The Jewel in the Crown Study Guide

The Jewel in the Crown by Paul Scott

BOOKRAGS

Contents

Plot Summary

"The Jewel in the Crown" is a novel that takes place primarily in British-controlled India in the 1940s. The central story is that of a young British woman named Daphne Manners who is living in Mayapore, a fictional Indian town. Daphne falls in love with an Indian man named Hari Kumar, who was raised in England but has returned to India after the death of his father. Their relationship is controversial in the small town, where the Europeans, Indians, and those of mixed race are all segregated into separate parts of town.

Daphne and Hari meet one night in a secluded park called the Bibighar Gardens where they make love for the first time. After, they are attacked by a group of Indian men. Hari is tied up and Daphne is raped.

Fearing Hari will be blamed for the rape, Daphne makes him promise to say nothing about being with her in the gardens. He is later arrested along with some other young men by Ronald Merrick, a British police superintendent who has designs on Daphne himself. Hari says nothing in his own defense except that he was not at the gardens that night. Daphne refuses to cooperate in identifying the other young men in fear of implicating Hari.

With no strong evidence, the rape charges are dropped against Hari and the others, but they are found guilty of political crimes against the British occupation and sent to prison. Daphne and Hari never see each other again. She becomes pregnant after the night in the garden and later dies in childbirth.

It is a time of political unrest in India. The British have promised to leave India to govern itself for many years, but when World War II breaks out, Britain fears that the Japanese will invade India if they leave. Indian leaders like Mahatma Gandhi call for the British to leave, and the British administrative and military establishment actively try to suppress any unrest in the towns.

It is against the backdrop of a short period of public protest and unrest that most of the events of "The Jewel in the Crown" take place. The tensions between the native Indian population of the town and the British civil and military authorities are high. Political, racial and religious differences create a dangerous and uncertain environment when the long-standing traditions of British rule begin to unravel.

The novel is written in several episodes and Scott frequently changes the point of view, letting the same story be told through the eyes of different characters. Events are not presented in strict chronological order, and the actual facts of what happens on the night of Daphne's rape are not revealed until the final pages.

Miss Crane

Miss Crane Summary

Miss Edwina Crane is the head of the Christian schools in the district that includes Mayapore. Until recently, she regularly entertained a group of Indian women at her home once a week for tea, but that practice has stopped since Britain has entered into World War II. Now, she entertains a group of British soldiers once a week instead. The other British residents of the town believe this is a sign of solidarity with Britain's war effort, but the truth is that the Indian ladies have stopped coming to tea as tensions have begun to strain relationships between the British and Indians.

A similar gesture of Miss Crane's that has been misunderstood is her taking down from her wall a picture of Mahatma Gandhi, one of the Indian leaders who is calling for Britain to leave India. It is not so much because of his rejection of Britain that she has taken down his picture, but because she feels Gandhi is acting irresponsibly toward his Indian followers by essentially inviting the Japanese to invade.

Another picture on Miss Crane's wall is an allegorical portrait of Queen Victoria looking beneficently upon several Indians who are offering her presents. The picture is entitled "The Jewel in the Crown," referring to India's place within the British Empire. Miss Crane uses the picture to teach English as a young teacher by naming the objects and colors in the image.

Miss Crane came to India as a caretaker for the children of wealthy British families who are either visiting or stationed there. Never particularly religious, she nevertheless finds herself drawn to become a teacher in the Protestant schools that teach Indian children. Although she has no experience and despite her lack of religious conviction, she makes a career of it. She eventually rises to the position of superintendent of the Protestant schools in the district.

Miss Crane is somewhat famous for an incident that takes place when she is a young teacher. A group of men is running riot through the surrounding area, looting buildings. When they come to the school where she is teaching, Miss Crane stands in the doorway and firmly tells them to move along. Bewildered, the mob leaves her alone. She fears any similar unrest for the country, not for herself, but for the sake of Indian society.

Miss Crane has three schools for which she is responsible. One of them is the isolated Dibrapur school on the road between Mayapore and Dibrapur where a man named Mr. Chaudhuri is the teacher. Miss Crane and Mr. Chaudhuri are professional with one another but have never really hit it off. She is slightly put out by his cold manner. Mr. Chaudhuri is a highly educated Indian man who is over-qualified to be teaching in a rural Indian school. This raises a slight suspicion in Miss Crane's mind.

As tensions rise in Mayapore, Miss Crane is making plans to drive in her old car to the Dibrapur school to meet with Mr. Chaudhuri. The Indian Congress is considering a resolution that will call for Britain to leave India and she is warned by her servant, an Indian man named Joseph, not to go out because of the rumors of trouble once the vote of the Congress is known. She dismisses these rumors and sets out for the school alone.

Miss Crane arrives at the school safely, but the following day learns that crowds in Dibrapur are gathering in protest and threatening to overtake some of the public buildings. After the Congress vote against British rule, Gandhi is arrested, as well as others all over the country who are thought to support him. Miss Crane and Mr. Chaudhuri make plans to take the school children in her car home to the village of Kotari where they are from.

They reach Kotari and return the children. Miss Crane is determined to drive from there back to Mayapore, a distance of some seventy miles through the countryside. Mr. Chaudhuri and the local police try to discourage her, saying that there may be roaming looters on the roads, men from the villages seeing the unrest as an excuse to go into the towns on looting sprees. Miss Crane is adamant that she will continue on, and Mr. Chaudhuri reluctantly decides to go with her to make sure she stays safe.

At an isolated place in the road, they come upon a group of men trying to block the road. Mr. Chaudhuri insists that Miss Crane race the car through the crowd and not slow down, but she cannot do it. She stops and the men surround the car. Mr. Chaudhuri speaks harshly to the men insisting that they let them go. They take him from the car and he yells for Miss Crane to leave quickly. She does drive on for a short distance, but looks back and sees that Mr. Chaudhuri has been beaten and left by the road. She gets out of her car and goes to him, finding him dead. It has started to rain. She takes Mr. Chaudhuri's hand and sits down by the side of the road.

She is later found here, suffering from exposure and shock, and taken back to Mayapore. She recovers and gains some admiration for her actions on the road. Later, when some men are arrested who are possibly tied to Mr. Chaudhuri's murder, she is either unable or unwilling to identify them. After returning home, she resumes her weekly visits with the British soldiers. She quietly takes down "The Jewel in the Crown" and packs it away.

Miss Crane Analysis

Edwina Crane is not a central character in "The Jewel in the Crown," but the opening section that describes her life provides the story with background and introduces some intriguing questions in the reader's mind that will be answered over the course of the rest of the book. Edwina Crane also stands as a parallel character to Daphne Manners, who is mentioned incidentally in this first section, but is not fully introduced until a later section.

The author sums up the plot of the entire novel in the first few paragraphs. "This is the story of a rape, of the events that led up to it and followed it and of the place in which it happened," Scott writes (pg. 1.) At this point, it is uncertain who is raped or exactly where it happened except that it is somewhere in India in August of 1942. The Bibighar Gardens, the specific scene of the rape, are mentioned on the first page, but the significance of the location is left murky.

Scott will build upon this basic framework to provide the reader with more and more detail. He repeatedly uses the technique of mentioning characters and events that have not yet been explained in the narrative to pose questions in the reader's mind that will be answered later. It is the story of a rape, but whose rape? Why is it called the "Bibighar Gardens case?"

Scott also introduces the suggestion that the events he is about to depict in the novel parallel the actual historical events in India in the 1940s as it gained its independence from Great Britain. The relationship between the two peoples has been complicated, yet they have been drawn to one another, he suggests, although they are perhaps not certain exactly why.

Edwina Crane is a symbol of the kind of British person who takes a paternal view of Britian's role in India. She feels genuinely affectionate for the people of India and the country, and is disturbed when Mahatma Gandhi, whom she once admires as much as the Indians do, begins to call for the British to leave India. Later, she sees the larger picture after rioting and violence breaks out as a result of British suppression of Indian opposition and seems to understand the full impact her home country has had on the people she loves. She herself has helped the Indians in her way, but the larger system is harmful.

