

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society Study Guide

**The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by
Mary Ann Shaffer**

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



Contents

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Section 1: pages 3-26.....	4
Section 2: pages 26-44.....	6
Section 3: pages 45-67.....	8
Section 4: pages 68-86.....	10
Section 5: pages 87-108.....	12
Section 6: pages 109-129.....	14
Section 7: pages 130-141.....	16
Section 8: pages 142-155.....	17
Section 9: pages 159-173.....	18
Section 10: pages 174-189.....	20
Section 11: pages 190-208.....	22
Section 12: pages 209-227.....	24
Section 13: pages 228-249.....	26
Section 14: pages 250-262.....	28
Section 15: pages 263-274.....	30
Characters.....	32
Objects/Places.....	37
Themes.....	39
Style.....	41
Quotes.....	44
Topics for Discussion.....	48



Plot Summary

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows is an epistolary novel about Juliet Ashton's association with a fascination literary society that started due to the German Occupation of the Channel Islands during World War II. After corresponding with the members of the Society for several months, Juliet visits Guernsey where she finds an idea for a book, a daughter and a husband. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society is a comical and heart-warming book which is entertaining overall.

While on tour through England to promote her book, Juliet receives a letter from Dawsey Adams, a member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, and they begin to correspond. When she is asked to write an article for the "Times", she decides to include the Society in her article and thus begins writing to several other members, such as Amelia Maugery and Isola Pribby. Meanwhile, she begins dating Mark Reynolds, an American publisher. As Juliet develops close friendships with her Guernsey correspondents, she begins to wonder whether she can write a book about the Occupation, and she decides to visit Guernsey, despite Mark's protestations that she stay in London and marry him.

Though Juliet is nervous to meet her Guernsey friends, they make her feel welcome immediately, and she grows very close to them. When Remy Giraud writes to the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society about the execution of Elizabeth McKenna, their founder, Juliet mourns for the woman though they never met. Juliet keeps Kit while Amelia and Dawsey visit Remy in Touviers. Mark visits Juliet on Guernsey, but when he makes a disparaging remark about Kit, Juliet refuses him irrevocably because she cannot marry someone who does not love Guernsey and Kit. Juliet wants to adopt Kit so they can always be together, and Amelia offers to help obtain Mr. Dilwyn's approval. After Dawsey convinces Remy to come to Guernsey, Juliet wonders if Dawsey is romantically interested in Remy, and she admits to Sidney Stark that she loves Dawsey. When Remy decides to leave Guernsey, Isola Pribby becomes convinced that Dawsey loves Remy, but when she tries to find evidence, his treasure box only contains mementos of Juliet and Kit. Upset at her failed mission, Isola tells Juliet who immediately rushes to Dawsey and asks him to marry her. He agrees, so Juliet writes to Sidney to ask him to return to Guernsey and give her away.



Section 1: pages 3-26

Section 1: pages 3-26 Summary

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows is an epistolary novel about Juliet Ashton's association with a fascinating literary society that began due to the German Occupation of the Channel Islands during World War II. After corresponding with the members of the Society for several months, Juliet visits Guernsey, where she finds an idea for a book, a daughter and a husband. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society is a very comical and heart-warming book which is entertaining overall.

Part 1 begins with a letter dated 8 January, 1946 to Mr. Sidney Stark, Publisher, London, England, from Juliet Ashton. Juliet writes that Susan Scott is a wonder, but work on Juliet's new book is not progressing because her head and heart are not in it. Sidney responds on 10 January to assure Juliet that he has no doubt of her success in next week's tour and that another subject will occur to her for a book.

On 12 January, 1946, Juliet writes to Sophie Strachan that she must travel for her book tour, though she would prefer to sneak away and visit Sophie. She feels melancholy and finds every man she meets to be intolerable; however, she does not want to marry just to be married as she can think of nothing lonelier than spending her life with someone she cannot talk to or even be silent with.

On 12 January, 1946, Juliet receives a letter from Dawsey Adams from Guernsey, Channel Islands, and Dawsey claims his book, "Selected Essays of Elia" by Charles Lamb, once belonged to Juliet as he found her name and address written inside the front cover. He wants to read more of Lamb's works, but since there are no bookshops left on Guernsey, he asks Juliet to send him the name and address of a bookshop in London so he can order more of Lamb's works. Dawsey feels a kinship to Charles Lamb because the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society came into being because of a roast pig they had to keep secret from the German soldiers.

Juliet responds to Dawsey on 15 January, 1946 that Mr. Hastings will send E. V. Lucas' "Selected Letters", a biography about Lamb, as well as Lamb's "More Essays of Elia". She asks Dawsey to explain why the roast pig dinner had to be kept a secret, how the pig caused them to begin a literary society, what a potato peel pie is, and why it is included in their society's name. After writing to Sidney that she is enjoying the tour on 18th January, Juliet writes him again on 21 January, 1946 to ask about Markham V. Reynolds, Jr., a man who keeps sending her flowers without a card, causing her to be unsure "whether to feel flattered or hunted" (p. 14).

On 25 January, 1946, Susan Scott writes Sidney that the incident between Juliet and Gilly Gilbert is not as bad as the newspaper reports make it appear. During his interview, Gilly accused Juliet of jilting Lieutenant Rob Dartry at the altar, causing Juliet



to throw a teapot at him. Juliet is worried about embarrassing Stephens and Stark, but she is sick about Rob Dartry's name being used in such a fashion. Juliet sends a telegram to Sidney, apologizing for embarrassing Stephens and Stark.

On 26 January, Sidney writes to Juliet that the "Times" wants her to write a long piece for the supplement in late spring. Markham V. Reynolds is an American publisher visiting London to beguile England's finest authors, and Sidney has no doubt Markham is trying to lure Juliet from Stephens and Stark. Sidney reminds Juliet that she is their most beloved author. Two days later, Juliet explains to Sidney about her canceled wedding. One afternoon shortly before the wedding, Rob boxed up all of Juliet's books and replaced them with his sports trophies. An argument ensued, he left and she unpacked her books.

Section 1: pages 3-26 Analysis

This first section serves to introduce the main character, Juliet Ashton, and one of her closest friends, Sidney Stark. This section also emphasizes the importance of Juliet's career as a writer. In Juliet's first letter to Sidney, she tells him that she no longer wants to write under the name Izzy Bickerstaff and be considered a light-hearted journalist. In his response, Sidney invites her to dinner before she goes on tour, and the next day, Juliet insists on paying for dinner since Stephens and Stark has turned her into a moderately successful author. In Juliet's letter to Sophie, her romantic ineptitude is apparent, but the conversation in this letter foreshadows Juliet falling in love.

The first letter that Dawsey writes to Juliet foreshadows her involvement with the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, and the fact that Dawsey and Mark Reynolds are mentioned in quick succession foreshadows their roles as rivals for Juliet's attentions. Their personalities, as revealed in their letters, clarify the fact that Mark will be more active in pursuing Juliet. On 23rd January, Juliet tells Sidney that Susan has given her a makeover, but she is beginning to be depressed since she still has no ideas for a book she would like to write. When she writes Sidney about the incident with Gilly Gilbert, Susan wonders if Sidney knows why Juliet called off the wedding and who Markham V. Reynolds is as he sent more flowers to Juliet today. Susan's description of the incident, as well as Juliet's concern about Gilly's reaction, foreshadows his attempt to seek revenge against Juliet and Sidney. In response to Sidney's worries that Mark Reynolds is trying to lure Juliet to his publishing company, Juliet promises to remain true to Stephens and Stark, but she asks Sidney to promises the "Times" will not ask her to write on a frivolous subject. It is obvious that Sidney dislikes Mark and is suspicious of his intentions toward Juliet.



Section 2: pages 26-44

Section 2: pages 26-44 Summary

On 31 January, 1946, Juliet tells Sophie that though she can only maintain a dignified silence in response to Gilly's lies, Sidney called a press conference to defend her. In his letter from the same day, Dawsey tells Juliet that the Germans confiscated their livestock to feed the German soldiers on the continent, but one day, his neighbor, Mrs. Maugery, sent a note for him to come quickly with a butcher knife for she had hidden a pig and invited him to join the feast with her and her friends. They had such a good time that they forgot about curfew until the chimes rang 9 p.m., and then they tried to sneak through the fields quietly. Unfortunately, John Booker was drunk and started to sing, but when the German patrol officers questioned them, Elizabeth McKenna claimed they had been attending a meeting of the Guernsey Literary Society and had lost track of time. The officer ordered them to report to the Commandant in the morning.

On 3 February, 1946, Juliet tells Dawsey that the "Times" has asked her to write an article for their literary supplement, and she asks if the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society would mind being included in such an article. The next day, Juliet writes Markham Reynolds that she is delighted with her flowers, though she does not know why he sends them. On February 5th, Mark claims he wants to meet Juliet because "the simple truth of it is that you're the only female writer who makes me laugh" (p. 34), and he invites her to dinner next week. In their correspondence over the next two days, Mark and Juliet agree to dinner on Monday at 7 p.m. at Claridge's.

On 7th February, 1946, Dawsey writes that their society would like to be included in the meetings, and he has asked Mrs. Maugery to write Juliet, and she does so the next day. Amelia Maugery has obtained a copy of "Izzy Bickerstaff Goes to War", and she wants Juliet to assure her that the Society members will not be perceived as objects of fun by Juliet's readers. Juliet responds to Amelia that the humor in her columns was prescribed by the "Spectator" as a way to raise morale during the war, but she has asked Reverend Simon Simplex and Lady Bella Taunton to write Amelia as a reference.

On 12th February, 1946, Juliet tells Sophie she accepted a dinner invitation from Markham Reynolds who was dazzling and impressive. Lady Bella Taunton writes Amelia on 12th February, 1946 that she dislikes Juliet's writing and questions her taste, judgment, priority and sense of humor, but she assures Amelia that Juliet is honest and will honor the name of her literary society if she says she will.

Section 2: pages 26-44 Analysis

When Juliet writes Sophie on 31 January, she worries Gilly will retaliate, but Susan insists he is too cowardly. Juliet's concern foreshadows Gilly Gilbert's attempt at revenge much later in the book. Her postscript claims Markham V. Reynolds still sends



flowers but has not yet appeared; this foreshadows Mark's romantic intentions toward Juliet. On 3 February, 1946, Juliet notes that Dawsey only answered one question. She is a writer, so it is her professional duty to pry more into the literary society. Juliet wrote a weekly column in the "Spectator" during the war, and Stephens and Stark published the columns as "Izzy Bickerstaff Goes to War", Izzy Bickerstaff being the pseudonym the "Spectator" chose for her; she is happy that she can write under her own name again and has been asked to write an article for the "Times" addressing "the practical, moral, and philosophical value of reading- spread out over three issues and by three different authors" (p. 32).

