richard insists she invite. Their house, which is actually a manor, is located at Medfield Place.

Celia surveys her guests. At the pool are her mother, Lily, and Dr. Jiddu Akananda. Lily is an eccentric, engaging, attractive older woman. She is full of life and fun. She brings Dr. Akananda as a friend. The doctor has been studying medicine for a long time. He went to Oxford and studied with many well-known doctors. Because he is Indian and Hindu, many people think that he cannot be a good doctor. Lily attempts to have the Dr. tell her horoscope. He refuses and the two continue to debate about reincarnation.

Celia also invited the Myra, the Dowager Duchess who shows to everyone at the party how interested she is in Celia's husband. The Duchess is barely thirty and very attractive. Celia watches Myra watch Richard and becomes jealous. Lately, she cannot figure out what Richard is thinking. Celia loves Richard desperately, but cannot figure out why he has been so distant recently. She thinks that it all started on their visit to Midhurst last Fall.

As the couple drives through the country side, they see Cowdray castle. They decide to go inside. While they are walking, Richard tells Celia about the former inhabitants of the Castle - Anthony Brown, Magdalen Darce, and the Bohun family before them. He tells Celia that she should be happy she is untouched by ancient evils. For some reason, Celia gets a chill while they explore the castle. She tells Richard that she has been there before. Richard vehemently disregards her feelings of disease. Celia doesn't seem to hear Richard and begins to say that she can see people dressed in silks and velvets in the room. She says that they are all waiting for the King. Richard yells at Celia, but she pays no attention. She said that she is sad because Richard is not there. He is in hiding for some reason. Richard yells out Celia to snap out of it and she apologizes for what happened.



The couple continues on to meet Richard's friends, the Halloways. They meet the couple for dinner. Celia enjoys meeting the Halloways, but because she is so shaken from the visit to the castle, she drinks a lot of wine. The group begins talking about the ruins at St Anns, and Richard tries to steer the conversation away from the subject. Celia will not drop the subject. They decide to go and visit the ruins. While walking around the ruins, Celia gets lost on her own and becomes very affected by her surroundings. She makes her way back to the Spread Eagle where the couples had eaten before. She wanders upstairs and collapses by one of the fire places. Richard and the Halloways find Celia delirious.

As Celia continues to remember what happened last fall, she watches the rest of her guests at the party. Igor, an aspiring dress designer from London has joined the party. Also there is Sue Blake (a distant cousin of Celia's), Sir Harry Jones (Myra's lover and a wealthy man) and George Simpson (owner of a legal firm). The group sits down for dinner and George realizes that his wife is not present. The butler goes to find Edna, George's wife. Edna finally makes a late entrance at lunch.

Edna hates being at the Marsdon's house. She thinks Richard is very handsome and she respects his status, but she hates Celia. She hates the fact that the girl is young and wealthy, and particularly the fact that she is American. Edna looks down on all the guests at the party. Edna chooses only to talk to Myra, whom she believes to be of a worthy status. They are also both from the North.

At lunch, Celia begins to tune everyone out. She thinks about her life leading up to when she meets Richard. While she had had a few boyfriends and a few proposals, for a long time Celia thought there was something wrong with her. Last year, her mother and she decide to go on a cruise on the Queen Mary. It is on the ship that Celia meets Richard. The two instantly fall in love. Richard tells Celia that he has always felt that he should go into the church, but cannot think of doing it now because he has met her. While Celia feels as though she knows Richard, she can't help feeling that he keeps a part of himself a secret from her.

Celia is again distracted from her own thoughts and pulled into the conversation at the dinner table. The guests have become anxious about the afternoon plans. They ask if it is possible for them to go on an expedition of the grounds, but Richard refuses. The guests continue to badger him, until Richard gives in. Despite Celia's wishes, he says that he will not accompany the party on the expedition.

While the rest of the guests prepare for the expedition, Celia wanders into the study to find Richard. She sees him in concentrating on a book. It is the Marsdon Chronicle. In the book, is a detailed history of Richard's ancestors. In times of stress he reads the book to figure out what to do. Celia sees the book and asks if she can read it. She will do anything to engage his interest. Richard closes the book and will not let her see it.

Celia asks him if he is seeing another woman, but Richard promises she is the only one he cares for. For a little while he is tender and kind to her. Celia is so happy that he is finally acting like the Richard she misses and loves. Richard assures her that he loves





her; he is just ill tempered. He tells her he is going out to see the farms that are on his land. He also remarks that he cannot stand Mrs. Simpson.

## **Part One: Chapter 1, (pg 1-34) Analysis**

Many very important events happen throughout this first section of the book. It is here that the theme of Reincarnation, which is central to the plot, is introduced. Dr. Akananda first talks about the concept with Lily at the pool party. Besides this first mention of reincarnation, the reader does not hear any other mention of it. They first learn about the flashbacks and odd feelings that Celia and Richard are having.

Celia first has a reaction to the area that Richard is from when they explore the area. Somehow the connection to the past strikes her very hard when they visit Cowdray Castle. Celia cannot yet figure out why the relationship between her and Richard has become so strained. They meet while abroad, and even then, Richard can not help his feelings for Celia, but feels there is a strong reason they should be together. There is some unexplainable force that pulls on their relationship forcing Richard to turn his back on Celia and her to become wanton, abrasive, and sexual.

Another theme, women's place in society, is also seen here. Celia is trying to become accustomed to her new lifestyle. Although she is wealthy before meeting Richard, she is now a Lady. As the wife of a man in British society who comes from a noble and distinguished background, she must keep up appearances and social graces so she does not disappoint Richard.

Furthermore, the reader is introduced to the rest of the characters at the party. While they just seem like background people to the relationship of Celia and Richard, their roles in the past will become more evident and important as the novel progresses.



## Part One: Chapter 2, (pg 34.-68)

### Part One: Chapter 2, (pg 34.-68) Summary

Celia decides to join the exploration party. They have all decided to visit Ightham Mote. As they are exploring the groups get separated. Celia ends up with Dr. Akananda. The doctor is curious about Celia's situation with Richard. He tells her of his concerns about her welfare. Celia is astounded that Akananda knows how she is feeling. She has not really discussed her feelings about Richard with anyone. Celia becomes cross and questions the doctor's credentials. She cannot tell if she likes him or not but is scared by his observations concerning her.

Celia and Akananda meet up with Lily and Sue to tour Cowdray mansion. Once they arrive, Celia begins to feel odd again. They find their way into the Great Hall and Celia decides to sit because she is feeling weak. Sue and Lily explore the house and Akananda stays with Celia. Celia begins to murmur to herself. She says she can't breathe. She also says " I hear voices. No one must know. She found us here." Celia begins to talk about a man named Stephen. She asks what the black thing by the fire place is and then lets out a horrid scream. Celia faints.

Lily and Sue come rushing back. Celia is revived and they group takes her home. When they arrive, the rest of the party is already at the house. They can tell Celia she looks disturbed, but Richard says she should go and get ready for the party.

Richard follow Celia up to her bedroom. He tells her that he is worried about her, but Celia does not believe him at all. He notices that Celia has put on more make up than normal and that she is trying to look sexier than usual. Celia becomes very flippant and teasing with Richard, telling him that she will seduce Myra's lover, Harry. Richard is shocked.

At dinner, Celia places all her attention on Harry. Everyone is aware of her odd behavior. After dinner everyone sits in the drawing room and Celia continues to throw herself at Harry, while the other party goers (Richard included) look on. After some time, Harry and Celia escape to the gardens. Harry expects Celia to kiss him, but she backs away from him. She never actually wanted to cheat on Richard, only make him jealous. Richard is insanely tense while they are gone. When they return, the entire group is tense and agitated, especially Mrs. Simpson. She thinks that Celia is a harlot. She suspects that later on, Celia will meet up with Harry.

After the party, the couple retires upstairs. Richard tells Celia that she is not the woman he thought he married. She says nothing to him and steps out of her dress and her underwear. Richard tells her that if sex is what she wants from him, she will not get it. He then forcefully grabs Celia and begins to drag her out of the room. She screams and slaps him. He reacts with a karate chop to her wind pipe. Celia can barely breathe as Richard continues to drag her up the stairs and into his old school room/nursery. Celia



begs Richard to stop, but he does not listen. He begins to rape her. On the other side of the room, the door opens. Edna barges in, saying that she knew she would catch Celia and Harry together. She is shocked when she sees that Celia is actually with Richard. After the interruption, Richard stops. He tells Celia how sorry he is. She whispers " How long does it take for one to die Stephen?"

Richard feels guilty, but he cannot understand why Celia has called him Stephen. He picks her up and carries her back to their room. After he puts Celia on the bed he tells her to put her arms down because they are frozen over her head. She does not respond. Richard becomes hysterical and runs out of the room.

## **Part One: Chapter 2, (pg 34.-68) Analysis**

Celia's episodes are getting worse. Her spirit's desire to connect to the past is becoming stronger. Seton conveys through the visions and flashbacks. Dr. Akananda continues to observe, but he can not yet put his finger on what is happening. His Western education is telling him to forget his own intuition.

The reader is also introduced further to Edna Simpson in this chapter. She is a mean, grouchy and judgmental woman. The reader cannot understand at first why Simpson is so rude to Celia and vehement about causing her ill will. Her ill thoughts foreshadow events that will occur later in the novel.

Although the reader does not yet know the characters very well, they can tell that Richard's raping of Celia is out of character. It is as if something has come over Richard. He is not himself. The self restraint that is normally present in him has been abandoned. With Celia, he cannot control himself. Celia is not a loose woman. She would never throw herself at another man because she loves Richard too much. She, too, is not acting like herself.



## Part One: Chapter 3, ( pg 69-104)

### Part One: Chapter 3, ( pg 69-104) Summary

The next morning, Lily informs all the guests that Celia is severely sick. She does not comment on Richard's condition. In Celia's bedroom Dr. Akananda consults the local doctor, Dr. Forester. The doctors try to lower Celia's arms and struggle to do so. They feel as if her arms are made of iron. She is breathing, but it looks as if she had some kind of seizure. The doctors decide to take Celia to the hospital in town. As they leave, Richard's old Nanny inquires about Celia's state. They tell Nanny they do not know what is wrong with her. Akananda asks if Nanny can find Richard and look after him.

Even though everyone else has left, Edna refuses to go. She yells at her husband George to bring her her tonic and pills. She claims she is too sick to leave. When George tells Edna that Celia is very ill, Edna yells that she hopes Celia will die.

Meanwhile, Nanny, also known as Nanny Cameron looks for Richard. She thinks to look for him in the schoolroom and finds him hiding in there. Nanny knocks and asks Richard to open the door. Richard says he does not know her and asks her to identify herself again. Richard begins to scare Nanny because of his inability to recognize who she is. Nanny searches for someone who can help. She finds Myra and tells her where Richard is locked up. She also tells Myra that Richard has been reading the Marsdon Chronicle. Nanny thinks Richard believes he is Stephen Marsdon. At first Myra thinks Nanny is insane. Nanny begs Myra to speak with Richard and she finally agrees.

When Akananda and Lily return from the hospital, Akananda looks for Richard. He and Nanny find him in the library. He is staring at the Marsdon Chronicle. Richard informs Dr. Akananda that Richard will be moving all his possessions into a separate wing of the large house while Celia's things are moved out. Akananda is shocked. He tells Richard that Celia is his wife and she needs him, but Richard refuses to go to the hospital. He acts dejected and angry. He bids Lily goodbye, wishing her luck with Celia's condition.

Akanada and Lily return to the hospital to check on Celia. Sir Aurthur Moore, a well-known doctor, has just arrived at the hospital. He comes because he heard about the special condition of Celia's case from Dr. Foster. While examining Celia, Moore learns that Akananda is at the hospital. He calls for the Indian doctor and the two old friends talk about Celia's condition. It is only after Moore has verified Akanada's credentials that the nurses and other doctors in the hospital begin to respect Akananda. The doctors can elicit no response from Celia, but Dr. Akananda is determined to bring Celia back.

The doctors decide to transport Celia to London so she can be taken care of in a better facility. Once there, the doctor's perform shock therapy, but Celia is still dead to the world. Akananda tells the doctors that he must be left alone with Celia. He has heard her murmurings at night. She calls out for Stephen or talks in an English accent of an earlier era. Akananda is the only one that notices Celia's odd reaction on the expedition.



He thinks that by channeling Celia's past life, he can allow her to relive whatever wrongs happened and reconcile the past. Akananda closes himself in the room with Celia.

He repeatedly asks Celia where she is. He also tells her that she must let him in so he can help her. At first Akanada has a vision of his own past. He is in school and all the other young medical school students are laughing at him. To them he is simply the Hindu who knows nothing. He opens his eyes and vows not to let it happen again. He yells at Celia to answer his question. She finally tells him that she is in the Great Buck Hall waiting for the King. He then asks Celia who she is. She tells him that he is Master Julian. Suddenly Akananda grows stiff. The bridge between past lives and the present has been crossed.

### **Part One: Chapter 3, ( pg 69-104) Analysis**

No one can figure out what is wrong with Richard. He has a breakdown and cannot handle what he has done to Celia. He also cannot understand how he could hurt the woman he loves.

It is finally in this chapter that the Dr. Akananda feels that he has seen enough. While the other doctors and nurses disrespect him because of his race and beliefs, he thinks it is time to incorporate teachings from his home land in Celia's treatment. He is determined to save Celia. Dr. Akananda can feel the connection to the past. He can tell that Celia is longing for something to be fixed. The only way for this to happen is for her to live through the past events. The reader is not sure how Dr. Akananda prompts the session to commence, but he has a control over Celia that will allow him to enter into her past.

