The Last King of Scotland Study Guide

The Last King of Scotland by Giles Foden

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Contents

Introduction

Giles Foden's *The Last King of Scotland*, published in 1998 to high praise from critics, is a novel encompassing both historical fact and fiction. In the novel, Scotsman Nicholas Garrigan tells the tale of how he came to be Idi Amin's personal physician and of his subsequent adventures. One of the novel's major concerns is Garrigan's relationship with Amin, a brutal dictator, and why Garrigan is so fascinated by the leader that he does not leave, even when faced with the certain knowledge of Amin's atrocities.

Garrigan is a fictional character who participates in historical events and interacts with real people, including Amin, the brutal president of Uganda between 1971 and 1979. Amin has been accused of cannibalism and of issuing orders that resulted in the brutal deaths of hundreds of thousands of his countrymen. Some historians believe that Amin's erratic and violent behavior stemmed from an acute case of syphilis, but others (including the fictional Garrigan), refute this.

Using his twenty years in Africa and his background as a journalist, Foden researched the events surrounding Amin's rise to power and downfall, interviewing many of those who watched and participated in the Ugandan ruler's eight-year reign. Foden makes the book feel like the memoir of an actual person by inserting fictional newspaper articles, journal entries, and authentic events.

During a 1998 interview with the online magazine *Boldtype*, Foden mentioned that he used conversations with Bob Astles, widely perceived to have been Amin's closest advisor, to construct Garrigan's character. As a British soldier who worked his way into Amin's favor, Astles was much more "proactive than Garrigan," according to Foden, but paid the price by spending ten years in a Ugandan jail after Amin's fall.

Author Biography

Born to farmers in Warwickshire, England, in 1967, Giles Foden moved to Africa when he was five years old. The family lived in various African countries for about twenty years. One of the countries they lived in was Uganda, the setting for Foden's first novel, *The Last King of Scotland*. Foden told the online literary magazine *Boldtype* that he relied upon the "vivid experiences" he gained while traveling with his father to rural African outposts when writing the novel.

For about three years, Foden worked as an assistant editor for the British publication the *Times Literary Supplement*, and he continues to write for a number of newspapers and magazines, including the *Guardian*. Upon its publication in 1998, critics hailed *The Last King of Scotland* as the work of a

bright new literary talent. The novel won several awards, including the 1998 Whitbread First Novel Award, the Somerset Maugham Award, a Betty Trask Prize, and the Winifred Holtby Prize. Foden's second novel, *Ladysmith*, is set in nineteenth-century South Africa.

Plot Summary

Part One

The Last King of Scotland opens with Nicholas Garrigan describing how he happened to become the personal physician to Idi Amin, president of Uganda in the 1970s. While Garrigan is serving as a physician at a "bush surgery" in the western Ugandan provinces, he is called to the scene of an automobile accident. Lying on the ground next to his wrecked Maserati is President Amin, who needs his wrist bandaged. A few months later, Garrigan is asked to come to the capital as Amin's personal physician. He complies because "you couldn't say no" to Amin.

Garrigan writes this account of his experiences, he says, "to provide a genuine eyewitness account" of the strange things that happened to him and to others during Amin's rule in Uganda. He explains how he decided to go to medical school and how his childhood love for adventure and interest in foreign lands put him on the road to practicing medicine in Africa. He is writing this story from his cottage in Scotland long after the events in Uganda have taken place.

Garrigan arrives in Kampala, Uganda, on January 24, 1971, to begin his job as a doctor with the Ugandan Ministry of Health. During his first night in Kampala, he hears shouting and tanks moving on the streets under his hotel window. The next morning, he hears a radio broadcast stating that, "our fellow soldier Major General Idi Amin Dada" has taken power from President Apollo Obote. Frightened, Garrigan searches the town for some guidance on how to get to Mbarara, where he is due the next day. At the British Embassy, Nigel Stone suggests that he take a bus to Mbarara and asks him to "keep a weather out for anything untoward."

The bus trip to Mbarara is extremely uncomfortable and cramped. On the way, two events occur. Garrigan meets a young resident of Mbarara, Boniface Malumba, also known as Bonney, who invites him to visit his family's house. In the second incident, soldiers board the bus and demand money from the passengers. The scene is calm as everyone cooperates with the soldiers, until one man refuses to pay. The soldiers beat him, but when Garrigan tries to help the man with his injuries he chastises Garrigan for not coming to his assistance earlier. He angrily yells at Garrigan, "What good are you to me now? You said nothing when you should have come forward."

In Mbarara, Garrigan meets Dr. Alan Merrit, head of the clinic; his wife, Joyce; and the clinic staff, including Sara Zach, an Israeli physician. Garrigan falls into the clinic's routine, treating patients and learning more about tropical diseases than he ever thought possible. William Waziri, a Ugandan physician, takes Garrigan on a field trip during which they travel the countryside and conduct vaccination clinics. Garrigan realizes that he is falling in love with Sara. He spends a pleasant evening dining with Boniface Malumba's family.

Amin arrives in Mbarara and holds a huge rally at the town's stadium. Sara and Garrigan go together to listen, and he notices that she takes notes. A number of days later, he is in Sara's bungalow and notices a shortwave radio, one like everyone else owns, except that hers has both sending and receiving capabilities.

Time passes quickly, and Garrigan is now in his second year in Mbarara. He and Sara have become lovers. Meanwhile, a number of unsettling events occur. The sounds of gunfire and explosions come from the local army barracks one evening. Two Americans are reported missing and suspected murdered by Major Mabuse, a local military leader. While Garrigan and Sara are picnicking, a contingent of Ugandans dressed "in full Scottish paraphernalia" emerges from the jungle and marches past the couple, playing bagpipes.

Garrigan takes another vaccination field trip and returns to Mbarara to discover that rebels sympathetic to former President Obote have staged a raid on the town. There are numerous civilian casualties, including his friend Boniface and the Malumba family. Gugu, Boniface's brother, is the only survivor. Garrigan and Sara take in the traumatized child and create a sort of temporary family until Gugu's relatives from the countryside come to claim him.

After Gugu leaves, Sara and Garrigan's relationship deteriorates. Garrigan notices that she spends time with the nearby Israeli road-building crew. Waziri never returns from his vacation, and part of the clinic burns down. Sara leaves the clinic without telling anyone, probably because Amin demands that all Asians and Israelis leave the country immediately. Garrigan hears a radio broadcast in which Amin claims to be "the last rightful King of Scotland." The incident in which Amin wrecks his Maserati occurs, and Garrigan is soon on his way to Kampala to be the president's personal physician.

Part Two

Even though Garrigan is now Amin's personal physician, he rarely gets to see his patient. He spends most of his time working at the Mulago Hospital and getting to know Kampala. Garrigan explains part of Amin's history, including how Amin's past military training with the Scots explains his obsessive interest in the nation. One afternoon while Garrigan is relaxing by a pool, Amin appears suddenly, rising up through the pool on a mechanized fountain of water. Later, Amin calls Garrigan to his house to treat his son who, as it ends up, simply has a small toy lodged in his nose. Amin is so happy with Garrigan that he gives him a van to drive around town. With increasing frequency, Amin behaves oddly and against the interests of the Western embassies in Kampala.

Stone, a member of the British Embassy in Kampala, calls Garrigan to a meeting where he asks him to help them control Amin's behavior via the use of drugs. Garrigan is stunned and rejects the idea.

Amin expels a number of British citizens from the country and forces others to "carry him in a litter through the streets as a sign of their devotion." Garrigan is attracted to the

British ambassador's wife, Marina, and the two go on a boat ride and picnic together. Garrigan kisses her but she reacts angrily and demands to be taken home. A week later, Garrigan gets a call that Amin is terribly ill. He arrives to discover that Amin only has a bad case of gas. Garrigan figures out a way to burp Amin like a baby, despite the ruler's huge size. This creates a closer bond between Amin and Garrigan. An assassination attempt is made against Amin, and his reprisals are random and violent.

Though he is currently married to three other women, Amin, outfitted in full Scottish regalia, marries his fourth wife in a Christian ceremony. Garrigan remembers that during this period "life went on as normal with these little bizarre interventions butting up between." For example, Amin begins to send telegrams to different world leaders, such as Margaret Thatcher and the Queen of England. Amin marries again, bringing his total number of wives to five. One of Garrigan's medical colleagues begs him to perform an abortion on his lover, who also happens to be Amin's second wife, but Garrigan refuses. Later Garrigan learns that Amin's second wife has died from blood loss and that his medical colleague has committed suicide. All of this strains Garrigan's nerves, yet he does not make any solid plans to leave the country.

Stone asks Garrigan to kill Amin, citing reports of Amin's atrocities. More British citizens are expelled. Amin calls Garrigan in for a talk and puts him in prison for a day. While in prison, Garrigan sees torture and atrocities, one involving a friend and fellow physician from Mbarara. Garrigan plans to leave Uganda but still does not.

It is now 1976 and a group of hijackers with the Palestinian Liberation Organization have commandeered a plane to Entebbe Airport near Kampala. Amin negotiates with the hijackers to have the non-Jews released, but it is eventually left to the Israeli government to storm the airport and rescue the Jews and Israeli citizens. Garrigan is called to the airport to treat some of the passengers. Later that day, Garrigan receives a phone call from Sara, who is now a colonel in the Israeli army, and he realizes that she was not only a doctor while in Mbarara but also an Israeli spy. Amin asks Garrigan to deliver a box to a small plane taking off from Entebbe. Later, Garrigan hears that the plane exploded in flight.

Garrigan begins making plans to escape Uganda by driving across the border into Tanzania, which is now at war with Uganda. He decides that he must try to find Gugu in Mbarara and take him away. On his way out, Garrigan loses his van, is bitten by a mamba snake and cared for by locals, and discovers that Gugu has become a murderer for Amin's regime. He passes out during an attack on Mbarara and awakens to find himself with the Tanzanian Defense Forces. He stays with them during their advance toward Kampala, serving as a medic for the soldiers.

Garrigan finds Amin hiding in Kampala, speaking to the severed head of the Archbishop of Uganda. Amin asks Garrigan to help him escape and Garrigan agrees, but Amin never shows up at the appointed meeting place. Giving up on Amin, Garrigan steals a boat and rows across the lake to Kenya.

Once in Kenya, Garrigan is treated like a war criminal, but the British Embassy is able to get him on a plane to London. Stone meets him as he disembarks from the plane. Stone, who Garrigan now realizes is an intelligence operative who has helped arrange for his release from Kenya, tells Garrigan that, because he gave up his British citizenship in Uganda at Amin's request, he cannot simply return to England. "There is the question, in any case, of whether you are now a fit person to be admitted to Great Britain at all," says Stone. Garrigan must sign an agreement stating that he acted on his own in Uganda.

Because Stone wants Garrigan to state publicly that his actions in Uganda were his alone and not directed by the British government, he places the doctor in the care of a public relations expert who arranges for a few well-orchestrated press conferences. As soon as possible, Garrigan leaves London for a small cottage in Scotland he has inherited. Here he begins writing the memoir that is *The Last King of Scotland*. The book closes with Garrigan receiving a phone call from Amin, now living in Saudi Arabia. Amin asks if he should intervene on behalf of the Americans to help them rescue hostages taken by the Iranian government. Garrigan does not answer but puts the receiver down and goes outside to do some gardening.

Part 1, Chapter 1

Part 1, Chapter 1 Summary

The Last King of Scotland begins with a car crash: Idi Amin, the dictator of Uganda, drives his bright red Maserati at manic speeds down dirt tracks in the countryside and hits a cow. He is thrown clear, but sprains a wrist. Nicholas Garrigan, a foreign service doctor from Scotland, is called upon to tend to him. A few months later, when Amin fires his personal physician, he appoints Garrigan to take the spot. Garrigan narrates the book in the first person, and tells the story of his life in Uganda as Idi Amin's doctor.

Garrigan's new office in Kampala, on the grounds of the State House, is well appointed with nice furniture and a good stock of medical reports and journals. The view from the office shows a manicured lawn, bougainvillea, flame trees and poinsettia, and a lake. Garrigan can also see the underfed prisoners who mow the lawn with sickles.

On his first evening in Kampala, Garrigan is required to attend the Ambassador's Dinner, a feast for diplomats from other countries as well as a few local dignitaries, tribal chiefs, and representatives of the large companies and banks that do business in Uganda. When he arrives at the dinner, Minister Wasswa, his immediate boss, who is waiting to greet the guests, summons him. Wasswa is one of the younger ministers, less than thirty years old, and very solemn. He wears a dress suit but the sleeves are too short and the cuffs are fastened in place with fuse wire. Amin, on the other hand, is resplendent in a blue uniform with gold braid-Air Force, Garrigan thinks. He greets the dignitaries with a handshake.

Garrigan is seated between Wasswa and Marina Perkins, the wife of the British ambassador. Across the table are Ambassador Perkins, Mr. Stone, a British official who keeps track of the foreign service members working in the country, and Todd, the American ambassador, with other ambassadors seated beyond them. The table is set with silver, crystal, and china, and even perfumed fingerbowls. After his months in the bush Garrigan is a little overwhelmed by the scents and by sitting next to Marina Perkins.

As the banquet begins, Amin stands at attention at the head of the table until a gong rings, and an official reads his introduction. Along with his many other titles, he is "Lord of All of the Beasts of the Earth and Fishes of the Sea and Conqueror of the British Empire in Africa".

He makes some introductory remarks before the feast can begin, so his guests will not be too drunk to understand him. At one point, during a discussion of food between the British and American ambassadors, Minister Wasswa says loudly that in Zaire, the people eat monkey meat. Amin hears him and asks what is wrong with monkey meat? He himself has eaten it. Then he shouts that he has also eaten human meat. This stills the conversations in the room, so Amin stands. It is salty, he says, more so than leopard

meat, and he explains that killing and eating a fellow soldier when he has been wounded provides strength in battle. A silence follows that is not broken until the main course is brought in.

Part 1, Chapter 1 Analysis

This chapter sets up the framework for Nicholas Garrigan's story, but it does far more than that. As narrator and participant, Garrigan passes along information about himself and the world around him without necessarily knowing or understanding it himself. He is obviously intelligent, but often blind to things that do not immediately concern him.

Here the reader learns more about Garrigan himself; for example, Garrigan does not appear to be working in a bush surgery to help mankind. He is drawn to Kampala not just because he feels he can't say no, but also because it is more comfortable and he will make more money.

The reader is also introduced to Idi Amin. As an historical figure, he is well known to the world for his outrageousness and his cruelty, but Garrigan provides the kind of detail that illuminates his character and makes him far more real. From the first, he is shown as childish and reckless, completely unconcerned about the welfare of anyone else. For example, when he drives his Maserati through the bush at breakneck speeds and hits the cow, he is only concerned about his wrist. It is not difficult to imagine that he would have the same reaction to hitting one of the villagers instead of just one poor man's only property. He devours his dessert like a child, and when the bowl is clean, he pushes it away and says, "All gone", as would a child.

He is also self-aggrandizing, to the point of being completely alienated from reality. He claims to be the most powerful man in the world, one who will not be influenced by other powerful countries. He even boasts of eating human meat, and does not seem to distinguish the shocked silence that follows as anything other than awe at his bravery.

He also appears to be deranged (if his delusions of grandeur were not evidence enough) because he does not seem to distinguish small issues from larger ones. One of his many abilities, he claims, is being able to look at someone and tell that he is a drunkard. His views on Uganda and the rest of the world are introduced with a bizarre detour into the evils of using cosmetics and wigs.

Irony is used frequently, although Garrigan does not acknowledge it himself. Ending his long, rambling speech, Amin claims that he is no politician, so his remarks are always brief. This is probably the broadest irony, but there is a bigger one: Amin rules over a country where the prisoners who tend the State House lawns are underfed while he imports Savile Row suits and Scotch and Mercedes limousines, but he claims that his entire country is rich enough that he can provide free food for the rest of the world-and he exhorts the ambassadors present at his dinner to be sure that the food is distributed equally.

Part 1, Chapter 2

Part 1, Chapter 2 Summary

Garrigan is writing his memoir in cold Scotland after his return home. In this chapter, he provides a formal statement of his purpose in telling his story. Because Idi Amin, "His Excellency Idi, the number one id", has never written his own story, Garrigan is going to do it for him, to provide an eyewitness account. He claims he is not trying to justify his own actions, although some people will doubtless think that is what he wants to do.

He tells about his life as the son of a minister, and how he came to work in Uganda. His early life is unremarkable-the death of his donkey he considers as the most traumatic thing that happened to him. He goes to medical school in Edinburgh, then interns in various hospitals. When he must decide how he wants to set up his practice, he chooses instead to apply for foreign service, and is chosen for a post in the Ugandan bush. His father wants him to go into general practice in England, and objects to the Foreign Service; as a result, Garrigan and his father are at odds when he leaves for Uganda. His father and mother both die while he is in Uganda, leaving their conflict unresolved.

He explains that his narrative is based on a journal he kept in Uganda, and on a series of taped interviews with Idi, made at Idi's request. A fraction of what has become known as the "dictator-phone" tapes (a play on "dictaphone," a recording device) have been released to the public, but here Garrigan intends to reveal the rest of them.

Garrigan is obsessed now with his own isolation, and wonders, "Can you tell the truth when you are talking to yourself?"

Part 1, Chapter 2 Analysis

This chapter provides the reader with Garrigan's background. The reader learns more about Garrigan than he tells us directly; for example, the stories he tells about life as a medical student have more to do with the fun he had with friends (a counterpoint to the isolation he expresses at the end of the chapter.) He compares the religion he grew up with to a fine soot that covers everything, but he also says that he intends to do a good job of telling his story because he was brought up to do what was right.

Something that the reader may have suspected in the first chapter becomes more apparent in the second: Garrigan is not the most reliable of narrators. He may be providing a more-or-less accurate account of events, but he does not seem to be aware of all of the implications of those events. The reader can often see more than Garrigan does.