Miss Crane becomes disillusioned with the symbols she once looked to, both Gandhi and the romantic image of a benevolent Queen showering her grace on a grateful Indian people. Scott ends the section with an almost ritualistic emblem of the completeness of her disillusionment. As she did with the portrait of Gandhi before, she takes town her picture of the Queen that depicts her as the empress of India.

The character of Miss Crane is unusual in the novel in that she is the only character who is presented in a traditional narrative form where the author assumes an omniscient viewpoint and describes her thoughts and experiences. The remainder of the novel is presented in a documentary style where characters are interviewed or provide written accounts of their experiences.

MacGregor House

MacGregor House Summary

The MacGregor House is a grand house in Mayapore. It was built by a Scotsman who had grown wealthy in India, but had been killed, along with his wife and child, in a violent uprising many years before. It is said that the ghost of his wife still haunts the house. Near the house are the Bibighar Gardens, which had once been the gardens of a large house also owned by MacGregor. MacGregor burned down the other house, calling it an "abomination," leaving only the walled garden as a kind of park.

The MacGregor House is now the home of Lady Chatterjee, an older Indian woman, and a young girl named Parvati who she calls her great-niece. Lady Chatterjee is the widow of an Indian man who was knighted by the British, Sir Nello. She is of a light complexion and belongs to the Rajput class, a high-ranking ruling class within India. She is being visited by a stranger, an Englishman, several years after the events experienced by Miss Crane. Lady Chatterjee is giving her recollections of Miss Crane to the stranger.

She recalls not thinking very highly of Miss Crane at first, Lady Chatterjee tells the stranger. She was awkward in social settings, usually very quiet. Later, she grows to respect Miss Crane as a woman of great courage. She relates a story about going to see Miss Crane in the British hospital as she is recovering from her episode. Miss Crane is in the civil section of the hospital, in a public ward. Although non-Europeans are allowed to visit in the military section of the hospital, there is an unwritten rule that they are not allowed to visit in the public areas. Lady Chatterjee defies this unwritten rule and goes to visit Miss Crane, to the astonishment of the head nurse and the other patients in Miss Crane's ward. Hers is an especially alarming situation, she says, because of her title as the wife of a British knight.

Her title as Lady Chatterjee is a source of jealousy as well as derision among the British in India, she says, and she is frequently accused of being a snob who wants to associate with upper-class British. This is the accusation made when Daphne Manners comes to live with her, she tells the stranger. Daphne Manners is the niece of her good friend Lady Manners, and the niece of Henry Manners, a former governor of India.

Daphne is snubbed by the other British for staying at the MacGregor House, especially at the private club where the British congregate. That is where she catches the eye of Ronald Merrick, Lady Chatterjee explains, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, who begins to take her out.

Returning to the subject of Miss Crane, Lady Chatterjee recalls the last time she went to visit her, after she had returned home from the hospital. She hears that Miss Crane has resigned her position with the schools and stops in to see if she needs any help. Noticing the dark spots on the walls where the two pictures had been hanging, she

assumes Miss Crane has begun to pack her things, but Miss Crane replies that she will not need to pack. Lady Chatterjee does not understand what she means at the time.

Lady Chatterjee gives the stranger two letters that were written by Daphne Manners to her Aunt Ethel, Lady Manners. One is written shortly after she arrives in Mayapore and gives her initial impressions of the place. The second is written some time later, after Daphne has made herself more at home. She starts volunteering at the British hospital and making friends. She tells her aunt in confidence that Ronald Merrick invited her over to his house for dinner, and after, he proposed to her. She mentions Hari Kumar and promises to tell her aunt more about him in the future. She writes that the next day she has a date to visit the local Hindu temple with Hari.

Lady Chatterjee continues to recount her memories about Daphne. She tells the stranger the story of the night of the rape. She had not seen Daphne all afternoon or evening. Ronald Merrick comes to the MacGregor House looking for Daphne. There is some protest over the arrest of several prominent Indians over the Congress vote, and he is concerned for her safety. He checks the club and she is not there. He asks Lady Chatterjee if she might be out with Hari Kumar. He tells her that he has asked Daphne to marry him.

Lady Chatterjee thinks that Daphne probably is with Hari and that they are probably at one of their regular meeting places, a place called the Sanctuary, a kind of hospital for the destitute run by a woman who called Sister Ludmilla. She does not want to cause any trouble, so she changes the subject with Merrick. Later that night, after Merrick is gone, Daphne climbs up the front steps of the MacGregor House, her clothes torn, distraught. She has run all the way from the Bibghar Gardens.

The section closes with a description of the suicide of Miss Crane. It is several weeks after the rape. She locks herself in a small shed behind her bungalow, pours kerosene everywhere, and lights it. She is dressed in a white saree, a traditional Indian dress she has never worn before. The act is similar to the Indian tradition of "suttee," the honorable suicide by fire of a woman whose husband has died.

MacGregor House Analysis

The second section of the novel introduces Daphne Manners and Hari Kumar, the two main characters, but only from the distance of several years after the main events of the novel. Lady Chatterjee and the unnamed English visitor are also introduced as Scott provides more detail about the setting and events in the Bibighar Gardens. Parvati, whose full identity will be learned later, first appears in this section.

The reader deduces from Scott's narrative that someone has arrived in Mayapore and is interested in learning more about Daphne Manners and the history of what happened there in 1942. The time frame has now shifted to nine years after the events, and the section is largely written as Lady Chatterjee relating her own recollections to her visitor. This visitor serves as a stand-in for the author himself and provides a focal point around

which the characters can center their own recollections. The visitor is never specifically shown to speak, but his questions to the characters can be inferred as they incorporate them into their answers. The technique also creates in the reader's mind the impression that the characters are addressing the reader directly.

Scott first uses another of his common techniques in this section, which are written journals or memoirs. Here, the visitor is given two letters written by Daphne Manners to her Aunt Ethel, Lady Manners. Written in the present tense, one of the letters is from shortly after Daphne's arrival in Mayapore to live with Lady Chatterjee and the other is just a couple weeks before the incidents at the Bibighar Gardens. The letters fill out the novel's framework a little more, but here again leave out crucial central information that will be provided later. Daphne's letters, and later sections from her journal, provide the only first-person account of the Bibighar Gardens incident and are the only source that comes from near the time it happened. The other information gathered by the visitor is all from well afterward. In the interceding time, much has happened in India that has perhaps colored the viewpoint and memories of the characters.

It is implied in this section that Daphne has died. The section ends with the description of Miss Crane's suicide in which she imitates the Indian tradition of a wife committing suicide after the death of her husband by throwing herself on his funeral pyre. This practice has been outlawed under British rule, making Miss Crane's gesture a kind of double defiance of British colonial rule while also symbolizing the love she has for the people and country of India.

Sister Ludmilla

Sister Ludmilla Summary

Sister Ludmilla is a woman of obscure origins. Her accent is slightly Germanic. She dresses like a nun, but is not a member of any order, and does not claim to be a nun. She is the keeper of a collection of small buildings in Mayapore where she feeds and cares for Indians who are sick and homeless.

Every Wednesday, Sister Ludmilla and a boy she has hired for protection walk to the Mayapore branch of the Imperial Bank of India and cash a check for 200 rupees. As she walks home, she gives some of the money to beggars and uses the rest to buy food and medicine for the unfortunate people staying at her Sanctuary, which is what she calls her facility. Nobody is sure where her money comes from.

Many years later, the Sanctuary is now a home for orphans and is no longer called the Sanctuary. Sister Ludmilla is now an old woman. She is allowed to live at the home as long as she likes. The stranger has come to visit her and ask her about the events in the Bibighar Gardens.

Sister Ludmilla's memory is shaky at first. She reminisces about her childhood moving around Europe with her mother, whose fortunes rose and fell but who always gave money to the nuns when she had it. Eventually Sister Ludmilla begins to tell the stranger about the time she first met Hari Kumar.