Juliet's interest in the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society and the German Occupation of Guernsey foreshadows her decision to write a book about the Occupation, and the "Times" article acts as a catalyst for allowing Juliet to investigate these matters without committing to such a drastic idea. When Juliet assures Amelia Maugery that she will not make the Society members into objects of ridicule, she also encloses a copy of a biography about Anne Bronte she wrote to prove she is capable of a different writing style. During Juliet's first meeting with Mark, they discuss the war and Victorian literature, and Juliet is charmed by his conversation during dinner, according to the letter she writes Sophie about their dinner. Amelia's concern about the way the members of the Society will be portrayed in Juliet's article shows her love for her friends, and the fact that Juliet is willing to provide character references to comfort Amelia's fears makes it clear that she does not have malicious intentions with regards to the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society.



Section 3: pages 45-67

Section 3: pages 45-67 Summary

On 13 February, 1946, Reverend Simon Simpless writes to Amelia that he has known Juliet since she was a child and she is trustworthy and will do as she says. Amelia writes to Juliet on 18 February, 1946, that she has told the members about Juliet's article and suggested anyone interested write to Juliet. As Dawsey said, the Society was created to prevent the arrest of Amelia's dinner guests, but Amelia knew nothing of their situation until the next morning when Elizabeth stopped in her kitchen to survey her books and announced they would need more to be the Guernsey Literary Society. Since the Germans encouraged artistic and cultural pursuits, the Commandant only fined Amelia's friends, but since he asked to attend meetings, they bought books that afternoon and alerted the members to come choose a book to read, beginning their society.

On 19 February, 1946, Isola Pribby writes about her fondness for the Bronte girls and how she talked about them at one of the Society's meetings. At first, she did not like "Wuthering Heights", but she was grasped by the throat when Cathy's specter ran her fingers on the window. Reading perked up her spirits during the German Occupation, other than when Elizabeth was arrested and sent to prison in France. Elizabeth still has not returned, but the war has just ended and Isola prays she will because she misses Elizabeth.

Juliet writes Sidney on the 21st and 23rd of February without response, but on 26 February, 1946, she writes that his secretary admitted he has gone to Australia. Juliet assumes he has gone to find Piers Langley and help him sober up. The article for the "Times" has turned into a lovely treat since she has made a new group of friends from the Channel Islands. On 28 February, Juliet tells Sophie that Mark has been persistent with his attention, and she is having a wonderful time when she is not worrying about Sidney. On 28 February, she receives a letter from Eben Ramsey who had no zest for reading when they first began the Society, but he fell in love with Shakespeare because "the less he said, the more beauty he made" (p. 63). Eben wishes he had read Shakespeare before the Germans landed. They seemed nice at first, but they soon turned back to their natural meanness, and they had rules for everything which they changed constantly. The soldiers were as hungry as the Islanders and raided their gardens and supplies. Eben's grandson, Eli, was evacuated to England when he was seven years old, and he returned when he was twelve. Eben insists he will never forgive the Germans for making him miss Eli's youth.

On 1st March, 1946, Miss Adelaide Addison writes Juliet about her article, insisting she must not write about the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society because Elizabeth McKenna, their founder, is not an Islander, and the Society is a scandal and no respectable people from Guernsey will join except Eben Ramsey and Mrs. Maugery.



Section 3: pages 45-67 Analysis

Susan Scott warns Juliet, on 17 February, that she saw a picture of Juliet with Mark in the "Tatler", and though she looked gorgeous, she should hide before Sidney sees a copy; Juliet denies everything when she responds the next day. This shows that Juliet has begun dating Mark, and she seems to be having fun; however, the fact that she is unwilling to share information about the situation indicates that either she is very modest or she is not taking Mark's attentions very seriously. Amelia explains to Juliet that Will Thisbee was responsible for including Potato Peel Pie in the Society's name because he refused to attend meetings unless food was included. Amelia's continued information about the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society fuels Juliet's curiosity and foreshadows her eventual visit to Guernsey. When she first writes Juliet, Isola explains that she lives in a cottage next to Amelia's farm and sells preserves and elixirs at a Market stall every week.

On 20 February, Juliet thanks Dawsey for the white lilacs, and the fact that Dawsey sent flowers to Juliet foreshadows a romantic relationship between the two. Juliet plans to educate herself on the German Occupation of the Channel Islands as she did not know Guernsey was not allowed to receive outside news or letters during the war, foreshadowing her decision to write a book about the Occupation. In Juliet's letter to Sidney on 26 February, she confesses she has met Mark, but they talk about literature and he has not yet tried luring her to New York; Juliet assures Sidney that her heart and writing belongs to Stephens and Stark.

On 28 February, Juliet writes Isola that she was enthralled at the exact same moment in "Wuthering Heights". Eben informs Juliet about the evacuation of the children from Guernsey during the war, providing another anecdote that drives Juliet's curiosity about the Occupation. Adelaide Addison defames the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, but it is obvious that Juliet does not take the pious woman seriously.



Section 4: pages 68-86

Section 4: pages 68-86 Summary

On 4 March, Clovis Fossey writes that he did not want to go to the book meetings at first because he was busy with his farm. In 1942, he started courting Widow Hubert, but Ralph Murchey was more successful in his suit and told Clovis it was because women like poetry. Clovis fell in love with William Wordsworth and eventually won the hand of Widow Hubert, his Nancy.

On 10 March, Eben tells Juliet that Eli is in his keeping because his parents died during the war. Eli was evacuated to England in June, 1940 with the other Guernsey children, and he boarded with a farm family in Yorkshire before coming home after the war ended. When Will Thisbee's pig died, the Germans certified its death, and then he took it to Amelia who also received a death certificate for the pig, enabling her to hide her own healthy pig. Dawsey came to kill the pig because he is good at avoiding their squeals, and the pig made a fine dinner.

On 12 March, Adelaide Addison writes again that Juliet must not write about the Society. Since Juliet refuses to heed her advice, she must be more candid. The Society has joined together to raise Elizabeth's bastard child with her German paramour, Doctor/Captain Christian Hellman. Elizabeth gave birth to a baby girl in April 1942 with Eben and Isola present while Amelia and Dawsey delivered the baby. When the baby was one year old, Elizabeth was imprisoned, and Mrs. Maugery took the baby into her home, and the Society has since raised Kit as their own, transferring her between them for weeks at a time.

On 23 March, 1946, Juliet tells Sophie that it is indelicate to ask if she is in love with Mark, and she suggests questions to ask to determine such a thing; now maybe Sophie "can answer [her] own ridiculous question, because [Juliet] can't" (p. 86).

Section 4: pages 68-86 Analysis

On 2 March, 1946, Mark invites Juliet to see an opera, and she agrees, revealing their continued romantic involvement. Juliet meets another member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, Clovis Fossey, through his letter. The next day, Juliet writes Eben to ask about the circumstances of Eli's evacuation, as well as how Mrs. Maugery had a pig the night that the Society was founded. Juliet also encourages the members of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society not to give up hope that Elizabeth may still return when she writes to Eben Ramsey on 2 March. Eben responds to Juliet's questions, and he also clarifies how the pig roast came to happen. Now that he has returned to Guernsey, Eli helps his grandfather on his farm, but he likes carving wood the best.



On 10 March, Eben tells Juliet that Elizabeth was always brave, and she stayed longer on Guernsey than was safe because she was friends with Eben's daughter, Jane, and kept her company during her second pregnancy since Jane's husband was away at war. Elizabeth got Eli on the evacuation ship but stayed in Guernsey for Jane, and she stayed by Eben after Jane died in childbirth. Though Eben is sad he could not stand by Elizabeth, he is glad her daughter, Kit, is safely with the Society members on Guernsey.

On 12 March, Dawsey tells Juliet that Amelia and Kit came over for supper last night. On the same day, Adelaide Addison writes to Juliet again about the infamy of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, especially Elizabeth who had a child, Kit, out of wedlock. Sidney sends a cable to Juliet on 20 March, 1946 that his return has been delayed because he fell from a horse and broke his leg, and over the next few days, he assures her that Piers is an excellent nurse and her presence is not needed.

On 23 March, 1946, Juliet writes Sophie that it is ridiculous to consider flying to Australia because Piers can care for Sidney, and Juliet plans to try to find a subject for her next book since that is what Sidney would prefer. She also confesses that she feels addled around Mark, but she does not know whether or not that is love. Her uncertainty foreshadows her realization that she does not love Mark.



Section 5: pages 87-108

Section 5: pages 87-108 Summary

On 27 March, 1946, John Booker writes Juliet that he has only read one book, "The Letters of Seneca: Translated from Latin in One Volume" over and over. From 1940 to 1944, he pretended to be Lord Tobias Penn-Piers, his former employer, to the Germans. When the Commandant ordered all Jews to register, Elizabeth suggested John pretend to be Lord Tobias, and she helped with the charade by painting his picture and hanging it in the library. Juliet writes Sidney and Piers on 31 March that she is living in Guernsey more than London at the moment. She wonders if there could be a book in the story of the Occupation.

On 2 April, Dawsey explains that he could not see Christian Hellman as bad since they talked about Charles Lamb and Hellman helped him deliver water to the people of Guernsey. On 7 April, Will Thisbee writes Juliet about how reading "Past and Present" by Thomas Carlyle helped him better understand religion. Amelia writes Juliet on 10 April that maybe there will be an end to the sorrow of war and the deaths it caused, such as her son's. She enjoys walking along the cliffs but cannot forget the fortifications were built by Todt workers, slaves sent to Guernsey who were often worked to death. Isola wants Juliet to visit Guernsey and write a book about the German Occupation. The next day, Juliet writes Dawsey that Adelaide Addison dislikes him because she found him reading a book in his hayloft, but Juliet enjoys this image as it conjures memories of her doing the same during her early childhood on her parents' farm in Suffolk.

Section 5: pages 87-108 Analysis

On 25 March, 1946, Juliet writes to Dawsey about receiving letters from Adelaide, claiming it will be a pleasure to defy her. Her obvious offense at the defamation of the member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society show that she is developing strong friendships with the members of the Society, and this foreshadows her visit to Guernsey. Juliet does not know much about children, but she has a godson, Dominic, who lives in Scotland with his mother, Sophie. As part of his story about pretending to be his former employer, John Booker explains that Lord Tobias moved to Guernsey for a safe place during the war, but when the Germans bombed the island, he quickly left; John stayed to drink Lord Tobias' wine and escape servitude. Though he ran out of wine in 1941, John then found Seneca, and that made the Occupation bearable. He is glad the war is over and he can be John Booker again.