The reader may wonder why Dr. Akananda feels such a devotion to Celia - why he feels he must save her. This foreshadows the actions or lack of action of another character that is introduced to the story and plays an integral role in the relationship of Celia and Richard.



## Part Two: Chapter 4, (pg 107 -138)

### Part Two: Chapter 4, (pg 107 -138) Summary

It is July 25, 1552. Celia is attending the procession of the King into Great Buck Hall at Cowdray Castle. Cowdray is now the home of Sir Anthony Browne. It used to belong to Ursula Southwell's family (the de Bohuns), but after they lost their fortune, the Brownes bought the Castle. Lady Ursula is permitted to stay in the castle out of the good will of Sir Anthony. He also enjoys having someone from a line, though no longer prosperous, which was once well known and aristocratic.

Celia de Bohun watches the happenings of the procession from the back of the crowd. She is simply happy to be present. Thanks to her aunt she has a refurbished gown and brooch. Although she cannot see herself in a mirror, Celia knows that her new gown becomes her.

Also at the gathering is Lady Jane, Sir Anthony's wife. She is mourning the loss of her new born son. She is upset because she is not allowed to keep the baby's body in the chapel. Because the new king, King Edward wants to implement his father's religion, anything relating to Catholicism must be hidden from the King's eyes. Celia continues to think of the poor monk, Stephen, who is forced to hide while the Kings is visiting. She does not understand the reason and asks Ursula. Ursula explains that other Lords have been thrown in jail for holding Catholic Mass. Stephen's presence will only cause the King to think that Anthony is against him and promoting a detested religion.

At the time of the visit, Celia is only fourteen. Celia has not always been at the Castle. Though she is of the de Bohun line, her mother comes from a poor family but marries Celia's father, who is the bastard son of Sir John de Bohun. Celia barely knew her father because he dies in a bar brawl when she is three. Her mother then begins working at a tavern and inn called the Spread Eagle. Celia grows up learning the ways of the Tavern. She is not at all close with her mother, who seldom talks to any one, even Celia. Alice passes away when Celia is thirteen.

Through the servants, Ursula learns of Celia's existence. She goes on a trip to the Spread Eagle to find Celia. Once Ursula sees Celia, she is overcome with love for the little girl. When Ursula returns to the Castle with Celia, Ursula asks the castle's monk, Stephen, to teach Celia. The girl does not know how to read or write. She also knows nothing about the Catholic Church. Stephen agrees to help Ursula's niece. He is shocked and appalled that she has never had proper instruction or education on Church doctrine and the Bible.

Stephen Marsdon comes from a wealthy, noble family. It has been the tradition for all of the younger Marsdon sons to go to the Church. Because Stephen is the younger brother, he gladly and willingly joins the Church. At nine years old, Stephen goes to Battle Abbey where he begins his studies. When he turns thirteen, many changes



happened in England. King Henry Eighth decides to dissolve the Catholic Church in England. He installs Protestantism so that he may annul his marriage to Katherine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn. Henry decides to disband all Abbeys and Monasteries. Stephen and his father decide that he should go to France to continue his studies. Before leaving for France, Stephen learns that Battle Abbey has been acquired by Sir Anthony Browne. Stephen goes to see the Abbey one last time. While he visits, he finds a group of young workers having sex in the Abbey. Stephen is appalled by their behavior, but also does not understand what he has seen. He vows to hate Sir Anthony for allowing the Church to be desecrated.

When Stephen finally takes his vows and matures into a grown man, he returns to England. He knows that Sir Anthony has always wanted him to run the Abbey after he takes his vows. Stephen returns and has been there for a while before Celia comes to him to begin her weekly teaching sessions. The first time Stephen sees Celia, he becomes breathless in her presence. To him, she looks like one of his paintings of the Virgin Mary. As their lessons continue, Stephen never lets himself think that he is looking forward to Celia's visit, even though he cannot wait to see her each time.

## **Part Two: Chapter 4, (pg 107 -138) Analysis**

In Part 2, the reader is transported back into the time of the Tudors. Here, Celia de Bohun and Stephen Marsdon are introduced. They are Celia and Richard's counterparts. Stephen is actually Richard's ancestor and the two also (according to AKananda) share the same soul. It is unclear if Celia de Bohun is related to Celia Marsdon. This is also the beginning of Celia and Richard's relationship. Stephen cannot believe he feels drawn to such a young girl. It scares him how attractive she is and the way it makes him feel. Stephen restricts himself from being happy to see her. Celia, on the other hand, even from a young age, knows that she is attracted to Stephen.

Two other integral characters are introduced in this section. Lady Ursula and Sir Anthony shape much of what happens in Stephen, and especially Celia's life. Although Lady Ursula asks Stephen to tutor Celia, she will soon regret her decision to do so. Lady Ursula also demonstrates the theme of a woman's role in 16th century English society. Because she never marries and has no money, she is destined to live by the goodwill of others. For now, Sir Anthony decides it is a good idea to have a member of the de Bohun lineage in his home.



## Part Two: Chapter 5, (pg 138-164)

### Part Two: Chapter 5, (pg 138-164) Summary

The King's visit to Cowdary, has its inhabitants nervous. Sir Anthony knows that only by pleasing the King can he be sure to retain his title and lands. Anthony's wife Lady Jane, tries her best to be a good hostess but can only think of her dead child.

Many other people besides the King and his entourage have come to stay at the Castle. For instance, the Dacres have made their way from the north. They are an imposing family—very loud and boisterous. Lady Dacre and her daughter, Magdalene, tower over the rest of the company. Celia meets Maggie, who also introduces Celia to her brothers, Thomas and Leonard.

Also at the gathering is Doctor Julian Ridolfi. King Edward learns that Doctor Julian would like an audience with him and has been sent by John Cheeke. The King refuses to see Julian. Doctor Julian is an Italian who is trying to become one of the King's doctors and consultants. He has not had much luck because of the King's distaste for foreigners in or near his court. Julian is actually a very skilled and learned doctor, who went to the best medical schools in Europe.

Julian becomes angry that the King will not see him. Sir Anthony also has no means to house the doctor because he does not want to get on the doctor's bad side. Lady Ursula has been watching the exchange for some time now and she feels badly for Julian. She has also heard that he is a very skilled astrologer. She would like for Dr. Julian to cast Celia's horoscope.

Ursula decides to invite Dr. Julian to stay the night in Celia's room. Celia can simply sleep with her aunt. Julian is at first skeptical of the Ursula's motive. He does not understand why Ursula wants to help him.

Ursula and Celia accompany Julian to the Spread Eagle, where he will stay the night. When they arrive, they encounter Mr. and Mrs. Allen. Mrs. Allen is upstairs in the Spread Eagle having a fit of some sort. Mr. Allen is very concerned about his wife's health. Ursula informs Mr. Allen that Julian is a doctor. Julian goes upstairs to help the ailing Mrs. Allen. When Julian sees Mrs. Allen, he realizes that she is simply drunk. To make everyone impressed with his efforts, Julian bleeds the woman and then orders her a cold compress and tells her husband that she must rest.

When he returns downstairs to Celia and Lady Ursula, they are very grateful for his help. Julian loves the way the two women stare at him. While he is not attracted to Lady Ursula, he appreciates her kind words and helpfulness. He can tell that Lady Ursula is enamored with him.





That night, Julian sleeps very well on Celia's lumpy bed. Stephen was not as lucky because he is being hidden in a dungeon cell in Cowdray Castle. Celia can hardly sleep because she is thinking about Stephen and how miserable he must be.

## **Part Two: Chapter 5, (pg 138-164) Analysis**

In this section, the reader gains a clearer view of England's political climate. This is a time when religion, monarchy, and politics are all entwined. People who were once devout Catholics are forced into a fake allegiance to the Protestant faith. In order to please the King and seem in line with his politics, Anthony totally disregards his religion for a time. He is so scared that he feels he must lock another human being in a dungeon, so he does not endanger his household.

In this section of the book, the reader is finally introduced to Dr. Julian. The doctor shares many similarities to Dr. Akananda. Like Akananda, Julian is a foreigner in England. He is not welcomed by Edward and his followers because he is believed to be a spy. The English people that Julian comes in contact with do not believe he is as educated and talented as English doctors. Julian continuously has to prove himself in the same way as Dr. Akananda.

The reader also meets Mr. and Mrs. Allen. Although Mr. Allen is not a central character to the plot, his wife, Emma, will strongly affect the lives of Stephen and Celia. In this chapter, she is only introduced as a minor character.



## Part Two: Chapter 6, (pg 165-203)

### Part Two: Chapter 6, (pg 165-203) Summary

The King's visit is finally winding down. Near the end of his visit, he becomes moody and difficult to entertain. At one of the last banquets, Celia finds herself sitting next to Leonard Darce. Throughout dinner Leonard tries to gain Celia's attention as well as her affections. Leonard is shocked that Celia will not return affection towards him. No woman has even denied him before. Leonard finally asks Celia if she loves someone else. She says that she does and he becomes infuriated. He storms off to sit next to his sister.

That same night, Dr Julian is forced to put up with the company of the Allens at the Spread Eagle. Now that Mistress Allen has overcome her drunken fit, Julian can see that she is a somewhat attractive woman. Mistress Allen begins to tell Julian of her past. Emma reveals that she has a younger sister named Nan who married Tom Marsdon, Stephen's brother. When Emma marries, all the land that was supposed to pass into her possession is seized and given to Sir Anthony and Tom Marsdon. Tom refuses to help Emma. He insists that it is not wise to dispute the way that lands have been allocated by the King. Emma then decides that she and her husband should travel to see Sir Anthony and seek his guidance. The only piece of property they care to acquire is Igatham Mote. Emma confides in Julian that they will pressure Sir Anthony to give them the land by threatening him. They know that the King is visiting and that Anthony has hidden Stephen the priest, so that Anthony remains in the King's good graces. Julian is disgusted by Emma's plans, but keeps these thoughts to himself. As a foreigner, he does not wish to anger anyone.

Finally, at Cowdray, the King has left. Celia becomes worried because two days pass and Stephen is still being held captive in the dungeon. Celia asks her aunt about him, but Ursula snaps at Celia. She does not want her niece to concern herself with the house priest. Ursula instead turns the conversation to Leonard Dacre, but Celia is not interested in him. She does not care that he is rich or has a title; he was unbearable to her. Later, Celia decides to ask Sir Anthony about Stephen's plight. Anthony is shocked by Celia's forwardness. The girl asks him if Stephen will be giving mass this weekend. Anthony says that they do need Stephen and finally remembers that he is in the dungeon. They fetch him from the dungeons.

Celia is surprised to see the condition of the place where Stephen has been imprisoned. She gasps when she sees that Sir Anthony's stewards actually bolted the door of the room. When they unlock the door and call out to Stephen, he is completely delirious. Sir Anthony and the other stewards help Stephen out of the room. Celia notices that there is a huge gash on Stephen's leg. It turns out that a large rat has bitten Stephen and this is what is causing the delirium. Celia is very worried. Stephen looks horribly ill. Sir Anthony professes that the monk will most surely die. Celia reminds Sir Anthony that Dr. Julian is staying at the Spread Eagle. She suggests that they call on the doctor to tend



to Stephen. Celia fetches Dr. Julian and brings him to the Castle. There, Julian tends to Stephen and tries his hardest to cure him. Lady Ursula also allows Stephen to stay in one of her small rooms. When Julian cannot be there to treat Stephen, Lady Ursula looks after him.

Several times, Julian thinks to himself that he would gladly pursue Ursula if she had more money and a better position. Julian is touched by her thoughtfulness and kindness toward Stephen. Julian and Stephen also strike up a sort of friendship. Julian is not at all religious and often laughs at Stephen's protestations of faith and virtue. Stephen is also surprised that he is able to confide in Julian. As a boy in the monastery, they were discouraged from having friendships. The other priests taught them that this would decrease their devotion to the Church.

Day after day, Celia inquires after Stephen's condition. To keep her away from Stephen, Ursula sends Celia on errands. This particular day, Julian has decided that he might begin to put together his reading of Celia's horoscopes. He says he thinks Celia should leave while he does so. Celia complains to her aunt and begs her not to send her on anymore errands. Ursula snaps at Celia, and Celia sullenly exits the room. Julian tells Ursula that she should not be worried about Stephen and Celia. Celia only has a simple crush on him.

Julian continues to map out Celia's horoscope. As he does so, he becomes upset with what he finds. Lady Ursula continues to hover over Julian. He finally tells her that he foresees unhappiness as well as an early death in Celia's future. Ursula becomes hysterical for a moment. She cannot believe this fate for Celia. She also asks Julian why Celia is not her own. She loves the poor girl so much and will do anything in her power to protect her. Julian tells Ursula to calm herself. He thinks she might need to consult Stephen for matters that God has control over.

Lady Ursula then regains control of herself. Celia comes into the room, and Ursula quickly sends her away again. Ursula then tells Julian that she does not like the way Stephen looks at Celia. Ursula then goes to visit Sir Anthony. She decides that Celia needs some time away from Stephen. She asks Sir Anthony if she and Celia may travel to the north to visit the Dacres because they have been invited. Ursula also has hopes that Celia will continue her relationship with Leonard Dacre.

## **Part Two: Chapter 6, (pg 165-203) Analysis**

In Chapter 6, many important events happen. First the similarities between Julian and Akananda are shown. For example, Julian believes in reading horoscopes and stars, but also believes in the validity of modern medicine. The two doctors are constantly having to prove themselves.