As Sister Ludmilla explains, Kumar is passed out drunk, lying on the ground near the river. Sister Ludmilla and her assistant, Mr. de Souza, are out on their regular evening rounds looking for people who are in the streets in need of care. At first they think Kumar is dead, but after determining he is only drunk, they have him carried back to the Sanctuary. His wallet is gone, so they do not know his name or who he is.

Sometimes the police came to the Sanctuary looking for people, Sister Ludmilla tells the stranger. On the morning after they found Kumar, Ronald Merrick shows up with his assistant, an Indian named Rajendra Singh. Merrick insists that nobody be allowed to leave and tells Sister Ludmilla he intends to look through the buildings. Outside, at a pump, Kumar is washing and preparing to leave. Merrick asks who he is, but Sister Ludmilla answers he was brought in drunk without any identification and that they do not know who he is. Merrick signals to Rajendra Singh to keep an eye on Kumar as he looks through the rest of the rooms.

Merrick is led through the buildings by Sister Ludmilla, but does not seem to find who he is looking for. He thanks her and returns to the pump, where Kumar is finishing putting on his shirt. Sister Ludmilla and de Souza follow behind. De Souza tells Sister Ludmilla that he has learned the man's name is Kumar.

Merrick asks Kumar his name in Urdu. Kumar replies in perfect unaccented English that he does not understand. At this Rajendra Singh begins yelling at him in Hindi that he had better cooperate because the person asking him is the District Superintendent of Police. Kumar replies again to Merrick that he does not understand. Merrick asks Sister Ludmilla if there is a room where they can question Kumar. Kumar is indignant and Sister Ludmilla steps in to try to smooth things over, explaining to him that the police are looking for someone and only want to ask him a few questions. Rajendra Singh approaches Kumar to take him by the arm. When Kumar pulls away, Singh strikes him in the face.

Merrick tells Sister Ludmilla there will be no need to question him now, because he will be taking him to the police station. Kumar asks what the charge is, and Merrick says there is no charge. Kumar replies that he wishes to make a charge of assault against Singh, and Merrick says they will take his statement at the office. Kumar says he will go under protest.

Sister Ludmilla continues relating her memories about the Bibighar incident. She will later become better acquainted with Kumar, as he often comes to the Sanctuary to meet Daphne Manners, who volunteers her help at the Sanctuary. In fact, she tells the stranger, Daphne Manners is planning to meet him there on the night of the Bibighar incident but he does not arrive. Later that same night, Merrick comes as well, looking for Kumar and asking if he had been there.

Sister Ludmilla tells the stranger the various stories that surround the burning down of the house in the Bibighar Gardens many years prior. The traditional story that MacGregor burned it down because it was "an abomination" is unlikely. The more likely story has two versions, she explains. One is that MacGregor fell in love with an Indian woman and discovered that she had an Indian lover whom she met in the Bibighar house, and that he burned it down in a fit of rage. The second version is that he moved his Indian lover into the house when he intended to take an English wife and she left him for her Indian lover, leading him to burn it down in an act of vengeance.

Finally, Sister Ludmilla gives the stranger her impressions of Daphne Manners. She is brave and defies the authorities after her rape, Sister Ludmilla says. She refuses to cooperate once it becomes clear that Merrick and the police have arrested Kumar and some other boys she knows to be innocent. She even goes so far as to say that as far as she could tell, her attackers might have been British soldiers with their faces blackened. This is a bold thing to say at the time, as tensions are on edge, Sister Ludmilla recalls, and she admires Daphne's courage for saying it.

Sister Ludmilla Analysis

Sister Ludmilla is an outsider in Mayapore, and something of a mystery to both the Indians and the British there. She speaks English, but with an accent nobody can place. She dresses as a nun, but does not claim to be one and seems to adhere to no particular denomination. She has a source of money, but that source is unclear. Her

establishment, the Sanctuary, is an oddity, as well. It is not exactly a hospital and she does not take in the merely homeless. She mostly brings in the dying she finds lying unattended to provide them with comfort as they die.

As in the previous section, this one provides the personal recollections of a secondary character as they are related to an English visitor several years after the events. Sister Ludmilla is still living in the same place, although what was once called the Sanctuary is now an orphanage. That the orphanage is the one founded with money from the estate of Daphne Manners is not mentioned at this point.

While the character of Sister Ludmilla is old and perhaps unreliable in her memories, she is perhaps meant to represent the most clear-eyed view of the events under discussion. She is European, but not connected to the civil or military authorities. She is not Indian, but she lives closely with the Indians and in a state of voluntary simplicity. She is apparently a Christian, but not a missionary in the usual sense.

The character of Ronald Merrick is fleshed out in this section, as is Hari Kumar. Merrick is an important character who is never allowed to speak for himself in the novel. He appears only in the recollections and descriptions of others. As a result, his own motivations and thoughts are expressed only indirectly. He is quoted by others recalling their conversations, as Sister Ludmilla quotes him in this section, but Scott maintains an air of uncertainty about him. This uncertainty is a crucial part of the overall effect of the novel.

The conflict between Kumar and Merrick is an essential driving force in the action of the novel, and the background for it is provided in this section in the scene at the water pump when Merrick first encounters Kumar.

An Evening at the Club

An Evening at the Club Summary

The visitor to Mayapore is being entertained at the Gymkhana Club. He arrives by car with Lady Chatterjee and they wait in the lounge for their host, a lawyer named Mr. Srinivasan. They are met in the lounge by a British man named Terry Grigson, who happily greets Lady Chatterjee and seats her at a table with his wife and another British woman who are very put out to be sitting with an Indian woman. They snub Mrs. Chatterjee and later Mr. Srinivasan when he arrives.

Mr. Srinivasan and Lady Chatterjee tell the visitor about the previous years when the Gymkhana Club is almost exclusively British. The only Indians allowed in, other than the servants, are those commissioned as officers in the British army, and even they rarely ever attend. Mr. Srinivasan himself is one of three non-military Indians who challenges this rule, although not by his own choice. He relates the story of attending at the invitation of Robin White, the Deputy Commissioner of the district at the time of the Bibighar incident. After a long conference with Mr. Srinivasan and several other Indian professionals, White invites them to have a drink at the club. At first they think he is joking, but soon realizes he means what he says. He takes them there and signs them in as guests, to the dismay of the club secretary. They are allowed in, but soon after, the rules are changed.

This one time emblem of British authority and segregation is now open, but since the end of British rule, the clientele has changed. There are no more British civil authorities such as Robin White any longer, or British military men. The Indians who belong are more likely to be young businessmen rather than older professionals like Srinivasan. The British in the area are mostly employed as consultants or advisers to Indian companies, sometimes only serving in that capacity as figureheads to attract investment, Mr. Srinivasan explains to the stranger.

Mr. Srinivasan tells the visitor something about Hari Kumar. He first meets him when he is told Kumar has been called in for questioning. Word reaches him through Sister Ludmilla, and he contacts Ronald Merrick to ask about the details but finds Kumar has already been released.

Srinivasan is friends with Shalini Gupta Sen, the widowed aunt of Hari Kumar, with whom Kumar comes to live in India. She is a well educated woman, he explains, and lives in relative comfort in the area of Mayapore called the Chillianwallah Bagh. He imagines it is quite a difference for Kumar from his comfortable life in England.

After the three have dinner, Mr. Srinivasan and Lady Chatterjee take the visitor on a tour of Mayapore. They drive past the temple, and Mr. Srinivasan stops the car to ask the visitor if he would like to see it. They make a short visit to the the temple, which is the same one visited by Daphne Manners and Hari Kumar years before, and then drive

back toward the MacGregor House. Along the way, they pass a low wall, which the stranger recognizes as the wall to the Bibighar Gardens.

An Evening at the Club Analysis

This section also takes place entirely in the "present" tense of about 10 years after the initial events. As Mr. Srinivasan and Lady Chatterjee entertain their English visitor, a contrast is made between Mayapore before and after Indian independence. The Gymkhana Club, once a symbol of the separate and superior relationship the British assume towards the Indians is now, officially at least, no longer segregated. It is still a symbol of status, but the definition of what constitutes status has changed, as Mr. Srinivasan describes it. The British military is gone, as is the civil authority which cultivated many talented young Indian men in the past. Promising young Indians now go into business and the British who remain in India are there for their personal opportunity, not in the service of their government.