On 2 April, Dawsey responds to Juliet that Adelaide Addison sees having fun as sinful. One day, Elizabeth rode her bicycle past Dawsey and Christian Hellman, and Dawsey could tell they knew each other by their faces. When Christian died in early 1942, Dr. Lorenz told Dawsey of his death, and Dawsey told Elizabeth. On 4 April, Juliet tells Amelia she is glad Elizabeth had friends to help her with her baby. With the sun

sparkling on the river, she can pretend London is beautiful again, and maybe "there is an end to war" (p. 95). The next day, Mark begs Juliet to go to lunch with him.

On 8 April, Mrs. Clara Saussey writes that none of the members of the Society would have ever touched a book if not for the Occupation. In this section, Juliet begins to actually form the idea of writing a book about the German Occupation of Guernsey during World War I, and she asks Sidney's opinion of the idea. Additionally, Amelia explains the presence of Todt workers during the Occupation, and this foreshadows how the Todt workers were an important aspect of the daily life of Islanders during the Occupation. Juliet's dislike for Adelaide Addison and her amusement at the image of Dawsey reading in his hayloft foreshadows Juliet falling in love with Dawsey.



Section 6: pages 109-129

Section 6: pages 109-129 Summary

On 18 April, 1946, Isola writes Juliet to ask a few personal questions, though Dawsey told her it was not proper, and Juliet responds on the 20th that she is thirty-three years old, has mousy brown hair and hazel eyes. She had a nice childhood until her parents died when she was twelve years old and she went to live in London with her great-uncle. He sent Juliet to boarding school a year later because she caused him so much trouble, and at school, she met Sophie Stark, who became her best friend, as well as Sophie's brother, Sidney. After finishing school, Juliet and Sophie roomed together in London while working in a bookshop, and Juliet wrote stories at night. She entered the "Daily Mirror's" essay contest about "What Women Fear Most", and her essay about being afraid of chickens won. She began to write for other magazines during the war while Sophie married an airman, Alexander Strachan. Sidney published a book of her Izzy Bickerstaff columns, she went on a book tour and began writing letters to strangers in Guernsey who have become friends that she would like to visit very much.

Eben writes on 22 April that it was a terrible decision as to whether or not to evacuate the children, but Jane knew immediately that she wanted Eli to be evacuated. Many of the children thought it was an exciting outing, but the older children, like Eli, knew better. Parents took their children to the school from whence buses carried them to the boats which traversed the Channel. Elizabeth and Eben took Eli to visit his mother in the hospital and then to the school, and Elizabeth stayed behind at the school to help get the children ready for their trip.

On 24 April, 1946, Isola writes that while they were at the school helping the children prepare for evacuation, Adelaide Addison caused the children to cry by insinuating their parents were going to die, causing Elizabeth to slap her hard across the face before locking her out of the school. On 26 April, Dawsey informs Juliet that Kit is staying with him, and she acts exactly like her mother. Kit knows her father is dead and her mother was sent away. Because Sir Ambrose was killed in a bombing raid in London, his solicitors are searching for Elizabeth, who has inherited his entire estate.

Section 6: pages 109-129 Analysis

On 11 April, 1946, Susan Scott writes Sidney, telling him to hurry home, and Juliet writes Sidney and Piers the next day that she has been researching background information on Guernsey. Dawsey writes Juliet on 15 April about how much he enjoys Charles Lamb's writings and how happy he is with the biography he has finally received. Kit has decided she does not like mongooses since they eat snakes. On 18 April, Juliet responds to Dawsey, also praising Lamb's writing. On 20 April, Juliet shares her history with Isola, providing some background information on the main character in this novel. On 21 April, Eli writes to ask if Juliet would like him to carve her a mouse. Clovis Fossey



wants Juliet to send a copy of her prize-winning essay on chickens, and the entire Society, except Kit who may come around, hopes Juliet will visit Guernsey. On 22 April, Eben continues telling Juliet about the evacuation of the Guernsey children, and two days later, Isola shares an anecdote about Elizabeth slapping Adelaide Addison which demonstrates Elizabeth's zest and feisty manner. On 26 April, Dawsey informs Juliet that Sir Ambrose has died and bequeathed his entire estate to Elizabeth so his executors are searching for her zealously; this foreshadows the pending discovery of Elizabeth's whereabouts.



Section 7: pages 130-141

Section 7: pages 130-141 Summary

On 30 April, 1946, Mark convinces Juliet to go to dinner with him at Suzette because he needs to talk to her, and the next day, Juliet insists she did not refuse him outright; she needs time to think about it because they have not known each other long enough for her to decide whether they should spend the rest of their lives together. Juliet also writes Sophie to tell her that Mark proposed, but she does not know whether she should marry him. Juliet wants to go to Guernsey and write a book about the Occupation, but Mark cannot abide the thought as he wants her to stay in London and marry him like a reasonable person.

On 13 May, 1946, Amelia writes that she is glad Juliet is going to visit Guernsey, and everyone is excitedly preparing for her arrival. Isola has convinced Mr. Dilwyn, Sir Ambrose's estate manager, to rent Elizabeth's cottage to Juliet since they still have heard no news of Elizabeth. The next day, Isola describes her first sight of the Germans on a quiet Tuesday. Elizabeth was at Isola's house and decided to go to town to seek the enemy rather than wait for them. They went to St. Peter Port and saw hundreds of German soldiers who appeared to be having a fine time, but when they headed toward Candie Gardens, the carnival changed to a nightmare as the armed soldiers marched toward them. Mr. Ferre, who fought in the Somme, cried and asked how the Germans could do this again. Since Elizabeth and Isola had seen enough, they returned home for a drink of gin.

Section 7: pages 130-141 Analysis

When Mark proposes, Juliet's request to give her time to think indicates that she does not truly love Mark. The fact that Mark does not agree with Juliet's desire to go to Guernsey shows that he is controlling, and this foreshadows Juliet's refusal as she is obviously a very independent woman. On 3 May, Juliet writes Sidney to ask for his blessing to go to Guernsey and determine whether she can write a book about the Occupation, and he responds by cable a week later with his blessing, though he teasingly asks if Mark will allow it. Juliet responds that Mark is not in a position to allow or forbid it. Amelia confesses that she sometimes thinks they should search for Kit's German relatives, but she cannot imagine sending the child to strangers, far from the only family she knows. Isola writes of her excitement and preparations for Juliet's visit. She has asked her friends to write Juliet about their experiences during the Occupation. Isola asks Juliet to wear a big red hat with a veil and carry lilies so that she will recognize her upon her arrival.



Section 8: pages 142-155

Section 8: pages 142-155 Summary

On Wednesday morning, an animal lover writes Juliet about how Guernsey's government announced that families could only keep one pet and the rest of the animals on Guernsey were put to sleep because there were not enough provisions to provide for them all. On 15 May, Sally Ann Frobisher tells Juliet she was humiliated when she had scabies during the Occupation since there was not enough soap to keep clean. When Sally asked if it would hurt, Elizabeth truthfully answered that it would, but after cutting the scabies, Elizabeth gave Sally a scarf to cover her bald head.

On 16 May, 1946, John Booker decides to write Juliet about what happened to him so he will not have to say it aloud. He spent a year at Neuengamme Concentration Camp when his lie about being Lord Tobias was discovered. Every day, he thought he was going to die. In April 1945, the Commandant sent him and others to dig pits to bury the dead in Relsen, but the British arrived to rescue them the next day. On 20 May, Mark insists Juliet's journey to Guernsey is ridiculous, and he pleads for her to stay in London and marry him; however, Juliet insists she is going to Guernsey, even if she is being foolish.

Section 8: pages 142-155 Analysis

Juliet receives more letters from various Islanders which adds to her repertoire of notes she has prepared for a potential book about the Occupation, and this foreshadows her writing such a book. Sally Ann Frobisher's doctor sent her to the hospital where her head was shaved and the scabies cut out. Sally met Elizabeth McKenna at the hospital where Elizabeth was volunteering. On 15 May, Juliet receives a letter from Micah Daniels who tells her that the Red Cross sent supply boxes to Guernsey with nails, seeds, candles and many other useful items, and though the Germans unloaded the boxes, they did not take a single box for themselves because their Commandant threatened to kill them if any were stolen.

On 16 May, Dawsey also writes Juliet that everything is prepared for her arrival, and she responds on the 19th that she is very excited as well. She asks Dawsey to tell Isola she will wear a red wool cape on her journey so that they will recognize her. Though Mark thinks Juliet is being foolish by going to Guernsey, Mark offers to drive her to Weymouth, and she agrees. Mark's anger that Juliet is going to Guernsey on 20 May and his attempts to dissuade her from such a trip foreshadows Juliet's refusal of his proposal.



Section 9: pages 159-173

Section 9: pages 159-173 Summary

As Part 2 begins, Juliet writes to Sidney on 22 May, 1946 that she had a ghastly voyage from Weymouth and became anxious as she pulled into St. Peter Port because she was nervous to see her corresponding friends without paper to hide behind; however, there was no turning back as the mail boat pulled into the pier, and she immediately recognized her friends. Kit was standoffish at first, but Juliet played her severed thumb trick until Kit giggled and asked how she did it. Juliet must have passed Kit's test because, after dinner, Kit asked her to tell her a story about a ferret before bed and even offered her cheek to be kissed.

On 24 May, Juliet tells Sophie that she is on Guernsey, though Mark did his best to stop her. She is going to take a walk in the beauty outside and pretend Mark does not exist. On 27 May, Juliet tells Sidney about her accommodations in Elizabeth's cottage and how fascinating Elizabeth is made by her possessions since the Germans only gave her six hours to remove her belongings when they took over Sir Ambrose's house. Juliet worries because Kit carries a tied box with her at all times, and she cannot ask what is in the box, though she is curious. The next day, Juliet sends Sidney a letter she received under her door written by Henry A. Toussant about how he would haunt the German soldiers when they left brothels during the Occupation, whistling behind them but hiding so they thought they were being stalked by ghosts. Henry did not believe the young ladies wanted to be in the brothels as they were sent from Occupied territories, like the Todt workers who they also shared food with.

Section 9: pages 159-173 Analysis

Juliet is nervous to meet her corresponding friends as she nears Guernsey, showing how important they have become to her. In describing her Guernsey friends upon her arrival, Juliet notes that Isola reached her first and hugged the nervousness out of her. Dawsey held out his hands, and he has the same even gaze as Charles Lamb. Amelia welcomed Juliet, and when she suggested going home, it "sounded wonderful, as though it really were my home" (p. 161). Dawsey, making himself generally useful, loaded Juliet's bags onto his cart, and he drove his cart to Amelia's farm, carrying Kit, Amelia and Juliet. Kit begins to like Juliet, and this foreshadows their close relationship and Juliet's desire to adopt Kit.