It is in this chapter that the reader begins to understand more of the feelings that Celia has for Stephen. She is extremely concerned for his welfare and is constantly looking



out for him. While Stephen thinks that he cannot and will not show his feelings for Celia, Lady Ursula can sense something between the two young people.

Here, Ursula's place in society is also noted. Because she has no money, income or extreme beauty, Julian does not pursue her. In order to make a better name for himself, he must marry well. It is his ticket into being accepted by the higher classes in Tudor society. Ursula can do nothing for him because of her undetermined social class and lack of money. She can also do nothing to improve herself because she is a woman.

An important foreshadowing also takes places. Julian is shocked by what he finds when he reads Celia's horoscope. The early death and unhappiness that he foresees will be the fate of Celia, but the reader is interested to learn how this will happen.



## Part Two: Chapter 7, (pg 204-233)

### Part Two: Chapter 7, (pg 204-233) Summary

Sir Anthony is very kind to Ursula and offers to let her take Wat and his son, Simkin, as escorts. Wat has lived near Cowdray his entire life. He is also the Keeper of the Horses for the Cowdray. When the old Sir Anthony was alive, Wat used to accompany him on military and diplomatic missions. The present Sir Anthony does not partake in any of these endeavors, so Wat is forced to stay at Cowdray. He is therefore thrilled when Sir Anthony tells him to escort Ursula and Celia to the north.

Lady Ursula observes that Celia is subdued and sullen. Ursula tries to engage Celia in conversation, but Celia refuses to say anything. Previously, she had been plotting her escape from both Lady Ursula and the trip to the Dacres. Two days before the party leaves for the north, Celia goes to say goodbye to Stephen. Lady Ursula finds them together and quickly sends Celia away. As Celia is leaving she swears that she hears Stephen whisper, "Don't leave me beloved." Celia is excited and encouraged by his words. The next day she sneaks about the castle. She goes to visit Stephen at his home.

Celia finds him working in his garden. She runs to him and tells him that she is here and ready for him to take her away. Stephen is flabbergasted to see Celia there. The young girl throws herself into Stephen's arms and begins kissing Stephen. At first Stephen responds to her kisses, but he then realizes what he is doing. He pushes Celia from him. He calls her a slut and tells her that he hates her. Celia jumps up and yells at Stephen. She says that she has been a fool for loving him. Celia also tells him that she is off to Cumberland where men will not turn her away. With that, she storms away.

Celia cannot stop thinking about the encounter with Stephen as the party makes their way to London. Ursula is excited to show Celia the noisy, busy city, but things in London seem to have changed. Ursula notices that the city is quiet and subdued. She makes a comment that this is due to King Edward's reign, that he knows nothing about the common good.

From behind, Ursula feels a strong, rough hand grip her and pull her down from a horse. The man reveals himself as one of Duke Northumberland's men, who is a stout supporter of King Edward. The entire party is taken into custody and brought to Durham House. The party is brought in front of the new Duke, as well as all his other friends who are newly-made knights and lords. The Duke interrogates Ursula, telling her that the cross she is carrying is a trinket and that these items are not allowed under the King's reign. He threatens them and then asks other knights what should be done with them. Lord Clinton, who had met Lady Ursula before advises that the party should be let go. Surprisingly the Duke agrees, but warns Ursula to remember where she is.



After leaving the Duke's house, Wat reveals to Lady Ursula that Sir Anthony has given him a letter to give to Princess Mary. Mary has been in exile and confinement since her brother became King. She is very sickly. While Ursula is hesitant, they set out for Husdon. They finally reach their destination in poor weather and rain. They are accepted into the house to meet the Princess. They are actually given an audience. The Princess is very moody and not easy to talk with. While Ursula knows that she is the key to restoring the old ways of England, especially the Catholic religion, she thinks that Mary is hard to handle. Celia is especially bored while the princess talks. Wat successfully delivers the message from Sir Anthony.

## **Part Two: Chapter 7, (pg 204-233) Analysis**

Inside the walls of Cowdray castle, Ursula has been sheltered. She is not aware of the danger that awaits many Catholic people. Her ignorance allows her to misspeak and insult the King. Ursula is finally happy when she is allowed to see Princess Mary, who is her hope of installing her beloved religion back to prominence and acceptance.

This chapter begins the first separation between Celia and Stephen. It seems that although the two love one another, they are destined to be pulled apart—either by another person, Ursula, or Stephen's unbending devotion to his vows. It is also interesting to note that as a young girl (only 14) Celia is already asserting her sexual agency in Tudor England. This a time when a young woman istold to protect her virginity at all costs. Celia makes the first advance toward Stephen. She is in no way experienced, but feels a need to express herself in this way, and is not shy to do so because she believes that she is so deeply in love.



## Part Two: Chapter 8, ( 234-252)

### Part Two: Chapter 8, ( 234-252) Summary

Ten days later, the party reaches Cumberland. Celia's spirits begin to look up, while Lady Ursula becomes homesick for Cowdray. Celia is glad that Cowdray is far away. She tells herself she is an idiot for thinking she could run away with Stephen. She also is amazed at the wonders she is seeing in the North. Celia has become good friends with Wat's son Simkin. She gives him smiles and is aware of her feminine charms that she is developing. Simkin is attracted to Celia because she reminds him of a young man he knew named Roland. Roland was soft and fair as Celia is. Simkin had accompanied Roland on a trip. On that trip the two young men had slept together. Simkin hopes he may develop a relationship with Celia.

As the party wanders around Cumberland, trying to find the Dacres home, the weather becomes increasingly worse. Lady Ursula becomes weak and faints. Wat becomes eager from them to find shelter for the night. Wat tells the group to stay put while he goes to look for lodging. He finds what looks like a vicarage and knocks on the door. There is no answer. Wat then feels something touch his elbow. He turns around and there is a ghostly, white woman standing next to him. She introduces herself as Bloody Bess. She says that she is of the Dacre clan.

Wat tells Lady Bess that he comes from Southern England. He has accompanied Lady Ursula, Celia, and Simkin to Northcumberland. He tells her that they are sick, cold, and exhausted. He begs her to let them stay the night. She agrees and Wat brings them back to her house. Janet, her lady's maid helps everyone become more comfortable. The party settles in an area in one of the large rooms of the house. Celia and Simkin lie on one pallet while Ursula and Wat talk to Janet.

Janet reveals that Lady Bess is Elizabeth Dacre, wife of Sir Thomas of Naworth Castle. She has gone a little mad but people on her side of the family often did. Celia begins to grow tired and everyone else begins falling asleep. Simkin rolls over and kisses Celia, but she does not return the kiss. She pushes him away. Simkin is upset. At first he thinks it is because Celia has rejected him, but he then realizes it is because the kiss did not excite him as he hoped it would.

The next day, they travel on. As they ride their horses Celia tries to get Simkin's attention. She apologizes for not returning the kiss and explains that she was tired. Simkin says that it is fine, but he does not look at Celia in the same way. Even when she tries to give him her beautiful smile, he ignores it.

The party finally sees Naworth Castle. It is nothing compared to Cowdray, but Celia refuses to think of Stephen or the place she has left behind. At the castle, Celia and Lady Ursula are warmly greeted by Maggie and her mother, Lady Dacre.



## Part Two: Chapter 8, ( 234-252) Analysis

In this section, the relationship between Simkin and Celia is explored. Simkin tries to become close with Celia because she reminds him of a boy he used to love. Simkin is having trouble coming to terms with his homosexuality. He forces himself to see something in Celia.

Celia again, is aware of the sexual appeal she can have over men. She therefore tries to assert it on Simkin to gain his attention. It is not that she particularly enjoys Simkin's attentions. She more or less wants to assert her femininity whenever she can because she is learning how it can empower her. While Celia does not have money or a respectable background, her looks and youth give her an advantage over other women, such as her aunt.





## Part Two: Chapter 9, (253-277)

### Part Two: Chapter 9, (253-277) Summary

A week later, Celia has every wish of leaving Naworth. She finds the entire Dacre clan to be loud, rude, boisterous and dirty. At first Celia hopes that Leonard will pay her some attention. She thinks he might also change his ways and be a good man to have court her. She soon finds that she is wrong. Leonard begins to pay her attention, but it is not the kind she wants. He tries to kiss her, is constantly touching her in inappropriate places, and is very rough with her. This is not how Celia envisions a courtship.

In one instance, Leonard is trying to gain Celia's attention. She is instead distracted by something funny happening across the room and begins to laugh. Leonard becomes very angry because he thinks Celia is laughing at him. He grabs Celia and pushes her up against the wall. Leonard tears her dress and sticks his hand down her bodice, groping her. Celia cannot escape and luckily Maggie sees the two of them. She tells Leonard to stop and yells at him. He sheepishly pulls away.

From then on, Celia tries to avoid Leonard. She spends time with Georgie, another member of the Dacre clan. He is sweet and caring and nothing like his brother. She wishes she could be courted by Georgie instead of Leonard. The next day, Celia is summoned by her aunt and Lord and Lady Dacre. When she arrives, she sees that Leonard and Maggie are also there. They inform Celia that she will wed Leonard in the New Year, which is only a few weeks away.

Celia is shocked. She feels betrayed by Ursula and then dead inside. She declares that she cannot marry Leonard. Maggie tells her to be sensible and that they will soon be sisters. Celia is still in disbelief as the adults dismiss her.

Celia refuses to believe she is getting married. She is after all only 14 years old. Celia continues to pursue the company of Georgie, who she wishes she could marry instead. She often goes out of her way to find him. One day, she goes searching for him in the stables. She hears strange noises coming from a section of the stable. To her it sounds like two men struggling. Celia decides to climb the ladder. She is startled when she finds Georgie and Simkin having sex. She is horrified at what she sees and not exactly sure how things work with two men. Luckily, they do not see her, and she scurries down the ladder. As Celia's wedding date draws nearer, she ponders how to escape the upcoming marriage. Should she pretend she is sick? Or run away? She cannot figure out the best course of action, but everyone continues to plan the wedding. Leonard has even become a little nicer to Celia, but she can still see the lust in his eyes.

Celia tries to make plans of escape or figure out some way to not get married. Two nights before her wedding, she has a dream. It is the kind of dream in which the person does not remember exactly what happens, but Celia feels revived. She suddenly becomes calm because something inside her has told her there will be no wedding.



The next day, Celia and Maggie learn that Lady Bess is dead. She killed herself by stabbing a dagger into her heart. While Celia is saddened by the news of the death, she is incredibly thankful that there will be a funeral tomorrow, instead of a wedding.

## **Part Two: Chapter 9, (253-277) Analysis**

In chapter 9, Seton clearly explores the theme of a woman's place in society. Celia is forced into marriage with Leonard because her aunt sees it as the only way for Celia to make a better life for herself. It is interesting to see that before Leonard offers for Celia's hand, Ursula is aware of his rough courtship of Celia. She does not think Leonard is a kind man, but when he offers for Celia, she feels there is no way they can turn him down. Everyone also dismisses Celia's refusals to marry Leonard. They see her as a stupid young girl who cannot think for herself.

Even Maggie, Celia's closest friend, believes that Celia has no other choice for a good life. She knows of Celia's hatred for Leonard, but is resigned to the marriage because it is what her parents see fit and Celia's only opportunity for advancement. Maggie also knows that she herself will have to marry someone she does not love, but she knows it is what is expected of her. She is ready to fulfill society's expectations of her. Some women like Celia, on the other hand, are not willing to be that complacent about their futures.



## Part Two: Chapter 10, (pg 278- 304)

### Part Two: Chapter 10, (pg 278- 304) Summary

It is not until June that Celia and Lady Ursula set out for Cowdray. In March, Ursula sends a letter asking if it was acceptable for them to return, but it went unanswered. She really wants Wat to come and fetch them, but they cannot stay with the Dacres now, especially because Celia and Leonard's wedding is halted indefinitely. Simkin is still with them and he will have to do as an escort. The Southerners have become a nuisance on the house. Maggie and Celia tell each other goodbye, but are both sure they will never see one another again.

When they reach London, they do not have much money. Ursula does not know where they will sleep for the night. Ursula suddenly remembers that Dr. Julian is in London. They decide to go to the hospital where he has been working to seek his help.

When Julian comes outside, Ursula explains their problem. Julian seems very annoyed. He is shocked that Ursula knows nothing of what is going on. Things in England are apparently very bad. He explains that Lady Jane Grey, Edward's half cousin, has married Lord Northumberland's son. Edward has demanded that the Lords sign on in their support of the marriage. Sir Anthony has refused to leave Cowdray. If King Edward were to die, the crown would pass to Lady Jane Grey and in effect, Northumberland. This would be bad for Anthony's future as a supporter of Princess Mary and the Catholic Faith. They arrive back at Cowdray and find Sir Anthony. He seems happy to see them, but feels they would have been safer in the North. He explains that his wife is pregnant and very ill. He also fears that any day now he will be carried off to the tower.

As they are talking, Stephen enters the room. Celia makes no motion. She simply stares at Stephen. Sir Anthony and Stephen now speak to each other as if they are very good friends. Stephen has also become Sir Anthony's secretary.

Ursula feels stupid for thinking there was anything between Stephen and Celia. The two address each other distantly. Anthony continues to address his problems with the King and Jane Grey. Stephen suggests that Celia take up her post at the Spread Eagle again; this way she can get any information from people visiting the area. Celia agrees, showing a mature side.

For the next three weeks, Celia works at the Spread Eagle. She gathers little tips here and there, but nothing of great importance. A man named John Hoby comes to visit Sir Anthony. He was sent from London from Northumberland. Hoby is a very nice man, but Anthony is not happy he has come. He tries to explain that he cannot leave Cowdray because he must see to his wife's health. Hoby continues to press him, making it clear that the King is not happy with this decision. Hoby warns Sir Anthony that the next time he comes to Cowdray, it will not be because of good news.