The racism and prejudice that was symbolized by the separate, Europeans-only club has not disappeared, however, as the opening scene of this section depicts. The British woman at the club impolitely ignores Lady Chatterjee because she is Indian and is horrified at the prospect of having to socialize with her. If anything, Scott seems to suggest, the prejudice is even more overt ten years later than it was earlier, as the British in India now are not the same type who were there under colonial rule. They no longer try to maintain the polite outer demeanor while expecting the Indians to follow the unspoken but well-defined rules of segregation.

Scott also provides more of the physical details of Mayapore as the visitor is taken on a tour of the town. He is shown the Chillianwallah Bagh, the area of town where Hari Kumar and his aunt once lived. Here Scott may be making a point of contrast by choosing a name for this neighborhood that is strikingly similar to "Chillingborough," the school Hari attends before moving to India.

Young Kumar

Young Kumar Summary

The story of Hari Kumar begins with the story of his father, Duleep. Duleep Kumar grows wealthy in England, where he changes the spelling of his last name to Coomer and goes by the first name David. He brings Hari, whose name he chose because of its similarity to "Harry," to England when he is two and sends him to a prestigious school called Chillingborough where he receives the most English of educations and upbringings.

Duleep first comes to England as a young man to study law. The Kumar family are wealthy land owners in India, and Duleep, the youngest boy, stands to receive a comfortable inheritance if he follows his family's wishes and stays in India and gets married. He insists that he wants to go to England to study, even giving up his part of the future inheritance to finance it. His father agrees reluctantly, but insists that he first get married to the girl who has been arranged to be his bride. Duleep compromises and agrees to marry her, and to leave for England immediately afterward, leaving his wife in India to wait for his return. Duleep has a younger sister, Shalini, whom he teaches to read and write. She adores him and is sad when he gets married.

Duleep does go to England after his marriage, but he fails at his studies and returns home. After several miscarriages, his wife eventually gives birth to Hari, but dies soon afterward herself. Duleep decides to return to England, taking Hari with him.

Hari grows up in comfortable circumstances although he seldom sees his father. This is by his father's design, for he wants Hari to be thoroughly English. Hari spends a good deal of time with his best friend from school, Colin Lindsey, and his family.

Duleep commits suicide when Hari is eighteen, and Hari discovers that he is practically broke at the time. It also comes out that many of Duleep's business dealings are illegal and that he was probably forging checks. Hari is left with nothing. He goes to live with his only relative, his Aunt Shalini, in Mayapore.

As an educated young man, Hari believes he has opportunities in Mayapore. He interviews for a job at an electric company, and is led to believe he has a good chance at the job until the manager of the company, a British man, refuses to hire him because he is an Indian.

His English manners and accent contrast with his dark skin, and he finds it difficult to get along. He tries to go shopping in the nicer part of the town where the British shop, but is practically ignored by the Indian shopkeepers. He finally finds work for a local newspaper, the Mayapore Gazette, as a writer and reporter. He continues to live with his aunt, turning over his wages to her.

For a time, Hari corresponds with Colin, who joins the army as it looks more and more like Britain will join the war in Europe. Colin is enthusiastic about serving in the army, and has a romantic and heroic view of going off to war to fight for his homeland. Hari has no such feelings and no desire to go and fight. He begins to realize that he and Colin have very different outlooks and are taking very different paths.

Colin becomes an officer and is eventually stationed in India. Hari expects that at some point he may even be close enough to Mayapore that they might visit. When British troops are stationed in Mayapore in 1942, Hari even imagines he sees Colin one day, but later convinces himself it is not him. There is no doubt about the second encounter, however. Hari is covering a large function for his newspaper when he comes practically eye-to-eye with Colin, who looks briefly at him, then looks away as if not recognizing him. Hari realizes that he has become "invisible" to the British in India, who simply put him with all the other Indians who surround them. Colin has been ingrained with this attitude as well, now, and does not even recognize his oldest friend.

The incident rattles Hari. Not usually much of a drinker, he meets up with a former colleague at the newspaper, a man named Vidyasagar, and gets very drunk on homemade liquor. His friend sees him safely home, but Hari goes back out walking around, eventually passing out near the river, where he is found by Sister Ludmilla.

Young Kumar Analysis

Hari Kumar is more fully described in this section and allowed to speak for himself through letters he composes to his good friend Colin Lindsey. The first portion of the section is an extensive account of Hari's father's life; however, the "Young Kumar" referred to in the title of the section might refer to either Hari or Duleep, his father.

Duleep Kumar defies the traditions of his culture in an attempt to find his own path in life. He fails at first, but is eventually successful, although as Hari finds out later he has to resort to dishonest means in the end to ensure his success. Scott may be making a point about the unfairness an Indian man might face while trying to make a name for himself in Britain, but Duleep's eventual downfall leaves him penniless; however, it also provides the narrative reasons for Hari to return to India when he might otherwise have expected to remain in England.

Scott introduces the deep irony of Hari's story in this section, which is that he faces more racism and prejudice in India for being Indian than he apparently did or would have in Britian. It is a transitional time for Hari as a young man of 18 years, and he finds himself questioning the values he thought he once had, especially in the face of the drastic change in environment he faces upon his upheaval to India.

Hari is rapidly losing touch with the culture of his upbringing, a fact that hits home as his friend Colin writes about his excitement at joining in the war effort to fight for Britian, an excitement Hari does not share. While he is losing touch with his British side, he is unable to connect with the Indian culture that he now finds himself in. He has been

disconnected and shut out, but not by choice, as Sister Ludmilla has, for example. He finds a sympathetic ear in Sister Ludmilla, and presumably in Daphne Manners as well, but he has very little to say in his own words about Daphne. His character, motivations, and even his final fate are left uncertain.

Civil and Military

Civil and Military Summary

This section of the novel is divided into three parts. The first section is called "The Military."

In 1942 an Indian infantry division is being organized at Mayapore under the authority of the British army, and Brigadier A.V. Reid is sent from Rawalpindi to oversee its formation. Many years afterward, Reid is preparing his memoirs and writes about the events surrounding Bibighar and the uprising that took place around the same time.

The first thing Reid does upon arriving in Mayapore is meet with the Deputy Commissioner Robin White and speak to him about his opinion on the conditions in the district and the likelihood of unrest. It is Reid's opinion, which he gives to White, that a strong hand is necessary at the first sign of trouble. As the civil authority in Mayapore, White is in charge of the use of the military under Reid's command. Reid may not take military action unless it is requested by White.

Reid does not hit it off with Robin White, believing he is an administrator who prefers thinking over all possible solutions to a problem to simply taking quick action. The district judge, Judge Menen, he is pleased to find is an "old-style" Indian, but very reserved. Reid is impressed with Ronald Merrick, who seems to share his belief that with the actions of the Indian Congress and the war, the British in India are warranted in taking a freer course of action than before. He encourages Merrick to "stick his neck out" from time to time if it will help keep order (p. 283).

After a time, Reid is ordered back to Rawalpindi by his friend, General Carter, because his wife has become very ill. He learns she has cancer and is not likely to survive. Reid must return to Mayapore, but is promised that he will be sent for as she approaches death.

Reid makes an explanation of the role of the military as he sees it in the event of unrest such as occurred in Mayapore. After being called upon by the civil authorities, his troops are put on standby in order to help disperse any crowds or mobs. He gives as an example an incident of his troops confronting a group of protesters outside the Hindu temple in Mayapore. The first step is to assemble the soldiers near the crowd and sound a bugle to alert them of their presence. Next a banner is raised with an order written in English and Hindi to disperse. If the crowd does not disperse, a second banner is raised warning that unless the crowd breaks up, the soldiers will use force. If this still does not work, the military commander turns to the civil magistrate, who has accompanied the soldiers, for permission to take action. The magistrate has already prepared a written request in case it is necessary, and he hands it over to the military commander. In the case of the crowd at the temple, at this point Reid orders his men to

identify leaders in the crowd and fire at them with live ammunition. They fire into the crowd twice before it breaks up, with most of the protesters fleeing.