Part 1, Chapter 3

Part 1, Chapter 3 Summary

The chapter begins with Garrigan's twelve-hour journey to Uganda by plane. On the flight, he reads a book about Uganda. When he arrives at the tiny airport near Kampala-where there is also a "squadron" of military planes parked in formation-he expects someone from the British embassy to meet him, but no one appears. He has no problems getting through customs, and finally takes a taxi to Kampala.

The taxi driver recommends the Speke Hotel, and once Garrigan has taken a shower, he goes down to the bar, an enormous room with the names of cricket and rugby players on the walls, along with a photo of President Obote, currently in office. He meets a large white man named Swanepoel, who tells Garrigan that there is talk of a coup, but Garrigan should not worry-they usually leave whites alone.

When Garrigan goes to the bar to get two more beers for him and the South African, some strangers come in and begin arguing with the other man. The altercation devolves into something less sinister than it appears at first-the big man and the others laugh together-but he goes with them, with an apologetic gesture to Garrigan.

Garrigan drinks both beers himself, and then goes to his room. There are large cockroaches in the room, and because of the heat, the cockroaches, and the sound of machinery outside, he is unable to sleep well. He wakes up in the middle of the night to find a large cockroach sitting on his alarm clock. He kills it, but is unable to get back to sleep. The noise of machinery is louder and closer, and the heat is still oppressive. He goes to the window and watches as a column of tanks rolls by in the street, with soldiers in the turrets.

Part 1, Chapter 3 Analysis

As the earlier chapters do, this chapter provides a strong sense of place. From the description of the aerial view as Garrigan flies over, the reader gets a sense of the geography. The description of the animals in the bush, the fertile green fields and eroded gullies, Lake Victoria, and the hills surrounding the city of Kampala, the reader gets a true visual sense of Uganda. The visual setting is augmented by other vivid observations, such as the "hydraulic" heat that hits Garrigan in the face as he leaves the plane, and his sweaty hand holding his passport as he waits in the customs line.

In addition, as he has done previously, these details are not just meant to provide atmosphere; they are also carefully chosen to project mood and tone. The badly printed photo of the incumbent president that hangs in the bar (in the company of sports scores for games played long ago) may be the first indication in this chapter that the president's days in office are numbered. Even the sound as Garrigan kills the cockroach on his

alarm clock-described as a "loud report"-is reminiscent of gunfire and violence, and immediately precedes Garrigan's observation of the tanks entering the city.

The choice of hotel is also symbolic. When Garrigan returns to his room from the bar, he reads a passage in his book about Uganda that describes the beginning of the colonial period in Uganda, and the arrival of John Hanning Speke in 1862. Garrigan's stay at the Speke Hotel-the very picture of decaying colonialism-is no coincidence.

Part 1, Chapter 4

Part 1, Chapter 4 Summary

The next morning, Garrigan has breakfast at the hotel, and notices that all of the waiters are crowding around a radio. The broadcast is about the coup, and it explains that the Uganda Armed Forces have taken power from President Obote and given it to Major-General Idi Amin Dada. There is a warning to foreign governments not to interfere with the coup.

Garrigan is fearful, and he goes out onto the balcony to look at what is going on in the street. He sees only small clusters of people, but as he watches, the street becomes crowded, and military vehicles (complete with machine guns) appear. The people cheer Idi Amin, and teenage girls give flower garlands to the soldiers. Obote posters are ripped down, and young men carry around effigies of Obote that are burned or smashed. Garrigan finds it more comical than frightening, and he decides to go down into the street, feeling very pleased with his own bravery. As he walks through the crowd, he sees a woman who is wearing a dress decorated with Obote's face be accosted by a group of young men who throw her to the ground, hitting her head on the concrete. Garrigan walks quickly away, not wanting to be involved.

He ends up in a small place that sells food and orders a Coca-Cola; as he drinks it, he listens to two men nearby discussing the coup and its implications. They are generally in favor of Amin's coup, because they believe that he will bring back their king from exile. As they leave, Garrigan stops them and asks for directions. They tell him he should go home-there are rumors about white people who were shot at the airport. Garrigan insists that he needs to go to the Ministry of Health, and they direct him there.

The Minister, Mr. Wasswa, is not available, but he learns that he will be working in Mbarara with a Doctor Merrit. Then he goes to the British embassy, where he speaks with Nigel Stone. Stone advises him to go on to Mbarara, and out of the city, where most of the activity surrounding the coup will take place. He tells Garrigan that the British government is actually quite happy that Idi Amin has stepped in, because he is "one of our own".

Garrigan also meets Major Weir, the British intelligence officer. He is also from Scotland, and seems slightly sinister to Garrigan, who finally decides that the reason is his name, which reminds Garrigan of an old folk tale. When Weir leaves, Stone explains that he was a war hero, wounded too badly to return to combat, who then transferred to intelligence.

As Garrigan is preparing to leave, Stone asks him to keep his eyes open, and to come and talk to him now and then.

Part 1, Chapter 4 Analysis

Garrigan realizes that he has arrived at a momentous time for Uganda, but his reaction is concerned more with the effects on himself rather than on the people around him. After he observes the crowd that is welcoming Idi Amin fills the streets and welcome the tanks, he goes into the street himself, feeling proud of himself for his bravery. It is only when he sees the woman accosted by a group of young men that he appears to recognize how serious the situation is. Then he decides he must get to the Ministry that has hired him, and to his embassy. He does not appear to consider that the Ministry might not be open for business in the middle of a coup-his own business is far more important, as far as he is concerned.

The narrative continues to be rich with symbolism. Garrigan describes the facade of the Speke Hotel as crumbling when he steps out onto the balcony to see what is going on. When Garrigan take refuge in a small restaurant, he orders Coca-Cola, a ubiquitous symbol of Western influence. Even the ad for Coca-Cola is ironic: Coke, it says, is the real thing.

One of the devices that provides the reader with more information about the political situation is an overheard conversation; when Garrigan takes refuge in a small restaurant to drink a Coke, he listens to two other patrons who are discussing the coup. This serves more than one purpose: first, the reader learns more about the political situation, which is necessary for understanding the events in the story. Doing it this way means that Garrigan does not have to know this information-he's simply passing it along as narrator. It is also a far more interesting way for a reader to receive the information. Perhaps most important, however, is that the information is provided from varying viewpoints. While both the native Ugandans and Stone are in favor of Idi Amin's takeover, they have very different reasons for wishing it, and this is another point of information that will be important later on.

Part 1, Chapter 5

Part 1, Chapter 5 Summary

When Garrigan finds a matatu (or minibus) going to Mbarara the next morning, it is not quite what his book about Uganda led him to expect; the book had described the matatu's in picturesque terms. It is impossibly crowded and uncomfortable, and when he takes off his jacket to cushion the seat a little bit, some of the other passengers make fun of him, calling him "white man".

Some of the passengers are wearing Western-style clothes; mostly they are civil servants who have been fired by the new regime. One of the passengers sitting behind him is a student at the university in Kampala, who is on his way home to Mbarara, and he knows Doctor Merrit. His name is Boniface, or Bonney.

There is one serious incident on the way: the bus stops at some sort of roadblock, and a soldier boards with an automatic rifle, incongruously wearing a pair of pink fluffy slippers. He checks the identity papers of all of the passengers, and when he gets to Garrigan, Garrigan hands over his passport. The soldier looks it over, and then motions Garrigan to go with him. With the student's guidance, Garrigan ends up bribing the soldier with a 500-shilling note to stay on the bus. The soldier is satisfied, and turns to the next passenger.

One of the other passengers is a large man in a Western suit, carrying a briefcase. The soldier wants to look in the briefcase, and the man refuses in English. He is a Kenyan diplomat, he says, and his papers are all in order. Boniface tells Garrigan that the soldier is accusing him of being a spy, and then the soldier hits him in the face with the butt of the rifle. He is left on the bus, though, and as soon as the soldier is gone, Garrigan tries to help the Kenyan. The Kenyan rejects his help angrily, saying that Garrigan should have stood up for him while the soldier was there, demanding money, not now; he is just like every white man, there to take what he can. Although the face wound is serious, he will not even let Garrigan bandage it, even when Garrigan explains that he had to give money to the soldier, too.

Boniface comforts Garrigan when he returns to his seat, saying that it is not his fault; everyone has been like this since the soldiers came.

Part 1, Chapter 5 Analysis

The bus journey provides a wonderful view of Uganda outside Kampala; it is a microcosm in itself. There are the villagers (like the old woman who sits next to Garrigan) with their animals, and the displaced civil servants in ill-fitting Western clothes; there is also the lone Kenyan diplomat, whose Western clothes fit better, but who angrily rejects the help of Garrigan, a white man. The Western clothes are clearly a

symbol: as the displaced civil servants wear them, they do not fit as well as their native clothing might.

Garrigan does not even consider coming to the aid of the Kenyan when the soldier injures him; this reaction is foreshadowed in the previous chapter when he turns away from the woman in the street who has been attacked. His exchange with the Kenyan itself is symbolic of larger events: the Kenyan rejects help from a white man because white men have taken so much from Africans, and because the help offered is not what he really needs. The white man does not understand this, since he is only trying to help; in the brief anger he feels in response to this rejection, he considers making the man's wound worse. The reader can see parallels here to the involvement of white nations in Africa's affairs.

Part 1, Chapter 6

Part 1, Chapter 6 Summary

Garrigan arrives in Mbarara late in the afternoon. Boniface shows Garrigan where a hotel is and makes him promise to visit his family. Garrigan sets off to find Doctor Merrit, since the phone lines are down and he cannot find him otherwise. He asks directions from a group of children who show him the compound where the doctor lives.

He finds the doctor's house as it is getting dark, in a compound surrounded by a gated fence. Doctor Merrit answers the door, surprised to see him because the Ministry had said Garrigan would be there a month ago. Merrit and his wife welcome Garrigan and offer him a room for the night, and call for Nestor, their servant, to collect Garrigan's belongings from the hotel, which they say is awful. When Nestor does not appear, they complain about the servants (they steal and are unreliable, according to the Merrits). Garrigan says that he will do without, but the Merrits laugh and say everyone thinks that until they have to wash their own clothes by hand.

Mrs. Merrit feeds Garrigan, and they offer him a beer-a Simba, with a picture of a lion on the front that reminds Garrigan of black-and-white movies about Africa, but also of a heraldic device, a symbol on a coat-of-arms. There is a bungalow clean and waiting for Garrigan to move in within the compound, but he will have to get things like bedding from the market. As they talk, Mrs. Merrit says that they will probably never return to England; they are Africans now, and would miss it too much. Doctor Merrit contradicts this; clearly unwilling to consider that they will never go back, but when he leaves the room, Mrs. Merrit tells Garrigan that he has no pension, and no choice. She says that he might go into private practice in South Africa to mend his fortunes, but the doctor will not consider it. Garrigan goes to sleep that night thinking of Simba-lion rampant, and leopard couchant.

Part 1, Chapter 6 Analysis

Here the reader is provided with a sense of the village itself and the way the white inhabitants fit into it. The children who guide Garrigan to Doctor Merrit dance around him and call him muzungu, or white man; they play with toy cars they have made themselves, toys that surprise Garrigan with their sophistication.

The Merrits, who live separated from the rest of the village in a fenced compound, provide a white man's view of the village. The hotel is substandard, and the servants unreliable, but it is possible to get mustard powder there that is even better than the mustard available in England. Mrs. Merrit obviously believes that they have become African, but the reader can see that this is not really true; they have not become part of the village except for hiring its inhabitants as servants, and providing medical care for them. They maintain their own way of life-the sandwich Mrs. Merrit offers Garrigan is

very English, down to the mustard, even if the mustard was not itself from England. The bed they offer him is made with crisp white sheets, and they hire servants to do the chores that make life in Africa more difficult, such as doing laundry by hand.

This chapter concludes Garrigan's journey from Great Britain to Mbarara. In retrospect, the journey is also a symbolic one, from his complete ignorance of Uganda as he leaves Great Britain, guided only by a clearly antiquated (and inadequate) guidebook, to his arrival at his new home, with more real knowledge of the country. It could be viewed as a Pilgrim's Progress; what remains to be seen is what he learns from his journey.

Part 1, Chapter 7

Part 1, Chapter 7 Summary

The next morning, Garrigan has breakfast with the Merrits, complete with malaria pills. Garrigan has not intended to take them, because Mbarara is not considered one of the high-risk areas for malaria, but Merrit insists, pointing out that while they don't have as many mosquitoes, it is wise to be careful. They listen to the BBC news hour, gathered around the radio. Garrigan observes, as narrator, that it is the BBC that helped him get through the bad times to come with Idi Amin.

After breakfast, Merrit takes Garrigan to the bungalow where he will live. It has barred windows; apparently, they are necessary to protect the inhabitants from murderous bandits as well as petty thieves, which are numerous. Garrigan thinks he can be happy here. Each house has its own fence, within the fenced compound.

Merrit then takes him to the clinic, where he meets some of the other medical personnel. There is a long line of patients waiting to be treated, but Merrit ignores them when they call out at him. He shows Garrigan around the clinic and its grounds-the refrigerator that runs on paraffin because the generator cannot be trusted to run all of the time; the cesspool that is invisible, covered with grass, except for the bad smell and an indentation in the earth that reminds Garrigan of a recent grave.

Garrigan spends the rest of the day becoming acquainted with the clinic and its practices. That evening, he goes for a walk and is caught out in the rain. He sleeps soundly, he says, with the rain drumming on the metal roof, but also mentions a Godzilla-like nightmare of a battle between a bullfrog and a cricket, triggered by the cricket he encountered on his walk; struggling against its imprisonment in the secretions the bullfrog uses to immobilize its prey.

Part 1, Chapter 7 Analysis

Again, Garrigan does not seem to be the most reliable of narrators, particularly at the end of the chapter, when he reports how refreshed he feels from the rain, and his sound sleep through the rainstorm, then his mention of his nightmare. This can also be seen as a metaphor for the state of his feelings about the country where he now lives. The sense of security and peace are an echo of his initial feelings about the bungalow where he will live; the nightmare about the insect and bullfrog in a grotesque fight to the death reflects his unrest about the upheaval he has seen, and might also indicate how he feels about his role as observer: the people of Uganda are as foreign to him as the bullfrog and insect he dreams of.

Gathering around the radio to listen to the BBC, as families did during the war in England, can be seen as symbolic in more than one way. Life in Mbarara is anachronistic, a remnant of another time; in fact, the Merrits came to Africa while it was

still a colony. This small community of white doctors lives in privilege among the Africans who live less well. Gathering close around the radio is also indicative of their need to be close to something from their own culture, and the security of being in the company of other whites, isolated from the life of the village.

While at the clinic, Garrigan mistakes a parasite infestation for a case of smallpox. In spite of the things he has seen on his trip from Great Britain to Mbarara, he still thinks in Western terms. He has quite a way to go before he has adapted to this new world.

Part 1, Chapter 8

Part 1, Chapter 8 Summary

Garrigan moves into the bungalow, and in the evenings he sits on the veranda with his journal. At the clinic, he treats cases of parasitic illness and other kinds of injuries and illnesses he could not have imagined before he came to Uganda. Some can be treated successfully; some they can do nothing for. Although he has always believed he had a strong stomach, Garrigan is often nauseated at the condition of some of the patients, and by the smell of the specimens that they must analyze themselves, at night, because the specimens will not survive the trip to Kampala without refrigeration.

He becomes better acquainted with Sara, the Israeli doctor who works at the clinic, and thinks he is falling in love with her. Ivor Seabrook, another of the doctors, is an old alcoholic Englishman who specializes in tsetse fly infestations. Mrs. Merrit has complained more than once about the series of cook boys the doctor has employed, and worries that he will drag the clinic into trouble with the police.

Garrigan becomes especially close to Waziri, an African doctor whose job is to travel around to surrounding areas in the clinic's Land Rover, spraying for mosquitoes, giving inoculations, and trying to educate the people in the villages about basic hygiene, such as burying bodies when people die, rather than throwing them in the swamp to pollute the water supply.

One day, after Garrigan and Waziri come to a roadblock set up by soldiers, and pass once they have bribed the guard with 200 shillings, Garrigan tells Waziri that he is happy to be seeing the real Africa. Waziri is derisive, and tells Garrigan that if he wants to see the real Africa, he should go to the hotels and see the dances done for the benefit of the tourists. He says that the real Africa is the one Waziri inhabits, right here, and it does not require being threatened by soldiers to see it. Garrigan asks about the dances with masks, and Waziri tells him that sometimes there are benefits to the dances; some of the masks, for example, provide a form of psychotherapy, shocking the viewer into his right mind.

Part 1, Chapter 8 Analysis

Garrigan is learning more about what living in Africa is really like and is treating horrendous diseases, some of which he can do nothing about. He is occasionally despondent, but when he is traveling around with Waziri, it is clear that he has not lost all of his romantic notions about Africa.

Garrigan is still young, but an adult; nonetheless, he often seems to react to his surroundings as a schoolboy might. He falls in love with Sara, but it seems like a schoolboy crush. The clinic is his school, teaching him about the realities of life, but he does not seem to be ready to grow up and accept the lessons. Even when Sara asks

him what it is like to be Scottish-she has never known a Scot before-he answers her by talking about sports.

He also remains an observer. He knows about Ivor's proclivity for young boys from Mrs. Merrit, but the only action he takes is to avoid involvement with Ivor. When he travels to other villages with Waziri, he gives injections, but it is Waziri who reads the "riot act", laying down the rules the villagers should follow to be healthier. Even with Sara, the only action he takes is to arrange to bump into her at the clinic.

The symbol of the lion makes a brief appearance here-Waziri describes one of the masks used in the ritual dances, a large lion, as "rather wonderful".

Part 1, Chapter 9

Part 1, Chapter 9 Summary

A boy brings a note from Boniface Malumba, the student on the bus, inviting Garrigan to visit. The messenger is one of the boys who directed Garrigan to the compound when he first arrived in Mbarara, and is Boniface's brother, Gugu.