## Part Two: Chapter 10, (pg 278- 304) Analysis

Seton never fully explains why the marriage between Celia and Leonard is halted. While it was not custom to have a wedding immediately following a funeral, it does not seem as though the young couple's engagement should have been completely ended. Luckily for Celia it has been ended.

Julian's behavior seems very peculiar. While it is understandable that he should be nervous as a foreigner, he displays no hospitality to Ursula and Celia. He puts himself first before helping his the two women who helped him when he was in a time of need at Cowdray.



## Part Two: Chapter 11, (pg 305-331)

### Part Two: Chapter 11, (pg 305-331) Summary

On July 6th, King Edward dies. England is thrown into a state of turmoil. Many people don't understand who Lady Jane Grey is and why she should ascend to the throne. The Catholics want to crown Mary as Queen, while the Protestants toy with the idea of having Princess Elizabeth become queen. Gathered at Framlington Castle were many gentry men and nobles, waiting to learn who the new queen is and also what their own fate will be.

Sometime later, a steward makes his way to the front of the crowd. He announces that Queen Mary has been declared Queen by the Council. A proclamation has gone out for Northumberland's arrest. A week later, another proclamation is issued saying that Jane Grey is now the Queen of England. Sir Anthony remains locked up in Cowdray, frightened of what this news will bring.

During this time, Celia and the other residents of Cowdray feel stifled. Celia is happy for any chance to get out of the castle. Lady Jane goes into labor and Ursula sends Celia to get Stephen and the midwife. Jane is screaming and howling, which scares Celia. Celia is relieved to get out of the house and runs to St. Ann's Hill to get Stephen. Stephen can see that she is very frightened by the Lady Jane's labor. He tells her not to fear and kisses her on her head. Celia is amazed for a moment, but continues running toward town to find the midwife.

While in town, Celia learns from a bricklayer that Queen Mary has been made Queen again. Celia decides to return to the castle without the midwife because she cannot find her. She runs back to the castle and happens upon Sir Anthony. He looks like he has been crying. Celia happily tells him that Mary has been made Queen. Anthony tells Celia not to joke with him because his wife has just died. He does, however, have a son and daughter. Celia is shocked but insists she is telling the truth. Anthony suddenly turns happy.

Stephen also hears the news and is ecstatic. He goes to his crumbling chapel and takes out his relics of Mary and Jesus. He kisses the statues of Mary, so happy that once again the "true" religion is embraced by the head of England. He can now feel free to give mass and practice what he loves doing.

Sir Anthony is called to London. Although he is in mourning, he must go to see why the Queen has summoned him. Wat is excited that Anthony is going because his prosperity means everyone else's prosperity. Wat is excited, but also saddened. Lately he has noticed that Simkin has been acting strangely. He also discovered that Simkin enjoys dressing in women's clothing. When Simkin agrees to help Celia prepare her new mare and ride with him, Wat is grateful and excited. He hopes that his fears will not be realized and that Simkin has taken some manly interest in Celia.



On their ride, Celia tells Simkin that she is to get a new gown for Mary's coronation. Simkin asks her what color the gown will be. Celia is shocked because she thought Simkin does not care about her at all. He tells her that she should wear things that are a light pastel color. Celia is grateful that Skimkin cares, but he tells her it is only because she reminds her of someone else. As they ride on Simkin tells her to wait. He gets off his horse and finds a bloody shoe under the brush. Celia is frightened. She doesn't understand why Simkin wants a bloody shoe. He tells her that she never will understand.

## **Part Two: Chapter 11, (pg 305-331) Analysis**

Mary's return to the thrown is welcomed by her staunch Catholic supporters such as Anthony and Stephen. It is interesting that neither character is ever very proactive in helping return Mary to power. Anthony, for example simply tries to appease the sickly King until Edward dies. After that he does not attend to anything in London to see what the outcome for Queen might be. Stephen, on the other hand, allows himself to be pushed into hiding. He agrees to practice his religion in secret and not truly voice his beliefs.

Finally in this chapter, the reader sees that Stephen still has feelings for Celia. While it is clear the Celia still cares for him, the reader never knows how Stephen is feeling. This also mirrors the relationship between present day Celia and Richard. Celia's makes her feelings very clear, while Richard guards his thoughts and feelings.



## Part Two: Chapter 12, (pg 332- 364)

### Part Two: Chapter 12, (pg 332- 364) Summary

Sir Anthony's whole household goes to London, even Stephen. Anthony is often in court. Celia and Ursula are accompanied by Wat to watch Mary's procession. They are walking to their spots when they see Dr Julian. He is in his new doctor's robes. He explains that he has been asked to treat Mary for one of her severe headaches. For a time, Mary is really grateful, but then forgets about Julian. He has still been awarded, though, for helping. Julian introduces Ursula and Celia to Emma Allen, who is also attending the festivities.

Celia says she feels sick and has to go home. Ursula goes home with her and Wat, while the rest of the party stays at the celebration. Ursula is very upset about Celia's illness. She seems to get worse as the day goes on. Ursula calls Wat and asks him to get Dr. Julian, but Julian refuses to see Celia. He feels as though her aunt is overreacting.

After Mary is crowned, there are many celebration. The family goes to a ball where Ursula confronts Sir Anthony and asks why he hasn't helped to find Celia a husband yet. Sir Anthony asks for Ursula to calm down. He says that he is working on the situation.

At the ball, Celia sits with with Sir Thomas Wyatt. He tries to gain her attentions by reciting her poems and singing to her. Wyatt soon leaves Celia because she is boring him. Stephen comes over and gives Celia an evil look. He looks as though he hates her. Celia is angry with Stephen for always judging her actions.

At supper, Celia has been seated next to Sir John Hutchinson, a Protestant. Sir John is old enough to be Celia's father. He is also grossly overweight and has a very serious case of gout. She is shocked to learn that he is not Catholic. Sir John takes not as to how beautiful Celia is. She continues to talk to him throughout the meal. Sir John finds himself falling in love with Celia. He asks about her past, as well as how she came to live with Sir Anthony. Sir John is completely enamored of Celia.

### Part Two: Chapter 12, (pg 332- 364) Analysis

This is the second time that Julian has let Ursula and Celia down and certainly not the last. Julian is so eager to advance his position in society, that he will forget people who at one time helped him. Even now, when he has a more secure position in English society, Julian does not really try to help others. He is primarily concerned for himself.

In this chapter the reader is also introduced to Sir John Hutchinson. It is interesting that Hutchinson is even invited to the gathering because he is a Protestant. His obsession with Celia comes on suddenly. While she does show him some attention, it is no

different than the smile she bestows on any man. Sir John becomes convinced he must have Celia.





## Part Two: Chapter 13, (pg 365 - 397)

### Part Two: Chapter 13, (pg 365 - 397) Summary

Shortly before the Twelfth Night ball, Celia is reunited with Maggie. To Celia's surprise, Maggie has been chosen to be one of Queen Mary's lady's in waiting. Ursula is jealous of Maggie's good fortune. This also causes Celia to understand how unstable her position is. Unless she can secure a husband, she has no idea what her future holds. Because she has no rank, she will not be able to do the things Maggie does. This is further seen at the ball when Celia and Ursula aren't allowed to sit with Maggie or Sir Anthony.

Sir John decides to say hello to Celia at the ball. She tells him that she has been very sick. He tells Ursula that he should immediately take Celia back to Cowdray. Ursula is offended by John's forwardness.

The next day, Ursula learns that Sir John has asked for Celia's hand. Sir Anthony refused him because of his religion. Ursula is very grateful. Stephen then enters and begins to discuss some discouraging news with Anthony. Apparently, Sir Thomas Wyatt, may be planning a rebellion against Queen Mary. Ursula is alarmed, but Anthony tells her to calm down.

Despite Anthony's refusal to believe that Wyatt's rebellion will happen, it takes place. Wyatt and his men even go as far as to take over Sir Anthony's castle. Wyatt enters the castle and holds all the women hostage in one room. He tells them that he will be taking Celia with him. At first Celia refuses, but then she decides to go with Wyatt. She still thinks him an enchanting man who sings her love songs.

Celia does not know what has come over her. She even leads Wyatt up to a private room. He begins kissing and fondling her. She finally realizes that Wyatt wants to do more than kiss. Celia suddenly becomes scared and begins to scream. Wyatt begins to tear off Celia's clothing. Suddenly, Stephen is in the room. Celia is shocked and relived. Stephen fights Wyatt and beats him fiercely. Wyatt leaves the room and Stephen is overcome with passion for Celia. The two of them begin to kiss. Stephen asks for forgiveness because he cannot believe what he is doing. Before the two can carry on their passion, Ursula reveals that she is in the room. The two break apart and Stephen runs from the room.

### Part Two: Chapter 13, (pg 365 - 397) Analysis

This chapter marks a great change in the paths each character will take. Wyatt's rebellion is a historical event that will shift everyone's lives. Firstly, it causes Stephen to finally fully realize his feelings for Celia. Until he sees her in such danger, he cannot bring himself to act on his feelings for her. Because he acted on those feelings and is caught in the act, Stephen feels ashamed.



Maggie has also entered back into Celia's life. The two girls never thought they would see each other again. Celia is jealous of Maggie's ability to socialize with people of a higher class. She realizes that it will not ever be the same for her. She and Maggie, while friends now, will be separated by class divisions soon enough.

The Celia de Bohun that tempts Wyatt, is very similar to the Celia that tempts Harry in the opening chapters of the book. Celia has an impractical flair in her personality, which causes her to abandon what a proper lady would do. She wants to live her life as she wishes and because society will not allow this, she finds that by acting quickly and irrationally, she can make certain decisions before others stop her.



## Part Two: Chapter 14, (pg 398 - 436)

### Part Two: Chapter 14, (pg 398 - 436) Summary

After Wyatt's rebellion has is over, Ursula decides talk to Sir Anthony about what happened between Celia and Stephen. She insists that Celia must be married off. She is not sure if the two had sex, but she cannot take the chance of scandal and embarrassment. Anthony agrees. He is very angry with Celia because he sees her as the reason that Stephen has left him. He also now understands why Stephen insisted on going to France a few days ago. Anthony is the one who tells Celia she will marry Sir John. Celia does not protest the marriage. She does not say much of anything to anyone at all.

Celia and Sir John are married quickly and quietly. Ursula is heartbroken because she is sure Celia now hates her. Anthony is happy to be rid of Celia, but still saddened by Stephen's departure. Dr. Julian is also at the wedding.

On her wedding night at the nearby inn, Celia attempts to get drunk so that she can go through with her wedding night. Sir John insists that they do not have to consummate the marriage on that night. Celia ignores him and continues to drink. She then begins to kiss him. Sir John is concerned about his gout acting up and not allowing him to perform, but he decides to attempt it. Celia suddenly goes limp in his arms. She does is seemingly asleep. In her sleep she murmurs Stephen's name and Sir John wonders who he is.

The next day, the new couple sets out for Lincolnshire where Sir John's home, Skirby Hall is located. Celia tries her hardest to forget about Stephen. Sir John is extremely content and excited to show off his new bride to his household. When they arrive at Sir John's home, Celia is overwhelmed by the servants and tenants who gather to welcome the couple home. They are all amazed by her beauty and grace. Sir John excitedly tells her that they will soon make babies and make the household even happier.

That night, Celia is lying in Sir John's arms. She is surprisingly content. Celia tells Sir John that she does not remember her father, but she hopes that he was a good man like Sir John. She tells him that it is nice to be held by a big strong man, and that she wishes he was her father. Sir John stiffens at this comment, and Celia can tell that she has offended him. She does not understand what she has done and Sir John leaves her. From then on, John never shares a bed with Celia. While he is always very respectful to her in public and private, the two do not consummate the marriage.

Celia is very lonely in Lincolnshire. She spends her time managing Sir John's household. She does an acceptable job because Ursula has showed her how to manage things in the past. Most of the locals feel that it is normal for her to keep to herself. In order to have a companion, she decides to get a dog. She picks the runt of alitter and names the poor dog Taggle. Sir John is angry that Celia refuses to get a



proper dog, but she calms him and tells him that she loves Taggle and will keep him no matter what.

Sir John's health is often very bad. His gout sometimes causes him to be bed ridden from time to time. Sir John notices the looks that Celia receives from visitors and servants and demands that she stay closer to home while he is laid up. Realizing that he is being hard, Sir John promises to read her the Bible and talk with her. She tells him that she cannot read the Protestant Bible because Stephen said it is forbidden. John is perturbed because this is the second time he has heard Stephen's name.

The Hutchinsons decide to throw a party on Michaelmas. Celia is bored and looking for strangers that might be interesting to her. She is completely shocked when she sees Wat at the celebration. She screams his name to get his attention. Wat says hello and asks her if she has heard from her aunt. Celia says she has heard nothing at all. Wat then tells Celia that Anthony has been made Lord Montague. He has also married Maggie. Celia is shocked at this new discovery. She also learns that Thomas Wyatt was executed.

Celia feels shunned and exiled because no one thinks to invite her to anything. Wat assures Celia that her aunt loves her. He also tells her that she should be happy with how she has made out for herself and that she should be excited for the babies she will have. Celia tells Wat that there will be no babies. He suggests that there must be some wise woman that Celia can speak to. Celia says that there is a water witch, but she does not know if Celia will visit her.