Reid is impatient with White, who is still hoping to calm the district without turning matters over to the military completely. White assures Reid that he will not hesitate to call him in if he fails in what he considers his primary responsibility to keep the peace through civil means. Reid respects White for shouldering his responsibility, but is still frustrated at not being able to take action.

Reid next describes the events of the night Daphne Manners is raped. He learns about the incident entirely from Merrick, who first alerts him that Manners is missing and that he is searching for her. Later, he gives Reid his opinion that she is lured to the secluded Bibighar Gardens by Kumar, who has her under his spell, and is there attacked by some of Kumar's friends. Merrick tells Reid that Kumar and his friends have been arrested, but that Daphne Manners is unlikely to help in identifying her attackers because of the influence Kumar has over her.

The following day Reid is awakened early with reports of widespread protest over the imprisonment of Kumar and his friends, who are believed innocent of the rape. The police are doing what they can, but do not have enough officers to be everywhere. White is still reluctant to call upon the military, but is eventually ordered by his own superiors to use the military to the fullest extent to suppress the unrest.

After three days of sporadic violence, the military brings things under control and hands authority back to the Deputy Commissioner. Shortly afterward, he receives a telegram to return to his wife at once. He immediately sets out by car, but arrives too late. Shortly afterward, Reid is reassigned to a more active role in the fighting of World War II. This he attributes to the influence of his friends in command, who realize with his wife gone and his son now confirmed dead in Burma, he will be happier closer to the action.

The second section of this part of the novel is entitled "The Civil," and is the account of the same events by Robin White. The visitor has shown the unpublished memoirs of Brigadier Reid to White and asked for his responses.

White responds by letter, writing to the visitor that he is grateful for letting him see the memoirs of Brigadier Reid, and also for sending him passages from Daphne Manners' journal, which were given to the visitor by Lady Chatterjee, and which describe the actual events of the rape in the Bibighar Gardens. He also mentions the statements of Vidyasagar, which the visitor sends him, regarding the imprisonment and torture of Kumar and the other young men arrested by Merrick.

White agrees to the meet with the visitor, although he warns him that he has not been in India in several years and that his memory may be faulty. At his meeting, White expounds on his differences with Reid, who frustrated him for always imagining that there was a logical solution to every problem. He also sees Reid as the kind of British person who was either indifferent to the fate of the Indians, or who actually despised and feared them. He contrasts this with his own attitude, which is one of concern for the

welfare of the Indians. He recalls Merrick and tells the visitor that he is eventually released from his police duties in order to join the army and is later killed during riots in India as it is dividing into separate Muslim and Indian states.

White speaks extensively on his opinion of British rule in India and the perceptions among the British that they were being treated ungratefully by the Indians for whom they had done so much. White understands this feeling, but likens it to a forceful father figure trying to keep peace in a home that does not actually belong to him.

White hints that Reid's reassignment after the events in Mayapore may have been because of his controversial actions during the uprisings, in which several people were killed. He replies to the statements of Vidyasagar, who had been arrested as an insurgent, about how Kumar was not one of his associates. He points out that nobody can be sure of this is true or not. Daphne Manners' journal would seem to suggest that Kumar had no role in organizing the unrest, but does not prove it. Vidyasagar, he points out, is a confessed lawbreaker and so his words should be taken accordingly.

In the final part of this section, the actual statement of Vidyasagar that has been alluded to is presented. In it he outlines the events of the uprising in Mayapore from his own point of view. When Kumar and four other young men are imprisoned after the rape of Daphne Manners, Vidyasagar secretly prints a pamphlet calling for their release and claiming they were being wrongfully held. He and several others are arrested for this, he writes, although of those arrested, he is the only one in any way responsible. the others were simply arrested for having been know to be acquainted with him. He is questioned extensively, especially about any possible relationship he has with Kumar. Kumar is also only an acquaintance, he says, and has no role in planning any uprisings. Vidyasagar is imprisoned and later moved to another prison.

At the other prison, Vidyasagar runs into one of the four men who were arrested that night. From them he learns their story. The four man were drinking illegal alcohol in a hut near the Bibighar gardens when they were arrested. At first they think they are simply going to be charged with this minor crime, but it soon becomes apparent they are suspected of something more serious. This man, named Sharma, tells Vidysagar that he is taken into a room at the police station where he sees Kumar bent over a rack being caned on the buttocks and groaning in pain. The police are trying to make him admit he has organized the rape of Daphne Manners, but he says nothing. Sharma is then warned that if he or any of the others speak about how they saw Kumar being punished, they will receive the same only worse. Later, after being returned to his cell, Sharma and the others are brought some food which makes them vomit when they eat it. It turns out to be beef, which Hindus are forbidden to eat by their religion. Their Muslim jailers laugh at this debasement.

Civil and Military Analysis

It is revealed that the English visitor is somehow attached to the publication of the memoirs of Brigadier Reid, the military commander in Mayapore at the time of the

Bibighar Gardens incident and during the unrest that follows it. The visitor has read them and been intrigued by his mention of the rape and the several days of violence that follow it, to the point that he has gone to quite an effort to follow up on the event and speak to the people involved to find out what actually happened.

Brigadier Reid provides a coldly logical viewpoint on the events of August 1942. He is sometimes frustrated by the more emotional and thoughtful approaches of the civil authorities to which he must answer, but his respect for their authority is such that he would never imagine challenging it. His devotion to procedure approaches the ridiculous as Scott describes his method for dispersing a crowd of angry Indian protestors that involves holding up banners with formal warnings before finally asking for permission from a magistrate, who has attended the military for just such a purpose, for written authorization to proceed to disperse the crowd using force.

Reid's viewpoint is balanced by that of Robin White, the civil authority at the same time. This contrast is intended and signaled by the title of the section. White is similar to Miss Crane in his attitude toward the Indians in that he considers it a duty of his to provide them with peace and an orderly society. White, as has been revealed earlier, does not agree with the segregation and institutional racism that comes with British colonial rule, but just as Brigadier Reid, he would never carry his opposition to the point where he would disobey orders from his superiors.

Providing a third point of view to the unrest described by Reid and White is Vidysagar, who is perhaps one of the few who is actually guilty of what he has been charged with by the British authorities and is in a unique position to recognize their almost farcically tragic efforts to maintain order. Vidyasagar adds a gritty realism to the more formal recollections of Reid and White, recounting the brutality faced by Kumar and others at the hands of the British police.

This and the next section finally begin to describe in detail the events around which the rest of the novel revolve.

The Bibighar Gardens

The Bibighar Gardens Summary

The final section of the novel is made up mostly of a journal entry by Daphne Manners addressed to her aunt, Lady Manners, and dated following the attack and arrest of Hari, and after Daphne has discovered she is pregnant. She is writing as insurance against "permanent silence," she writes, intending nobody to see it except in case of her own death. She apologizes for being morbid, but hints that she knows she has a certain medical condition that she has not told anyone about and that she has had a premonition that she might not survive childbirth. Her doctor has recommended a Caesarean birth, but she has refused, wishing to have the child naturally.

She writes about learning from Hari that he is arrested after his night of drinking and finding out later that it is Ronald Merrick who took him in for questioning. She did not have a high opinion of Merrick before that, and thinks even worse of him after finding out. It also makes her love Hari even more.

Daphne writes that she finds the company of the other young British people in Mayapore boring and empty. She also realizes that she is the subject of gossip among them for living at the MacGregor House with an Indian. Still, she is the niece of a former governor and is outwardly shown a traditional respect. This she sometimes uses to her advantage to torment the gossips, for instance when she breaks away from a group of British people at a large public gathering to speak with Hari.