Garrigan has lunch with the Malumba family. The house is quite nice by local standards; there is even a black-and-white TV. Mr. Malumba is a retired official who had been Chief Headman for the Directorate of Overseas Surveys, and he tells Garrigan about his early work, surveying the country as part of the "triangulation" project, mapping Uganda and the rest of Africa.

The Malumbas are not from the Mbarara area; they lived near Kampala, and only moved here when Mr. Malumba retired. He is not a fan of Idi Amin; in his opinion, the new leader is no better than the old. The Malumbas left Kampala because of Obote, and he believes that more will move because of Amin.

Bonney is not happy that his father is monopolizing his friend. He corrects his father about a name translation, and after a while, the two begin to argue. Bonney asks Garrigan if he can get Bonney into a good medical school in England, but then Gugu brings in a chameleon to play with. Mr. Malumba is very angry-it is bad luck to hurt a chameleon-and eventually Bonney and Garrigan are left alone. They watch a kung fu movie on TV, and late in the afternoon, Garrigan goes back to his bungalow, missing home.

Part 1, Chapter 9 Analysis

This chapter furthers Garrigan's education about the "real" Africa by looking closely at another kind of family that Garrigan does not see at the clinic. Garrigan's wish to please his hosts and his willingness to be a spectator gives depth to the reader's knowledge of Uganda, and an image of Uganda as it was in the past, before the wars between the strong men who struggle for power.

Gugu's chameleon illustrates the dichotomy between "old" Uganda and the current generation. His father holds the older belief that chameleons should not be harmed, while Gugu does not believe this at all. Bonney falls in the middle, not adhering to his father's views, but not approving of the boy's behavior, either.

The intrusion of another Western symbol, the television that shows a kung fu movie, is a feature of this more socially prominent family. In Garrigan's eyes, at least, the Malumbas' home indicates their relative wealth, and the presence of the TV is part of this. While Mr. Malumba rejects the current mode of government and treasures the past, part of that past includes some Westernization. This complex relationship between

Western culture and African culture, between a forested Uganda and one stripped of many natural resources, between poor and rich, and the varying scale of what is a lot of money and not a lot-all of this makes the novel richer and its setting far more believable.

Part 1, Chapter 10

Part 1, Chapter 10 Summary

Garrigan's life at Mbarara has become boring to him, but then Idi Amin comes to visit, which is a big event. Garrigan attends the appearance with Sara, who takes careful notes. When Garrigan asks her why, she says she is just interested. Garrigan as narrator wonders how he could have been so naive. Garrigan describes Amin as having a sort of charisma that keeps the attention of his audience riveted on him. Amin talks about the importance of doing one's duty and working hard, warning that if they don't make some progress in Uganda, the white man may take over again. The citizens must be the doctors of Uganda, making sure that the country remains healthy.

Waziri tells Garrigan that he should not have gone to hear Idi, because seeing white faces in the audience will encourage him, but he still wants to hear what was said.

Part 1, Chapter 10 Analysis

This chapter is a series of mostly unrelated events that seem to have little significance at the time, except that they are about Garrigan's boredom, or relief from his boredom.

Garrigan's first encounter with Amin foreshadows his later involvement. Although he describes Amin's attraction as "naked" and "visceral", he does appear to be fascinated by the man. From Garrigan's narrative comments about Sara's note taking, it appears that Sara is not just a doctor. This is just a hint, but will certainly be revisited later.

Part 1, Chapter 11

Part 1, Chapter 11 Summary

The chapter begins with dinner at the Merrits, with Garrigan, Sara, and Ivor. Ivor gets drunk, and Garrigan and Sara get him back to his bungalow, then Sara invites Garrigan in for a drink. Sara's bungalow is sparsely furnished, but she does have a short-wave radio. Garrigan asks about it, and she says all Israeli doctors get them with their grant, and that she can use it to call Tel Aviv to get medical advice. They sit on the sofa and talk for a while as they drink, edging closer to each other. Eventually, however, Sara sends him home, telling him he will turn into a drunk like Ivor.

A few days later, he sees a leopard on a hill above the clinic. He is terrified, but the big cat just lies down and washes its paws. Garrigan tells Sara that the way to handle predators like that is to remain calm, so they don't catch the scent of your fear. She is not impressed. He also sees a pair of cranes, the national bird of Uganda. Waziri tells him that once a year they perform a mating dance, but Garrigan says that he never did see it.

Garrigan travels with Waziri again, this time close to the border with Zaire. He visits a banana wine factory, and provides a list of the things that can be made from bananas. Waziri explains that the life cycle of the banana tree is eighteen months, but when it dies, a new plant springs up in the location of the dead tree.

A young girl, whom Garrigan describes as overweight but with a pretty face, comes in complaining of backache. She tells him it is from hoeing too much, but just as Garrigan is about to send her for x-rays, she delivers a baby. At first, he believes that the girl has attributed her condition to hoeing too much because she is in denial, but then he realizes that in this society, there is no stigma attached to pregnancy; in fact, her mother is quite happy to hear that her daughter was pregnant.

This leads Garrigan to think about how infallible a doctor's diagnosis can be, and further, how a system of knowledge can never be complete.

Part 1, Chapter 11 Analysis

This chapter shows Sara encouraging Garrigan to a degree, but the reader is given clues that she may not be interested in a relationship with him, such as her reaction when Garrigan tells her how to handle an encounter with a predatory animal. She has a short-wave radio, and Garrigan's acceptance of her explanation that it is standard equipment for Israeli doctors seems naive.

In spite of his gullibility where Sara is concerned, Garrigan appears to be maturing as a doctor, as he realizes that medical decisions made in real life are not as cut-and-dried as he had been taught; in fact, he realizes that the Western preoccupation with

identifying and classifying a finite body of knowledge is artificial, and that real knowledge is not like that.

Part 1, Chapter 12

Part 1, Chapter 12 Summary

It is Garrigan's second year in Uganda, and one night there is a lot of noise at the barracks, and an explosion. Waziri tells him the next morning that some soldiers from the north had killed all of the Langi and Acholi soldiers. He has seen scores of bodies being taken away in trucks to be dumped in the forest.

In June, two Americans disappear after asking questions about the soldiers and the killings. Garrigan does not see them, but Sara has spoke to one of them, who said he was a journalist. Garrigan and Sara spend the weekend in bed together, a new development.

Waziri tells him that the Americans argued with Major Mabuse, who was made a major by Idi Amin's government, and that they were bayoneted and buried by the road. Garrigan sees Major Mabuse in town the next day, driving a blue Volkswagen like the one the Americans were seen in.

In June, Garrigan also sees a corpse in the river, bloated beyond recognition, and then he receives a letter from his sister telling him about his father's death, and another one about his mother. The post delayed the first letter, so he receives them both in the same month. Garrigan wonders whether he should go back to Great Britain, but does not. Writing his narrative, he sees this as callous, and believes that perhaps a part of him has already begun to close down. There is also a small fire at the clinic that destroys the library and part of a wing of the clinic. Garrigan believes it might be his fault, but cannot tell Merrit.

He continues to see Sara, and one day they drive the clinic's Land Rover into the mountains, which are quite beautiful. While they are there, they begin to hear bagpipes, and soon a regiment of soldiers in Scottish military dress comes marching into view. Garrigan supposes they are a border patrol. The soldiers, who march on and disappear, ignore them.

Part 1, Chapter 12 Analysis

Again, this chapter is a series of events that are not necessarily related. Garrigan becomes involved with Sara, as he has wanted; in fact, he considers this the only positive event. In other events, he remains an observer. The killing of the soldiers and the murder of the Americans obviously concern Waziri; while Garrigan seems to be curious about it, he does not want to talk about it while he is in bed with Sara.

Several of the events point to a strengthening of the malignant power of the military. Major Mobuse, previously pointed out as a bad officer to deal with, does not try to hide

his involvement in the death of the Americans, even though they were presumably killed because they were investigating his involvement in the massacre of the soldiers.

Part 1, Chapter 13

Part 1, Chapter 13 Summary

Garrigan's life goes more smoothly for a few months. He and Sara are still spending time together, and he teaches interns they have taken on at the clinic. He hears on the BBC one night that Israel is in a declared state of emergency and tells Sara. She tells him that Israel is always in a state of emergency.

He thinks he has an ear infection, but Sara finally looks at it and finds that it is just plugged up. She cleans out the canal, and he can hear very clearly now. One morning, he wakes up to hear her on the radio, speaking Hebrew. He asks her who she is talking to, and she tells him she was asking Tel Aviv for a raise, but she appears to be troubled.

In September, Garrigan goes "on tour" to outlying areas by himself, because Waziri is on vacation. He returns to find Gugu at his front door. The boy does not speak; he simply points toward the town. Garrigan cannot find anyone at the clinic, so he goes into town, and finds a crowd that includes the doctors from the clinic. Part of a street has been destroyed in an attack by Obote guerillas, and there are a number of bodies lying in the street. Bonney and his parents are among the victims.

Gugu stays with Garrigan for a while, and Sara spends most of her time there as well. Gugu will not speak; Garrigan realizes that he needs help the clinic cannot give him. After a month, Gugu's relatives come and take him away with them, and Garrigan feels they blame him for keeping Gugu for a month. Now that Gugu is gone, Sara becomes more distant, and their relationship sours. Garrigan as narrator believes that the month with Gugu was a fantasy for both Sara and himself, holding them together when they would probably otherwise have grown apart; that they were creating some semblance of family life with the boy.

Idi Amin's pronouncements, reported by the BBC, became stranger. In a message to the British queen, he said that the Scots would eventually rise up and fight for their freedom if it did not come peacefully. Some Scots considered him their last king, he said.

Then Idi Amin makes a speech in which he says it is time for the Asians to go back to Asia. They came first to build the railroads during colonial times, and stayed to become merchants and businessmen. Soon after the speech, the local military begin redistribution of the Asians' property, and those who do not leave the country voluntarily are forced to leave, penniless. The Asian doctor's assistant from the village comes to the clinic with his face blackened with shoe polish to ask for refuge. It is decided that they will help him get over the border; Merrit does not want to risk the clinic for him, but Garrigan says that they cannot turn him over to the military.

After the Asians are removed, the military takes over their shops and businesses, but don't have the skill or experience needed to run them, or the lines of supply from Asia

that the Asians did. All sorts of supplies become unavailable, and when the military butchers a herd of cows, there is no milk, either. Things become worse at the clinic as well; it is increasingly difficult to get any medications or other supplies from the Ministry. Worst of all, Waziri never returns to the clinic from his holiday.

Then Sara disappears-another of Idi Amin's speeches is about Zionist imperialists and their secret army; although it was thought to refer to a particular sect of African Jews, the Israelis think it would be wise to leave as well. Garrigan believes that he should have seen it coming.

Part 1, Chapter 13 Analysis

The events here are the ones foreshadowed by the more innocuous events of previous chapters. At the beginning of the chapter, Sara cleans out Garrigan's ear, which has been plugged for some time. Garrigan can now hear clearly-perhaps figuratively as well. It is in this chapter that he appears to take some action for the first time, standing up for the Asian doctor's assistant who comes to them for help. In retrospect, however, he does not feel he was hearing clearly enough, because he is not able to know that Sara will be leaving.

The soldiers who appeared in a previous chapter, dressed like Scots and playing bagpipes, are partly explained by Idi Amin's bizarre claim that he is considered by some Scots to be the last king of Scotland. He appears to equate his country's treatment as a colony with the subjugation of the Scottish people. The threat that the Scots will rise against the throne of England appears to be part of his own determination to throw off the white man's influence.

Garrigan's losses are piling up in this chapter. Waziri is the person he is closest to at the clinic; his departure is a great loss for Garrigan, although he does not do more than mention the desertion. There is apparently some question in Garrigan's mind about whether he is still alive; this may be why the body in the river is important enough to mention. He loses Boniface, his first friend here, then Gugu, his surrogate child. Finally, he loses Sara; although they have grown apart, he is not ready to lose her. Neither Garrigan at the clinic nor Garrigan as narrator talk about these losses, though; he does not repeat his remarks about seeming callous, but he appears to be closing down, as mentioned in the previous chapter.

Part 1, Chapter 14

Part 1, Chapter 14 Summary

Once Sara is gone, Garrigan reports that his ears get worse, and this time he believes that is an infection. This is about the same time that Idi Amin begins to fascinate Garrigan. When Amin claims to be the last rightful king of Scotland on the radio, Garrigan has a wild thought that there is a special meaning there for him, since he is a Scot.

Now the novel returns to the story of Idi's crash in the Maserati, this time in more detail. Soldiers come to get him at the bungalow, and he is taken to the place where Idi is lying on the ground, cursing in Swahili. Garrigan is awed by Idi's size, but also by his presence; he feels that Idi could be a character from a Greek myth, even though he smelled of beer and sweat.

He checks Idi for broken bones or other injuries, trying not to anger him or make him explode. When he is able to get to his feet, he is charming; he thanks Garrigan in English, and offers him brandy. He tries to pay Garrigan who will not take the money; he offers Garrigan a job in Kampala, but Garrigan tells Amin that he is happy where he is. Amin leaves, with cryptic remarks about water flowing only into a valley, not climbing a hill, and that if water is spilled, it cannot be recovered. When Idi and his entourage have completely disappeared, taking the cow (which a soldier shot,) Garrigan is left to walk a long distance home.

Part 1, Chapter 14 Analysis

Here again, the state of Garrigan's hearing appears to be indicative of his perceptions in general. As his ears become infected, he becomes more interested in Idi Amin, and feels an odd connection with him because of his claims to be the last king of the Scots.

When he treats Idi, he is clearly fascinated by the man, even as he knows that angering him might be fatal. Although he turns down Idi's offers of money and a cushy job, and Idi and his soldiers leave him to walk home-perhaps not deliberately, but by forgetting about him-Garrigan continues to be fascinated.

Part 1, Chapter 15

Part 1, Chapter 15 Summary

When the letter comes from the Ministry of Health offering him the job of Idi Amin's personal physician, Garrigan is miserable at Mbarara because everywhere he looks, he is reminded of Sara. Merrit is not happy that Garrigan is abandoning the clinic, but Garrigan accepts anyway. The Ministry sends a car for him, driven by a man named Barclay.

The journey is the reverse of the one Garrigan took when he went to Mbarara, passing the same towns. At one point, Barclay tells Garrigan that there is an interesting thing to see, and Garrigan agrees that they should stop. It is concrete rings with a plaque marking the equator. Barclay says that there is a place nearby to buy soft drinks, but that the owner is crazy. Garrigan does not care, so they go to the man's house, and he pulls out two dusty Cokes that he says are ice-cold, and opens them with his teeth.

His name is Angol-Steve, he tells them, because he sees things from many angles. Barclay argues with him the whole time, saying that he is crazy. When he learns that Garrigan is from Scotland, he takes him to the grave of a Scot who died in the 1890s. The headstone attributes the original cause of his death to fatigue following a military campaign years earlier, where he had been a hero.

When Garrigan and Barclay leave, they have forgotten to pay the man for the soft drinks, so he runs after them, and Garrigan produces the money. He says something in Swahili; when Garrigan asks what he said, Barclay says that it is nonsense: "look behind you, the child might get burned." Garrigan looks behind him and sees Angol-Steve disappearing as they pull away.

Part 1, Chapter 15 Analysis

This novel is split into two parts, and this is the end of the first part, which is about Garrigan's life in Mbarara. Garrigan is miserable in Mbarara now, and attributes his misery to missing Sara, but it seems obvious that he is grieving for others as well, and simply displacing that grief, for whatever reason, on Sara's departure.

The stop at the equator is a metaphor for Garrigan's journey to the capitol from the countryside, where on one side, water swirls in one direction, and in another on the other side of the line. Garrigan is crossing a line by going to Kampala, and on the other side, the world will not be quite the same.

There is a traditional link between insanity and prophecy; those around them often judge prophets insane. Angol-Steve fits that tradition well; he claims that he sees things no one else does, while Barclay claims he is crazy.

The grave he takes them to seems to foreshadow future events. Although the Scot buried there lived for over twenty years after he left Scotland, and he survived the military campaign in which he was a hero, the plaque on his grave says that it was the battle that caused his death. The reader knows that Garrigan survives his time with Idi Amin because of his written account of it, written after he returns to Scotland. This seems to imply that Garrigan might not survive the damage for many more years.

Part 2, Chapter 16

Part 2, Chapter 16 Summary

Introducing the second part of the novel, Garrigan provides a biography of Idi Amin. He has tried to piece his research together as well as he can, but there are still areas where his life is a mystery.

His mother is a slave, perhaps named Pepsi, who may have been a witch, or a prostitute. His father is not known. Garrigan pauses here to consider Idi's conception, whether it was a financial transaction or an act of pleasure, or simply a mistake. If that conception were a mistake, do the 300,000 deaths caused by Idi Amin result from that mistake, or would another tyrant have filled that spot if Idi had never existed?

Most of his childhood is unknown. After World War II, he enlists in the 4th King's African Rifles. It seems to be here that he acquires his initial fascination with Scotland; an eccentric officer from Scotland puts some of the regiment into kilts. Later he claims that all of the officers who promoted him were Scottish. He excels at rugby and boxing, eventually becoming boxing champion of Uganda, and even challenges Muhammad Ali to a match.

He remains in the military, learning English in Kenya in 1959, and is promoted to Effendi, a type of junior officer. There an incident involving the murders of some Turkana tribesmen that he is almost charged with, but in 1962, Uganda is becoming an independent nation with Obote as leader, and the British don't want anything to get in the way, so they cover it up.

The new country is made up of a collection of kingdoms. King Freddie is head of the influential Baganda tribe (from which Uganda gets its name.) The British have deported him, but he returns, and leads Baganda in an effort to secede from the new country. Obote orders Idi Amin, now the Army Chief of Staff, to shell the Baganda palace in 1966, and King Freddie flees to England, where he dies of alcohol poisoning, although Baganda believe Obote's agents assassinated him.