Wat also gives her news of Stephen. He went to Marmateer in France but has now been called to Westminster because the Queen wishes all the monks to be there. After the feast, Celia decides she will go visit the water witch. She really wants a baby. She decides that she will not tell Sir John about the visit. From the villagers, Celia learns where the water witch lives. She decides to bring her food. When Celia knocks on the door of the hut, she is beckoned to enter. To her surprise, the water witch is completely naked. In the dark, the woman looks majestic because her long gray hair covers her shapely, mature body. As she comes into the light, Celia sees the scars, welts, and abrasions that are on the woman's skin. Celia is disgusted and asks what happened to her. She tells Celia that she was burned in France for being a witch. She introduces herself as Melusine.

Melusine gives Celia a special powder. She tells her that she should put the powder in her husband's drink and he will lust after her. The witch also tells Celia if she wishes only good for her husband, the potion will do him and her no harm. When John comes home, Celia is warm to him, but she does not give him the potion. After visiting the witch she feels odd to do so.



## Part Two: Chapter 14, (pg 398 - 436) Analysis

For her wild behavior, Celia is basically exiled from Cowdray. Although both Stephen and Celia take part in the act, Stephen inflicts his own punishment by running away to repent and Celia's punishment is forced upon her. Sir Anthony blames Celia because he sees her as a temptress and trouble maker. He does not see it as two people taking part in an act of love, but instead as Celia's stupidity in tempting Stephen. It seems that in these sort of matters, the man is never to blame.

Furthermore, it is interesting to learn that Sir Anthony and Ursula would rather avoid a scandal than not have Celia marry a Protestant, who, they detest. Celia further proves she has no allegiance to any religion. She embraces some of the teachings of her husband but also decides to go visit a witch for guidance. Celia does not follow a doctrine to tell her what is right; she instead listens to herself without regards to what others think or say.

The visit to the water witch should also not be forgotten. Although Celia does not need the potion the witch gives her now, she never throws it away. She simply cannot bring herself to use it on Sir John.



## Part Two: Chapter 15, (pg 437- 475)

### Part Two: Chapter 15, (pg 437- 475) Summary

In the Summer of 1558, John Hutchinson dies. Edwin Radcliffe, one of Lord Montague's gentlemen ushers, goes to Lincolnshire to deliver a message. At first Edwin does not wish to see the widow, he just wants to give Lord Montague's message and leave. He does catch a glimpse of Celia before he leaves and is shocked and captivated by her beauty. Celia sees Edwin and tries to make him welcome. She notices that he is very handsome. She explains that there is nothing but debts after John's death and that his heir is trying to push her out of the house.

Celia begs that Edwin read her the letter. He agrees to and reads the announcement of Lord Montague's wedding. At the bottom of the letter is a note from Lady Ursula begging Celia to come to Cowdray because she is dying. Celia is shocked at this news because she didn't even know that Ursula is sick. She decides she must at once go to Cowdray and asks Edwin to escort her.

Along the journey Celia can tell that Edwin feels some sort of attraction to her. She does not realize how much he cares for her until they have almost reached Cowdray. Edwin professes his undying love for her. Celia tells him that she will not be his mistress, but he insists he wants her for his wife. Celia does not accept or decline the proposal. She has no plans for the future, but knows she will need to again marry well to make a way for herself.

Celia arrives at Cowdray and immediately finds her way to Ursula's room. She finds Ursula, lying in bed and deathly ill. At first Celia curses her aunt for marrying her off and then for never answering her letters. Celia then looks around and notices that the room smells sour. She asks if there is anyone to take care of her. Ursula tells Celia that the young woman that used to take care of her was accused of treason because she was a Protestant. She was burned at the stake for heresy. After that Ursula was under a state of suspicion. Anthony no longer wished to show her any favor.

While they were talking, Celia can hear horses approaching. She also hears a dog barking. She excuses herself and runs to get Taggle. She picks up the dog and sees Anthony and Maggie. The two comment that they know a widow is here and joke that their servants had not left her outside. The two are very rude to Celia and do not recognize her.

Celia introduces herself as Lady Southwell's niece, and requests a small room for herself. Anthony looks more closely at Celia and realizes it is her. It has been six years and the girl had matured into a lovely, beautiful young woman. While Anthony recognizes this, he does not act warmly toward Celia. He remembers her as trouble. He says she can stay and will leave Maggie to do the planning. Maggie begins to be somewhat warm to Celia again.



Maggie takes Celia back into the house. The two catch up somewhat and Maggie says that Celia will obviously enter a convent because she is left with no money. Celia is horrified at the idea. She will not be cloistered away again. She decides to consider Edwin's proposal and encourage his affections.

Celia continues to stay at Cowdray and see to Lady Ursula's health. On November 7th, Queen Mary dies and all England is again unsettled. Anthony and Maggie are perturbed that they do not know how they will be affected by the Queen's death. Wat brings them the news of her death and also tells them that Edwin Radcliffe has left. He has gone to tell his father that he wants to marry Celia and not another girl to whom he is betrothed. His father becomes angry and threatens to take away his inheritance. When Anthony learns of this news he is angered. To him, Celia is again causing trouble and he is not at all happy about having her back.

During Christmas, Ursula passes away. Celia is sad and grateful to her aunt, who has left her a very small and modest inheritance. After Ursula's death, Celia remains at Cowdray in Ursula's chambers. She mainly keeps to herself. Edwin is also absent during the Christmas celebration. His father refuses to yield and accept that Edwin wants to abandon his betrothed for Celia. Celia knows that Edwin is working on the situation because he has sent her a few notes on his progress. Celia becomes determined to marry Edwin. She decides that she must take matters into her own hands if she is to marry Edwin and secure her future.

At the Twelfth Night celebration, Celia feels that her chance to persuade Anthony has come. Because everyone will be drunk and full of merriment, she feels as though she can get him on her side. Many of the revelers in the house are dressing up as fools with cloaks, masks and horns. Celia decides to dress in this way also so that she has anonymity. Anthony always enjoys watching the dancing and ceremonies closely. Celia waits until she sees that Anthony is alone and beckons him to come to the library.

Anthony is intrigued by the little fool that is trying to waylay him. Anthony says that he must obey the fool's wishes. He asks what the fool wants. Celia rips off her mask and reveals herself to Anthony. At first, he gets the wrong idea. He thinks that Celia has lured him into the library to seduce him. He tells her that he will give her what she wants and grabs her. Celia protests and tells Anthony that he would not want to rape a virgin. At first, Anthony does not believe that Celia can be a virgin, but then remembers Sir John's case of gout.

Anthony asks what Celia really wants. She tells him that she must marry Edwin and that she wants to be with him. Celia tells Anthony that he is the only one that can convince Edwin's father into approving the marriage. For some reason, on this night, Anthony is feeling very giving and jovial. He decides that he will help Celia. He justifies that the couple must be in love. He tells Celia that he will speak with Edwin's father tomorrow.



## Part Two: Chapter 15, (pg 437- 475) Analysis

Four years have passed and Celia has grown into a beautiful woman. She is also much wiser. Upon returning to Cowdray and seeing the ill treatment and cruelty that Ursula has endured, Celia knows that she never wants to be stuck in the same position. It seems as though Edward's attentions come at a perfect time. Celia is faced with living as a burden under the Montague's roof (and at their whim) or joining a convent at the age of twenty. Celia, brazen and determined knows she must take her own fate into her own hands. This is why she pursues Anthony. Even though he hates Celia for making Stephen leave, he also falls for her feminine charms.

Celia's relationship with Edwin is very one sided. She is not in love with him; he is simply the key to her security. Celia is now in full possession of her feminine charms even though she has never been with a man. She has embraced her sexuality and knows how to use it for her own gain.

It is interesting that Maggie and Anthony do not recognize Celia at first. When they meet her in front of the castle, it is as if they are making fun of her. They say they know a widow is there, but refuse to recognize her until she bows to them and introduces herself. She cannot have changed that much in four years, but the newly-established Montagues do not have the inclination give Celia any time.





## Part Two: Chapter 15, (pg 476 - 502)

### Part Two: Chapter 15, (pg 476 - 502) Summary

On January 15, 1559, Elizabeth is named Queen of England. Many people who were once forces in Mary's court begin to fall out of favor with Elizabeth's court. This includes Anthony and Dr. Julian. As Anthony promised, he talks to Edwin's father, who agrees to the marriage. For weeks, Celia lives in happiness. She shows Edwin she cares by giving him kisses and little notes. The wedding preparations finally begin.

On the Thursday before the wedding, it becomes very rainy and Celia and Maggie spend the day talking and knitting in the lady's sitting parlor. Celia is content and working on her embroidery. Suddenly, she feels as though she is hearing something. She gets a sense of dread and tremors. She can hear voices talking about helping someone. A woman's voice is screaming at a doctor telling him that she needs to see her daughter. Celia does not like these visions or feelings.

Maggie interrupts Celia's vision and Celia at once feels calm again. She is grateful for Edwin rescuing her. Once she marries him, she will be seen as Anthony, Maggie's, and Edwin's equal. She will never again be put in an awkward situation. Celia feels at peace because she has secured a life for herself. This is sadly her last peaceful day.

Later at lunch, Anthony and Julian join the two women. They talk about the state of affairs. Anthony mentions that he might be called away, but will try not to be called before Celia's wedding. He has been trying to get everything in order with the licenses and finding a priest. Suddenly Celia understands what he means. From across the room, Stephen enters the room. Celia grips the table so hard, that her knuckles turn white.

Stephen begins to speak, but Celia refuses to look at him. She remember the voice, the face and the body. Maggie begins to introduce Stephen to everyone because she does not know that all are old acquaintances. Maggie introduces Stephen to Celia, and Celia finally looks at Stephen. The two are trapped in one another's gazes. Stephen cannot tear his eyes from Celia's beautiful face. Julian notices and knocks his glass over. This allows Stephen to recover.

Anthony speaks to Stephen about problems he is having. He would like Stephen to travel with him as his secretary. Anthony invites Stephen because he does not like that the situation between Celia and Stephen is so awkward. He sees their relationship as a childish romance.

Stephen counters and says that his superior has decides that Stephen shall be the priest for the Allens. He informs everyone that he will be leaving before Celia's wedding. Celia makes a noise and almost faints and falls to the ground, but Dr. Julian catches her. Stephen then tells the group that he must leave them. After Stephen exits, Celia



begins complaining of a headache. She says that she must lie down immediately. Julian gives her a look which begs her not to go after Stephen.

Celia runs after Stephen and stops him outside. She says that she must speak with him, if only for a little while. She says that she will come to him on Tan's Hill later tonight. Stephen tells her to leave him alone and that they cannot continue whatever they had before. He angrily runs off.

Celia runs to her room and changes into her night dress. She then takes the potion that the water witch gave her and pours it into a tin of ale. She asks one of the stewards to bring the ale as a gift to Stephen. Celia then covers herself with a large cloak and runs out into the night.

When she arrives at St. Ann's Hill, Stephen curses her for coming. Celia sees that he has already begun to drink the tainted ale. She tries to get him to drink the rest. He says that he has already asked for forgiveness and scourged himself to overcome their carnal love. Celia at first tries to woo him with her scent and body, but when he does not respond, she begins to cry. She cannot take his rejections again. Stephen cannot bear to see Celia cry. Even though he has tried to resist her, he cannot see his beloved cry. Before they know it, they are lying on Stephen's pallet naked.

Stephen is sickened by his weakness again. He goes outside to calm himself. When he returns to Celia he tells her that she must go and that he will leave in the morning. Celia does not understand. After the time that they spent together, she tells Stephen that she can never marry Edwin and must be with him. Stephen assures her that this is how things must be.

Celia leaves Stephen's hut and returns to the Castle. She goes to find Julian so that he may give her some counsel. Julian is startled to find her in his bedroom. Celia is in hysterics. She says that she always thought Julian was fond of her and that she has no one to turn to. She tells Julian she is in love with Stephen, but Julian has a hard time believing this. She also tells him how she used the water witch's potion to seduce Stephen.

Julian tells Celia that she is simply overwrought because her wedding is soon. Celia says she is not and begs Julian to help her and Stephen find a way to escape. Julian proclaims that Celia must not know the man she loves because he knows Stephen will never run away from the Church. Celia begs Julian more and tells him that she has had visions of the future in which he has tried to save her from dying. Julian is perplexed by the comment, but still insists that Celia go and get ready for dinner. She sadly composes herself and leaves. Julian remembers something from when he was younger that a teacher told him about lives recurring and going through the same general problems, but the situation is so altered that the participants cannot recognize what to do to fix things. Julian thinks about this for while, but then decides to abandon the idea.

Celia does not show up at dinner. No one misses her until Edwin rides over to see. He runs in and tells everyone that he could not find her anywhere and that her horse is



gone. One of the stewards finally gives him a message from Celia that says that she cannot marry Edwin. Anthony curses Celia calling her a nuisance. At first, Edwin is perplexed that she has disappeared, but then realizes that he was never even sure if Celia loved him. He becomes very discouraged and decides not to look for her.

## **Part Two: Chapter 15, (pg 476 - 502) Analysis**

Again, Celia is being told what her feelings should and should not be. First by Sir Anthony, who decides that whatever was between Celia and Stephen is simply puppy love or infatuation. Anthony cares only for his own affairs. He brings Stephen back to be his secretary again without thinking how embarrassing the meeting between Stephen and Celia will be. If Anthony had not brought Stephen back, the lovers would have yearned for each other, but the ultimate tragedy that is still ahead for them would not occur.

This is the final time that Julian lets a friend down. Instead of guiding Celia as he should have, Julian dismisses her feelings. He thinks Celia is acting irrationally because she is getting married. He is troubled by the fact that she has admitted to using witch craft, but he thinks everything is due to Celia being scared about marriage. If Julian took the time to really listen to others, he would see that there was something truly wrong with Celia—especially when she tells Julian that she has had visions of him helping her in the future.