On 24 May, Juliet worries that if she refuses Mark, he will be married and she will become an old maid. Juliet began to think he was right about her being an idiot as the boat pulled away. She knows he will be snapped up immediately because several women are crazy for him, and Juliet will decline in years, talking about how she was nearly engaged to Mark Reynolds. Juliet tells Sidney on 27 May that she has visited Guernsey's ten parishes since her arrival ten days earlier, escorted by Eben, Eli, Isola or



Dawsey, but Dawsey is her favorite escort as he tells her the history of various sites. Juliet has also walked to town for tea several times with Amelia and Kit, and Kit often points out beautiful things that Juliet would otherwise miss. Juliet's interest in Elizabeth on 27 May foreshadows the use of Elizabeth as the heart of her book about the Occupation, and her comments about Kit's mysterious box foreshadows her discovery of its contents. Three days later, Juliet recounts the first meeting of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society that she has attended for Sidney. A new member, Jonas Skeeter, complained that Woodrow Cutter forced him to read "The Meditations of Marcus Aurelius", but the two were reconciled and left for Crazy Ida's. Her postscript notes that Dawsey seemed to be the only member who found the situation to be humorous. Henry offends his mother and her sister by yelling at them for degrading the ladies in the brothel, and he finds it peaceful that they have not spoken to him since then.



Section 10: pages 174-189

Section 10: pages 174-189 Summary

On 6 June, 1946, Juliet is glad Sidney has returned to England and hopes he will visit Guernsey soon. She has tons of notes about experiences during the Occupation, but she does not know yet if a book is possible or what format it might take. Amelia tells Juliet about how when her son, Ian, was a child, Elizabeth convinced him to buy a boat and escape to avoid being sent to school in England. Unfortunately, the boat Elizabeth made and sold him began to sink, so she rescued him from drowning, but Ian decided it would be easier to go to school.

On the 12th, Remy Giraud writes to any member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society to tell them that Elizabeth was executed at Ravensbruck Concentration Camp in March 1945. She befriended Remy at the camp, but Elizabeth was punished in place of their friend, Alina, for stealing a potato. Later, another friend was beaten for menstruating, and when Elizabeth beat the guard, she was shot in the head the next morning. Amelia replies on the 16th of June, asking if she and Dawsey can visit Remy. The same day, Juliet tells Sidney that, though it is strange since they never met, she mourns for Elizabeth. Dawsey and Amelia plan to go to Louviers to try to persuade Remy to come to Guernsey, and Juliet is keeping Kit while they are gone. Juliet worries about Kit now that she is officially an orphan, but Mr. Dilwyn insists there is plenty of time to make a decision and it is best to leave well enough alone for the time being. The next day, Juliet explains to Mark that it is a bad time for him to visit since everyone just learned of Elizabeth's death, and Juliet is also in mourning.

On 23 June, 1946, Amelia tells Juliet they have finally met Remy, but she is very reserved until she began talking about Kit, and Dawsey tells her about how the Society is raising Kit. When Amelia asks Remy to come stay in Guernsey for a while, Remy is adamant about her plans to seek an apprenticeship in a Paris bakery with the help of government stipend plans for concentration camp survivors.

Section 10: pages 174-189 Analysis

Juliet's letter to Sidney on 6 June foreshadows Sidney's visit to Guernsey. She also tells Sidney about her growing relationship with Kit. Kit spends some mornings with Juliet, and they play outside unless the weather is poor when they play games inside. Kit grows fond of Juliet, and Juliet asks Sidney to send a book of paper dolls. On 10 June, Juliet praises Sidney's new secretary, who sent two books of paper dolls and children's scissors. Her postscript notes that she has not seen Dawsey since Friday afternoon so he does not appear in her letter, despite Sidney's insinuating remarks in his last letter.

In her letter to the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, Remy emphasizes that Elizabeth often talked about her friends and cherished them as her family. Remy



wants Elizabeth's friends to know how Elizabeth lived "and how she held on hard to her kindness and her courage" (p. 181). Enclosed with Remy's letter is a letter from Sister Cecile Touvier from the institute where Remy is staying which states Remy has suffered badly but hopefully can recover since she has written her letter to them and can finally put her friend to rest. They may respond to Remy, but Sister Touvier requests that they do not question her about Ravensbruck because it is best for Remy to forget. On 21 June, Dawsey tells Juliet that Louviers is a pretty town, but much of it was destroyed by the war. He and Amelia will visit Remy tomorrow. In her letter to Juliet about Remy, Amelia tells Juliet that Remy is alone in the world; her family was killed during the war, but she seems to find relief in talking about them. Though Remy refuses to come to Guernsey, Dawsey is not willing to let matter stand, and he seems to think "sheltering Remy is a moral debt we owe to Elizabeth... or perhaps it is simply a way to relieve our sense of helplessness" (p. 189). He is going to take Remy to see a certain patisserie in Louviers tomorrow. Amelia is well but tired from seeing her beloved Normandy so devastated.



Section 11: pages 190-208

Section 11: pages 190-208 Summary

On 28 June, 1946, Juliet wants to send her notes to Sidney because she has a lot of information but cannot seem to make it come together in a pleasing structure. On 1 July, Sidney responds that he wants to visit Guernsey this weekend and will collect Juliet's manuscript then. Juliet is happy that Sidney is visiting, and Isola insists he stay with her. On 6 July, Sidney writes Sophie that he has finally arrived on Guernsey. Juliet is full of her old zest, and the welcoming people of Guernsey seem to have seduced her from the city life. On the 12th, Sidney tells Juliet that he has read her notes and the book needs a center, one person's voice to explain what is going on around her; Juliet already has her center, Elizabeth McKenna. Everyone Juliet interviewed talked about Elizabeth at some point, so Juliet should consider whether "Elizabeth could be the heart of your book" (p. 201).

Three days later, Juliet excitedly agrees that she should write about Elizabeth, but she wants to talk to Dawsey, Amelia, Eben and Isola first to obtain their blessings. Remy has decided to come to Guernsey after all, and since she will stay with Amelia, Juliet gets to keep Kit for now. Her postscript ponders whether Elizabeth kept a diary. On 17 July, Juliet writes that, though Elizabeth did not keep a diary, she drew as long as she could, and Juliet finds wonderful portraits of Isola, Dawsey, Amelia and Eben. Amelia visits, and they find a sketch of Kit as a baby and one of Christian. Amelia admits she believed Christian would betray them at first, but he visited Amelia to share his intentions as Elizabeth's suitor; Amelia was a bit in love with him herself by the time he finished talking.

On 19 July, 1946, Juliet tells Sidney that everyone on Guernsey seems to have a story about Elizabeth. She and Kit went to the cemetery this afternoon, and when she stretched out on Mr. Edwin Mullins' tombstone, Sam Withers, the groundskeeper, mentioned that Elizabeth used to sunbathe on the same slab. He liked Christian because the young officer once helped him dig a grave when the ground was frozen. Juliet feels she is beginning to know Christian and why Elizabeth loved him. Dawsey leaves Guernsey on Tuesday to fetch Remy from France.

Section 11: pages 190-208 Analysis

On 28 June, Juliet updates Sidney, telling him that Kit is still staying with her and Dawsey told Kit her mother is dead. On Friday morning, Isola slips a note under Juliet's door, offering to slip an elixir in Sidney's coffee if Juliet wants her to do so. In telling Sophie about Guernsey, Sidney notes that Juliet seems nervous around Dawsey, who quietly watches her until she looks in his direction, and Sidney insists that Dawsey is worth dozens of Mark Reynolds. Furthermore, he insists Juliet will be ruined if she



marries Mark. This foreshadows Juliet's refusal of Mark's proposal and her eventual engagement to Dawsey.

There are enough stories about the Occupation to fill three books, so it is understandable if Juliet seems nervous because it is a daunting task. On 7 July, Juliet tells Sophie that Sidney is having a great time as Isola's houseguest. When Isola asked why Sidney is not engaged to Juliet, he told her he is a homosexual, and she kissed his forehead and promised not to tell anyone. Sidney and Juliet are going to shop for a hostess gift for Isola. Her postscript notes that she argued with Mark last week when he phoned to insist she come home and marry him. The next day, Isola writes Sidney that she enjoyed having him as a houseguest and likes the cuckoo clock he bought her. On 9 July, Juliet writes Sidney that she enjoyed his visit. Noting that Dawsey was very quiet while Sidney was visiting, she suggests he is preoccupied with Remy. Yesterday, Juliet notes on 17 July, Will Thisbee visited Juliet to ask which of two women he should marry, and when she advised him neither if he had to ask, he laughed because Dawsey said the same thing. Juliet is interested to learn that Dawsey has opinions on marriage, and she would like to know more about them. This also foreshadows the fact that Juliet loves Dawsey.



Section 12: pages 209-227

Section 12: pages 209-227 Summary

On 22 July, 1946, Juliet tells Sophie she has been trying to be reasonable about Dawsey for the two months she has spent in Guernsey, and she was doing well until last night. Dawsey visited to borrow a suitcase for his trip to Louviers, and as they walked along the headlands, she thought he was going to kiss her, but the local taxi pulled up with Mark Reynolds in it. Juliet introduced the two men, but then Dawsey left without a backward glance. Juliet writes to Sophie again on the 24th that she has irrevocably refused Mark. Mark seems irritated by Kit's presence and suggests Juliet say goodbye "before she starts thinking you're going to take care of her for the rest of her life" (p. 213); Juliet angrily tells him cannot marry someone who does not love Kit or Guernsey. For the first time since she met Mark, Juliet is sure she has done the right thing.

On 27 July, Juliet informs Sidney that she has discovered that Elizabeth had an accomplice in sheltering the Todt worker, which led to her arrest. Juliet visits Peter Sawyer, who is in a wheelchair, in the nursing home near Le Grand Havre, and he tells her that he found the Todt worker, Lud Jaruzki, a sixteen-year-old Polish boy, after he fell and could not move while trying to steal from Peter's garden. Peter felt bad for the boy and took him into his home, knowing Elizabeth would visit the next day and sure she would help. Elizabeth bathed, clothed and fed Lud, and she often came after dark to nurse the boy until he began to regain his strength. Unfortunately, someone noticed and noticed the Feldpolizei, who arrested Elizabeth and Peter. Peter only spent a week in prison because they did not know what to do with a prisoner in a wheelchair, but Peter never saw Elizabeth again.

Dawsey writes Juliet on 27 July that Remy is much stronger, but she needs to be around cheerful people to get better. He is sure Juliet would make a better companion for Remy because of her sunny nature and light heart. As she tells Sophie two days later, Juliet takes offense to this, believing Dawsey sees her as a buffoon. On 1 August, 1946, Juliet announces to Sidney that Remy has finally arrived.