After Obote survives an assassination attempt in 1969, he takes up communism as someone who survives near death might take up religion. This worries Britain, the US, and their allies, since communism is on the rise in Africa. In the meantime, Amin is building a network, funding it by selling the ivory, diamonds, and gold he obtains from Congolese rebels in exchange for guns. Obote suspects that he is planning a coup and orders his arrest, but it is too late; Amin is ready to take over the country. He deals with the Baganda kingdom by abolishing all separate kingdoms that make up Uganda, and declares it a unified state. Since Amin is politically right-wing, and definitely no communist, this situation suits Britain and America just fine.

Garrigan provides part of an itinerary he has reconstructed for Amin, during the second year of Garrigan's work at the clinic. It includes a trip to Israel to discuss an arms deal and military cooperation, as well as a trip to England, and a visit with Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. When the Queen asks him why he came to visit, he tells her that it is difficult to find a pair of size 13 shoes. He also visits Scotland, where the Ugandan flag is flown over Edinburgh castle as a salute to Amin, and his young son-named Campbell-wears a kilt.

Part 2, Chapter 16 Analysis

This history of Idi Amin is told in a more ironic tone, which is clearly the voice of the older Garrigan. It explains Amin's obsession with Scotland, at least in part, but more importantly, it gives a more complete picture of the man himself. The fact that Garrigan has gone to some trouble to reconstruct Amin's life says that he is still obsessed with Amin, but he now seems willing to confront his atrocities as well.

Other than that, the story is told in a very straightforward way, in a tone that suggests Garrigan has set his own story aside to present these historical facts, facts that should be known.

Part 2, Chapter 17

Part 2, Chapter 17 Summary

Garrigan does not see Amin again for a month after the state dinner. One day he goes to the pool at a big hotel in the city-non-guests can pay a small monthly fee to use it. Marina Perkins, the wife of the British ambassador, is there, sunning herself on a lounger. They talk for a while-she is bored, and restricted by her husband's position, but she is unable to do many things on her own-and she tells Garrigan that even talking to him at the pool was something she should not do.

As they talk, Garrigan notices that some of the attendants around the pool are paying close attention to their conversation. After Mrs. Perkins leaves, Garrigan swims again, but when he gets out, he realizes that several Ugandans, including soldiers, had taken the loungers. Wasswa is also there, and he calls Garrigan over to him, telling him there is something he needs to see.

A fountain appears in the center of the pool, and as the Ugandans cheer, Idi Amin rises out of the column of water on a small platform. He dives, and then swims to where Wasswa and Garrigan sit. He jokes about Garrigan, pretending to disapprove of Garrigan swimming when he should be working, and then insists on showing him the apparatus that created the fountain. He tells Garrigan that it is a significant advance in Ugandan technology, created by the Israelis. Without warning, he pushes Garrigan into the device, and turns it on, so Garrigan rises up into the pool on a spout of water. He complains that Idi has scared him, and Idi decides to expound on "afraidness." to those around him. At one point, a waiter from the hotel is told to swim out to Amin with his tray of Coca-Cola and food. When he swims back awkwardly, his clothes floating around him, Garrigan is reminded of the bloated body he saw in the river.

Amin talks about a bad chief who will eventually be pulled into the fire by God for indulging himself at the expense of his country. When he finishes his story, he decrees that now there will be swimming races, so they will be ready if an enemy attacks them on Lake Victoria. Garrigan notices that Amin wins all of the matches he is in.

The next day, Amin calls Garrigan, telling him that his son is dreadfully ill, and he must come at once. The house is in an upper-class suburban neighborhood, and looks like any other large house there, but with gun emplacements and an antenna on the roof. The boy's mother, Kay, meets him at the door and tells him that Amin has left on urgent business, and takes him to her son.

When Garrigan examines the boy, his nose is bleeding, so Garrigan pulls a Lego block out of his nose. The mother is thrilled that her son is cured, and she predicts that Amin will be pleased as well.

Through Wasswa, Amin gives Garrigan a white Toyota van the next day; it is second-hand, but the note says that Garrigan can get the previous owner's sign removed. Garrigan is thrilled with the gift.

Part 2, Chapter 17 Analysis

The suburban house where Kay lives is very ordinary, and Amin's family seems very normal. This may be a comment on how ordinary evil can seem, but it is also be a reminder that Amin is human. One of the characteristics that makes Garrigan's depiction of Amin so compelling is that Garrigan does not try to diminish his complexity. This very ordinary family life is another important key to who he is.

Although the thank-you gift from Amin is second-hand, it delights Garrigan (who still has the car dealer paint over the sign-and steam the upholstery). He does not seem to have any trepidation about accepting this gift from Amin for doing his job. To him, it means freedom.

Part 2, Chapter 18

Part 2, Chapter 18 Summary

Garrigan has begun working three days a week at the main hospital in Kampala, doing some surgery (although he is a not a surgeon) and working in casualty. He meets some of the other doctors, and considers participating in one of the research projects going on, but he is enjoying life too much right now to commit time to it.

He enjoys going to clubs and bars, and runs into Swanepoel, the pilot he met on his first night in Kampala. He tells Garrigan that if he paints a red cross on the hood of his car, it will be easier to get through roadblocks, so Garrigan does.

He runs into Swanepoel again when he visits a club with Peter, one of the African doctors at the hospital. Swanepoel joins them, and they talk about the discovery of some prehistoric human remains not too far from Mbarara. Swanepoel does an impression of Amin claiming that his ancestors were the first humans on earth, frightening Peter, who tells him that he will be reported. Swanepoel scoffs at this, saying that Amin needs him, and who would run the country if the whites were gone? The African doctor says that some of the coup leaders have been killed, and the Ugandans will come for the whites soon; he knows some people in Amin's household. Soldiers are beating up university students now.

Part 2, Chapter 18 Analysis

Garrigan does not exactly sink into corruption here, but he is on a downward slope. While he helps at the hospital, he does not get further involved in medical research, but spends time out on the town, now possible because of his van. Painting a red cross on the van to ease his passage seems to cause him no qualms of conscience. Lost in having some fun now after his dull life in the bush, he does not seem to be concerned about the political situation at all, even though the signs are increasingly grim.

The last paragraph of the chapter, when he watches an electrical storm as he drinks tea in the safely of his beautiful veranda, is perhaps the most symbolic and beautifully told portion of this chapter. There is a very destructive storm going on around him, but Garrigan feels safe, and is oblivious to the danger.

Part 2, Chapter 19

Part 2, Chapter 19 Summary

Garrigan's life at the hospital continues, where he treats a variety of ailments, most involving some sort of infection. One patient is a daughter of Amin, a student at a boarding school out in the bush. She sits on an embroidery needle, and the two North Korean doctors who try to extract it cannot find it, so they operate. She is brought to the hospital in Kampala when they panic over bungling her treatment.

Garrigan and Paterson, another Scottish doctor, decide to x-ray her leg before operating again, and discover there is no needle. Paterson deduces that the girl has invented the injury to get some attention from her father, and she is sent back to school.

Garrigan calls Marina Perkins to invite her along on a boat trip on the lake that he and some colleagues are planning. She mentioned at the swimming pool that she would like to do this, but her husband is afraid of water and won't take her. She accepts, and offers to bring a picnic.

A few days after Amin's daughter goes back to school, Garrigan and Paterson are called in to talk to Amin. Paterson warns Garrigan that Amin will want them, as Scots, to badmouth the English, so they need to sidetrack him with another subject. Paterson suggests seat belts as an alternate topic. He also mentions that he has seen Weir, the Scot Garrigan met at the embassy, fawning over Amin at a dinner.

Amin listens to Paterson's account of treating his daughter, occasionally laughing. Then, as a peacock howls, startling Garrigan, he begins talking about Scotland's suffering under English rule, like Uganda's. Paterson tries to derail him with traffic accidents and seat belts; while Amin pontificates for a short time, saying that there will be no traffic accidents in the new Uganda, he quickly gets irritated by Paterson's insistence on the topic, and dismisses them, pointing out that Uganda has more pressing problems than seat belts, and that he is angry with all this talk of seat belts. Paterson observes on the way back that perhaps talking about seat belts wasn't such a good idea, after all.

Part 2, Chapter 19 Analysis

The chapter begins with a description of the city pounded by rain; like Rome, Kampala was originally built on seven hills, but Kampala's hills are trying to reject it. Instead of being red, the mud is deep purple. Red is the color of arterial blood, but purple is the color of dried blood; the mud that sucks Garrigan's shoe off his foot may symbolize blood.

The peacock's cry is often considered a symbol of disaster. The cry that startles Garrigan may be a foreshadowing of future disaster that is connected somehow with Amin's obsession with Scotland.

Part 2, Chapter 20

Part 2, Chapter 20 Summary

Stone invites Garrigan to a meeting at the embassy. When he arrives, Stone is there with Perkins, the ambassador, and Weir. Stone and Perkins imply that they obtained this job for Garrigan, and tell him that Amin is getting out of hand. Garrigan does not understand, so they bring up the lorries, something they are all peripherally aware of, but ignore if they can. The trucks carry a few soldiers and the prisoners they guard, who are on their way to be executed. Garrigan, like everyone else, has remained oblivious, but now is unable to maintain that detachment.

What Stone and Perkins want him to do is to try to get Amin to be more reasonable, and failing that, to dose him with something that will make him more manageable. Weir remains silent throughout, and Garrigan feels that Weir's face takes over his perceptions as the other two talk, causing their voices to fade into unimportance. He does not agree to dope Amin, but he does not say no, either.

Part 2, Chapter 20 Analysis

Weir is an enigmatic figure throughout the book. His reaction does not seem to echo the persuasions of the other two; Garrigan perceives him as more important than the other two, but does not understand what the man wants. What Stone and Perkins are asking Garrigan to do violates his oath as a doctor; on the other hand, people are dying, and the greater good might be to break his oath.

Garrigan hesitates to take action, however, and refuses to commit his help. This is the edge of a precipice, and it is not clear which course he should take.

Part 2, Chapter 21

Part 2, Chapter 21 Summary

In the meeting at the embassy, Perkins tells Garrigan that Amin will shortly be cracking down on the British, and he is correct. Merrit and a number of other British "expats" are expelled, although Garrigan is left alone. He continues with his duties, mostly treating Amin's children and working at the hospital. He sees Merrit before he leaves, and Merrit blames him for the collapse of the clinic.

Garrigan takes Marina on the boat trip. She is surprised when she finds that she and Garrigan are the only ones going, but does not back out. They talk about the expulsions. Perkins has told Marina that they might have to leave themselves if things get worse. She also says that Weir has been retired and sent home to Scotland. Garrigan is surprised, and Marina tells him that Weir was too enthusiastic about Amin, and has even drawn up detailed battle plans for the invasion of Tanzania.

They spend the day trying to fish, then picnic on a small island. When Garrigan dares to kiss her, she reacts with anger, tells him that she is married, and demands to be taken back. She is still not talking to him when they part. Garrigan feels a little guilty, but not as much as he thinks he should.

Part 2, Chapter 21 Analysis

Garrigan appears to be less affected by emotion here. He finds himself in two situations where he is accused of acting badly, but neither appears to affect him very much. He does not seem to think about the plot to drug Amin, or to have decided anything, but with his lack of remorse over his behavior, it appears that ethical considerations may not play a large part in that decision.

While the mysterious Weir seems to be gone, it is likely that he will appear again in some pivotal role.

This chapter is not uneventful, but it still seems to be more a prelude to future events. Garrigan's musings at the end of the chapter reinforce this idea. His contention that no one essentially changes will undoubtedly have more meaning in future events, along with his attachment to his own history.

Part 2, Chapter 22

Part 2, Chapter 22 Summary

A week later, after Garrigan has taken a long lunch to see the tombs of the Baganda kings, Wasswa calls Garrigan at the hospital, frantic because he could not reach him for two hours. Idi Amin is ill, and Garrigan must come at once.

When Garrigan arrives, Amin sends the minister out of the room at gunpoint, and then tells the doctor that his stomach hurts. Garrigan examines him and decides that it is a gas bubble that is trapped, causing pain. Amin is so big that Garrigan cannot make the bubble escape without help, so he finds a baseball bat that he can use. Amin reacts with fear when he sees the bat, but Garrigan calms him and is able to "burp" him using the bat, relieving the pain. Amin is delighted, and insists that they must celebrate. They go to a bar and drink Ugandan gin and talk, until Amin is drunk. He insists that the doctor drive him home, and asks Garrigan to stay and talk longer. He cannot talk to anyone, and can trust no one. He admits that he was afraid when he saw Garrigan with the bat, because so many want to kill him.

He tells Garrigan that he knows the date and manner of his death; Garrigan asks if he cannot retire, but Amin tells him that it is his fate to rule. Garrigan asks him if he cannot stop the corruption in the army, and the killing. Amin tells him that no incense can cover up the smell of something rotting.

Part 2, Chapter 22 Analysis

This is the most human view of Amin so far-previously, when Garrigan meets Kay and the children, Amin was absent. He suffers from intestinal gas; an ordinary and sometimes comical problem, but Garrigan's unorthodox treatment seems to raise him in Amin's estimation and trust. Then, as he drinks with Garrigan in Kampala and at home, he does not pontificate, even when he is talking about his fate; instead, he has a conversation with the doctor, answering and asking questions.

The incident is reminiscent of the boy who removes a thorn from the lion's paw, earning his trust and gratitude. Amin can trust no one, but this doctor has had the opportunity to kill him, and has cured him instead. Garrigan may now feel that Amin will protect him, but with Amin, that cannot be a sure thing.

Part 2, Chapter 23

Part 2, Chapter 23 Summary

Garrigan spends six years as Amin's doctor, and a lot happens during that time, but he claims that he does not blame himself for all of it. He does think of Stone and Perkins' proposition from time to time; mostly when he is called on to treat Amin, but never acts on it.

Amin is very healthy, in spite of his weight, and Garrigan cannot even detect any signs of mental disease, at least none with organic origins. He believes as he writes his account that Amin's delusions of grandeur may be common to all dictators.

Although Amin offers him a larger house, Garrigan remains in the bungalow. He sees Amin frequently, and although he has many conversations with him, in the end, he does not feel that he has really come to know him. Amin sends a letters and messages to other world leaders, and often asks Garrigan's opinion, but never takes his advice.

When an attempt is made on Amin's life, Garrigan is at the hospital instead of with Amin. He learns of the attempt when Amin drives up, deposits the driver (who has a splinter of shrapnel in his temple, and cannot be saved), and roars off. Amin has been at a military review, and has changed its location several times because he suspects a coup. After it is over, he decides to drive himself, pushing the driver aside, and as he leaves, the car is hit with a grenade, where he would have been sitting if he had not driven himself.

Those responsible for the attempt on his life are not known, but troops pour into Kampala that night, killing citizens at random in reprisal. Amin tells Garrigan later that three grenades hit him, and they killed thirty-nine people, but Amin knew that he would not die, because he knows the time of his death.

Part 2, Chapter 23 Analysis

This chapter has a more reminiscent tone, and is clearly the voice of the narrator rather than his earlier self. To him, Amin is still larger than life. He admits that Amin is mentally ill, but his memories of Amin, as he lists some of them, are the kind one would have of a close friend or loved one. Amin may have been responsible for all those deaths, but here we learn that Garrigan also cared about him.

Part 2, Chapter 24

Part 2, Chapter 24 Summary

Idi marries a fourth wife, and Garrigan is invited to the Christian service, but not to the Muslim one. The service is presided over by the archbishop, who preaches about the sanctity of marriage and the importance of putting God at the center of their lives. Idi, who is dressed in Highland dress, kilt and all, tenses at the preaching and when the archbishop instructs him to say that he will accept Christ's authority in his life. Amin will not; instead, he says that he accepts the authority of the god.

Garrigan sees Marina at the ceremony, but she will not look at him. Swanepoel is also there, sitting in front of Garrigan.

Garrigan (as narrator) provides a list of Amin's wives. This fourth one, Medina, is a light-skinned dancer who is featured as the Face of Uganda in tourist publications. This will end when she marries Amin. Kay is his second wife, whom he married in 1966.

Part 2, Chapter 24 Analysis

This chapter seems to be something of an interlude between more important events, but it also illustrates Garrigan's growing attachment to Amin. At one point in the service, when Amin's shoulders are tense because of his displeasure with the archbishop's words, Garrigan's back is also hurting because of the pew he sits in. He imagines that he and Idi are tied together physically in some way.

Part 2, Chapter 25

Part 2, Chapter 25 Summary

Idi begins to confide more often in Garrigan, and calls him frequently. Garrigan is often taken away from his hospital duties to attend Amin, performing duties that had nothing to do with medicine, like briefing the journalists who reported on Amin. When Amin faces reporters, he is usually goaded into saying something outrageous. Garrigan reports on one press conference where Idi shows up in an orange jumpsuit, saying it is because he has been talking to NASA, and may be the first black man on the moon. When the journalists laugh, he protests that he is serious.

He gives opinions on a variety of issues, from Israel to Britain, to the communist countries that surround Uganda. One reporter, a woman, presses him about the killings. At first, he asks if she is married-if so, he says, her husband must have a lot of trouble with her. When she insists, however, he tells her that if there were any evidence of such killings beyond a few isolated incidents, there would be an investigation. After he threatens the female reporter (saying that no one can outrun a bullet) he complains about the British press and their war of libel against Uganda, then he ends the press conference.

The headline in one paper declares that Amin is officially mad, and that night five reporters are detained in Kampala, including the woman who asked about the killings. There are additional critical stories after the reporters are released, and Amin complains about this to Garrigan.

Part 2, Chapter 25 Analysis

As Garrigan becomes more trusted by Amin, the rest of the world becomes convinced that he is insane. This account of a single press conference illustrates this. Through Garrigan, the reader knows more about Amin, and it is easy to accept Garrigan's diagnosis, that while there are mental problems, Amin is not insane. At the same time, his grandiose ideas, not to mention his autocratic manner, appear to be signs of mental decay to outsiders, represented by the reporters. Amin's reaction to the female reporter is typical; he does not take women seriously, and when they insist on being noticed, he finds a way to threaten them. It is not just his personal attitude; it is also cultural. His society and his country have little use for women outside their traditional roles.