## Part Two: Chapter 17, (pg 502-529)

### Part Two: Chapter 17, (pg 502-529) Summary

By August 1, Celia makes her way to Ightham in Kent. She is completely out of money and finds a job for a living. She remembers that Stephen said that he would be at Ightham Mote. She decides to apply for a job at the house and writes herself a recommendation from Lady Hutchinson. She calls herself Cissy Boone during the interview. She is hired and taken back to the Mote for inspection by Lady Allen.

When they arrive, Celia goes in to meet Emma. She hides her appearance by covering her hair with a rag and wearing an old gown and no shoes. She also keeps her eyes downcast. Emma is still as beautiful as she was before, even though she is now forty-three. She tells Celia that she should not become involved with any of the men in the Mote. She also screams that she does not want to see Celia again until her birthday celebration.

Celia begins working in the kitchens. She meets a man named Dickon. He tells her more about the household and Emma Allen. He tells Celia that she drinks often and too much and constantly becomes violent. She beat one of the maids last year and killed a puppy last month. Celia is frightened by Emma's violence. Celia asks Dickon about the new chaplain. He tells her that Emma dotes on him all the time. Stephen is also wearing a hair shirt, which sparks some speculation among the servants about what he has done. Celia becomes angry with him for doing so. She has been in pain because she is separated from Stephen. She does not think what they did is wrong because it is love.

Celia continues her duties around the Mote, but looks for Stephen whenever she can. She finally sees him while he is performing a mass in the chapel. Stephen does not see her and Celia has not yet chosen to reveal herself to him. Celia decides to cut a lock of her hair and leave it in Stephen's hut.

Stephen finds the hair and thinks that it was left by Emma Allen. He hates the woman and the way she fondles him and tries to be alone with him. As Stephen goes to bed, he takes off the hair shirt. He was supposed to wear it for 3 months, but has it on for four. His confessor, the Abbott, was very disappointed in him.

Celia continues to spend time with the servants, in particular one named Alice. Alice suspects that Celia has a love of whom she tells no one. She also tells Celia that she looks pregnant. Alice tells her to be careful because the last maid that was found pregnant was beaten so badly by Lady Allen that she lost the baby. Celia decides that it is time to speak with Stephen.

After mass, he usually goes for a walk through the woods. There, she reveals herself to him. He is so happy to see her that he grabs her and pulls her close. Before they know it they are lying together in the grass naked. Stephen asks Celia how she got here. She



was supposed to marry Edwin. She tells him that she left everything to find Stephen and that she only loves him. Stephen agrees that he has only ever loved Celia. Celia then tells Stephen that she is pregnant. At first he does not believe her. He says he will write to the Abbot and ask for guidance. Celia asks Stephen if he would rather her have the baby taken care of, referring to an abortion. Stephen says that he must pray. He runs away from Celia.

The next week is Emma's birthday. At the Mote, it is always celebrated. All the servants are allowed to attend and everyone becomes very rambunctious and drunk. Celia at first decides not to go, but Emma calls for her. Celia feels strangely. She decides to take down her hair. She goes right up to Lady Allen and performs a beautiful curtsy. Emma is angered by the girls showing off. Celia runs to stand near the other servants and begins to dance heartily and eat at the feast. At the end, she passes by Stephen and tells him she will come to him tonight. Later that night, Celia makes her way to Stephen's hut. He welcomes her.

## **Part Two: Chapter 17, (pg 502-529) Analysis**

In this chapter, the reader is reintroduced to Emma Allen. Emma is actually a bit of a contradiction to the normal stereotype of a woman in Tudor England. Instead of her husband being head of household, she rules over everything with her overbearing personality and fear. Emma stands down to no man. She is in a way similar to Celia because she is determined to have what she wants in life.

Celia's brazen attitude returns at the worst possible moment. She should not be flaunting her beauty or looks in front of Emma. Celia's mistake causes Emma to take notice of her, which is what she was trying to avoid all along.

Although Stephen punishes himself for sleeping with Celia once, he begins to allow himself to believe that he loves her. This is a big step for Stephen who only ever believed that he could love God and his position in the Church. But Stephen still feels torn. He recognizes his feeling for Celia, but cannot have her and still be a priest. How can he reconcile both sides of his heart? How can the woman he loves ask him to give up everything he has ever believed for her. He tried to give her a good life by leaving Cowdray, but she will not let him be.



## Part Two: Chapter 18, (pg 530- 553)

### Part Two: Chapter 18, (pg 530- 553) Summary

Emma Allen could not enjoy herself after Celia joins the party. She decides to end the festivities early after she sees Celia speak to Stephen and the way he reacts to her presence. Later that night she decides to go to Stephen's hut. She peers through the window and finds two bodies entwined together. It is Celia and Stephen, and they are talking about their plans. Emma backs away, but Celia tells Stephen that she saw a face. Stephen believes she is just seeing things and tells her to be calm. They will leave tomorrow for London. Celia gives Stephen her wedding ring from Sir John. She says it will serve as a sort of marriage between them. Stephen wants to give Celia something, but she insists he has already given her a baby. All of a sudden she becomes very frightened. She tells Stephen that something will punish them. They make plans to meet the next day and Celia then leaves him.

As Celia enters the great house, she is accosted by three men. Lady Allen comes from the shadows and calls her the priest's whore. Emma orders the men to do something, but they will not move. Emma moves toward Celia and chokes her. The next day, Stephen is waiting to meet Celia, but she never shows. He decides to go and look for her but cannot find her. As he is walking past the Hall, he hears a loud chuckle. He sees three men aiding Lady Allen in sealing up her strong box. Lady Allen looks at Stephen and tells him that he'll no longer be tempted. One of the three men is weeping. He protests that they did not know they were bringing up a body from the dungeon.

Stephen throws himself at one of the men and tries to rip the bricks off of the wall. Lady Allen tells the men to grab Stephen. She also says that the girl is near death. The men grab Stephen and bring him to the chapel. Lady Allen continues to lay the bricks. The next day, Alice finds Stephen's body hung in one of the confessionals.

Since the installment of Elizabeth as Queen, Julian has not done as poorly as he might have thought. Anthony has returned from Spain a richer man. He decides to have a Christmas time celebration at his home. He invites Julian. While there, Wat also returns from a mission. He informs the household of Stephen's death. At first Anthony and Julian cannot believe the monk is dead. Anthony, being the self-centered person he is, forgets it. Julian on the other hand, cannot let it go. He questions Wat further. All Wat knows is that Stephen's death was untimely and a little suspicious. He learns the news from Tom Marsdon, Stephen's brother.

For some reason, Julian is drawn to the situation and decides to go to go speak with Tom. The two men meet at Medsfield, Tom's home and decide to go to Igtham Mote to retrieve Stephen's body. When they arrive at the Mote they are not treated well by the Allens. They can find out nothing about Stephen's death. They are invited to dinner with Emma, but it is very tense. She'll say nothing to give them an idea of what happened to Stephen.



As the two men gather Stephen's body and prepare to leave, one of the men who helped wall up Celia is passing by. The man speaks to Julian and Tom but he sounds crazy. He asks them if they got the girl out of the wall. Tom tells him that they have Stephen's body. The man says that he didn't want to kill her, that he was forced. He also tells the two men that sin such as she committed had to be punished and that the girl had been with child. The two men disregard the man's statements and travel back to Medfield.

## **Part Two: Chapter 18, (pg 530- 553) Analysis**

Finally, the reader learns why it is necessary for Celia to go back and relive her life. She and Stephen died in tragic, violent ways. According to Seton, they could not be happy in their present lifetime because the sad events of their past lives would not be laid to rest. Stephen and Celia rarely got to be together, because from the beginning of their relationship, they are always kept apart. People and circumstances would never allow for the two star crossed lovers to be together. It seems that they could not even be together in death because their souls would not rest.

It is interesting that Seton has Julian help Tom retrieve Stephen's body. While Stephen and Julian were at one time friends over five years ago, they have hardly spoken since then. Julian feels that he must help Tom for some reason. Maybe Julian knows there is something he could have done to help Celia when she requested Julian's help a few months earlier.



## Part Three: Chapter 19, (pg 557 - 577)

### Part Three: Chapter 19, (pg 557 - 577) Summary

Dr. Akananda cannot believe everything he has witnessed. He is speechless at the "trip" upon which that he has been allowed to accompany Celia. He reveals that he himself was obviously Dr. Julian. Lady Ursula is reincarnated as Lily Taylor; Edna Simpson is Emma Allen; the Duchess is Magdalene Dacre; Harry Jones is Sir Anthony Browne and Igor is Simkin.

Akananda is brought out of the journey by a pounding on the hospital room door. Sir Aurthur comes into the room and observes Celia's vital signs. He is shocked to find that he can locate a plus on Celia. He congratulates Akananda for curing Celia. He tells him that he should go and rest. Akananda is still amazed at everything that has happened. He tries to explain to Sir Aurthur what has happened, but Aurthur is not willing to open his mind to the concept. He simply thinks that Akananda should get some sleep. Akananda also lets Aurthur know that Celia is pregnant.

Akananda tells Lily that Celia will be okay. He also promises her that after he gets some rest, he will go and reason with Richard. He tells Lily that he failed Lily and Celia once before and that he will not do so again. Lily does not understand at first, but is happy that Akananda is helping her. Many people go to visit Celia in the hospital because they want to know how she is doing. George Simpson stops by and looks very upset. He talks to Dr. Akananda and informs the doctor that Edna has had a dreadful accident. Their house caught on fire. No one else is harmed but Edna. She dies in the fire. Dr. Akananda offers his condolences to George, but he cannot help thinking that Edna (Emma) finally got what she deserved.

Four days later, Akananda and Lily return to Medfield. They enter the house and see that it is in complete disarray. Akananda tells Lily to stay back. He goes into the house on his own to find Richard. He goes up to the old school room and finds Richard there. Richard begins to babble that he is scared. He and Mrs. Simpson have killed Celia. Akananda tries to explain to Richard that it is Edna who is dead and Celia is alive. Richard disagrees and says that Celia deserves to die because she was "wanton." Akananda is sure the Richard is having a psychotic break. He then calls Richard "Stephen." He orders him to touch his crucifix. At first, Richard does not understand, but then it seems as though Richard has become Stephen. Akananda says that he is Stephen's superior. Richard listens to Akananda. Akananda is then able to sedate Richard.

Over a few days, under the watchful eyes of Lily and Dr. Akananda, Richard begins to look like himself again. Akananda does not believe that everything is cured. While in the house together, Akananda and Lily question if they had known one another in other past lives. Akananda tells her a little about her experience at Cowdray, but he does not know about her other past lives.





## Part Three: Chapter 19, (pg 557 - 577) Analysis

Dr. Akananda's reasons for always feeling as though he needs to help Celia and Lily are now clear. As Julian, he was constantly concerned with climbing the social ladder. He had no time to help the previous Celia, and because he refuses to help her several times, she makes bad decisions. In his present life, Dr. Akananda now understands why he feels he must help Celia. He promises Lily that he will take care of Richard's situation because Akananda knows he is a part of the solution. Richard is needed to mend the present, which has been so horribly hurt by the past.

It is interesting to see what characters Seton chooses to be reincarnated. Dr. Akananda reasons that Myra is Magdalene, Henry is Sir Anthony, Lily is Ursula, Igor is Simkin, and Edna is Emma. Seton works hard to fully tie in the theme of reincarnation into the book by providing little clues to the reader about who is who. While some characters are obvious (Edna Simpson's severe and unjustified hatred for Celia, and Lily's overwhelming love of Celia), other characters are more subtle and become a surprise for the reader. For example, Igor is only mentioned a couple times throughout the book. There are only two details given about him - he is gay and a dressmaker. The reader may not remember this, but Simkin also knows about dresses and what colors should be used. He is also gay.



## Part Three: Chapter 20, (pg 578 - 591)

### Part Three: Chapter 20, (pg 578 - 591) Summary

When Celia awakens she does not remember anything of what happens in the hospital room. She feels uneasy about returning home and does not understand why Richard has not come to visit her. She also does not understand why he does not pick her up at the hospital. Lily takes Celia back to Medfield. Lily has been spending more time with Dr. Akananda and asks Celia if anything Celia is seeing on the drive home reminds her of anything, Celia says no. She also says that she wishes Dr. Akananda would leave. Lily is shocked. She does not understand how Celia can feel this way about the man who saves her life.

When the women reach Medfield, Akananda is at the house with Richard. Celia and Richard greet one another as if they are strangers. They are not sure how to act around one another. The day passes and the four of them try to make things normal. When it is time for bed Celia asks Richard if he will accompany her, but he refuses saying he must go to the Library. He says he would like to read the Marsdon Chronicle. Dr. Akananda interrupts and tells Celia she should go to bed and Richard that he will accompany him to the library. Akananda tells Richard to read the chronicle to him.

Richard begins reading a section of the chronicle that talks about a priest who got a young girl pregnant. Richard refuses to read any more until Celia emerges out of the shadow. She asks him to continue reading. She wants to know what happened to the girl. Richard tells them that she was brought out of the wall and given a Christian burial. Celia asks Richard if he thinks he was Stephen and she was Celis De Bohun. He cries out "yes." Celia tells Richard that they must move on with the present. They are alive now and Celia will be having his baby. The two finally find their way to one another's arms.

The next August, Celia and Richard decide to have another marriage ceremony, one in which they honor Celia de Bohun and Stephen Marsdon. Dr. Akananda declares that things are settled now that the past has been laid to rest. The two souls deserve each other and will now have each other.