She describes the Bibighar Gardens to her aunt. They are very green with gravel paths running through and a wall around them. In the center is a platform with a mosaic floor that is once the entryway to the house that stood there. Over this, a canopy has been built to form a kind of gazebo. Neither Indians nor Europeans ever go there, and it becomes a regular private meeting place for Daphne and Hari.

Daphne writes about the first few awkward dates she has with Hari, having him come to the MacGregor House while her aunt is away one evening, and later having dinner at his house with his Aunt Shalini. She tells the story of their visit to the Hindu temple, the last time they see one another before the incident in the Bibighar Gardens.

After their visit to the temple, Hari and Daphne do not see one another for about two weeks, she writes. They agree to meet at the Sanctuary, and Daphne goes there after working at the hospital to wait for him, speaking with Sister Ludmilla as she waits. Hari does not arrive, and she senses that he might be waiting for her at the Bibighar Gardens. She leaves the Sanctuary on her bicycle and rides to the gardens.

It is dark when she arrives, and she finds Hari sitting on the platform under the canopy. They sit and talk for a while. He is downcast at the thought that they can never be

together as they wish. He tells her he will walk her home, but when he touches her they are suddenly embracing. They make love there on the platform.

Soon afterward, several men climb up onto the platform, surrounding them. They grab Hari and tie him hand and foot. Holding Daphne down and covering her head with her raincoat, they rape her and run off. She unties Hari, who is sobbing in shame. She insists that he leave at once and tell nobody that the two of them were together that night. He is reluctant to leave her, but she is insistent, afraid that he will be implicated. She runs home to the MacGregor House.

Daphne explains the events afterwards. She is examined by a doctor and asked some direct questions. She learns that Hari has been arrested along with some other young men. She insists that the police have arrested the wrong men, although she will not cooperate in formally identifying them. She learns that her bicycle was found in a ditch near Hari's house. This makes no sense to her, as she knows Hari left on foot and that the real criminals ran off before they left the gardens. She comes to the conclusion, which she shares in her journal, that Ronald Merrick found the bicycle in the gardens where she had left it, and planted it near Hari's house to provide a reason to arrest him on suspicion or organizing the rape.

She learns nothing about Hari's fate except that he has refused to speak, to say anything even in his defense. Daphne knows this is because of his promise to her. She does not see him again.

The novel ends with a letter from Lady Manners to Lady Chatterjee. In it, she tells how Daphne Manners has a heart condition she tells nobody about, which leads to her death during childbirth. She gives birth to a girl, whom she sees for only a few moments before dying. Lady Manners names the girl Parvati and takes on her care. Daphne dies without a will and there is some question about the final disposition of her wealth, but Lady Manners proposes the foundation of an orphanage in Mayapore at the site of the Sanctuary. She asks Lady Chatterjee a serious favor. Admitting that she is getting old, she asks that Lady Chatterjee look after Parvati if she should die.

The final paragraphs are from the point of view of the visitor. Parvati is now a girl of nine that is living with Lady Chatterjee. She is taking singing lessons. As the visitor watches, Parvati runs down the path of the MacGregor house to her evening lesson. She turns and waves at the visitor who waves back.

The Bibighar Gardens Analysis

All of the disparate pieces of the novel finally come together in the final section, in which Daphne Manners writes down for posterity the actual events of that fateful night in August, 1942. At this point in the novel, however, the reader has more information than Daphne did at the time regarding the surrounding events, lending her words even more meaning than they would have had to her at the time. The reader knows more about Hari's fate than Daphne does, as well as more details about what was believed by the

authorities regarding her rape. What Scott provides in this last section is more about Daphne's own personal motivations and her opinions about the role of the British in India. Although addressed to her aunt, Daphne's journal is more of a personal reflection. Daphne also confides that she knows she is endangering herself by wanting to have her child naturally because of a heart condition. She seems to anticipate this as a real probability, leading her to write down the things she promised herself she would never reveal so that they will be known after her death. Her decision to give birth to Parvati can be seen as a parallel to Miss Crane's suicide, a personal sacrifice made out of a kind of devotion to India and its people. Daphne's character is similar to Miss Crane's in other regards, as well, most notably her refusal to take part in the prosecution of Indians suspected of violence, even when that cooperation might clear someone's name.

Finally, the full identity of Parvati, first introduced at the beginning of the novel, is understood. She is Daphne's daughter and possibly the daughter of Hari Kumar as well, although this and many other questions are still left unresolved.

Characters

Daphne Manners

A young British woman, this is the niece of a former governor of India. Daphne lives with her aunt Ethel Manners before moving to Mayapore to live with Lady Chatterjee, a friend of the Manners' family. She is a very shy person who works at being outgoing. She volunteers at the hospital in Mayapore as well as at a facility for the dying called the Sanctuary.

Daphne falls in love with Hari Kumar, whom she first meets at a party given by Lady Chatterjee, and is often the subject of gossip for being seen with him in public.

Daphne is raped by a group of men after meeting with Kumar one night in the Bibighar Gardens. She becomes pregnant, possibly by Hari, and dies as she is giving birth. She leaves a good deal of money that is used to build a home for orphaned children in Mayapore.

Hari Kumar

Hari Kumar, whose father spells his name Harry Coomer, is a young Indian man who is raised comfortably in England. After the suicide of his father, he is left with no money and returns to India to live in Mayapore with his Aunt Shalini. Hari is lost in India, having never learned the language. He is also resented by some of the British population in Mayapore for his upper-class English accent and manners.

Hari finds work as a writer and reporter for the Mayapore Gazette where he is able to observe people but finds himself largely ignored. Hari falls in love with Daphne Manners, a young English woman. After seeing her for several weeks, he meets her one night in the secluded Bibighar Gardens where they make love for the first time. Immediately after, they are attacked by several men and Hari is tied up while Daphne is raped.

Hari is arrested shortly afterward on suspicion of having organized the rape. He says nothing in his defense but is not formally charged over the rape for lack of evidence. Instead he is held for supposedly leading political opposition to British rule. He remains imprisoned at the end of the novel and his final fate is left unknown.

Lady Lili Chatterjee

The widow of Sir Nello Chatterjee, this is a prominent Indian who was knighted by the British. She has a certain amount of prestige among the British authorities in Mayapore, but is still excluded from some places and functions because she is Indian. Lady Chatterjee lives in the MacGregor House, a large home with a surrounding garden. She

has Daphne Manners stay with her for a time and later provides a home for Parvati, Daphne's daughter.

The English Visitor

This is the unnamed narrator and fictional author of the book who is investigating the incident at the Bibighar Gardens several years after the events. He is the guest of Lady Chatterjee, who introduces him to some of the people who were present at the time and puts him in touch with others who have since left Mayapore. He receives from her some of Daphne's letters and her journal, from which he learns the truth about Bibighar.

Ronald Merrick

This is the District Superintendent of Police for the Mayapore district. Merrick is a handsome young man with an officious manner. He is attracted to Daphne Manners and asks her to marry him, a proposal she declines. He is jealous of Hari Kumar, who has Daphne's attention, and tries to dissuade her from seeing him. It is Merrick who has Kumar arrested after Daphne's rape. According to one story told afterward, Merrick has Kumar tortured in an attempt to make him confess to organizing the attack. According to Daphne, Merrick plants her bicycle near Hari's home in an attempt to implicate him.

Merrick's final fate is left uncertain. Robin White tells the visitor he believes Merrick is killed during riots later in India.

Sister Ludmilla

This is a European woman who dresses as a nun but who is not obviously Catholic and belongs to no order. Sister Ludmilla runs a facility called the Sanctuary, where she cares for dying Indians. She has a source of income from her dead husband's estate, which she is gradually depleting in service to the poor.

Edwina Crane

This is a British woman who first comes to India as a governess and decides to become a teacher in the missionary schools, eventually rising to the position of superintendent of the district. She is unmarried. Miss Crane, as she is referred to, eventually commits suicide after becoming disillusioned with British colonial rule in India.

Colin Lindsey

This is the British boyhood school friend of Hari Kumar. After school, Lindsey joins the British army and is eventually stationed briefly at Mayapore, where Hari lives. By this

point the two have grown apart, however, and Colin does not even recognize, or pretends not to recognize, Hari when he sees him.