His treatment of the female reporter and the others he detains simply confirms the view of the outside world-his belief that he is above criticism and questioning also seems to be evidence of insanity. In Uganda, however, he does have the power to be above criticism; anyone who dares do such a thing may be punished. Garrigan simply shows the reader both sides here: the leader who is acting according to the rules in his own

country, and the outside world looking in at him, unable to comprehend his irrational behavior.

Part 2, Chapter 26

Part 2, Chapter 26 Summary

Garrigan's sister has asked him how he could become so close to a man like Amin. Garrigan is unable to explain to her, and tells the reader that life really is very normal in Uganda most of the time; it is only now and then that there are interruptions to the normalcy.

Garrigan cites the messages he sends to world leaders, some unintentionally comical, some extremely offensive. Amin has allied himself with Gaddafi of Libya, and Libyan and PLO soldiers begin to be seen around Uganda. When Amin writes the Secretary General of the UN, telling him that Hitler was right to massacre the Israelis, Garrigan hears the statement condemned on the BBC World Service, and has to agree with the condemnation, but he is still there, serving Amin.

There is one fateful month, though, when everything seems to happen at once. Amin has five wives now. One night, Peter, the African doctor at the hospital who is a friend of Garrigan's, comes to his house in a panic. He confesses that he has been having an affair with Kay, Amin's second wife, and she is pregnant. Amin has not slept with her in a long time, so he will know the child is not his. Peter wants Garrigan to perform an abortion-Peter does not feel he can do it himself.

Garrigan does not want to go with him, but does. When he gets to the hospital, he tells Peter that he cannot possibly perform the abortion, and that he must leave immediately-he has never done one, and does not want to do it badly. He rushes home in a panic that Amin will learn of his involvement.

Afterward, he hears that Peter has done the abortion, but botched it, and Kay dies of blood loss. Peter commits suicide. Amin orders an investigation, and although Garrigan's part in the affair is not revealed; he is haunted by the incident for the rest of the time he spent in Uganda. This is not because of his friend's death, however; it is terror at being discovered by Amin.

Kay's body is cut up after her death. Garrigan does not know who did it, but Amin insists that her body be sewn back together, and he conducts a bizarre ritual, which Garrigan must attend, as well as all of Amin's wives and children. Amin shows them Kay's body, and tells them that she was a bad woman.

Part 2, Chapter 26 Analysis

This chapter shows how deeply Garrigan has sunk into the world of Idi Amin. He begins by trying to explain how he could have stayed in Uganda with Amin, but cannot manage the explanation. It may be more apparent to the reader, though-if Garrigan is able to

abandon a friend because he is in terror that Amin will discover his involvement, his continuing association with Amin is less of a mystery.

Garrigan claims to be horrified by the display of Kay's reassembled body, enough so that his journal is confused and cryptic, but he acknowledges that his state of mind is not only due to that horror. His guilt and terror are part of it, of course. Once again, he is an observer, although his powers of observation are impaired by what small involvement he does have.

Part 2, Chapter 27

Part 2, Chapter 27 Summary

Later the same month, Garrigan takes a walk through Kampala, and ends up walking through the park next to the Imperial Hotel. Through the window, he sees a couple in the bar, and the man has his hand on the woman's knee. Garrigan runs blindly back through the city, agitated, because they are Swanepoel and Marina Perkins.

By the time he reaches his van, he has calmed down, although he is still upset. He goes through the next few days in a daze, enough so that Amin notices. Amin guesses that he is in love, and urges the doctor to take a vacation. He tells Garrigan that he knows of his interest in Marina, and that she is involved with Swanepoel instead. Garrigan is amazed, and Amin is pleased to find that his intelligence has been accurate. He gives Garrigan some advice on handling women, and informs Garrigan that Swanepoel is a good pilot, but a spy for a Kenyan aviation company as well.

Garrigan tries to pull himself together, resolving to concentrate on his profession and help others. Then Stone summons him again, and he knows it will be about treating Amin.

Part 2, Chapter 27 Analysis

Garrigan is hit hard by the discovery that Marina and Swanepoel are involved. There is a sense of betrayal, rational or not-Swanepoel is supposedly a friend, and Marina has turned Garrigan down on the grounds that she was married, and would not break her vows.

The fact that Amin knew what was going on is chilling, although Garrigan is too preoccupied to notice. The reader can easily see that Garrigan's resolution to reform in the face of this disaster will probably go the way of most resolutions, but Garrigan blames his lapse on Stone's call, not himself.

In his aside at the end of the chapter about the fish hanging outside the door of his small home in Great Britain, he wonders if his neckache from sitting and writing all day is actually a sentinel symptom. Sentinel symptoms are harbingers of some future event, like the neck pains some French aristocrats are said to have experienced before they go to the guillotine. His sense of betrayal over Marina, and his depression at the deaths of Kay and Peter, may be sentinels of what is to come.

Part 2, Chapter 28

Part 2, Chapter 28 Summary

When Garrigan arrives in Stone's office, he and Stone are alone. Stone says that the others will only get in the way. When Garrigan protests that he wants the boss there, Stone explains that Perkins is a ceremonial official, and not Stone's boss. Stone is responsible here.

He tries to persuade Garrigan to stop Amin by giving him something, and shows him photos of some of the executions they have documented, and compares Amin to Hitler. Amin appears in some of the photos. When Garrigan sees a photo of Amin with his hand on the shoulder of the man they are about to kill, he feels terror, remembering Amin putting his hand on Garrigan's own shoulder.

Stone says that he has orders to tell Garrigan to kill Amin, not just to incapacitate him. He will be paid well for the job. Garrigan protests that he cannot kill anyone. Stone argues that if Garrigan stands by and does nothing, he is complicit in what Amin does. Garrigan considers this, but in the end, cannot become a killer. Stone tells him that the money will be in his account soon, but not to wait too long to get rid of Amin.

Part 2, Chapter 28 Analysis

Stone puts the dilemma of Garrigan's position into sharp focus here. He provides proof of the killings that is so graphic Garrigan cannot deny its existence. He is horrified by the carnage, but equally horrified at the idea of killing another human being. He has been shocked into a view of the real world, no matter how brief; Garrigan's eventual decision that he cannot kill Amin, although initially driven by his fear, is reached when he thinks about the act of killing itself, about what it means to take another person's life. His reaction is an indication that he has not been completely absorbed into Amin's world.

Part 2, Chapter 29

Part 2, Chapter 29 Summary

Shortly after this meeting, Stone, Perkins, and the rest of the British are expelled. Amin announces that he has broken the British spy ring operating in Uganda, but also expresses his affection for the Queen of England, and hopes that she will allow him to meet with Irish, Welsh, and Scottish insurgents in Great Britain.

After the British are expelled, Garrigan's journal is stolen from the bungalow. He assumes that Amin is behind it, and is terrified but not surprised when Amin summons him the next night. When he arrives, Amin greets him pleasantly, but then accuses him of betrayal, and pulls a gun on him. Garrigan pleads for his life, and then Amin laughs and says that he will not kill someone like Garrigan.

He accuses Garrigan of conspiring against Amin with others-Weir has told him that Stone and Perkins have asked Garrigan to drug Amin. Garrigan admits this, but swears that he would never do it. Amin says that Weir reported Garrigan's refusal, and Garrigan repeats that he would never do it, because it was not right. Amin tells him that now he can forgive this other thing, and shows Garrigan his journal.

Amin is not happy with some of the things Garrigan has written-his mother, he says, was named Fanta, not Pepsi. He tells Garrigan that from now on, he will write only what Amin tells him, and nothing else.

He seems to be most intrigued by the mention of Waziri, Garrigan's friend. Amin tells him that Waziri was not a good doctor. He leads Garrigan through a hidden door into an underground complex, where some prisoners are kept. One of them is Waziri. When they reach his cell, Amin accuses Garrigan of conspiring with Waziri, who has been fighting with the Obote rebels. The guards execute Waziri in front of Garrigan, and he passes out.

When he comes to, he is in another cell. He retches when they bring him gruel to eat. He is only there one night; the next day, guards take him out of the cell. Wasswa shows up with clothing, and makes Garrigan shower. Then he is brought to see Amin again, and Amin hugs him and feeds him lunch. Garrigan speaks carefully, knowing that he is lucky to escape execution. Before he leaves, Amin tells him that as a show of loyalty, he is to renounce his British citizenship immediately, and become a Ugandan. Now Garrigan wishes that he had done as Stone asked.

When he returns to the bungalow, he prepares to leave, packing a few clothes, his passport, some hidden traveler's checks, and his journal, which was returned to him during the meal with Amin.

Part 2, Chapter 29 Analysis

This is where Garrigan's relationship with Amin has been headed all along. Just as he has been when Garrigan was in his favor, Amin is friendly at first, but now he pulls a gun on him. Amin is as capricious as he is with all adversaries; he forgives him and accepts Garrigan's assurances that he was not conspiring against Amin, then executes Garrigan's one-time friend in front of him and throws Garrigan in another cell, only to have him cleaned up and well fed the next day.

By the time Garrigan has spent a night in the cell, his fear has become constant and irrational-when he is told that he will be given ritual scars, he reacts as if they have told him they will execute him. Once he faces Amin, though, he appears to find his rational self. He speaks carefully, trying not to anger Amin, although he is still dazed from his experiences, and plans his escape. He also regrets not killing Amin when Stone asked him to. This is surely a personal reaction to his tormentor on one level, but he also appears to have realized that Amin is not an ordinary human, and that it might be forgivable to kill someone who can kill others so easily. The experience of seeing Waziri executed as he is bound and helpless is impossible to forget, more so than the photos Stone showed him.

It is significant that Garrigan has made sure that his journal is with him when he leaves. It is a record of his life in Uganda; in it, he wrote the truth as he was able to see it. Whatever else he is willing to ignore, he will not abandon or forget what has happened in Uganda while he was there.

Part 2, Chapter 30

Part 2, Chapter 30 Summary

Garrigan goes to the airport early the next morning, but finds that he cannot leave, because a hijacked airplane carrying Israeli hostages has landed there. He decides to go on to the hospital, as if it were a normal workday. A little later, Wasswa calls him and tells him that Amin needs him at the airport.

There are about 250 hostages, guarded by terrorists with megaphones and machine guns. The Israelis are quickly separated from the other passengers. Garrigan cannot gain much access to the hostages, but he is able to provide malaria tablets and blankets, and to evacuate one woman to the hospital.

The hostages thought that they would be released in Uganda, but now they learn that the Palestinian terrorists have given Israel and the rest of the world a two-day deadline to release a list of Palestinian prisoners, or all of the hostages will be blown up.

Amin arrives just as Garrigan is about to leave. He announces to the non-Israeli passengers that he has negotiated their release, and tells them there is a plane waiting for them outside. When he goes to the room where the Israelis are held, Garrigan manages to follow him in the confusion. He tells the Israeli passengers that he would like to help them, and that it was he who persuaded the Palestinians to let them off the plane. He asks them not to try to escape, because their captors have wired the room with explosives. He also urges them to write their government and ask them to meet the Palestinians' demands, so the Israeli government does not force the deaths of the hostages.

That night, Garrigan's phone rings. He expects that it will be Wasswa, but it is Sara, asking for his help. She asks him to describe the airport and the place where the hostages are being held in detail, as well as the Palestinians and what weapons they are carrying.

He gives her as much information as he can, but when she also asks him to talk to Amin on behalf of the hostages, and to suggest that Amin will be considered a great and holy man by the world if he obtains their release, he refuses. He has no influence with Amin; he has been in prison himself. He tells her that he just wants to leave the country, but she tells him that he must help; time is running out.

Part 2, Chapter 30 Analysis

Garrigan's personal crisis has been subsumed in a larger, international crisis. Garrigan is annoyed that it is interfering with his ability to get out of the country, but he is still required to attend to the hostages as much as he can. Again, he is an observer of these events; he is unable to help the hostages much, although he can provide Sara the

information she needs when she calls him. He cannot help complaining to Sara that she left him; although by now, he surely knows that she had to. He is still unable to bring himself to act when Sara asks him to try and influence Amin.

Several chapters have ended with a short passage by the narrator. In one, he muses that no one can change; in another, he rejoices in his new self. Here, he observes that he cannot help updating his journal with new information about Amin-recording an auction of underpants that supposedly belonged to Amin, and an artist's recent depiction of Amin as Bonnie Prince Charlie, dressed in tartan, heading for Scotland in a small boat. He sees his expanded journal-this narrative-as a "moldy pamphlet" that he continues to obsess over. He points out that this mad world is the one he has lived in for over eight years, and asks forgiveness for any strangeness. This could be read as an apology for these swings in perspective and temperament over the course of the book.

Part 2, Chapter 31

Part 2, Chapter 31 Summary

After Sara's phone call, Garrigan's nerves go to pieces again. He realizes that she had been a spy when he knew her, and wonders if he was just a cover. Combined with what he had seen in prison, he is a wreck.

Things in Kampala in general, and the hospital in particular, are deteriorating. They run out of water one day and cannot flush toilets or sterilize anything. The water company can do nothing about it; they only get water again when an oil company provides a tanker it has flushed of oil to deliver water from Lake Victoria on a regular basis. Other supplies are also scarce, and equipment needed for medical disappears. There are shortages all over the country-banana farmers will no longer grow more than they needed to feed their own families, and coffee and sugar cane, the cash crops, are also scarce. What sugar was harvested is reportedly sent to Libya in exchange for arms.

Then the Israelis raid the airport, killing all of the terrorists and rescuing most of the hostages. They use a black Mercedes, and impersonate Idi Amin to take the guards by surprise. For good measure, they also blow up his fleet of MiG jets, which are kept at the airport.

The hospital treats a number of injured soldiers, and then some more soldiers come and take away the Israeli woman who had been taken to the hospital the first day, to be shot. None of the hospital personnel interfere when they take her. When Paterson complains, Amin tells him that he shouldn't have told the soldiers that the woman was there.

Amin insists that Garrigan interview him, and the interviews are taped, at Amin's insistence. Garrigan also records Amin's words in his diary; he still makes his own notations, but in code, in the margins, in case Amin sees it again. After one interview, he insists that Garrigan take a box containing a stuffed lion's head to Swanepoel, for his friends at the aviation company that he spies for. Garrigan protests that Amin has closed the airport; no planes will be leaving. Amin tells him that small aircraft still come and go, and that he must take the box to Swanepoel.

Swanepoel's flight has been held up until Garrigan gets there. Swanepoel is irritated that it is Garrigan they have waited for, and calls Garrigan Amin's errand boy. Garrigan says that Amin put him in prison, and that the box contains the head of a lion. Swanepoel takes it as a gift or bribe, like the elephant-foot umbrella stand that was an earlier gift. It is only when the plane disappears into the sunset that Garrigan realizes that he could have gotten on the plane and escaped.

As he writes in Scotland, the weather has knocked out the power for an hour or two in the afternoon, reminding Garrigan of Africa, and wrestling with the generator there.

Sara, who bandages his hand when he sprains it, would hardly recognize him now, he thinks. He drinks too much and eats too little. The person he was is gone, and he feels he has become Amin himself.

Part 2, Chapter 31 Analysis

Garrigan's life is falling apart, along with the very fabric of society. The hospital can hardly function in the chaos, and Garrigan is not doing so well, either. After the raid, when the soldiers come for the Israeli patient, he stands aside again while she is taken away, but he is not alone. Only Paterson has the nerve to complain.

Garrigan's state of mind as he writes his account of these years is volatile, and at the end of this chapter, it is very bleak. He believes himself corrupted, and says that he has abandoned his flesh to alcohol and starvation. He partly explains the mood swings when he says that each morning, repentance comes, but by nighttime, he is in hell again. He is paying for his years of turning a blind eye to what Amin really is; he fears that the result is that he is becoming Amin himself. This sounds as if he is mad, but there is validity in the argument that sins of omission are still sins; by overlooking Amin's evil and not doing anything to check it, he is also responsible for it.

Part 2, Chapter 32

Part 2, Chapter 32 Summary

The morning after he delivers the stuffed animal head to the plane Swanepoel is piloting, he hears on the BBC broadcast that a small plane has gone down in flames, with the chairman of the company on board, and Frederik Swanepoel as a pilot. Although the news does not mention the package he delivered to the plane, he knows that the lion's head must have been stuffed with explosives rather than the drugs he imagined were there.

The event makes him more anxious to leave, but he also feels more trapped. Now he wonders if it were his addictive curiosity about Amin that kept him there, rather than any real obstacles.

Garrigan's taped interviews with Amin have become a ritual, and after a few months, Garrigan asks him about the plane that exploded after Garrigan delivered the lion's head. Amin responds that whites are exploding all the time these days, and no one knows why. He tells Garrigan he should be careful.

Garrigan also reports that Amin tells him about a mysterious new illness that is killing people. Garrigan cannot find anything out of the ordinary (for Uganda) but Amin insists that he publish his report. It is only after he leaves the country that AIDS sweeps the country, but Garrigan wonders if he had seen early cases of the disease without knowing it.

Garrigan knows that he is being pulled down into a morass with Amin, but he cannot find a way to escape the interviews. One night, though, Amin summons him, and as he notices the gun close by, and Amin off guard, he thinks about killing him, but not for the reasons Stone urges. Instead, Garrigan wants to kill him because it would give him pleasure to do it.

When he realizes that he has become enough like Amin to think about killing for the fun of it, he knows that he has crossed a line and that he must get out.

Before he goes to sleep that night, he writes out a nutritional menu that Amin has requested, hoping that this will quiet any suspicions Amin might have about Garrigan's intentions. Then he sleeps and has a nightmare featuring Amin and a vessel that is filling with some dark liquid.