### Part Three: Chapter 20, (pg 578 - 591) Analysis

Seton finishes the book by allowing all the characters (excluding Edna) who were present in Celia and Richard's lives, both past and present come full circle in a sense. Each person had some part (past or present) in keeping Celia de Bohun and Stephen Marsdon apart. Now, at Celia and Richard's second marriage ceremony, everyone rejoices in the union that years ago was forbidden.



# Characters

## Celia Marsdon/Celia de Bohun

Celia Marsdon and Celia de Bohun are the protagonists of the novel. Celia Marsdon is a twenty-three-year old, smart, pretty and wealthy woman. She has just married Richard Marsdon, who she is completely in love with. Celia cannot figure out why Richard has become distant to her. She also does not understand why the ancient ruins that surround her home affect her the way they do. Celia goes through a few episodes in which it seems as though she has become possessed by Celia de Bohun. Celia must go on a journey through her past and relive her life as Celia de Bohun before she can be happy with Richard in the present.

While Celia Marsdon and Celia de Bohun share their love of Richard/Stephen, the Celia of the 1550's is quite different from the soft spoken Celia of the 1960's. The earlier Celia is born a distant relation of the de Bohun line. She is poor and uneducated, but extremely beautiful. As she grows up, her beauty and tendency to put caution to the wind are what make men fall in love with her. Celia attracts the attention of Sir John, Thomas Wyatt, Sir Anthony, Stephen, Edwin Radcliffe, and Simkin. This charisma is, sadly, also what gets her in trouble. Celia's love for Stephen begins from the first time she meets him. Even though she and Stephen are constantly separated, Celia is never able to drive Stephen out of her heart. Celia's flare of disobedience leads to her and Stephen's death.

## Richard Marsdon/ Stephen Marsdon

Sir Richard Marsdon is a handsome, wealthy newly-wed gentleman. Although he should be happy with his new wife, he has turned cold and formidable to her. His moods are unpredictable—sometimes he is happy with life, other times depressed and silent. Richard has also become obsessed with his family's past. He often reads the Marsdon Chronicle and separates himself away from his wife. Richard has always felt that he should not be with a woman at all—that he should enter the Church. Richard becomes so possessed by the past that he has a psychotic break down.

Richard is not very different from Stephen, probably because Stephen's personality is infiltrating Richard. Stephen is a young, intelligent man. He becomes a monk because all of the Marsdon men who are not firstborn do so. Stephen is not at all reluctant to join the Church because he feels a devotion to it. Stephen meets Celia when she is fourteen. From the beginning, he tries to deny that he has any feelings for her. Stephen feels torn between his devotion to the Church and his blossoming feelings for this beautiful girl. Stephen is only clear about his feelings a few times in the book. This is a lot like Richard, who is impossible to read. Stephen also becomes the secretary for Sir Anthony. His relationship with Celia causes him to leave Sir Anthony and flee to Igatham Mote, where he meets his unfortunate death.



## **Dr. Jiddu Akananda / Dr. Julian Ridolfi**

Dr. Jiddu Akananda is a well-educated, sophisticated Indian doctor. Seton never explains how Lily and Akananda meet, which adds to the mystery of how all the characters have been brought together. Akananda is the only person who sees Celia's flashbacks as something with which to be legitimately concerned. Dr. Akananda is responsible for taking Celia on her journey through her past life. Akananda is kind, knowledgeable and helpful. He is determined to cure Celia and restore what has been damaged by past tragedies.

Dr. Julian Ridolfi is not as kind as Dr. Akananda. Julian is a good looking and intelligent man. After many years of studying medicine, he goes to England so he can be a doctor to the royal family. Like Akananda, Julian is constantly having to prove himself because he is a foreigner. When he visits Cowdray to have an audience with the King, Julian is treated very poorly. He is helped by Ursula and Celia, who give him a place to stay. While Julian is thankful and helpful for a while, he often does not return the kindness that Ursula and Celia have extended towards him. Dr Julian also has feelings for Ursula, but because he wants to change his position socially and economically, he does nothing about those feelings. Dr. Akananda is not at all like Julian in this way. He tries his hardest to help present-day Celia when she is sick. He discovers this is because he is constantly trying to make up for what he did to Celia and Lily in his past life.

## **Lily Traylor/ Lady Ursula**

Lily Traylor is Celia's mother. She is an eccentric, energetic and free spirit. She is the one who asks Celia to invite Dr. Akananda to the house party. Lily is a caring and sweet woman. She loves her daughter dearly and will do anything to help her be happy. Lily also finds herself falling in love with Dr. Akananda.

Lady Ursula wishes and longs for a child of her own, but when she finds Celia, she is happy that she can now be a mother to someone. Ursula is the daughter of a very rich and powerful family, but they lost their fortune and Ursula is allowed to live at Cowdray Castle on the sufferance of the current owner, Sir Anthony. Ursula is a kind woman, but is sometimes blinded by her own religious beliefs and ideas of social propriety. She is terrified that Celia and Stephen have feelings for one another. Although Ursula only wants the best for Celia, she is one of the primary factors in keeping Celia and Stephen apart.

Ursula and Lily share two common traits. They both adore Celia and having feelings for the respective doctors in their lives. Sadly Ursula never gets to be with Julian. Lily, on the other hand, gets to be with Akananda.



## Henry Jones/ Sir Anthony Browne

The character of Sir Henry Jones is introduced in the first section of the book. Henry is smitten with Myra, but when she does not always return his attentions, and when Celia begins showing him attention, he is ready to return her affections.

Sir Anthony Browne, is a Roman Catholic and staunch supporter of Princess Mary. His family acquired the house and lands of Cowdray Castle when King Henry disbands all of the monasteries in England. Anthony is very ambitious politically and socially. He wishes to please those who are in power so that he may be also rise. Sir Anthony is often a very caring man. He does allow Lady Ursula to stay in his home, even though she is not a relation. He also allows her niece, Celia, to live there. Anthony strikes up a relationship with Stephen and becomes very close to the monk and wishes for Stephen's company as an adviser and friend.

## Myra, Duchess of Drewton/ Magdalene Dacre

Myra is the Duchess of Drewton, which is north of Medfield Place. She is having an affair with Sir Harry Jones. Myra is a very sexual woman. She has her eye on Richard once she sees that his marriage to Celia is not going well. Myra also loves stringing along Harry Jones.

Magdalene Dacre is the daughter of a wealthy, northern family. She goes to Cowdray Castle with the rest of her family to have an audience with the King. It is here that she meets Celia and the two start their on and off again friendship. At first, Maggie is so taken with Celia that she invites her to stay with her family at their ancestral home.

Once Mary is made Queen, Maggie becomes one of her ladies in waiting. She eventually marries Sir Anthony. Maggie is a very devout Catholic. She supports what society dictates is a woman's proper role. When Celia becomes a widow, Maggie thinks she should go into a convent because she has no money or other options for herself. While Maggie may be one to follow social decorum in the 1550's, Myra does not do so in 1968. She flaunts her sexuality and believes women should act how they feel.

## Igor/ Simkin

Igor is a dress designer that decides to attend Celia's house party. He does not have a major role in the first and last sections of the book.

The character of Simkin is a little more developed in the second section of the book. Simkin is a scrawny, pimply faced young man. He is the son of Wat Farrier. Simkin first meets Celia when he and his father act as escorts for Lady Ursula and Celia's trip to the north. Simkin becomes attracted to Celia because she reminds him of a boy that Simkin used to love. Seton uses Simkin's character to explore homosexuality in the Tudor era. Although there were gay men during this time period, many of their affairs were



conducted in secret, hidden from their family members and friends. When Celia finds Simkin and Gerogie having sex, she (like others) cannot comprehend what is happening. It is interesting to note that Seton stereotypes Simkin, in that because he is gay, she gives him a love of fashion and dresses.

## **Wat Farrier**

Wat is the gamekeeper for Cowdray Castle. Wat is a kind hearted, hard working man. He is often entrusted with messages from Sir Anthony to other important people. Wat often accompanies the residents of Cowdray on expeditions or trips. Wat is always kind to Celia and her aunt. When he goes to visit Celia at Skirby Hall, he reassures Celia that her aunt really cares for her.

## **Leonard Dacre**

Leonard Darce is Magdalene's brother. He becomes obsessed with Celia. He is very gruff with her because he lusts for her. At first, he does not wish to marry her, but he eventually tells his parents that he must have Celia. When Leonard and Celia's marriage is cancelled, he does not seem saddened. He simply lets Celia go.

## **Georgie Dacre**

Gerogie Dacre catches the attention of Celia for a time. She thinks that he is very handsome and gentle. It turns out the Georgie is actually interested in men. Celia happens to find Georgie and Simkin having sex in the barn at Naworth Castle.

## **King Edward**

King Edward is the only son of Henry VII. He bans Catholicism and promotes Protestantism during his reign. At the beginning of the novel, Edward is invited to Anthony's house so that Anthony can show his support for Edward.

## **Princess Mary, Queen Mary**

Princess Mary is the first-born daughter of Henry the VII. While Edward is King, she is exiled. Once Edward dies, her supporters fight to have her crowned as queen. Mary is a staunch Catholic, who later persecutes the English Protestants.

## **Sir Aurthur Moore**

Sir Aurthur Moore is a well-known doctor from London. He has been asked to view Celia and help out with her illness. Once he arrives at the hospital, he sees his old friend, Dr.



Akananda. After trying other medical procedures, Sir Aurthur decides to allow Akananda to try his own method of treatment on Celia.

## Edwin Radcliffe

Edwin is the son of a local squire. He is sent to deliver a message to the Hutchinsons in Lincolnshire. There, he meets Celia and falls in love with her. He pursues Celia until she agrees to marry him. Celia does not really love Edwin, she simply sees him as a way to secure her livelihood. While he seems like a nice boy, she only cares for Stephen.

## Lady Jane Radcliffe

Lady Jane is Sir Anthony's first wife. She is often very sick and weak. When Celia first enters Cowdray Castle, Lady Jane is mourning the death of her son. Later she becomes pregnant with twins. After giving birth to a boy and girl, Lady Jane dies.

## Sir John Hutchinson

Sir John is Celia's late husband. The two meet at a party at Cowdray Castle. Sir John is immediately taken with Celia. From the first time they meet, he wants to make her his wife. Sir John is old enough to be Celia's father. He is also Protestant, extremely overweight and has a serious case of gout that constantly flairs up. While Celia and Sir John never consummate their marriage, Sir John is always very respectful of his wife. He does not leave her much of an inheritance because all the money has to be used to pay off his debts.

## Edna Simpson/ Emma Allen

Edna Simpson is the wife of George Simpson. She attends the Marsdon's house party. Edna is a very unhappy, moody, ill-tempered woman. She constantly berates her husband and everyone else around her. For some reason, Edna takes a strong disliking to Celia Marsdon, but is infatuated with Richard. Edna is the one who finds Richard while he is raping Celia and is shocked. In the last section of the book, Edna dies in a fire at her home.

Emma Allen is much like Edna Simpson. While she is a handsome woman, she is rough, rude, always drunk and cruel. She and her husband blackmail Sir Anthony, so they can gain a title and lands. Once they acquire their home, Emma is cruel and horrible to her servants. She beats maids that she thinks have been promiscuous. Edna is the person that murders Celia. Edna chokes Celia, throws her in the dungeon, and had has her still alive body walled up in her home.



## **George Simpson**

George Simpson is Edna's husband. He loves his wife dearly even though she is a shrew. He sincerely grieves her when she dies in the fire.

## **Sir Thomas Wyatt**

Sir Thomas Wyatt tries to woo Celia when he meets her at one of Sir Anthony's gatherings. He also leads the rebellion against Queen Mary. Wyatt tries to rape Celia. He is hanged when Queen Mary quells the rebellion.





# Objects/Places

## Cowdray Castle

Cowdray Castle is the home of Sir Anthony Browne. It is a beautiful castle that Celia and Ursula love. It originally belongs to Ursula's family, but was sold to Sir Anthony Browne.

## Medfield Place

This is Richard's Manor House. It has been in the Marsdon family for hundreds of years.

## St Ann's Hill

This is where Stephen's hut is located near Cowdray Castle. Celia goes here to receive her lessons from Stephen.

## Naworth Castle

This is the home of Lady Magdalene and the rest of the Dacre clan. This is where Celia becomes engaged to Leonard.

## London

Celia, Lady Ursula, Wat, and Simkin pass through London on their way to visit the Dacres. This is where they are accosted by Lord Northumberland. Characters in the book also go to London to celebrate Mary's coronation.

## Lincolnshire - Skirby Hall

This is Sir John's home. Celia lives at Skirby Hall for four years. When Sir John dies, Celia is not left the house; instead, it passes to Sir John's heir.

## Igatham Mote

Igatham Mote is the home of the Allens. It is also where Stephen goes to become the new chaplain after he has had sex with Celia for the first time. Celia follows him there. This is where Celia and Stephen both die. In 1968, when Celia visits Igatham Mote, she has her most violent flashback.



## **Cumberland**

This is located north of Cowdray Castle. It is where the Dacre's Naworth Castle is located.

## **Husdon**

This is the home of Princess Mary while she is banished by her brother, Edward. Celia and Lady Ursula visit Mary there and bring her a message from Sir Anthony.

## **Battle Abbey**

Battle Abbey is where Stephen is educated to become a monk. When he is a young man, the Abbey is closed and the land is given to Sir Anthony Browne senior.

## **Spread Eagle**

This is where Celia works before she is taken in by Lady Ursula. It is a tavern and inn.