On 3 August, Juliet chides Sidney for sending a book about Phrenology to Isola since she has decided to read the bumps on everyone's heads. She notes that she and Dawsey are not as easy with one another, though he still visits Kit frequently. She praises Billie Bee for being useful in running errands. On the 5th, Susan Scott tells Juliet that Billie Bee was supposed to be a temporary employee but has made herself indispensable by begging to help Sidney however possible. Also on 5 July, Isola writes Sidney to thank him for the Phrenology book. Isola notes that Juliet's head bumps indicate she is awash in Amativeness and Conjugal Love, but when Will suggests Mr. Starks is a lucky man, Dawsey leaves so Isola cannot read his bumps. Isola does not understand Dawsey; he grew chatty for a while, but he has become quiet again.



Section 12: pages 209-227 Analysis

After Juliet nearly kisses Dawsey on 22 July, Juliet convinced Mark to stay the night in a hotel, and she has spent the night wondering what to do about what almost happened with Dawsey or whether she imagined the whole thing in the first place. The next day, Amelia leaves a note under Juliet's door, inviting her and Kit for pie, and Juliet responds to ask if Kit can stay with Amelia because Juliet has a guest. Juliet's postscript to Sophie on the 24th notes that Dawsey did not even say goodbye before leaving for France, so she is convinced he had no intention of kissing her. This foreshadows her love for Dawsey.

After arriving on Guernsey, Remy claims, in a conversation with Juliet, that Elizabeth must have once been like Kit, and it would have been better if Elizabeth had not had such a heart. Juliet notes it would have been worse for the rest of the world, though. On 1 August, Isola writes Sidney to tell him she is the official secretary of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society and can secretly swear him in as a member if he likes.



Section 13: pages 228-249

Section 13: pages 228-249 Summary

On 7 August, 1946, Juliet tells Sidney that when the children were evacuated, Elizabeth gave Eli a pin from her blouse, her father's medal from World War I, because he was nervous, telling him it was a magic badge and "nothing bad could happen to him while he wore it" (p. 229). On the 9th, Juliet insists Sidney's inquiries about Dawsey are misdirected as he barely speaks to her, and Isola tells Juliet about how Dawsey nearly beat Eddie Meares to death when he heard that Eddie reported seeing the Todt worker at Peter Sawyer's house.

On 11 August, Juliet excitedly writes to Sidney that Isola brought letters written to her Granny Pheen by a stranger to last night's meeting. Granny Pheen received eight letters about the life of Solange from this man, signed O. F. O' F W. W. Juliet wonders if it is possible that Isola inherited eight letters written by Oscar Wilde, and she asks Sidney to learn whether Oscar Wilde ever came to Guernsey. Two days later, Sidney responds that Oscar Wilde visited Jersey for a week in 1893, so it is possible that he went to Guernsey. Sidney sends Sir William Otis to compare Isola's letters to those of Oscar Wilde from the university's collection. On 18 August, Juliet tells Sidney that Sir William confirmed that the letters were written by Oscar Wilde. Billee Bee writes Juliet on the 20th that she will collect the letters on Thursday since Sidney has been called to Rome. On 22 August, Juliet tells Sophie that Billee Bee is on Guernsey to collect Oscar Wilde's letters, but Kit does not seem to like her. Juliet wants to adopt Kit and plans to talk to Mr. Dilwyn about it when he returns from vacation. On the 24th, Susan Scott sends a telegram to Juliet that Ivor, the new sub-editor, saw Billee Bee kissing Gilly Gilbert, and Juliet must not give her the Oscar Wilde letters because she cannot be trusted. Juliet responds the next day in relief, calling Susan a heroine because they managed to prevent Billee Bee from stealing the Oscar Wilde letters. On 26 August, Susan replies that Gilly and his mistress, Billee Bee, were embarrassed by the reports of Juliet's previous altercation with Gilly, so Billee Bee started working for Stephens and Stark to search for anything that might hurt or embarrass Juliet or Sidney. When they heard about the Oscar Wilde letters, Gilly instructed Billee Bee to steal them so they could publish them in "The London Hue and Cry". Sidney sends a telegram to Juliet the same day, announcing he will never leave town again, and he claims that Juliet, Isola and Kit deserve a medal.

Section 13: pages 228-249 Analysis

When Isola's Granny Pheen was a girl, her father drowned her cat, and as she was crying in the street, a stranger asked to help her, and learning what was wrong, he insisted he could chat with cats in his mind. He told her the cat was being reborn in a castle in France to a little boy who would name her Solange, and he offered to write her once in a while to tell her about Solange's adventures. Juliet writes Sidney excitedly



about these letters because she believes they are signed by Oscar Wilde. Isola writes Sidney on 14 August that though Juliet said scholars will want the letters, Granny Pheen kept them in their biscuit tin and that is where they will stay; however, Sidney can use them for a book if he wants, and Isola would like to write a preface about Granny Pheen. After reading Susan's letter warning her about Billee Bee, Juliet goes to Billee Bee's room to learn she has already left with her suitcase and the letters. She phones Dawsey, who instructs Booker to prevent Billee Bee from leaving the harbor, but as Dawsey and Juliet walk toward town, searching for Billee Bee, they find her suitcase and the letters in front of Isola's smokehouse with Isola and Kit; Billee Bee is locked inside the smokehouse. When Isola read Billee Bee's head bumps, she did not like her large Duplicitous Bump, and after Kit told Isola she had seen Billee Bee snooping in her kitchen, they decided to set up surveillance. They saw her sneak from Juliet's house and followed her to Isola's farm, where Isola manhandled her into the smokehouse. Juliet wonders what Billee Bee and Gilly Gilbert were going to do with the letters. Susan plans to send Ivor to Guernsey on Tuesday to copy the Oscar Wilde letters.



Section 14: pages 250-262

Section 14: pages 250-262 Summary

On 29 August, 1946, Juliet informs Sophie that Mr. Dilwyn has returned from vacation, but Juliet delays visiting him for fear he will refuse to even consider allowing her to adopt Kit. Mr. Dilwyn has hired Dawsey to restore the Big House to rent to families on vacation to fund Kit's future. On 2 September, Juliet writes Sidney about something disturbing that has happened. Remy is very upset when she sees Juliet pet a dog on the way to St. Peter Port. After putting Remy to bed, Dawsey explains that the guards used dogs to attack the women at the concentration camp. In her postscript, Juliet ponders whether Dawsey feels more than good will toward Remy, and Sidney responds to the postscript two days later, claiming it means Juliet is in love with Dawsey. He wants to visit Guernsey on the 13th to see Oscar Wilde's letters in person. On 6 September, Isola tells Sidney she is excited for his visit. Ivor praised her detective work because of her suspicions about Billee Bee, and since he compared her to Miss Marple, Isola has been reading books about Miss Marple and training herself to be a detective.

On 7 September, Juliet writes to Sophie because she finally told Amelia she wants to adopt Kit, and she is relieved Amelia approves of the idea and will go with her to see Mr. Dilwyn. Even better, Kit showed Juliet what is in the box she carries around. It contains keepsakes from her parents. Once Kit climbed into bed with Juliet and went to sleep, Juliet could not sleep because she was too busy planning the rest of their lives. She wants to stay in Guernsey because it is best for Kit, and she prays that Mr. Dilwyn will let her keep Kit. On 8 September, Juliet writes Sidney that Dawsey invited her and Kit to dinner, and she accepts though Kit has an engagement with Amelia. Juliet and Dawsey discuss Jonathan Swift, pigs and the trials in Nuremberg as they eat and then stroll to the barn to watch the pigs. Juliet believes she is becoming pathetic, but she admits she is in love with Dawsey. Tonight, she will succumb to the euphoria, but she is sure she will be miserable tomorrow at the thought that he does not return her love. She sends a telegram on the 11th that she is miserable now after seeing Dawsey in St. Peter Port, buying a suitcase with Remy. She wonders if it is for their honeymoon. Juliet is a fool, and she blames Sidney.

Section 14: pages 250-262 Analysis

In her 29 August letter to Sophie, Juliet states that Ivor has come and gone, and Oscar Wilde's letters are safe in Isola's biscuit tin. She is surprised Remy is not homesick for France yet, but she read an article by a political prisoner that said no one in France wants to hear about survivors' lives in concentration camps. While Juliet walks to St. Peter Port with Remy and Dawsey, a woman walks by with a large dog, but when Juliet pets the dog, Remy starts vomiting, obviously upset. Once the woman leaves with her dog, Dawsey and Juliet take Remy to Juliet's house and put her to bed. Dawsey thought being on Guernsey would help Remy, but good will is not enough. Juliet agrees, but she



feels ashamed of herself, wondering whether she really thinks Remy is well enough to go home or if she just wanted her to leave so they can "get on with IT, whatever IT might be? I did- and it's sickening" (p. 255). Juliet's postscript indicates her love for Dawsey, and Sidney points this out. On 6 September, Isola tells Sidney that the day after he arrives, Eben is having a beach party so he can make an announcement. Isola hopes he is not getting married because his wife will not let him out alone in the evenings and she would miss his company. This parallels Juliet's similar fear that the announcement regards Dawsey and Remy's engagement, foreshadowing Juliet's love for Dawsey.



Section 15: pages 263-274

Section 15: pages 263-274 Summary

DETECTION NOTES OF MISS ISOLA PRIBBY, PRIVATE: NOT TO BE READ, EVEN AFTER DEATH! begins on Sunday with Isola noting that she received this notebook from Sidney Stark so that she can write down her observations as she trains to be a detective like Miss Marple. Sunday's observation is that Kit loves to be in Juliet's company. On Thursday, Remy visits Isola to give her a stamp from her envelope because she has received a letter from the French government. Isola wonders what they want from her. On Friday, Isola joins Dawsey, Juliet, Remy and Kit to meet Sidney at the airfield. She notes that odd behavior between Dawsey and Sidney on Friday and Saturday, realizing Dawsey is lonely; maybe he always has been lonely, but he seems to mind now, and Isola wonders why. On Saturday night, Juliet holds her breath as Eben announces that Remy is leaving for Paris on Tuesday. Juliet seems relieved, but Dawsey looks sad. Isola realizes he must be in love with Remy but is too shy to tell her. Since Remy is practical, like most Frenchwomen, Isola knows she must provide evidence of Dawsey's feelings before she will change her plans to go to Paris, so she offers to scrub Dawsey's floor on Monday morning as an early Christmas present.

On Monday, Isola goes to Dawsey's house early to clean and snoop for evidence, but when she finds his wooden treasure box, she finds Juliet's handkerchief and some pictures of Juliet and Kit but nothing belonging to Remy. Isola leaves, disappointed that she has failed in her mission. She visits Juliet because she always cheers her up. Isola tells Juliet about her failed mission, and Juliet rushes toward the Big House where Dawsey is working. Isola follows, sure Juliet is going to give him a piece of her mind for shirking his feelings for Remy, but after Juliet joins Dawsey in the library, she asks him to marry her. Dawsey swears and agrees, and Isola returns home, rather than looking into the library. She had gotten it all wrong!