Brigadier Reid

This is the military commander in the Mayapore district at the time of the main events of the novel. Brigadier Reid is a career military man who sees things in terms of cold logic that demands decisive action. He is frustrated by his counterpart in the civil authority, Robin White.

Robin White

This is the Deputy Commissioner of the Mayapore district. White is the civil authority in Mayapore at the time of the central events, with oversight over the police and the use of the military. White is sympathetic to the Indians and opposes racism and segregation, but also believes that he has a duty to maintain British rule in a peaceful and orderly way.

Parvati Manners

This is the daughter of Daphne Manners. Her father is unknown, as she was conceived on the night of Daphne's rape, but is possibly Hari Kumar. She has lived with Lady Manners and Lady Chatterjee after the death of her own mother during childbirth. She is about nine years old at the time the visitor comes to Mayapore. She is a promising singer, and is studying voice.

Mr. Srinivasan

This is a lawyer and prominent Indian in Mayapore at the time of the central events. He is a friend of Robin White's and Lady Chatterjee's, and provides rich background information about Mayapore to the visitor.

Shalini Gupta Sen

This is the youngest sister of Duleep Kumar and the aunt of Hari Kumar. Hari goes to live with his Aunt Shalini after the suicide of his father. She lives in comfort, but not wealth, in Mayapore.

Mr. Vidyasagar

This is a young revolutionary who is acquainted with Hari Kumar, who insists that Hari was not involved in his rebellious activities. Vidyasagar helps stir up discontent after the

wrongful arrest of Hari and four other young men following the rape at the Bibighar Gardens.

Mr. de Souza

This is an Indian doctor who has given up his practice to assist Sister Ludmilla at the Sanctuary.

Objects/Places

British-controlled India

This is the larger setting for the novel. Originally under the control of the East India Company, India has been ruled by the British for many years at the time of the events of the novel, finally gaining independence in the late 1940s.

Mayapore

A fictional town in India, this is the seat of government for a district that includes several smaller towns. The town is divided into distinct sections where Europeans and Indians live, work and shop.

Chillianwallah Bagh

This is the relatively modern section of Mayapore where Indians of more comfortable means live. Hari lives in this section with his Aunt Shalini.

Bibighar Gardens

These are the gardens of a former house that was burned down by its owner. It has been turned into a walled park and is the secluded scene of Daphne Manners' rape.

MacGregor House

This is a large house built originally by a Scottish trader in Mayapore and occupied by Lady Chatterjee.

The Cantonment

This is the section of Mayapore where the British and other European residents live.

The Sanctuary

This is a facility for dying Indians run by Sister Ludmilla.

Dibrapur

This is a small town in the Mayapore District where violence first flares up in the central events of the book.

The Hindu Temple

This is a temple in Mayapore visited by Daphne and Hari one night about two weeks before her rape.

The Gymkhana Club

This is a club for Europeans only in 1942, later opened to Indians as well.

Mayapore Club

This is a club founded by Lady Chatterjee's husband intended as an alternative to the Gymkhana Club for members of Indian society.

Chillingborough

This is a prestigious school in England attended by Hari Kumar and Colin Lindsey.

The Maidan

This is a large drill field near the army headquarters in Mayapore

Themes

Race and Class

Race, class, and the prejudices that accompany them are central themes in "The Jewel in the Crown," and drive much of the central action of the novel.

The central problem of the novel is the prejudice faced by the interracial lovers, Daphne Manners and Hari Kumar. When Daphne is raped, among the European community in Mayapore suspicion immediately falls on Hari because he is Indian. To protect one another, neither Hari nor Daphne cooperates with the ensuing investigation. Even to admit Hari was present at the scene of the rape would condemn him even though he was also a victim of the attack and not involved in organizing it. The rape itself seems to be racially motivated, placing Daphne as a target of her Indian attackers because she is a white woman who has had sex with an Indian.

Some of Scott's characters, such as Daphne Manners, openly confront the racism they perceive. Others, like Edwina Crane, find it disturbing but do not openly challenge the social traditions that uphold it. Characters like Ronald Merrick are aware of their own prejudices, but defend them as being justifiable.

In addition to race, class is an important social distinction for both the British and the Indians. The caste system of the Indian culture has distinct social classes of specific ranks. The British system is less formal, but is also very structured based on social rank. Hari Kumar is an oddity in this carefully constructed society. His upbringing in England would place him in an upper class position were he white. Only his skin color prevents him from taking advantage of being a member of that class. His ignorance of the Indian languages and culture do not allow him to fit easily into Indian society, either. He is an Englishman of the wrong color and an Indian without a homeland. His inability to fit anywhere within the tightly-defined ideas of race and class make him a threat to people like Ronald Merrick, whose ideas on the subject are very rigid, and even to people like Lady Chatterjee, who cannot be certain where he properly fits into the accepted scheme.

Daphne Manners, herself a solid member of the British upper class, deliberately joins Hari in his solitude as an outcast of race and class. While their intentions are noble, their respective societies are not yet able to accept their actions, and they both meet with awful fates as a result.

Colonialism

"The Jewel in the Crown" takes place in the final years of British colonial rule in India, at a time when Indian support for independence from Britain is gaining steam. Scott address many of the controversial issues surrounding the colonial relationship and the conflicts that arise from it.

Many of the British characters in the novel view the British presence in India as a kind of paternal responsibility to govern a people who are not yet ready to govern themselves. They are seemingly blind to the fact that it is the British rule itself that has perhaps kept the Indians in a state of dependence and hampered the development of their own abilities to self-govern. When some Indians begin to express a desire for independence from Britain, some British hold the attitude that they are being ungrateful for all the good Britain has done for India.

The reality of the situation, as Scott describes it, is not of a benevolent caretaker helping his less fortunate Indian neighbors, but of a pervasive and oppressive bureaucracy. This relationship is depicted in small scale in the fictional town of Mayapore which is neatly segregated into sections based on class and race. There are British sympathetic to the plight of the Indians under colonial rule, but their attempts at reversing the effects are bound to fail as long as the institutions remain in place.

Scott also explores the vestiges of colonial rule after independence. There are obvious changes, such as the renaming of the main street in Mayapore from Victoria Road to Gandhi Road, but the relationship between the British and the Indians do not seem to have changed for the better. If anything, the removal of the former institutions of the British has given racism and prejudice a more open environment for expression.

Uncertainty

"The Jewel in the Crown" leaves several central questions unanswered. The final fate of main characters such as Hari Kumar and Ronald Merrick are left unknown. The actual identity of Parvati's father is uncertain. The allegations made that Ronald Merrick planted evidence go unresolved. Even one of the central questions of the story, that of who raped Daphne Manners, is left up in the air.

As Daphne Manners herself suggests, for all she knows her attackers might have been British men dressed as Indians. While meant to cast doubt in the minds of accusers she perceives as being racially motivated, her remarks also raise the possibility in the reader's mind that the author intends to leave the truth partly veiled.

Uncertainty and doubt becomes a central part of Robin White's recollections about the events in 1942. Only a short time before speaking with the English visitor, he is shown part of Daphne's journal, the memoirs of Brigadier Reid, and the statement of Mr. Vidyasagar, all of which provide him information he did not have when he was making decisions in 1942 on the course of action he should take as the civil authority in Mayapore. He has his doubts at the time, he states, but he takes action after making a decision. He speaks about Gandhi and how he seemingly contradicted himself over the years. White feels this is because rather than try to project a public image of having a constant position, Gandhi embraces his own doubts and works through his decisions openly. This acceptance of uncertainty is not allowable for White at the time of his leadership in India. Although he does express his doubts privately at times, publicly he maintains the official position of the government for which he works. White's counterpart

in this regard is again Brigadier Reid, for whom doubt is never an option. Each problem has a logical solution in his viewpoint and one should take action as soon as possible and not entertain any regrets or doubts.

By leaving central questions unanswered in his novel, Scott appears to be inviting his reader to let go of this idea of Brigadier Reid that everything happens for a knowable reason and has a logical conclusion.