Part 2, Chapter 32 Analysis

Garrigan finally faces the corruption he has wrought on himself by becoming close to a monster, and remaining close for so long. He is unable to break the bond, though-he cannot bring himself to try to escape Uganda, and he cannot stay in Uganda without

being around Amin. He is finally able to decide that he must leave only when he realizes that he has become like Amin.

In this part of the novel, the passages at the ends of the chapters, when Garrigan leaves his story about Amin behind to talk about his life in Scotland, are becoming a little longer, bit by bit. In this one, he tells us that he finds solace in borrowing Malachi's boat out on the bay on weekends. It is a version of a Viking design, and Garrigan mentions that Viking invasions were so common that many of the people who live here consider themselves more Scandinavian than Scottish. Once again, the despair of the previous chapter lifts a little bit. It is possible that he also finds solace in identifying with Scandinavians rather than Scots.

Garrigan also notes that a bomb has gone off in Lothian, and a group called the Army of the Provisional Government has claimed credit. He makes a note that Scotland and Uganda are permanently linked.

Part 2, Chapter 33

Part 2, Chapter 33 Summary

In spite of his resolve to leave, Garrigan remains for a few months more. He helps Amin plan for the invasion of Tanzania, providing plans for rations and instructions for battlefield medics. Amin is quite pleased with his contributions, and he is back in favor.

He receives, on the same day, several letters. One is a bank statement, showing that the money Stone promised is still in his account, and another is a letter from his sister telling him that he has inherited a property on an island. He also receives a letter from Nestor, the watchman for the compound in Mbarara, about Gugu, the boy he took in for a month. Nestor tells him that Gugu is in trouble, and Garrigan needs to come to Mbarara to help him.

Garrigan now plans to drive to Mbarara in his van, and then take the boy over the border to safety. This plan is complicated because there are so many soldiers on the roads, now that the invasion of Tanzania is close. He hopes that the red cross still on his van will help him.

He gets close to Mbarara, but then is caught in a checkpoint. He realizes that the soldiers have noticed him, and they are coming for him, not waiting until he reaches them in the line. He takes off in the van, driving into the forest. The track he is following ends at a cabin. He gets out of the van and hides in the cabin, under the floor. The soldiers follow and loot the van, then machine-gun the cabin for good measure. They do not hit Garrigan, but they take the van.

When Garrigan emerges from his hiding place, a snake bites him. He runs, but finally falls unconscious on the forest floor. A group of people who live in the forest-Garrigan is not able to tell later if they are pygmies or part of the Bacwezi, who lived in the forest long ago-find him and take care of him, treating the snake bite. In his delirium, he sees images of Amin everywhere, but when he slaps an ant off his ankle, he remembers the last time he saw his father, at a beer garden. They hardly talked, but when a moth alighted on the table, his father had removed his glasses and smiled. He tells Garrigan that the most important thing is to minimize the harm he does to the people around him. Remembering this, he wishes he had gone home, that things would have been different if he had.

When he is strong enough to walk, his hosts have a meeting. Garrigan cannot understand them, but he knows that they are discussing his fate. The next morning, one of the men shakes him from sleep, and motions him to follow. He leads Garrigan for about two hours, and then stops in a clearing something like the one where he was bitten. He gestures about the smell-Garrigan notices that it smells of putrefaction-and then Garrigan sees the pile of dead bodies. He is violently ill, and before he recovers, his guide has disappeared. Garrigan is suddenly afraid of the trees again and runs,

soon finding that he is out of the forest. The snakebite throbs suddenly; when he pulls the poultice off, the area is white in contrast to his grimy skin, and the skin around the snakebite is dead.

Part 2, Chapter 33 Analysis

The idea of Garrigan riding to Gugu's rescue when he cannot save himself seems incongruous, but it also seems that Garrigan is not able to break free of his situation until he is needed. It is not surprising that the plan fails, but the results-the snakebite, the delirium that brought back a memory of his father, the discovery of the pile of massacred men-are cathartic in a way that may be Garrigan's salvation, or at least the means of his escape.

One of the things he regretted about Waziri's departure was that he never learned more about the Bacwezi; now it seems that it may have been some of them (or their descendants) who saved his life, then tossed him back.

The snakebite may symbolize his fascination with Amin-until he is bitten, he cannot get free. The price of the snakebite, though, is that the tissue around the injury is dead.

The memory of his father is a gift. He had previously thought that he and his father parted on bad terms, and he regrets that he will never be able to set that right. Now he remembers his father's delight over the delicate moth, and his admonition, instead of the disagreement. For many reasons, when he leaves the forest, he has changed.

Part 2, Chapter 34

Part 2, Chapter 34 Summary

Garrigan soon realizes that he has emerged from the forest close to Mbarara, and he heads for what he now thinks of as civilization. As he arrives in the center of town, he sees some soldiers beating other boys. He thinks he sees Gugu's face, and is determined that he will not lose the boy, after all of his other losses.

When he reaches the soldiers, he realizes that the boy who is being beaten is not Gugu; instead, it is Gugu doing the beating. Now Garrigan understands the meaning of Nestor's letter. Gugu turns and starts to beat Garrigan instead, but there is a blast, and suddenly Garrigan is rising in the air, and he sees Gugu die.

Part 2, Chapter 34 Analysis

This chapter has a hallucinatory feeling-Garrigan miraculously finds that he is near Mbarara, and he hurries to save Gugu, but nothing is as it seems. The blast that interrupts Gugu when he turns on Garrigan is even more surreal; Garrigan sees the blood from Gugu's chest as a large flower, even as he realizes that he is seeing Gugu's sternum.

One of the most important things about this sequence of events is the change in Garrigan. He is no longer an observer but an actor-he races in to save the boy he thinks is Gugu without any consideration for his own safety.

Part 2, Chapter 35

Part 2, Chapter 35 Summary

The chapter opens with a recurring dream, where everything becomes Amin: an elephant, a hippo, a trio of rhinos and a peacock with a howling screams, all become Amin in Garrigan's dream. When Garrigan sees his father reading the *Scotsman*, he is free, although the back of the *Scotsman* reads, "The road dark, the destination obscure". At this point, the dream repeats itself.

Garrigan finds that he has been rescued by a contingent of Tanzanian soldiers, the ones who bombed Mbarara. They are distressed to find that they might have killed a white man, which would not make their president happy. The Colonel who talks to Garrigan explains that the boy soldiers in Mbarara are kidogos, or kid soldiers, and they are more vicious than any others. Garrigan wonders how the son of an educated cartographer could become a kidogo, and if he might have stopped it if he had killed Amin. Then he realizes that by the time he could have done so, it would have been too late for Gugu.

Garrigan must travel with the Tanzanian forces, and he tells the Colonel that he is a doctor, and might be able to help the medics. The Tanzanians are moving further into Uganda, and when they reach Masaka, where Garrigan stopped on his journey to Mbarara for the first time to get something to eat, he sees the body of Major Mabuse, the man who killed the Americans and took their car while Garrigan was in Mbarara. Garrigan falls asleep that night listening to the Colonel talk about the operations that day; he is quite pleased, and likes the war because it combines the traditional tactics he learned from the British with the guerilla tactics the Chinese taught him. He is also quite pleased with the munitions he has picked up along the way. He tells Garrigan that Amin is a good quartermaster.

Part 2, Chapter 35 Analysis

The Tanzanian forces that Garrigan is with offer a strong contrast to what Amin's army has become. They are professional and efficient, where Amin's forces have degenerated into perpetrating atrocities, and employing boys who commit even worse atrocities. Garrigan is sad at the destruction of Mbarara, but at a distance; he still seems to be suffering from the shock of the blast and its outcome.

The meaning of Garrigan's dream is obvious; while he has escaped from Amin's control, he cannot escape Amin so easily. His father can save him from becoming Amin, but it will be a long and hard path.

Part 2, Chapter 36

Part 2, Chapter 36 Summary

The next morning, Garrigan feels strong enough to help the other medics. He works all morning dealing with the wounded, then decides that he is ready to go back to the APC, where he has been traveling and sleeping. On his way back, however, he is caught in a battle, and the soldier beside him goes down. Garrigan checks him, finds that he has a serious wound, and worse, that his lower limbs are riddled with bullet holes. He calls the medics to come for him, and tries to get closer to the APC, but he keeps running into more gunfire. When he finally reaches the APC, a bullet whistles by, close enough that he feels the air move as it passes.

When they reach the equator, Garrigan sees Angol-Steve, the crazy man, hanging from a tree close to the road. They find many more who have also been killed by the retreating troops. They capture Libyans as well as Ugandan troops; the Libyans they capture sometimes do not even know what country they are fighting in.

The force reaches Kampala and takes it, and the officers decide to use the State House for their headquarters. Idi Amin cannot be found; there are rumors that he has escaped, or that he has been seen driving his Maserati. Garrigan does not want to return to his bungalow-if the Tanzanian officers discover his relationship to Amin, he could be in trouble-so he goes to the hospital, where he finds Paterson working on wounded soldiers from both armies. Paterson tells him to get to work, and he does.

Part 2, Chapter 36 Analysis

Angol-Steve's death saddens Garrigan. He does not recall the man's last words to him, but in retrospect, they could easily have applied to Gugu. Garrigan has not abandoned the boy-relatives took him away-but he leaves him behind, and the boy was certainly burned, in more ways than one.

One of his observations about the Tanzanians troops is that when they fire around corners in Kampala, they held their guns away from them, as if in distaste, which contrasts sharply with Garrigan's previous experience with soldiers and their weapons, particularly with Amin. It is possible that he is projecting his own feelings on the actions of the soldiers, but it shows the Tanzanians in a positive light, reinforcing his other impressions of them.

Garrigan is still conscious of his own welfare enough to avoid revealing his prior relationship to Amin, but the alternative he chooses is to go back to the hospital where he can be of use. Paterson is only happy to see him because he provides another pair of skilled hands. He does not seem to think much of Garrigan for running away. Garrigan can hardly explain the need for him to escape Amin's corruption, and he does not seem inclined to try.

Part 2, Chapter 37

Part 2, Chapter 37 Summary

Garrigan goes down into the city late in the day, exhausted, wearing a pair of clean scrubs, since his own clothes are too ragged and filthy to wear. He doesn't have anywhere to go. Paterson has offered him a room, but not with enthusiasm, and Garrigan knows that he can't stay there for long.

Amin has broadcast an address earlier in the day, in which he denounces reports that Kampala had fallen, and says that he is safe in a comfortable place. He admits that Tanzanians and its friends-all Zionists-have attacked the country, killing many civilians and destroying the hospital in Kampala. The doctors and nurses at the hospital are surprised and amused to hear this-the hospital actually escaped most of the fighting. There are more rumors about Amin's location- one says that Amin hopped on a helicopter at the State House just as it was being shelled. There are many speculations about his whereabouts.

The people in the city begin looting once they realize that the soldiers will not stop them, and others follow the soldiers who are looking for Amin supporters in the city, cheering them. As Garrigan watches, the cheering crowd begins to circle around one point, then an arm flies into the air-the crowd is tearing someone limb from limb. Garrigan hears another spectator say that the unfortunate man was an Amin fellow.

The crowd carries him along to Nakasero, the residence Amin used most often. He sees the Tanzanian colonel standing on the steps with other soldiers, trying to keep the crowd from entering. He has discarded the spear he was carrying when Garrigan met him, and is wearing Amin's cowboy holster with its silver revolver. Then the doors gave way and the crowd swarmed into the house, taking Garrigan along with them.

Part 2, Chapter 37 Analysis

Amin's reaction to the invasion is in character: he denies the reality of it, while blaming the invaders for their brutality during the invasion.

Garrigan becomes a helpless observer once again, as he is caught in the crowd. Although he fears for his life if they discover he was one of Amin's men, he is carried along with them to Amin's house, then when they enter. Ironically, the Colonel who saved Garrigan puts on the holster and gun that Amin wore almost constantly. This may signal that the Colonel may not be so different from Amin after all; or at least it may signal that the spoils of his invasion have swayed him.

The crowd of citizens who have lived under Amin's rule for most of the last decade turn on a man who is identified as one of Amin's men. This purging of anyone associated

with the previous ruler is predictable but terrifying, and another indication that violence in Uganda may continue for some time to come.

Part 2, Chapter 38

Part 2, Chapter 38 Summary

Garrigan wanders through the halls of Amin's house, which is being looted, staying away from the crowds. He remembers Amin here, and imagines that it is Britain instead, and that he is Idi, present when Mary, Queen of Scots, gives birth to the son that will unite England and Scotland, or when James leaves for London to take the throne, or when Cromwell walks through the stables of the Palace. He wishes that he were somewhere else; and all the while he is walking along the corridor to Idi's bedroom.

When he reaches the bedroom, it has already been sacked. The waterbed has been punctured, and there is water everywhere. One of the few things that were not touched were the books that stood in front of the secret door to the hidden prison cells. Garrigan waits until he is sure he is alone, and he presses the latch and returns to another portion of his history.

Part 2, Chapter 38 Analysis

Garrigan's imaginings, seeing himself as Idi in places and times he could never have been, appear to be mad, but they are also appropriate as he wanders a house that is populated with his own ghosts, the ghosts of his time here. The chapter is filled with images of destruction-a curtain billowing out of a broken window reminds him of the Tanzanians launching RPGs at the Peugeots carrying fleeing East German diplomats, for example. It should be no surprise to find Garrigan revisiting this most horrible of places once again.

This is a short chapter, only three pages in length, serving more as a bridge between the actions of the crowd outside and Garrigan's venture into the underside of the magnificent house where Idi lived.

Part 2, Chapter 39

Part 2, Chapter 39 Summary

Once in the secret rooms, Garrigan hears a voice; as he draws nearer, he realizes that the voice is Amin's, and that he is talking to a severed head that is covered with frost. He stands in the shadows, listening to Amin for a while, as Amin talks about himself, justifying his actions, maintaining that he has always fought for his people. He reveals, as he talks, that he can see Garrigan lurking in the shadows, and he tells him to come closer.

Garrigan is shaking with terror, but when Idi asks him why he has returned, he answers his own question: Garrigan has returned because he loves Idi.

The head on the plate is the archbishop who married Idi to his fourth wife; Idi tells Garrigan that he regrets the man's death, but his followers did it without his knowledge. He tells Garrigan the truth of the cannibalism stories, and blames it on the English. If he had not been fighting the Mau-Mau free fighters in Kenya, he would not have practiced cannibalism.

He asks Garrigan to help him escape-there is a tunnel connecting this underground complex to Entebbe. He wants Garrigan to get a car and wait for him at the other end of the tunnel. Garrigan sees his way to freedom now; he agrees to help Idi and leaves.

Part 2, Chapter 39 Analysis

Again, it should be no surprise that Garrigan finds Idi Amin hiding in his secret prison. The scene is rather horrible, but appropriate for this man. Amin still has delusions of grandeur-he believes that if he shows himself, his people will remember that they love him, and rise up against the invaders; moreover, he is convinced that Garrigan has come looking for him out of love.

It is not clear what course Garrigan plans to take to find his freedom, but he has decided to act now, rather than continue to observe.

Part 2, Chapter 40

Part 2, Chapter 40 Summary

Garrigan borrows a Land Rover, saying that the hospital needs it, and drives to the end of the tunnel to wait for Idi, but he does not appear. Garrigan drives around for a while; he cannot return to the State House, and he can think of nowhere to go. He finds himself at a deserted village by the lake that has been mostly destroyed, and realizes that it is where he took the boat trip with Marina Perkins. He finds a boat and goes out on the lake, then crosses it to Kenya, feeling free for the first time in years.

He injures himself getting onto the dock, and when he is seen, apparently deranged, in odd clothes, the police are called. Garrigan finds himself in the custody of the Nairobi police, charged with blowing up a small plane, the one piloted by Swanepoel.

Garrigan protests that he didn't know the lion's head was packed with explosives, that Amin used him, but he is also accused of helping Amin, and being part of his regime. He demands to see the British ambassador, but is told he will be going on trial in Nairobi, or returned to Uganda to be put on trial there. In the end, however, he is put on a plane for England.

Once there, Stone and others meet him. Stone threatens him with being refused repatriation-he has renounced his British citizenship, after all-but when they are alone, Stone makes a deal with him: if he signs an agreement to keep all of the embassy's activities in Uganda secret, they will repatriate him, and leave him the money that was put in his account. Since all he wants is to hole up on a remote Scottish island, he signs the agreement. He sees it as the only way he will get there. Stone provides a publicist to help Garrigan handle the media attention. The publicist talks to him and decides that his story will be that he had hoped to moderate Amin's behavior. Garrigan protests that he has not committed any crimes, and the publicist assures him that everything will be all right.

Part 2, Chapter 40 Analysis

Garrigan is now faced with the full consequences of his association with Amin. The Kenyans have a file on him, including his photo, and they know he delivered the bomb that blew up the small plane. They plan to use his public trial to force Britain to restore the aid they have withheld, in exchange for sparing them public embarrassment. Once in Great Britain, the other loose ends are tied up as well, and Garrigan is thrown to a few selected wolves.

His notion that he could free himself by helping Amin escape is not a good one, and he cannot find Amin to help him anyway. When he finally finds a way to escape the country-over the lake to Nairobi-he really does feel free. The irony is that he is headed for more imprisonment, this time by Kenya, and then by his own country. His moment of

action-escaping over the lake-is over now, and he returns to being an observer once more.

Part 2, Chapter 41

Part 2, Chapter 41 Summary

Although Garrigan is tempted to run away rather than go through the interview, he stays-he would have to get money before he could go, anyway, so he could not leave in the night. The publicist tells him that it will not be as bad as he thinks, and at first, he believes this when only three journalists show up. Their questions are pointed, however, and even though he answers them, they clearly consider him culpable.

The publicist asks for his address; when Garrigan says that he does not know it, that he has inherited a small place on an island, the publicist asks him to let him know. Garrigan contacts his sister, and asks her to send his things to the island. She wants him to stay with her, but agrees to send his belongings.