On 17 September, 1946, Juliet writes to Sidney that she requires his presence to give her away in Amelia's back garden on Saturday when she marries Dawsey. Though she has only been betrothed for one day, it seems her life has just begun. She cannot wait for her life to begin.

Section 15: pages 263-274 Analysis

In the beginning of her detection notes, Isola is sure there will be something to observe at Eben's beach picnic on Saturday, but in the meantime, she is reading an art book about perspective, trying to look at things in different ways. On Friday, Isola observes that Juliet and Sidney hug like siblings, and though Dawsey shakes Sidney's hand, he refuses to join them for cake at Juliet's house. While preparing for their picnic on Saturday afternoon, she notices that Dawsey and Sidney are pleasant to one another, but she wonders why Sidney sometimes stares at Dawsey in a wondering way. When



Juliet and Sidney swing Kit between them as they leave the beach for lunch, Dawsey watches them but does not follow. After the announcement that Remy is returning to France, Sidney prods Juliet and asks if she feels better, and Isola stops worrying about her since she says yes. On Sunday, Isola prepares to carry out her plan to provide proof of Dawsey's devotion to Remy so he can be happy. In regards to her engagements, Juliet tells Sidney "I have seized the day, and the night too" (p. 274). At the end of Juliet's final letter in this book, Dawsey has returned from the Big House and demands her attention. His shyness has evaporated completely. Her postscript notes that she ran into Adelaide Addison, who offered her congratulations. All of the earlier foreshadowing about the romantic relationship between Juliet and Dawsey culminates and is fulfilled by their engagement.

Characters

Juliet Ashton

Juliet Ashton is the main character of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*. She writes the Izzy Bickerstaff columns for the "Spectator" which are compiled into a book, "Izzy Bickerstaff Goes to War", by Stephens & Stark, and at the beginning of the novel, she is on a book tour to promote her book. While on tour through England to promote her book, Juliet receives a letter from Dawsey Adams, a member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, and they begin to correspond. When she is asked to write an article for the "Times", she decides to include the Society in her article and thus begins writing to several other members, such as Amelia Maugery and Isola Pribby. Meanwhile, she begins dating Mark Reynolds, an American publisher. As Juliet develops close friendships with her Guernsey correspondents, she begins to wonder whether she can write a book about the Occupation, and she decides to visit Guernsey, despite Mark's protestations that she stay in London and marry him.

Though Juliet is nervous to meet her Guernsey friends, they make her feel welcome immediately, and she grows very close to them. When Remy Giraud writes to the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society about the execution of Elizabeth McKenna, their founder, Juliet mourns for the woman, though they never met. Juliet keeps Kit while Amelia and Dawsey visit Remy in Touviers. Mark visits Juliet on Guernsey, but when he makes a disparaging remark about Kit, Juliet refuses him irrevocably because she cannot marry someone who does not love Guernsey and Kit. Juliet wants to adopt Kit so they can always be together, and Amelia offers to help obtain Mr. Dilwyn's approval. After Dawsey convinces Remy to come to Guernsey, Juliet wonders if Dawsey is romantically interested in Remy, and she admits to Sidney Stark that she loves Dawsey. When Remy decides to leave Guernsey, Isola Pribby becomes convinced that Dawsey loves Remy, but when she tries to find evidence, his treasure box only contains mementos of Juliet and Kit. Upset at her failed mission, Isola tells Juliet, who immediately rushes to Dawsey and asks him to marry her. He agrees, so Juliet writes to Sidney to ask him to return to Guernsey and give her away.

Elizabeth McKenna

Although Elizabeth McKenna never physically appears in this novel, she is a very important character. When she and her neighbors are caught breaking curfew by German soldiers, she fabricates an excuse to prevent them from being punished since they were actually at an illegal pig roast at Amelia Maugery's house. This excuse leads to the founding of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. Elizabeth is a very brave woman. On 19 July, 1946, Juliet tells Sidney that everyone on Guernsey seems to have a story about Elizabeth. Amelia tells Juliet about how when her son, Ian, was a child, Elizabeth convinced him to buy a boat and escape to avoid being sent to school in England. Unfortunately, the boat Elizabeth made and sold him began to sink, so she



rescued him from drowning, but Ian decided it would be easier to go to school. Elizabeth suggested John pretend to be Lord Tobias, and she helped with the charade by painting his picture and hanging it in the library. When Sally Ann Frobisher asked if removing the scabies from her head would hurt, Elizabeth truthfully answered that it would, but after cutting the scabies, Elizabeth gave Sally a scarf to cover her bald head. Elizabeth and Eben took Eli to visit his mother in the hospital and then to the school, and Elizabeth stayed behind at the school to help get the children ready for their trip. On 24 April, 1946, Isola writes that while they were at the school helping the children prepare for evacuation, Adelaide Addison caused the children to cry by insinuating their parents were going to die, causing Elizabeth to slap her hard across the face before locking her out of the school. When the children were evacuated, Elizabeth gave Eli a pin from her blouse, her father's medal from World War I, because he was nervous, telling him it was a magic badge and "nothing bad could happen to him while he wore it" (p. 229).

On 27 July, Juliet informs Sidney that she has discovered that Elizabeth had an accomplice in sheltering the Todt worker, which led to her arrest. Juliet visits Peter Sawyer, who is in a wheelchair, in the nursing home near Le Grand Havre, and he tells her that he found the Todt worker, Lud Jaruzki, a sixteen-year-old Polish boy, after he fell and could not move while trying to steal from Peter's garden. Peter felt bad for the boy and took him into his home, knowing Elizabeth would visit the next day and sure she would help. Elizabeth bathed, clothed and fed Lud, and she often came after dark to nurse the boy until he began to regain his strength. Unfortunately, someone noticed and noticed the Feldpolizei who arrested Elizabeth and Peter. Peter only spent a week in prison because they did not know what to do with a prisoner in a wheelchair, but Peter never saw Elizabeth again. On 12 June, Remy Giraud writes to any member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society to tell them that Elizabeth was executed at Ravensbruck Concentration Camp in March 1945. She befriended Remy at the camp, but Elizabeth was punished in place of their friend, Alina, for stealing a potato. Later, another friend was beaten for menstruating, and when Elizabeth beat the guard, she was shot in the head the next morning. The Society has joined together to raise Elizabeth's bastard child with her German paramour, Doctor/Captain Christian Hellman. Elizabeth gave birth to a baby girl in April 1942 with Eben and Isola present while Amelia and Dawsey delivered the baby. When the baby was one year old, Elizabeth was imprisoned, and Mrs. Maugery took the baby into her home, and the Society has since raised Kit as their own, transferring her between them for weeks at a time. When Sidney reviews Juliet's notes for her book because she cannot find an appropriate cohesion, he suggests that Juliet already has her center, Elizabeth McKenna. Everyone Juliet interviewed talked about Elizabeth at some point, so Juliet should consider whether "Elizabeth could be the heart of your book" (p. 201).

Sidney Stark

Sidney Stark is a partner of Stephens & Stark Publishers, the publishing company that produces Juliet's books. Sidney is also Juliet's close friend. He visits her on Guernsey, and when Isola asks why they are not engaged, he tells her he is a homosexual.



Dawsey seems jealous of Sidney. After Juliet proposes to Dawsey, she asks Sidney to return to Guernsey and give her away at her wedding.

Sophie Strachan

Sophie Strachan is Juliet's best friend from school. They lived together and worked in a book shop in London after graduation, but now Sophie lives in Scotland with her husband and their son.

Dawsey Adams

Dawsey Adams is a pig farmer on Guernsey and a member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. He is the first Islander to write Juliet because he wants to obtain copies of Charles Lamb's works. He secretly loves Juliet and is jealous of Mark and Sidney. Juliet falls in love with Dawsey, but she believes he loves Remy. After Isola fails in her mission to provide evidence that Dawsey loves Remy, she tells Juliet that she only found mementos of Juliet and Kit in his treasure box, causing Juliet to rush to find Dawsey and propose.

Markham V. Reynolds Jr.

Markham V. Reynolds Jr. is an American publisher who sends flowers to Juliet during her book tour without including a note. After she finally procures his address and writes to thank him, he asks her to dinner. Mark and Juliet begin to date, but when he proposes, she requests time to consider. Mark does not want Juliet to go to Guernsey; he wants her to stay in London and marry him like a reasonable person. When he visits Juliet on Guernsey, Juliet refuses his proposal irrevocably because he does not love Kit.

Amelia Maugery

Amelia Maugery is a member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. She hosted the pig roast which led to the founding of the Society. After being assured that Juliet does not intend to make the Society into an object of ridicule in her "Times" article, Amelia befriends Juliet, and she is happy when Juliet expresses her desire to adopt Kit.

Isola Pribby

Isola Pribby is a member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, who befriends Juliet through letters. She is known as a witch because she sells potions at the market. When Sidney visits Guernsey, Isola acts as his hostess. Her study of Phrenology helps her stop Billee Bee from stealing her Granny Pheen's letters from Oscar Wilde. Next, Isola decides to study to become a detective like Miss Marple and begins a notebook of her observations. She is upset when she fails in her mission to



find evidence that Dawsey loves Remy, but when she tells Juliet, Juliet proposes to Dawsey. Though Isola is upset that she was mistaken in her conjectures, she is happy that everything ended well for Juliet and Dawsey.

Doctor/Captain Christian Hellman

Doctor/Captain Christian Hellman is Elizabeth's beloved and the father of Kit. He is a German officer, but he still treats the Guernsey Islanders kindly. Unfortunately, he dies during the war.

Remy Giraud

Remy Giraud is a French woman who is imprisoned at Ravensbruck Concentration Camp with Elizabeth, and they become friends. She writes to the members of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society to inform them that Elizabeth was executed at the camp. Dawsey convinces Remy to come to Guernsey, but she is obviously not doing well because she was very traumatized by her time spent at Ravensbruck. When she gets an apprenticeship at a bakery in Paris, Remy leaves Guernsey but promises to visit again. Juliet suspects that Dawsey loves Remy, as does Isola who tries in vain to find evidence of his infatuation.

Kit

Kit is the daughter of Elizabeth McKenna and Christian Hellman who was raised by the members of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society after her mother was imprisoned when she was one year old. Kit spends a lot of time with Juliet, and they become very close. Once Elizabeth's death is revealed, Juliet worries about what will happen to Kit now that she is officially an orphan, and when Juliet decides that she wants to adopt Kit, Amelia offers to help her persuade Mr. Dilwyn. Kit is very headstrong and outspoken. She carries a box filled with mementos from her parents.

Gilly Gilbert

Gilly Gilbert is a writer for the "London Hue and Cry" who gets into an argument with Juliet when he asks her about leaving Rob Dartry at the altar. He is embarrassed by the news reports about the incident and plots revenge against Juliet and Sidney with the aid of his mistress, Billee Bee.