Style

Point of View

Scott shifts point of view frequently in "The Jewel in the Crown," presenting differing viewpoints and alternate versions of the same central events as seen through the eyes of the various characters.

Some passages of the novel are presented in a traditional narrative fashion, with the narrator acting as an omniscient presence describing the thoughts and actions of a character. The story of Edwina Crane and portions of Hari Kumar's story are presented in this way, for example.

Much of the remainder of the novel is told in the characters' own words in a documentary style as if they are speaking or writing to a specific individual. The fictitious audience for much of the characters' recollections is an unseen and unnamed visitor to Mayapore some ten years following the main events of the book.

With the exception of a few letters written by Hari Kumar and Daphne Manners, most of the "documentary" information is presented as memories a good time after the fact. The characters are removed from the events by a decade in time and have had time to reflect and place the events within a larger context. The result is a mixture of the reflective point of view of these witnesses to the event and the more immediate and reactive point of view of the two main characters who lived through them.

Setting

"The Jewel in the Crown" is set in Mayapore, a fictional town in India, in the 1940s and 1950s. There are two primary time settings in the novel. The earlier events take place in the summer of 1942, while India is still under British colonial rule. The later events look back at this time from about ten years later, after India has become independent from Britain. The town of Mayapore undergoes some changes during that time.

In the earlier time period, Mayapore is a segregated town, with distinct sections based on race and class. There are separate shopping areas for Europeans and Indians. The British residents maintain a private club that excludes Indians except for those who are officers in the military and those employed as servants. There is a section where the Europeans live, called the cantonment, which stands separate from the town itself.

It is very hot in Mayapore in the summer, and during the monsoon season it rains frequently. The rest of the time it is dry and dusty. A river runs through the town. There are areas of extreme poverty.

In 1942, unrest over British rule is beginning to spread across India. This has increased tensions between the British authorities and the native Indians.

The later time period described in the book is after the sometimes violent period of India's establishment of independence and partition into separate Hindu and Muslim states. Mayapore is no longer strictly segregated and there are not as many Europeans living there as before. Those who remain are likely to be businessmen and not connected with the British military or government. Some of the street names that were established by the British have been changed to Indian names.

Language and Meaning

Scott writes in a style that relies a good deal on the characters speaking directly to an unseen interviewer or writing in a journal. As each of these characters takes his or her place in the story, the language and meaning used by Scott changes to reflect the background and outlook of that character. Daphne Manners, for example, is an enthusiastic young woman, and her letters and journals are written in a meandering and sometimes chatty tone, full of personal observations and small detail. In stark contrast, Brigadier Reid is a military commander who is not writing a letter but a memoir intended for publication. The language Scott employs for this character reflects a disciplined and coldly logical outlook and takes a formal structure.

For the most part, Scott's characters are educated and fluent in English, and their language reflects this. One character, Vidyasagar, is not as fluent in English as the other characters and Scoot depicts him as using unusual grammar and word choices to indicate this.

In the passages where Scott is writing as an omniscient narrator, he pays great attention to details, such as when he meticulously describes the content of Miss Crane's handbag. His writing is rich with such detail about the landscape and settings, creating a vivid backdrop for the recollections of his characters.

Structure

"The Jewel in the Crown" is divided into seven parts, each dedicated to one or two characters. The first part, "Miss Crane," tells the story of a young woman who becomes a school teacher and administrator in India and is written in a traditional style of an omniscient narrative. The second part, "MacGregor House" is made up mostly of the interview responses of Lady Chatterjee to an unseen visitor, with sections of letters written by Daphne Manners. "Sister Ludmilla" is the title of the third part and is made up of the recollections of that character.

Part Four is called "An Evening at the Club" and is mainly one side of a conversation between Mr Srinivasan and the unseen visitor. The fifth part is called "Young Kumar" and tells the story of Hari Kumar and his father in a mix of narrative passages and letters between Hari and his friend Colin. "Civil and Military" is the title of the sixth section. It includes a passage from an unpublished memoir that covers the time period in question as well as the personal recollections of a civil authority in Mayapore as well as a statement from a political prisoner. The seventh and final section is titled "Bibighar

Gardens" and is mainly a long journal entry by Daphne Manners explaining the events surrounding her rape. It concludes with some letters from her aunt, Lady Manners.

The novel is structured as if it were a documentary or report. Scott uses a technique that imagines the characters are speaking or writing directly to an unseen interviewer who is a stand-in for the author and the reader. The central event of the book is the rape in the Bibighar, but Scott places the actual description of the event near the end. The remainder of the book moves back and forth before and after the event, filling in the details from both sides before finally filling in the center.

Quotes

"This is the story of a rape, of the events that led up to it and followed it and of the place in which it happened. There are the action, the people, and the place; all of which are interrelated but in their totality incommunicable in isolation from the moral continuum of human affairs" (Miss Crane, pg. 1.)

"As Mr. Poulson said afterwards, the troubles in Mayapore began for him with the sight of old Miss Crane sitting in the pouring rain by the roadside holding the hand of a dead Indian" (Miss Crane, pg. 60.)

"It was on the stone steps leading to the verandah that the girl stumbled at the end of her headlong flight in the dark from the Bibighar Gardens; stumbled, fell, and crawled on her hands and knees the rest of the way to safety and into the history of a troubled period" (MacGregor House, pg. 67.)

"In such a fashion human beings call for explanations of the things that happen to them and in such a way scenes and characters are set for exploration, like toys set out by kneeling children intent on pursuing their grim but necessary games" (MacGregor House, pg. 114.)

"Her origins were obscure. Some said she was related to the Romanovs; others that she had been a Hungarian peasant, a Russian spy, a German adventuress, a run-away French novice. But all this was conjecture. What was clear, at least to the Mayapore Europeans, was that saintly as she might now appear she had no business calling herself Sister" (Sister Ludmilla, pg. 115.)

"And then of course they turned on her. Oh, not publicly. Not to her face. Among each other. It would not have done for the Indians to know what they were thinking" (Sister Ludmilla, pg. 157.)

"When Hari Kumar's father died of an overdose of sleeping pills in Edinburgh and the lawyers told him that there wasn't even enough money to pay in full what was owed to Mr. and Mrs. Carter who ran the house in Berkshire he rang the Lindseys and asked them what they thought he should do" (Young Kumar, pg. 201.)

"He recognized the signs of growing away that could be read in Colin's replies. But the association with Colin continued to be precious to him. Colin's signature at the bottom of a letter was the proof he needed that his English experience had not been imagined" (Young Kumar, pg. 245.)

"When I looked out on to the maidan from the window of my room in the old artillery mess in Mayapore, or drove round the cantonment, I could not help but feel proud of the years of British rule. Even in these turbulent times the charm of the cantonment helped one to bear in mind the calm, wise and enduring things" (Civil and Military, pg. 280.)

"Every time Reid came into my office with that look on his face of being ready and eager to straighten us all out I felt like a man who had been playing a fish that might turn out to be either a minnow or a whale" (Civil and Military, pg. 328.)

"Hari and I got into the habit of going to the Bibighar, and sitting there in the pavilion, because it was the one place in Mayapore where we could be together and be utterly natural with each other" (The Bibighar Gardens, pg. 383.)

"He cried for shame, I suppose, and for what had happened to me that he'd been powerless to stop. He said something that I was too dazed to catch but thinking back on it always comes to me as an inarticulate begging for forgiveness" (The Bibighar Gardens, pg. 424.)

Topics for Discussion

Discuss Scott's "documentary" structure to his novel. Is it an effective technique?

What motivates Ronald Merrick? Is he blameworthy?

Discuss how Scott depicts interracial relations in the novel.

What important questions are left unresolved at the end of Scott's novel? Why does he leave them unresolved?

How do the European characters in Scott's novel characterize their own role in India? Are they justified in their beliefs?

How is the population of Mayapore segregated? What keeps it that way?

Does Scott seem to have a clear opinion of British colonial rule in India? Does he defend it?