He wants to take a sleeper car on the night train north, and has several hours to kill and try to rest. He ends up watching TV, which is tiring after having only radio for so long. He is inundated with images that he cannot separate from Amin. An election is coming up, and there are many images of Mrs. Thatcher. He cannot help but think of Amin's message to her, complimenting her looks.

Part 2, Chapter 41 Analysis

The interview, where reporters question Garrigan's involvement, is difficult, perhaps partly because Garrigan cannot admit that he blames himself as well. Once it is over, he is free to go north, but he cannot escape the images of what he has been through-even the images on British TV remind him of Amin.

In the taxi to the railway station, he is reminded of his first taxi ride in Uganda, along the road between the airport and Kampala that he would come to know well. The image of the dashboard where the radio is missing is a vivid one; it is a dark hole that he describes as a Cyclopean aperture, a hole where an eye should have been. The missing radio is compared to a single blind eye. The meaning, as applied to Garrigan's time in Uganda, is unmistakable.

Part 2, Chapter 42

Part 2, Chapter 42 Summary

Garrigan makes his way north to the island. The headlines from the interview he gave sicken him-they imply that there is blood on his hands. When he can, he calls his sister, because he knows she will have seen those headlines, too. He reassures her that he did not do any of those things, and continues north.

He takes a car as far as the ferry to the island, and drops it off at the depot as arranged. When he gets to the island, with his clothes and provisions in plastic bags, he discovers that there is a new shop where he could have bought the food, and now there is a hotel as well.

He asks directions to the place, finding someone who knew his uncle. The bothy, which is supposed to be a one-room hut, has been expanded, there is a phone and power, and the package from his sister that contains his journal has arrived ahead of him. He makes himself at home, and pulls the journal out to look at it. As he does, he remembers writing in it, and later, Amin holding it.

Part 2, Chapter 42 Analysis

The first part of Garrigan's trip north is gloomy, shadowed by the judgments of the media. The turning point is when the car breaks down on the road in an isolated spot. He feels sorry for himself for a little while, then he sees a jackrabbit jump out of the nearby foliage, and the sun comes up. He pokes around at the engine, and finally gets it to start. It is at this point that his mood changes, and he regains some equilibrium.

He still cannot escape his immediate past. He has made himself comfortable in this chilly, remote spot, far from tropical Uganda, but when he holds his journal, he still sees Idi Amin. Like someone with traumatic stress disorder, he is unable to quit reliving his time with Amin.

Part 2, Chapter 43

Part 2, Chapter 43 Summary

Garrigan goes out in Malachi's boat on the bay once again. He has finished writing, but he still finds himself haunted by Amin's image. He seems to be on the radio or television constantly. He has taken refuge in Saudi Arabia, and the Ugandan government is demanding his return to be tried.

Garrigan still has trouble thinking clearly about Amin, and he knows there is something about his own conscience that he cannot fix because it is mutable, different every time he looks at it.

As he returns home, he can see the burned spot above his bothy where the Burning of the Clavie takes place. It is an old ritual involving a barrel that is set alight and carried around by the Clavie King, until they put it on the stone cross and break it into pieces. The broken coals are considered good luck, but if the Clavie King stumbles, it is bad luck for all. Garrigan asks Malachi what the Clavie is; he is surprised that Garrigan doesn't understand that it represents the devil.

Garrigan feels that most of his life is behind him, just as Amin's is. When he gets home, he puts the kettle on, but then sees a story about the arrest of Weir-he is behind the recent series of bombs attributed to the Army of the Provisional Government. Garrigan ignores the whistling kettle, and reads on. The article also mentions Weir's involvement with Amin.

Garrigan makes coffee, and as he considers the story, the phone rings. When he answers it, he hears a familiar voice. Amin talks and talks about what he is doing, and asks Garrigan's advice about the Americans' request to intercede with the Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran. Garrigan cannot speak, but just listens. Eventually, he puts down the receiver, and Amin's voice fades away. Garrigan thinks that he really must fasten the honeysuckle around the door again.

Part 2, Chapter 43 Analysis

The ceremony called the Burning of the Clavie is clearly analogous to Garrigan's experience with Amin. The King holding the burning barrel must be careful, or he will fall and bring bad luck to all of his followers. As Amin himself has observed, a bad ruler brings disaster to his people. Of course, Amin did not think this applied to him. When the king is successful, the Clavie is broken up and distributed to all of the participants, which is the desired outcome. When a ruler keeps all of the riches for himself, his people suffer more, and the government ceases to work, as Garrigan has seen firsthand.

Garrigan believes that he, like the Scottish soldier buried at the equator, has already lived most of his life once the battle is over. Although his time with Amin did not kill him, it has sapped him of what he needs to stay alive.

Then he sees news of Weir's arrest, and of his involvement in the bombings in Scotland. As if triggered by the references to Weir's association with Amin, Amin himself calls Garrigan, talking just as he did when they were in Uganda. He wants Garrigan's advice, which he probably will not take anyway.

It is now that we can see the first glimmer of hope for Garrigan: he sets down the phone without speaking, and walks away. Instead of thinking of Amin now, he thinks of his bothy. His thoughts of restoring the honeysuckle to its place above the door are also symbolic of hope; as he writes, the flower is out of season, and it will not bloom until spring. His concern for it looks ahead to the future, and implies that he will be there to see it.

Characters

His Excellency Idi Amin

Idi Amin is the president of Uganda, having seized power from President Apollo Obote in early 1971. He is an actual historical character, but Foden has given him fictional qualities in the novel.

Garrigan treats Amin for an injury sustained in an automobile accident, and the president is so impressed that he demands that Garrigan be his personal physician in the capital city of Kampala. At first, Amin has little use for Garrigan and his skills, but soon he calls Garrigan in for a number of minor medical concerns. When Amin is in severe gastric pain, he calls for Garrigan, who proceeds to burp him "like with babies." From this point, a bond develops between the two men.

Amin suffers from delusions of grandeur, believing that everything he says and thinks is of monumental importance; his full title is President for Life Field Marshall Al Hadj Doctor Idi Amin Dada, VC, DSO, Lord of All the Beasts of the Earth and Fishes of the Sea, King of the Scots and Conqueror of the British Empire in Africa in General and Uganda in Particular. He sends telegrams of advice to world leaders and makes statements that sound both crazy and frightening—especially when they come from a ruler with absolute power. Foden gives an immediate sense of Amin's personality at the book's start as he describes some strange moments at a state dinner. During a monologue about wigs, Amin states, "I do not want Ugandans to wear the hair of dead imperialists or of Africans killed by imperialists." Amin later launches into an even more uncomfortable topic, noting, "I have eaten human meat. It is very salty."

Amin's rule eventually deteriorates. Near the story's end, most nations have placed an embargo on trade with Uganda, and the country is suffering from extreme poverty and disease. When Tanzanian troops enter the capital city, Garrigan finds Amin hiding in the basement headquarters of his secret jail and torture facilities, begging for help to escape. Garrigan hears from Amin for the last time when Amin calls him from Saudi Arabia, where he has found refuge, asking whether he should help the United States negotiate a deal with Iran for the release of American hostages.

Kay Amin

Kay Amin, another character based on a real person, is Idi Amin's second wife. (He was a polygamist who ultimately had five wives.) She is the daughter of a clergyman and was once a university student. She becomes Peter Mbalu-Mukasa's lover. When Kay becomes pregnant, Peter asks Garrigan to help him perform an abortion, but he refuses, afraid of what Amin might do. The next week, Garrigan hears from colleagues that Peter failed to do the abortion properly and that Kay bled to death. Peter commits suicide the next day with an overdose of sleeping pills. Despite rumors to the contrary,

Garrigan insists that Amin had nothing to do with Kay's death or Peter's suicide; yet when Garrigan sees Kay's body at the morgue, it has been dismembered.

Bonney

See Boniface Malumba

Doctor Garrigan

See Nicholas Garrigan

George Garrigan

George Garrigan is Nicholas Garrigan's father. He is a Presbyterian minister and a rather solemn man. When Garrigan left for Uganda, his father was displeased that his son was not planning to stay in Scotland and set up a general medical practice, further straining the already tense relationship between the two men. George Garrigan dies during Nicholas's second year in Uganda, but his son decides not to fly to Scotland for the funeral.

Jeanie Garrigan

Jeanie Garrigan is Nicholas Garrigan's mother. Garrigan claims that he has inherited his mother's capacity for hard work and "worry." According to her son, she dies from "pure grief" soon after the death of her husband. He does not leave Uganda to attend her funeral in Scotland.

Moira Garrigan

Moira Garrigan is Nicholas Garrigan's sister. While he is serving as Amin's physician, she asks her brother, "How did you let yourself get so close to such a man?" Garrigan mails to Moira the tapes and journals he has made of his experiences, and she is able to send them on to the cottage where Garrigan writes his memoirs.

Nicholas Garrigan

Nicholas Garrigan is the novel's narrator, a young Scottish physician who goes to Uganda working for the Ministry of Health through the British Overseas Development Agency. After serving at a clinic in a small provincial town for nearly two years, Garrigan is called to treat the country's leader, Idi Amin, who has suffered a sprained wrist in an automobile accident. Amin is so impressed by Garrigan that he demands that the doctor move to Kampala to become his personal physician.

Garrigan finds Amin both charming and repugnant. The major struggle in the novel is within Garrigan, between the part of him that is aware of Amin's brutality and the part of him that is "more fascinated than frightened." He must either leave Uganda or take action against the atrocities. Even before Garrigan meets Amin on the road outside Mbarara, he is curious about the man. After he hears Amin refer to himself as "the last rightful King of Scotland," Garrigan begins to feel a special connection with the ruler, as if "it had some special relevance for me. As if I were his subject." Garrigan develops a particular affection for the leader, despite Amin's reputation for ruthless murders and bizarre statements and behaviors.

Garrigan is not a typical hero; in fact, he bears many of the qualities of an antihero. He has little courage and spends much time worrying about his own personal safety. He fails at many of his relationships, and both of his love interests eventually reject him. Ties to his family and friends back in Scotland are almost nonexistent, and when the going gets tough, he usually runs away. For example, he leaves for Kampala and Amin once the rural clinic in Mbarara falls on hard times. When Amin's brutality and insanity become obvious, Garrigan resolves to "build a castle" within himself. After arriving in England, having escaped Uganda and possible prosecution for his actions as part of Amin's staff, Garrigan seeks refuge on an isolated Scottish island where he writes his memoirs and lives the remainder of his life.

Ed Howarth

Ed Howarth is the public relations manager Stone assigns to Garrigan upon his return to London. Howarth arranges a few press conferences for Garrigan and coaches him on what he should say.

Colonel Armstrong Kuchasa

Colonel Kuchasa is an officer with the Tanzanian forces that move on Kampala at the end of the book. He rescues Garrigan from a battle in Mbarara and lets him stay in an armored personnel vehicle during their march from Mbarara to Kampala.

Major Mabuse

Major Mabuse was simply a taxi driver before Amin's coup, but in Amin's regime he is a feared military leader. He is reported to have been involved in killing two young American tourists who got in his way.

Boniface Malumba

Garrigan meets Boniface Malumba, a young Ugandan student of food science from Mbarara, while on the bus from Kampala to Mbarara. Malumba is friendly and gives Garrigan advice about living in Uganda. He also invites Garrigan to his family's house

for lunch, where Garrigan meets the entire family and spends a pleasant afternoon. Malumba is killed in the fighting that breaks out between pro-Obote forces and Amin's army.

Gugu Malumba

Gugu is Boniface Malumba's fun-loving younger brother. He is the only member of his family to survive the fighting between pro-Obote forces and Amin's army that spreads to Mbarara. Sara and Garrigan take him in at the clinic after the attack, but he is so traumatized that he will not speak. A distant relative arrives one day to take him away. The next time Garrigan sees Gugu, he is one of Amin's murderers in the Mbarara region. Gugu dies during a battle with the Tanzanian forces.

Peter Mbalu-Mukasa

Peter Mbalu-Mukasa is one of the African doctors at Mulago Hospital and a colleague of Garrigan's. Mbalu Mukasa becomes Kay Amin's lover and one night begs Garrigan to help him perform an abortion on her. Garrigan is too frightened that Amin will discover his role in their illicit affair and refuses to help. Garrigan later hears from his colleagues that Kay has bled to death and that Mbalu Mukasa has committed suicide, but there are rumors that Amin had them both murdered.

Doctor Alan Merrit

Garrigan works for Alan Merrit at the Mbarara clinic. Merrit is about fifty years old and has what Garrigan calls "a bizarre white streak down the middle of his brown hair." He is married to Joyce Merrit, and they have lived and worked in Uganda for more than twenty years. Joyce calls him by his nickname, Spiny. Merrit is displeased when Garrigan decides to leave Mbarara and become Amin's physician. The Merrits are eventually expelled from Uganda along with other British citizens.

Joyce Merrit

Joyce Merrit is Alan Merrit's wife. She is very hospitable to Garrigan when he shows up at the clinic, providing him with meals and a place to stay until he is settled in his own bungalow.

President Obote

Idi Amin seizes power from Ugandan President Obote on the day Garrigan arrives in Uganda. Apollo Obote was the actual president of Uganda until 1971, when Amin overthrew this government.

Marina Perkins

Marina Perkins is the wife of the British ambassador to Uganda. According to Garrigan, Marina is a moderately attractive woman, although he describes her mouth as being like "a little fig." She accompanies Garrigan on a boat trip and picnic, where Garrigan makes an unsuccessful attempt to seduce her. She becomes angry and doesn't want to have anything to do with Garrigan after this incident. Later, Garrigan sees her sitting with Freddy Swanepoel's hand on her knee. She is eventually expelled from Uganda, along with her husband and other British officials.

Ambassador Robert Perkins

Ambassador Perkins is the British ambassador to Uganda and is married to Marina Perkins. Garrigan is not impressed with the overweight ambassador and refers to him as a "sponge" and the "standard Foreign Office issue: plastered-down hair, a large body shifting in its bristly suit."

Ivor Seabrook

Ivor Seabrook is an "old Englishman" and physician working at the Mbarara clinic. When Garrigan first meets Seabrook, he notices that he has the look of a "long-term tropical alcoholic."

Spiny

See Doctor Alan Merrit

Nigel Stone

Nigel Stone works at the British Embassy in Kampala and asks Garrigan to "keep a weather eye out for anything untoward" at the Mbarara clinic. When Garrigan returns to Kampala as Amin's doctor, Stone asks him to give Amin a drug to moderate his behavior. A while later, after the full extent of Amin's massacres is apparent, Stone asks Garrigan to kill Amin and promises him that the British government will put a large amount of money in his account and "look after" him.

Stone is also the official who arranges to have Garrigan freed from a Kenyan jail on charges of conspiring with Amin, and he meets Garrigan at the airport when he returns to London. Stone also forces Garrigan to sign a statement swearing that all of his actions in Uganda were done of his own accord, not at the direction of the British government.

Freddy Swanepoel

Freddy Swanepoel is a South African pilot based in Nairobi who works for Rafiki Aviation. He describes his job as transporting "things for the Kenyan and Ugandan governments. And other bits and pieces." Garrigan first meets him at the hotel bar when he arrives and notes that everything about Swanepoel is "chunky and muscular, even his face."

Later, Garrigan sees Swanepoel and Marina Perkins having a tryst at a restaurant. Swanepoel dies when Garrigan unknowingly delivers a package containing a bomb from Amin to Swanepoel, just as Swanepoel is about to take off from Entebbe. The plane explodes and both Swanepoel and his passenger die.

Jonas Wasswa

As Idi Amin's minister of health, Jonas Wasswa appoints Garrigan to his position as Amin's personal physician. Amin eventually has Wasswa killed.

William Waziri

Garrigan becomes good friends with William Waziri, a Ugandan doctor trained in the United States who works at the Mbarara clinic. Waziri speaks to Garrigan about local lore and history while they make their regular trips to the countryside to conduct vaccination clinics. At about the time that fighting between pro-Obote forces and Amin's army increases near Mbarara, Waziri takes a vacation but never returns. Later, when Garrigan is dragged down into Amin's secret jail and torture chambers, he sees that Waziri is one of the victims and witnesses his death.

Major Archibald Drummond Weir

Major Weir is a British intelligence officer, originally from Scotland, stationed in Kampala. Garrigan finds him disturbing and frightening. He has built what Stone calls "a magnificent flying machine," a small, radio-controlled contraption that he flies on the grounds of the British Embassy. Weir returns to London under mysterious circumstances, which leads Garrigan to believe that he was recalled for "being too friendly with Amin"; Stone, however, asserts that Weir was "too talkative." When Garrigan returns to his island in Scotland, he finds a newspaper article about Weir, stating that he is a "nationalist extremist" and the "most successful bomber in Scottish history."

Sara Zach

Garrigan falls in love with Israeli physician Sara Zach almost as soon as they become acquainted at the Mbarara clinic. She behaves in a very efficient and standoffish manner, and it takes a while before she and Garrigan become lovers. While she is working at the clinic, Garrigan notices that there are a few things about her that don't quite make sense for a doctor: she takes notes at Amin's rally in Mbarara; her shortwave radio not only receives but is able to transmit information; and she spends an inordinate amount of time with a local Israeli road-building crew. She brushes off Garrigan's attempts to find out more about her activities. After their love affair ends suddenly, Sara disappears from the clinic.

Garrigan does not hear from her for years until he receives a phone call at his house in Kampala. A hijacked plane is sitting on the runway at Entebbe, and she calls—identifying herself as a colonel in the Israeli armed forces—to ask Garrigan if he will try to convince Amin to free the hostages. Garrigan refuses but realizes then that she was probably a spy for the Israelis while working at the Mbarara clinic.