Billee Bee

Billee Bee is a temporary employer who is hired as Sidney's secretary, but she makes herself indispensable by offering to run errands for Sidney and Juliet constantly. She goes to Guernsey to collect Isola's letters written by Oscar Wilde, but she tries to steal

them. Billee Bee is Gilly Gilbert's mistress who seeks revenge against Juliet and Sidney because she was embarrassed by the earlier incident between Juliet and Gilly.



Objects/Places

Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society is a literary society began by Elizabeth McKenna during the German Occupation of the Channel Islands as an excuse for breaking curfew since the real reason, Amelia's pig roast, was illegal. The society includes Amelia Maugert, Dawsey Adams, Isola Pribby, Eben Ramsey, John Booker and several others. Juliet begins corresponding with Dawsey, and after befriending most of the members, she visits her new friends on Guernsey.

Izzy Bickerstaff Goes to War

"Izzy Bickerstaff Goes to War" is a collection of Juliet's war time columns for the "Spectator" which is compiled and published by Stephens & Stark. At the beginning of the book, Juliet goes on a book tour around England to promote her publication.

London

London is the main setting of Part 1. Juliet lives in a borrowed flat in London since her flat was destroyed during the war. Sidney also lives in the city.

Guernsey

Guernsey is the main setting of Part 2. It is one of the Channel Islands and was occupied by the Germans during World War II. After beginning a correspondence with residents of Guernsey in Part 1, Juliet visits her new friends in Part 2. She decides to write a book about the Occupation and intends to move to Guernsey because she wants to adopt Kit and cannot bear taking the child from the only family she knows.

Juliet's article in the

The "Times" commissions Juliet to write an article about how reading affects people, and after Dawsey tells her about the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, Juliet decides to include them in the article. This leads to her correspondence with the Islanders and her visit to Guernsey.

The Occupation

The German Occupation of Guernsey during World War II leads to the creation of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, and the Islanders share stories of the



Occupation with Juliet which she compiles for a book, written from the perspective of Elizabeth McKenna.

Ravensbruck Concentration Camp

Elizabeth was imprisoned at the Ravensbruck Concentration Camp for helping a Todt worker. She befriended Remy, another prisoner, while she was there. Elizabeth was executed for attacking a guard who beat a woman for menstruating. Remy is left very traumatized from her time at Ravensbruck Concentration Camp.

Stephens & Stark

Stephens & Stark is the publishing company that releases "Izzy Bickerstaff Goes to War". Sidney is a partner, and he worries Mark Reynolds is trying to seduce Juliet away from Stephens & Stark. Isola also gives Sidney the rights to publish her Granny Pheen's letters from Oscar Wilde.

Oscar Wilde Letters

Isola shares her Granny Pheen's letters from a stranger at one of the Society's meetings. The letters detail the next life of her cat which was killed by her father. Since Juliet recognizes the signature and suspects they were written by Oscar Wilde, Sidney sends Sir William Otis to verify the signature, and after they are authenticated, Billee Bee tries to steal them in retaliation for Gilly Gilbert's embarrassment at the hands of Juliet and Sidney; luckily, Isola and Kit prevent the letters from being stolen by locking Billee Bee in Isola's smokehouse.

Kit's Treasure Box

Juliet worries about the contents of Kit's box which she keeps tied and always carries with her. Eventually, Kit reveals the contents to Juliet. Her treasure box contains mementos of her parents, including her baby pillow, a photograph of Elizabeth, a book of Rilke's poetry inscribed to Elizabeth from Christian, a World War I medal which belonged to Elizabeth's father, and a note to Amelia from Elizabeth about Kit. After showing her treasures to Juliet, Kit falls to sleep, but Juliet cannot sleep because she is too busy planning the rest of their lives together.

Themes

War

One of the predominant themes in "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" is the theme of war as much of the novel discusses the changes in the country and in people during and since the end of World War II. During the war, the Germans occupied the Channel Islands, including Guernsey. A curfew was imposed due to the Occupation, and the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society began as a result of several of Amelia's friends breaking curfew because they were attending her illegal pig roast. Elizabeth McKenna offered the excuse that they broke curfew because they were attending a meeting of their literary society. After Dawsey Adams writes Juliet about the origins of their Society, she decides to include them in her article about the effects of literature for the "Times", and she subsequently corresponds with several Islanders to obtain first-hand information about the Occupation. During the Occupation of Guernsey, Islanders suffered from poverty, starvation and a lack of supplies. The children were evacuated to England for their protection.

John Booker pretended to be Lord Tobias, his former employer, to prevent being imprisoned because he was half Jewish. He was imprisoned when his lie was discovered. Elizabeth McKenna met Doctor/Captain Christian Hellman, a German officer, during the Occupation, and they fell in love, resulting in the birth of Kit. The war was also the reason that Kit was orphaned. Christian was killed in battle when he was sent away from Guernsey, and Elizabeth, along with Peter Sawyer, was arrested for helping a Todt worker. Elizabeth was sent to Ravensbruck Concentration Camp where she befriended Remy Giraud, but she was executed after attacking a guard who was beating a woman for menstruating. Remy suffers from post traumatic stress as a result of the time she spent at Ravensbruck. Amelia's son was killed during the war as well. Juliet's flat in London was destroyed by bombing. Throughout this book, the characters try to recover from the devastation of the war, and Juliet collects stories from Guernsey Islanders to compile for a book about the German Occupation of Guernsey.

Literature

As the title suggest, "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" includes an emphasis on the theme of literature. Dawsey begins writing Juliet because he wants to find more of Charles Lamb's works, and Juliet becomes interested in the Society after Dawsey tells her about their origins. She begins corresponding with other members of the Society because she wants to include them in her article for the "Times" about how literature affects people. Dawsey loves the works of Charles Lamb, while Isola falls in love with "Wuthering Heights" and the Bronte sisters. According to Isola, "reading good books ruins you for enjoying bad books" (p. 53). Eben Ramsey enjoys reading Shakespeare because it seems like Shakespeare is writing for men like Eben; the less he said, the more beauty he made.



Clovis Fossey praises the poetry of William Wordsworth as it helped him win the hand of the Widow Hubert. John Booker read "Letters of Seneca" repeatedly but did not read any other books. Thomas Carlyle's "Past and Present" helps Will Thisbee understand religion and the concept of the soul. Juliet is a writer and has written a biography on Anne Bronte. At the beginning of the novel, she is on a book tour to promote "Izzy Bickerstaff Goes to War", a collection of her war-time columns for the "Spectator". Throughout this novel, Juliet often compares the characters of "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" to other literary characters. At the end of the novel, she confesses she has always thought the story was over when the heroine and the hero were safely engaged, but after getting engaged to Dawsey, she realizes their story is just beginning.

Family

An important theme in this novel is the theme of family. Nearly every character has lost at least one important family member, mostly due to the war. Juliet was orphaned when she was quite young, and her great-uncle sent her to boarding school where she befriended Sophie, and through her, Sidney. Elizabeth was orphaned when she was young, and Sir Ambrose, her mother's employer, raised her. Dawsey's father died when he was twelve years old, and his mother went mad until her death shortly before the war began. Eben sent his grandson, Eli, to England when the children were evacuated to England during the war for their safety, and Eben will never forgive the Germans for making him miss Eli's childhood.

Christian is killed during the war, and Elizabeth is imprisoned for helping a Todt worker, so Kit is left to be raised by the members of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, which forms its own unique type of family during the Occupation. Remy writes to them of Elizabeth's execution, informing them that Elizabeth always talked about them as her family. Kit carries a treasure box with her continually which contains mementos of her dead parents. When Juliet decides to adopt Kit, she realizes she must move to Guernsey because she cannot separate Kit from the only family the child has ever known. Juliet's engagement to Dawsey indicates that Juliet, Dawsey and Kit can become a happy family. As they are all orphans, it is possible that they relate due to their shared experiences.

Style

Point of View

The point of view of "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" is first person. This point of view is also limited and reliable. This is necessary as this novel was written in an epistolary format, through letters between various characters. This is proven by the fact that the writers only know their own experiences, thoughts and emotions, as well as what others share with them; however, they cannot report upon the thoughts and feelings of other characters without that character telling them such information. This point of view is important to the novel since it is written in an epistolary format because it shows the development of the characters, and additionally, it emphasizes the way that characters' relationships develop and change.

This novel is written in an epistolary format, therefore making it correct to see that the novel is completely exposition as the characters write letters to report upon the events that occur; however, it is also accurate to say the novel consists entirely of dialogue as these letters are a written form of conversation. This categorization is arguable on either side due to the epistolary style in which the novel is written. The viewpoint of this novel is seen mostly through Juliet, but the viewpoint often deviates to Sidney, Mark, Dawsey, Isola, Amelia, Remy or various other, less notable characters in this book.

Setting

The setting of this novel is in the real world, shortly after the end of World War II. Specifically, the novel is set in Guernsey in the Channel Islands, London, England and a little in France. The stories that are shared throughout the novel also reference concentration camps, both in France and in Germany. The characters are mainly divided into Islanders, those from Guernsey, and those who are not from Guernsey. Additionally, there is some talk of the comparison between the Germans and the Allies, especially in the many anecdotes that are shared with Juliet. Juliet is the main character, and though she is not actually from Guernsey, she relocates to Guernsey and begins to feel like an Islander because of how welcoming her friends from the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society make her feel. Juliet begins writing these people because she is a writer and interested in their society for an article she has been commissioned to write about reading; however, as she learns more about these people, she befriends them and also sees that their stories about the German Occupation of the Channel Islands may make an interesting book.

London is the main setting of Part 1. Juliet lives in a borrowed flat in London since her flat was destroyed during the war. Sidney also lives in the city. Guernsey is the main setting of Part 2. It is one of the Channel Islands and was occupied by the Germans during World War II. After beginning a correspondence with residents of Guernsey in Part 1, Juliet visits her new friends in Part 2. She decides to write a book about the



Occupation and intends to move to Guernsey because she wants to adopt Kit and cannot bear taking the child from the only family she knows. Elizabeth was imprisoned at the Ravensbruck Concentration Camp for helping a Todt worker. She befriended Remy, another prisoner, while she was there. Elizabeth was executed for attacking a guard who beat a woman for menstruating. Remy is left very traumatized from her time at Ravensbruck Concentration Camp.

Language and Meaning

The language used in this novel tends to be generally casual and informal, and any deviation from this results from the time period and location about which the story is written. The novel is written in an epistolary format as a collection of letters and telegrams, mostly between Juliet Ashton and her friends or members of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. The sentences are constructed properly and in adherence to grammatical rules, which is important since the story is a collection of letters often between people who do not know each other well or who have a business relationship. This formality, in conjunction with the casual language used, aids comprehension for the reader.