# Themes

## A Woman's Place in Society

Throughout the novel, a woman's place is discussed. Even in the present (the 1960's), Celia is expected to be a loving, devoted wife. She is not supposed to have a job, but instead support Richard's endeavors. She has to maintain his home, as well as entertain other people so that Richard's career and social standing advance. The husband is judged by the wife's domestic performance and credited with its success or failure. Celia goes to school and becomes educated because it is desirable for one's wife to be intelligent at social gatherings and in front of one's business partners, not so that she can advance her own career.

In the 1550's, a woman's place is even more undesirable. This is particularly shown through Celia's character as well as Lady Ursula. When Celia is widowed, she is left penniless and without options. It is assumed because she cannot take care of herself, that she should enter a convent and give up any future. It is not until Edwin proposes to Celia that she can again begin to plan for her future. All of a sudden, she is no longer in an undefined place in the household because she is now identified as property of a man.

Lady Ursula is another example. Because Ursula never marries, she has few possessions or money of her own. Because Sir Anthony wants to keep a member of the Southwell family in the house, she is allowed to stay. If it were not for Sir Anthony's kindness, Ursula would have been left to fend for herself. At Cowdray, where she was once the daughter of the house with a permanent and clear position, she now hovers between the classes. This uncomfortable place in the social hierarchy makes life hard for Ursula. It is the reason why no one marries her and why she needs Sir Anthony's help to acquire a husband for Celia. Ursula's sad plight is most realized when she is on her death bed. Here she is at the complete mercy of the household. When her maid is accused of being a Protestant heretic and burned at the stake, everyone shuns Ursula. She no longer has Anthony to side with her and therefore has no place in the household whatsoever. She is left alone to die in her room. Celia comes to Medfield and essentially takes on the fate of her aunt until Edwin rescues her from it.

## Religion

Religion is a very prevalent theme throughout the novel. This is mostly because the book focuses on people of power in the 1550's. During this time, religion is supposedly ingrained in every being of a person. People of wealth show how rich they are by building magnificent chapels and religious relics dedicated to pillars of their religion.

In *Green Darkness*, religion is discussed in the grand scheme of the political climate of Tudor England. When the novel begins, Edward, Henry's son, is the reigning King.



Under his rule, Catholicism has been banished and the Anglican Church is in place. It seems as though no one in the novel chooses their own religious beliefs for themselves. Once they have been chosen and the characters live their lives one way, they staunchly believe in that set of practices without considering the validity of any other beliefs.

Sir Anthony's livelihood depends on religion. Because he is known as a Catholic, it is automatically assumed he will side with Princess Mary's supporters. Anthony simply waits for his religion to return to favor. While it is out of favor, he bides his time. Anthony is not even particularly religious; he stays loyal to Catholicism because he believes that when Mary returns to power, he will be rewarded.

While Stephen seems the most pious and sincere of all the characters as far as religion is concerned and tries his best to stay committed to his vows, he became a monk because it was what was expected of the second Marsdon son. He accepts his faith and is committed to the church until he meets Celia. Stephen often espouses Church doctrine verbatim by how he istaught it. He does not understand when Julian questions the doctrine because Stephen does not question it. To him, it is simply the word of God. Because he believes that his true feelings are evil temptations, he cannot bring himself to truly accept his feelings for Celia until it is too late.

Celia, although the least "religiously" educated, actually begins to question religion. She offers insight in the book because she does believe in God and faith but is not dogmatic. She learns about Catholicism because her aunt believes it to be the right way to live life. She continues her religious studies only to see Stephen. After Celia marries Sir John, she begins to listen to some of his Protestant teachings and realizes that both doctrines, though slightly different, talk about the teachings of Jesus.

The religious devotions of the 1550's characters is not seen in their 1968 counterparts. Many of the characters are not at all religious. They are much more concerned with exploring their opinions, thoughts and sexual bodies to adhere to a religious curriculum.

## Reincarnation

Reincarnation is one of the main themes of the book and is central to the plot of Green Darkness. Many people believe that souls are born again. This is not believed in religions such as Christianity, but is prevalent in many Indian religions such as Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism. For this reason, it makes sense for Seton to use Dr. Akananda, an Indian, as the theme of reincarnation is explored through the relationships of Celia and Richard and Celia and Stephen.

Dr. Akananda introduces the idea of reincarnation to Lily when the two characters are talking at the pool during Celia's house party. As Akananda begins to observe the happenings surrounding the house party, he can tell that Celia is being affected by supernatural forces. Only after he has tried other medical intervention does he decide that he must lead Celia on the journey into her past life.



Celia must travel back and relive her past life so that the present tragic events can be mended. Celia's first encounter with the past occurs when she and Richard explore the ruins at Cowdray Castle. This is also when Richard starts to turn cold toward Celia. He too feels the ill effects of being among places he inhabited in his past life. As a result, he takes on Stephen's pain and shame in their relationship. He feels it is wrong to be with present day Celia because of Stephen's refusal to be with his own Celia. Richard feels as though he is tempted to do something immoral.

Celia is continuously called back to her former life. The bridge between the past and present is again touched when Celia visits Igatham Mote with her house guests. This is where she almost becomes possessed with the spirit of Celia de Bohun. At the dinner party, the sweet, present-day Celia becomes inhabited by the rebellious, headstrong, beautiful 1550's Celia.

Richard must also relive his life as Stephen, but it is hard to tell how he does so. Because the reader is not with Richard as he undergoes this process, they do not know if it is similar to Celia's journey.



# Style

## Point of View

Seton's point of view is third person omniscient. The story is not told from any one character's point of view. Instead, the narrator knows what everyone is thinking. As Seton introduces each character, the reader can tell what the character is thinking because he/she reveals his/her feelings to the reader. It makes sense that Seton chooses to use this point of view because it gives her somewhat formal, informative writing style a more personal touch. It also clues the reader in on each character's feelings, making the readers feel as though they know more than other character's in the book.

The story is told through historical events as well as dialog between the characters. Seton effortlessly transitions between each character's own thoughts and the description of the historical scenes that are taking place. While it is important for the reader to know what is happening with Celia and Stephen, it develops the story to know the motivations of other characters. It is especially interesting to see why people pull Celia and Stephen apart and how the other characters fit in with the two main characters' love story.

## Setting

The book begins in 1968 at Medfield Place, Richard's manor house that has been in his family for hundreds of years. This is where the house party takes place. The couple also travels around England visiting various ruins such as Cowdray Castle, St. Ann's Hill and Igatham Mote. It is at these places that Celia becomes anxious. She begins to have flashbacks of her former life.

In Part 2 of the book, Seton further described the 1968 ruins as they existed in the 1500s. Celia is first at Cowdray Castle for the visit of King Edward. She has just moved into the castle after having worked and lived at the Spread Eagle, which is a tavern in the nearby village. After being taken in at Cowdray, Celia begins lessons at Stephen's home on St. Ann's Hill. It is there that she falls in love with Stephen.

After being united with Ursula, Celia is given the opportunity to travel all over England. They travel to Northumberland to visit Magdalene and the rest of the Dacre clan. On the way, Celia is lucky enough to see London and visit Princess Mary at her home in Husdon. Once they reach Northumberland, Celia becomes engaged to Leonard Dacre. She wishes more than anything else to leave Northumberland and return to Cowdray, but Celia and Lady Ursula do not leave until the engagement is broken off with Leonard.

After Wyatt's rebellion, Celia is shipped off to Lincolnshire with her new husband, Sir John. She becomes accustomed to the area but always longs for Cowdray. After Sir John's death, she returns to Cowdray with Edward. This is the last time that Celia will



ever be at Cowdray. Once Stephen leaves, Celia is determined never to let him go again. She follows him to Igatham Mote. This is sadly where both Celia and Stephen die.

## Language and Meaning

While Seton's style is not formal, it is not very personal either. Seton is very straight forward and clear with her writing. She is giving the reader a view into the world of the Tudors, which was very formalized and structured. Her language only become a little more personal through her character's dialog. This allows the reader to see who the characters are and where they come from. This is seen in the case of Celia. While Seton describes the backdrop of the story through a clear and precise tone, the reader can perceive Celia's excitement about life, love and new experiences through Celia's words.

Seton's tone is very informational. Even when Stephen and Celia are allowed to be together, Seton's voice does not change. It does not become impassioned or excited. It is simply a fact that the two characters love one another. Seton does not describe the sexual tensions or scenes between Celia and Stephen—this is where Seton differs from other romance novelists. The reader only gets a view of how the character's feel about each other through their own words.

Seton's language can sometimes be confusing because it is riddled with historical dates, descriptions and facts. Because she frequently introduces characters that have little to do with the overall plot, it may be hard to keep track of all the minor characters. It is also hard to remember who is who unless the reader is familiar with Tudor history. Seton does a spectacular job at intertwining fictional story with many historical figures. She attempts to stay true to history while making certain her story is unfolded.

## Structure

The novel is separated into 3 parts. The first part of the book introduces Celia and Richard Marsdon in 1968. It also establishes that something has gone horribly wrong in their marriage. The reader is introduced to characters that will not again reappear until the third section of the book. At first the reader is not certain of their purpose, but learns in the third section of the novel what integral roles the characters play in the 1550's.

The 1550's section (Part 2) introduces the reader to the characters that play intimate roles in Celia de Bohun and Stephen Marsdon's lives. In this section, the reader is taken back to the time of Tudor England. They learn about the love that Celia and Stephen are forbidden to have.

The novel's structure is also developed through historical events. Seton uses these past events as a time line and effective backdrop for her story. She takes historical events and weaves the lives of her characters into them. For example, the novel closely follows the life of Sir Anthony Browne, the first Viscount of Montague. Seton does not create



this character; he is, in fact, real. Many of the events that happen in the book happen in Anthony's life. This is not to say that Seton did not take liberties with the character; she fit him into the lives of her two main characters. But Sir Anthony Browne lived at Cowdray Castle, was a staunch Roman Catholic, rose very high in the Court of Mary, Queen of Scots and married Magdalene Darce.

The plot does not move very fast in *Green Darkness*. It takes the reader a while to get involved in the story. Seton takes time to explain each character, describe their appearance, and their speech. This can become tiresome for the reader, but it also makes the book very rich with detail and description.





## Quotes

"They and you shall be happy today. I too. No matter what human errors may occur in the future, several tragic wrongs have been redressed by love, by knowledge, and by the Grace of God in whatever form we envision the Supreme Being." Chap 20, p. 591

"It would be rather silly if I did, wouldn't it? Isn't the past finished forever?" Chap 1, p 33

"Remembrance would usually be an intolerable burden, which All merciful God spares us. For that matter, Lady Marsdon, do you consciously remember the first year or two of this life?" Chapter 2, p40

"There was no such thing as as circumscribed time. Time was a dimension. Even as Einstein has proved to those in the West who could understand him. All time existed now. " Chap 3, p102

"He almost denied her, for an instant he wished never to see the girl again, but this duty restrained him. He had never in his life broken his word." Chap 4, p 135

"That child has spirit, taste and loyalty. Moreover, though innocent, she was reared in a tavern and cannot be ignorant. It's not loss of virginity I fear for her, it's suffering and heart break. Stephen is as chaste as she - he would never touch her. The other men that wish to bed her, and there will be many, can never be dangerous since barring the most brutal of rapes, of course, no woman's maidenhead is pierced without secret consent." Chap 6, p 198

"D'ye think I'd leave thee? Go off a thousand miles from thee? I saw the look in your eyes. You touched my neck, you asked me to bide here." Chap 7, p 208

"He had also just discovered that the girl on his left was singularly pretty. Fresh and innocent as a primrose, he though, startled by a flicker of romantic interest such as he had not felt in years." Chap 12, p 352

"He shuddered, kissed her breasts and her moist red mouth which smelled of violets. His pounding heart shook her slender body, yet her own heart had slowed to a honey-sweet clam of expectancy." Chap 13, p. 396

"He treated her with kindness in private, with the respect due to his wife in public, but beyond a kiss on the cheek night and morning, he did touch her again. Celia, though aware she had failed him, was deeply relieved. " Chap 14, 412

"Emma had ceased to enjoy her festival after Celia appeared with her curtsies and insolent beauty. Emma could not stop watching the girl, and had not missed the instant when Celia passed by Brother Stephen and obviously spoke to him. Emma had been too far off to clearly see the expression on his face, but she knew that it was like none she had ever seen." Chap 18, p 530

" 'Something will punish us.' she said in a small dead voice." Chap 18, p. 533



## Topics for Discussion

Do you think Seton does a good job of weaving her characters into the historical era of the Tudors? Sir Anthony Browne was actually a real man who lived at Cowdray Castle. How are Celia and Stephen woven into his story?

In *Green Darkness*, Sir Henry Jones is Sir Anthony Browne in his past life. Do you think Seton made the connection between the two characters clear?

Discuss the theme of women's place in society. What characters do you think try to break the mold of the typical 1550's woman?

Why do you think Seton makes Emma Allen's character so cruel? What do you think the author's purpose is?

Discuss the point of view that Seton chooses to use for the book. Do you think it would have been more effective if Seton had used a different point of view for the novel?

Compare and contrast Celia de Bohun and Celia Marsdon. How are the characters alike and how are they different?

Discuss the theme of religion in relation to Lady Ursula and Sir Anthony. Why does it seem as though the characters do not carry over the religious beliefs and devotions to the next life?

Celia often tries to exert her sexual agency throughout the novel. Discuss how this aids her and hurts her.

Why do you think Seton's use of language is effective? Should she have used a less impersonal tone? Is this related to the point of view that Seton uses?