The language tends to characterize the characters in the novel, especially as it focuses on their feelings about the war shortly after the end of World War II. This novel is written in an epistolary format, therefore making it correct to see that the novel is completely exposition as the characters write letters to report upon the events that occur; however, it is also accurate to say the novel consists entirely of dialogue as these letters are a written form of conversation. This categorization is arguable on either side due to the epistolary style in which the novel is written. Overall, the language is beneficial in promoting understanding of the characters' feelings about certain aspects of the war, and it is generally easy to understand.

Structure

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society consists of two parts, the first of which is set in London and the second being set in Guernsey. There are 274 pages in the book. The letters that comprise the book are dated and they are arranged in chronological order, though the stories within the letters discuss events that transpired several years before, during the German Occupation of Guernsey Island, which occurred during World War II. The letters are generally short, ranging from a few lines to a few pages. They are very detailed and can describe a period of several minutes or may summarize events over the course of several years.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows is an epistolary novel about Juliet Ashton's association with a fascination literary society began due to the German Occupation of the Channel Islands during World War II. After corresponding with the members of the Society for several months, Juliet visits Guernsey where she finds an idea for a book, a daughter and a husband.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society is a comical and heart-warming book that is entertaining overall. The pace of the novel is slow and it is quite easy to read. The letters contain many flashbacks as Guernsey Islanders share stories of the Occupation with Juliet. The novel is very entertaining and interesting to read.



Quotes

"I no longer want to write this book- my head and my heart just aren't in it. Dear as Izzy Bickerstaff is-and was- to me, I don't want to write anything else under that name. I don't want to be considered a light-hearted journalist anymore. I do acknowledge that making readers laugh- or at least chuckle- during the war was no mean feat, but I don't want to do it anymore. I can't seem to dredge up any sense of proportion or balance these days, and God knows one cannot write humor without them."

Juliet Ashton, 8th January, 1946, pp. 3-4

"What is the matter with me? Am I too particular? I don't want to be married just to be married. I can't think of anything lonelier than spending the rest of my life with someone I can't talk to, or worse, someone I can't be silent with."

Juliet Ashton, 12th January, 1946, p. 8

"I wonder how the book got to Guernsey? Perhaps there is some secret sort of homing instinct in books that brings them to their perfect readers. How delightful if that were true."

Juliet Ashton, 15th January, 1946, p. 10

"I love seeing the bookshops and meeting the booksellers- booksellers really are a special breed. No one in their right mind would take up clerking in a bookstore for the salary, and no one in his right mind would want to own one- the margin of profit is too small. So, it has to be a love of readers and reading that makes them do it- along with first dibs on the new books."

Juliet Ashton, 23rd January, 1946, p. 15

"Did I tell you I am a writer? I wrote a weekly column for the 'Spectator' during the war, and Stephens & Stark publishers collected them together into a single volume and published them under the title 'Izzy Bickerstaff Goes to War'. Izzy was the nom-de-plume the 'Spectator' chose for me, and now, thank heavens, the poor thing has been laid to rest, and I can write under my own name again. I would like to write a book, but I am having trouble thinking of a subject I could live happily with for several years."

Juliet Ashton, 3rd February, 1946, p. 31

"The old adage- humor is the best way to make the unbearable bearable- may be true."

Juliet Ashton, 3rd February, 1946, p. 33

"God knows, my intentions are pure, or at least, non-mercenary. The simple truth of it is that you're the only female writer who makes me laugh. Izzy Bickerstaff columns were the wittiest work to come out of the war, and I want to meet the woman who wrote them."

Markham Reynolds, February 5th, 1946, p. 34

"While I question [Juliet's] taste, her judgment, her misplaced priorities, and her inappropriate sense of humor, she does indeed have one fine quality- she is honest. If



she says she will honor the good name of your literary society, she will do so. I can say no more."

Bella Taunton, 12th February, 1946, p. 44

"Reading good books ruins you for enjoying bad books."

Isola Pribby, 19th February, 1946, p. 53

"I do think you would like Mark if you knew him better, and you may have to. But my heart and my writing hand belong to Stephens & Stark."

Juliet Ashton, 26th February, 1946, p. 58

"Furthermore, the so-called Literary Society is a scandal. There are those of true culture and breeding here in Guernsey, and they will take no part in this charade (even if invited). There are only two respectable people in the Society- Eben Ramsey and Amelia Maugery. The other members: a rag-and-bone man, a lapsed Alienist who drinks, a stuttering swine-herd, a footman posing as a Lord, and Isola Pribby, a practicing witch, who, by her own admission to me, distills and sells potions. They collected a few others of their ilk along the way, and one can only imagine their 'literary evenings.' You must not write about these people and their books- God knows what they saw fit to read!"

Adelaide Addison, 1st March, 1946, p. 67

"At the war's end, I, too, promised myself that I had done with talking about it. I had talked and lived war for six years, and I was longing to pay attention to something- anything- else. But that is like wishing I were someone else. The war is now the story of our lives, and there's no subtracting it."

Juliet Ashton, 3rd March, 1946, pp. 69-70

"Though I had little hope of success, I knew it was my duty to warn [Elizabeth] of the fate that awaited her. I told her she would be cast out of decent society, but she did not heed me. In fact, she laughed. I bore it. Then she told me to get out of her house."

Adelaide Addison, 12th March, 1946, p. 82

"The truth is, I am living more in Guernsey than I am in London at the moment."

Juliet Ashton, 31st March, 1946, p. 93

"I don't think some Islanders ever credited the boredom of those years as a reason to befriend the enemy. Boredom is a powerful reason, and the prospect of fun is a powerful draw- especially when you are young."

Dawsey Adams, 2nd April, 1946, p. 95

"You do not know Miss Addison, and you are fortunate in that- she is a woman too good for daily wear."

Eben Ramsey, 22nd April, 1946, p. 125

"If I were ever to fall off a horse, it would be lovely to be picked up by Mark, but I don't think I'm likely to fall off a horse any time soon. I'm much more likely to go to Guernsey and write a book about the Occupation, and Mark can't abide the thought. He wants me



to stay in London and go to restaurants and theaters and marry him like a reasonable person."

Juliet Ashton, 1st May, 1946, p.134

"We belong together. I know you loathe it when I tell you I know what's best for you, but in this case, I do."

Markham Reynolds, May 20, 1946, p. 153

"As the mail boat lurched into the harbor, I saw St. Peter Port rising up from the sea on terraces, with a church on the top like a cake decoration, and I realized that my heart was galloping. As much as I tried to persuade myself it was the thrill of the scenery, I knew better. All those people I've come to know and even love a little, waiting to see—me. And I, without any paper to hide behind. Sidney, in these past two or three years, I have become better at writing than living- and think what you do to my writing. On the page, I'm perfectly charming, but that's just a trick I learned. It has nothing to do with me."

Juliet Ashton, 22nd May, 1946, p. 159

"Writers ought to live far inland or next to the city dump, if they are ever going to get any work done. Or perhaps they need to be stronger-minded than I am."

Juliet Ashton, 27th May, 1946, p. 165

"I hope you will come to feel Elizabeth by your side as I do. Her strength did not fail her, nor her mind, not ever- she just saw one cruelty too many."

Remy Girard, 12th June, 1946, p. 182

"It's odd, I suppose, to mourn for someone you've never met. But I do. I have felt Elizabeth's presence all along; she lingers in every room I enter, not just in the cottage, but in Amelia's library, which she stocked with books, and Isola's kitchen, where she stirred up potions. Everyone always speaks of her—even now—in the present tense, and I had convinced myself that she would return. I wanted so much to know her."

Juliet Ashton, 16th June, 1946, p. 184

"I think you should write your book around Elizabeth. I think Kit would greatly value a story about her mother- it would give her something to hang on to, later. So, either quit altogether—or get to know Elizabeth well. Think long and hard and tell me if Elizabeth could be the heart of your book."

Sidney Stark, 12th July, 1946, p. 201

"I was interested to learn that Dawsey had opinions on marriage. I wish I knew more about them."

Juliet Ashton, 17th July, 1946, p. 206

"For the first time in ages- since February, when I met [Mark]- I was completely sure that I had done the right thing. How could I ever have considered marrying him? One year as his wife, and I'd have become one of those abject, quaking women who look at their husbands when someone asks them a question. I've always despised that type, but I



see how it happens now."

Juliet Ashton, 24th July, 1946, p. 214

"Remy watched the sea breathe in and out. Then she said, 'It would have been better for [Elizabeth] not to have such a heart.' Yes, but worse for the rest of us."

Juliet Ashton, 1st August, 1946, p. 222

"Each day I learn something new about Elizabeth. How I wish I had known her myself! As I write, I catch myself thinking of her as a friend, remembering things she did as though I'd been there- she's so full of life that I have to remind myself she's dead, and then I feel the wrench of losing her again."

Juliet Ashton, 7th August, 1946, pp. 228-229

"If Will Thisbeee finds the Holy Grail in his junkyard, don't tell me. My heart can't stand much more."

Sidney Stark, 13th August, 1946, p. 237

"I am so ashamed of myself. Had I actually thought Remy well enough to return home- or did I just want her to go? Did I think it was past time for her to go back to France- to just get on with IT, whatever IT might be? I did—and it's sickening."

Juliet Ashton, 2nd September, 1946, p. 255

"I believe I am becoming pathetic. I'll go further. I believe that I am in love with a flower-growing, wood-carving quarry-man/carpenter/pig farmer. In fact, I know I am. Maybe tomorrow I will become entirely miserable at the thought that he doesn't love me back- may, even, care for Remy- but right this very moment, I am succumbing to euphoria. My head and stomach feel quite odd."

Juliet Ashton, 8th September, 1946, pp. 261-262

"Kit loves to be in Juliet's company- she looks peaceful when Juliet comes in the room and she doesn't make faces behind people's backs anymore."

Isola Pribby, SUNDAY, p. 263

"I've been betrothed only one full day, but it seems like my whole life has come into being in the last twenty-four hours. Think of it! We could have gone on longing for one another and pretending not to notice forever. This obsession with dignity can ruin your life if you let it."

Juliet Ashton, 17th September, 1946, p. 274

"All my life I thought that the story was over when the hero and heroine were safely engaged- after all, what's good enough for Jane Austen ought to be good enough for anyone. But it's a lie. The story is about to begin, and every day will be a new piece of the plot."

Juliet Ashton, 17th September, 1946, p. 274

Topics for Discussion

How does the epistolary format of this novel affect the story's plot?

How does World War 2 affect the events in The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society?

Compare and contrast Elizabeth McKenna and Juliet Ashton.

What misunderstandings inhibit the romance between Juliet and Dawsey?

Who is Kit, and why is her role in this book so important?

How does Isola Pribby aid in Juliet and Dawsey's marriage?

Though Elizabeth McKenna never physically appears in this novel, she is a very important character. Why is she so important?

Who is your favorite character in The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, and why?