Themes

Questions about Ethical Behavior

Throughout the book, Garrigan struggles with the question of whether his behavior is ethical. The first instance of this is when he travels to Mbarara on a crowded bus, and Ugandan soldiers pull the bus over to collect money from the passengers. Everyone provides money to the soldiers except for one man who claims to be a Kenyan diplomat. The soldiers retaliate by hitting him with the end of a rifle, which rips open a huge gash in his face. Garrigan keeps quiet until the soldiers leave and then moves to give the Kenyan first aid. The Kenyan reacts angrily, demanding to know, "What good are you to me now?" Furthermore, he says that the soldiers would have left the bus alone if Garrigan, a white person, had come forward. According to the Kenyan, Garrigan had power that he did not use at the appropriate time.

This scene is a precursor for what is to come in Garrigan's life. During the entire time he works for Amin, he knows about the horrible and unspeakable violence his boss directs, yet he does nothing. When the British Embassy asks him first to modify Amin's behavior and later to kill Amin with drugs, Garrigan shrugs his shoulders. His only reaction is to imagine how exciting it would be to do these things because they are so much like actions found in a James Bond story. Even after rejecting the request to kill Amin based on his position as a doctor, Garrigan thinks, "It would be rather grand to rid the world of a dictator." On the other hand, Garrigan admits that he actually likes Amin. "I could kill Amin and get away with it," he says. "But there was, I conceded it to myself again, something in me that actually *liked* the man, monster though he was." In another incident, Sara calls Garrigan and begs him to get involved in the hijacking incident by urging Amin to release the hostages. Garrigan responds instead "I can't get involved in all that . . . I'm not made for this kind of thing."

Loneliness and Friendship

Garrigan is a lonely man with few close ties to other people. Garrigan admits that the death of his pet donkey was the most significant event in his childhood and that the family home was emotionally stifling. When he hears that his father has died, he chooses not to travel to Scotland for the funeral or to be with his mother and sister. A short time later, when his mother dies, he makes the same decision to remain in Uganda.

Once in Uganda, Garrigan fits in well at the Mbarara clinic, but he seems to focus more on the flora and fauna than on the people he works with. Longterm relationships do not seem to be his forte, and many of the people he gets along with at Mbarara either meet with bad ends or are not who he imagined them to be. His relationship with Sara is long in its development but is over rapidly and without much discussion. She suddenly decides that she is no longer his lover and eventually leaves without a word being said.

A few years later, she turns up as an Israeli spy, making Garrigan realize that he did not know her as well as he had thought. Boniface, whom Garrigan meets on the bus into Mbarara, dies with his family during a rebel attack on the town. Boniface's brother, Gugu, becomes a maniacal killer in Amin's troops. When friends come to Garrigan for help, he rarely extends his hand, usually because he is afraid of the consequences. While living in Kampala as Amin's physician, he associates with a few people but has no deep friendships. The one time he reaches out to someone it is to the British ambassador's wife, who becomes angry at his assumption that she is interested in him.

Amin represents the closest relationship Garrigan has. As the book moves along, he spends more and more time with the ruler and shares conversations with him that are much more intimate than those he has with anyone else. Garrigan seems to relish taking care of and protecting the despot; he feels warmth in response to Amin's childlike behavior and the "nurserylike atmosphere" of his quarters. In the beginning of their relationship, "I even felt a sneaking sense of affection towards him," Garrigan remembers. He admits later that his life is focused on Amin, even though the closer he gets to the ruler the fewer illusions he has. "Still I stayed, more fascinated than frightened," recalls Garrigan.

Relationship of African Nations to the Western World

The relationship between African nations and the West is a complicated one in the novel and in history. In the novel, Africans seem to hold both disdain and respect for Westerners. For example, Amin's fascination with Scotland and his corresponding affection toward the Scot Garrigan come from his exposure to the nation and its people while training as a soldier. Amin believes that, in their struggle for independence from England, the Scots have decided that he is their liberating king, much as he sees himself as the liberator of Uganda and all of Africa.

The impact that Western colonization has had on the continent is apparent in the book and evokes anger and contempt from many of the African characters. The Kenyan on the bus is angry when Garrigan fails to use his supposed power as a white man to stop the thieving soldiers. Waziri laughs when Garrigan says that he wants to see "the real Africa" and remembers with some derision that in the recent past all whites who came to Africa were considered "miracle workers."

Style

The Antihero

Garrigan is the protagonist of Foden's novel but not its hero. This antihero has none of the personal qualities that define a traditional hero in literature: courage, physical strength, exceptional intellect, emotional stamina, and the ability to recognize and fight against evil. Garrigan, as the novel's antihero, feels helpless against what he perceives as great odds. He runs from possible pain, is fearful of death, and does not help those in need—except when the need can be met by his role as a medical doctor. Garrigan relishes his role as the underdog; when he arrives in Kampala for the first time, he is frightened and searches for someone to tell him what to do next. When he does take a stand, it is usually without many repercussions, such as when he and Sara temporarily bring Gugu into their home. Garrigan admits later that the arrangement was a sham and that he and Sara were "using Gugu to live out some kind of fantasy family life" as a hedge against the craziness happening around them.

Foreshadowing

Foden has written this book as if the writer is actually the protagonist Nicholas Garrigan pulling together his memoirs of when he was Idi Amin's physician. The narrative is in the first person, and Garrigan often interjects what he is thinking as he writes the memoir from his cottage in Scotland. Because of this, Foden (through Garrigan's character) often inserts a present-day comment that provides a hint about what is to come in the narrative.

For example, while Garrigan and Sara are watching one of Amin's political rallies, he notices that she is taking notes. When he asks her about it, she gives him a vague answer, and he remarks as an aside, "How could I have been so thickheaded, I wonder now," indicating that something *was* amiss with Sara, though at the time he does not share with the reader what that something could be. Garrigan later notices a shortwave radio in Sara's room, similar to the ones everyone else owns at the medical compound except that hers can also transmit. In this way, Foden offers small pieces of a mystery that is not completely solved until later. Later in the story, Sara calls Garrigan. It is apparent from her conversation that she was not only a physician but also a spy.

In another instance, Garrigan lets slip at the story's start that his adventure to Uganda does not turn out as he might have imagined. In describing what he expected his work to entail in Uganda, Garrigan gloomily says "had I known, on arrival, the breadth of activity that his later should involve, I would have gotten straight back on the plane."

Use of Historical Characters and Events

Some critics have referred to *The Last King of Scotland* as a *roman à clef*, a work in which historical figures appear as fictional characters. While Garrigan and others in the novel are purely fictional characters, Foden has woven them into events and characters that are very much a part of history.

In addition to Idi Amin, Foden includes other historical figures such as Margaret Thatcher, an English political leader; Queen Elizabeth of England; the Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini; U.S. president Richard Nixon; and hijacking victim Dora Bloch. Foden uses most of these figures simply to add texture and a sense of realism to his novel; Amin is the primary historical figure for whom he has created day-to-day actions and a developed personality.

Foden also includes actual historical events in the novel, such as Idi Amin's overthrow of President Apollo Obote in 1971, the hijacking and subsequent raid of an airplane from Tel Aviv, the struggle for Scottish independence, and the overthrow of Amin by Tanzanian armed forces. Like the historical figures, actual events give the book a realistic atmosphere. The feeling of realism is further enhanced by Foden's use of fictional journal entries and news clippings.

Historical Context

The Rule of Idi Amin

Idi Amin was the ruler of Uganda in East Africa from 1971 to 1979. He had a reputation as an unpredictable and violent man, and his policies led directly to the brutal murder of hundreds of thousands of his countrymen.

The facts of Amin's early years are disputed, but during the 1950s he was the heavyweight boxing champion of Uganda, and in the 1960s he rose rapidly through the ranks of the Ugandan army. As a reward for his help during a critical battle, President Apollo Obote named Amin the commander of the country's armed forces. Their relationship deteriorated, and in 1971 Amin overthrew Obote in an armed coup. Garrigan arrives in Kampala, the nation's capital, on the day of the coup.

In his first year as president, Amin ordered the massacre of troops he suspected of being loyal to Obote. In 1972, Britain and Israel rejected Amin's demands for large increases in military aid; Amin sought and received assistance from Libya and Soviet Russia. He became the first black African leader to denounce Israel in favor of the Palestinian cause. In addition, Amin made a number of antiSemitic remarks and publicly praised Adolf Hitler for killing Jews. This is about the time in the novel when Sara and her Israeli colleagues, some British diplomats, and all Indians and Asians are expelled from Uganda. Because Indians and Asians owned and ran most of the businesses in Uganda, the country's economy collapsed.

After a failed 1972 coup attempt by Tanzanian-supported Obote forces, Amin became even more repressive and brutal. Amin's regime is reported to have murdered anywhere between three hundred thousand and five hundred thousand civilians before he was ousted in 1979 by Tanzanian troops who, after recapturing land that Amin had invaded in 1978, continued marching to the capital, Kampala. Amin fled first to Libya but eventually accepted asylum in Saudi Arabia.

The Israeli Raid on Entebbe

In 1976, a group of Palestinian and West German terrorists (the latter group also known as the Baader Meinhof Gang) hijacked an Air France airplane filled with more than one hundred Israelis and forced it to land at Entebbe Airport near Kampala. In the novel, Garrigan assists with medical care for the hostages.

Some believe that Idi Amin, Uganda's president at that time, was involved in supporting the terrorists and allowed them to land the plane and use Entebbe as a base for their operations. His dislike for Israel was well known, and he may have been seeking a way to embarrass his adversary. A successful Israeli commando raid freed nearly all of the hostages; as revenge, Amin had hostage Dora Bloch murdered.

Scottish Independence Movement of the 1970s

Scotland has been an administrative division of Great Britain since the early 1700s. Scottish nationalism once again became a significant political issue in the twentieth century, especially in the 1960s and 1970s. Oil was discovered during this period in the North Sea, giving Scots more confidence in their ability to maintain a strong economy independent of Britain. Calls for independence were heard in the mid-1970s general elections, and in 1974 the Scottish Nationalist Party won eleven of Scotland's seventy-two seats in Parliament.

In the novel, Idi Amin claims to be the "last rightful king of Scotland" and says that he is "the first man to ask the British government to end their oppression of Scotland." He sees himself as the liberator of Scotland, just as he feels that he has liberated Uganda from British rule. Amin's obsession with all things Scottish can be traced to his training with Scottish soldiers. In the novel, Garrigan also mentions that "an eccentric Scottish officer" during Amin's years as a young soldier dressed some of the members of the King's African Rifles corps in khaki kilts.

Critical Overview

Foden's award-winning first novel received high praise from critics for its fascinating topic as well as for the deft manner in which its author handled the story's ethical issues and the sometimes gruesome details surrounding the violent rule of Uganda's Idi Amin. Peter Wolfe, writing in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, calls the novel "stunning" and "surehanded," and according to Margaret Flanagan in *Booklist*, the novel is "packed with moral ambiguity [and] the dynamic narrative provides a vivid portrait of one of the most surrealistic despots in modern African history."

Chris King, writing in *Newsday*, is not as enamored of Foden's narrative. King complains that, while many episodes including Amin are "hilarious," they eventually become predictable. Foden's use of childhood flashbacks "is a dubious narrative decision that weakens the satire," according to King. King compares the book to the novel *Forrest Gump*, in which "a fool has been superimposed unconvincingly over some very important history, trivializing everything he touches." What works in Winston Groom's novel does not work in Foden's novel, writes King, because Gump understood his limitations while Garrigan is simply "awash in existential selfpity."

Many reviewers have found Garrigan's character unlikable and confusing. In his review in The *Australian*, Tom Gilling calls Garrigan "a difficult figure to sympathize with or care about," one having "little sense of personality." Michael Upchurch, however, appreciates Garrigan's character and notes in the *New York Times Book Review* that "therein lies the admirable risk" Foden has taken in the novel. Merle Rubin in *The Christian Science Monitor* suggests that Foden has created in Garrigan a character whose weaknesses hit a little too close to home for some readers—"a well-meaning individual who becomes an accomplice to evil."

Because the novel includes historical figures as characters, many critics have focused on Foden's accuracy and on his use of history in a book that is not presented as a factual account. In a review in *History Today*, Richard Rathbone praises Foden for his careful research that makes the book "terrifying real." Rathbone views the book as not only an entertaining read but also "a brilliant analysis of the essence of a brutal dictator." Upchurch admires how the novel's fictional and historical aspects blend smoothly even though the novel "occasionally carries the whiff of the library stacks" and heavily reflects the journalistic background of its author. However, Christopher Hess argues in the *Austin Chronicle* that, by the second half of the novel, the plot is forced into "easy devices and contrived twists" by the excessive use of historical fact.

Considering the book as a fictional memoir, David Haynes, writing in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, lauds the use of realistic news clippings and journal entries that help Foden's audience "believe that what we are reading really happened." However convincing much of Foden's novel may be, though, Haynes is less enthusiastic about whether Garrigan's character is truly a man who would not leave Uganda when the going got tough. For the novel to work completely, Haynes argues, Foden must create a believable scenario in which Garrigan's utter naïveté leads him to remain in Uganda, but

he does not succeed in this. "Foden can't quite create a convincing balance between Garrigan's guilelessness and the character's well-informed, historically accurate telling of the story," he asserts.

Many critics have praised Foden's novel for its similarities to the works of other Western authors famous for writing about Africa. Wolfe sees the influence of Graham Greene in the novel, as it is filled with corrupt leaders and spies and takes place in the third world. A number of reviewers have compared the novel with those of Joseph Conrad. *Kirkus Reviews* finds "Conradian tones" in the novel and Hess calls Garrigan's experiences in the novel "Conradesque."

Reviews such as one that appeared in *Publishers Weekly* have noted the satirical qualities of the novel. Walter Abish, writing for the *Los Angeles Times*, associates Foden's writing style with the satirical and farcical style of Evelyn Waugh's novels. "The introspective Garrigan experiences a failure of nerve that Waugh used with great relish," he notes. Gilling also sees similarities between Waugh and Foden but believes that Foden "has a more solemn purpose" in his work.

Criticism

- Critical Essay #1
- Critical Essay #2

Critical Essay #1

Sanderson holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in fiction writing and is an independent writer who has lived in Africa. In this essay, Sanderson examines Nicholas Garrigan's attempts to cut himself off from the events and people around him in The Last King of Scotland.

In Giles Foden's novel *The Last King of Scotland*, Nicholas Garrigan is a man feverishly contradicting British poet John Donne's often quoted line, "no man is an island entire of itself." Garrigan is an isolated man with few close friends and little contact with his family. Many of his attempts to reach out to another person are either ill-timed or ill-advised, especially his relationship with Idi Amin, the ruthless but childlike dictator of Uganda. Death is all around Garrigan, yet he refuses to believe this, building a wall between himself and reality.

While Garrigan does not openly say that he seeks to be as untouched as an island, Foden indirectly alludes to Donne's famous "island" metaphor by having Garrigan's father use another famous line from the same paragraph in Donne as a joke. "Ask not for whom the Bell's tolls, it tolls for you," jokes Garrigan's father, referring to a popular brand of whiskey. Given the events of the novel, the full quote from Donne is particularly applicable to Garrigan's circumstances:

> No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. Any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

Garrigan is a man who has sought to cut himself off and not be "a part of the main." While serving as Amin's personal physician, he is aware of the atrocities Amin perpetrates. His response after a particularly horrific period is to "build a castle" within himself and make himself "impregnable." This is why he cannot ever "*be useful*," as he so desperately desires; to be useful one must typically live among those one wishes to help.

Through his actions, Garrigan tries to ignore the truth in Donne's statement that "any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind." No matter how hard he struggles against attachment, Garrigan is not completely disassociated from the deaths Amin causes. Each one of those deaths *does* diminish him in some way, which is why, by the end of the novel, Garrigan is a physical, psychological, and spiritual wreck.

Garrigan's past and present tell the story of a man desperate to avoid meaningful connections. His childhood was spent as the son of a solemn and emotionally dead Presbyterian minister and his wife. In addition to his father being disappointed that he would not practice general medicine in Scotland, Garrigan remembers his father

condemning him to a life filled with predestined misery. "You are as set for damnation as a rat in trap," says his father. Religion covered the family like "fine soot," remembers Garrigan, giving his childhood a dark and dusty image. The warmest relationship the young Garrigan seems to have developed was with his pet donkey, Fred, who eventually died from eating too many grass cuttings.

As an adult, Garrigan has not come to terms with his parents and their treatment of him. He is working at the Ugandan rural clinic when he learns of his father's death. His mother's death soon follows, but he does not fly to Scotland to be with his family on either occasion. Looking back on this, Garrigan suspects that something in him "had begun to close down."

This is not to say that Garrigan has no feelings and does not make any connections with the people around him, but simply that, when he does connect with another person, it is temporary and not as deep as he had thought. Most of the people he gets to know well either leave suddenly or die. For example, he falls in love with Sara Zach, the Israeli physician at the clinic, but is clueless about her true purpose for being in Uganda. Sara's actions are not typically those of a doctor: she takes notes during one of Amin's rallies in Mbarara; her shortwave radio not only receives broadcasts but can also transmit messages; and she spends an inordinate amount of time with an Israeli road-building crew.

One day Sara is gone, her bungalow bearing signs of hurried packing. The next time Garrigan hears from her is three years later, when she is a colonel with Israel's armed forces. A hijacked plane is sitting on the runway at Entebbe, and she calls to ask Garrigan if he will try to persuade Amin to help free the hostages. Garrigan refuses but realizes that she was probably a spy for the Israelis while working at the clinic. He realizes that he never did know her as well as he had previously thought.

For him to remain an untouched island, Garrigan must move through the novel like the proverbial monkey who can hear no evil. Early in the novel, his ears become so clogged that he has trouble hearing and is convinced that he has an infection in need of antibiotics. Sara correctly diagnoses the problem as a blockage and cleans out Garrigan's ears. In this case, she literally opens her lover's ears; later, she attempts to open his ears figuratively when she tells him "things will go badly here" and pleads with him to leave Uganda. He dismisses her concerns and ignores all of the signs around him that Amin's despotic rule will lead to certain death. Amin expels Indians, Asians, and Israelis from the country, and he makes anti-Semitic comments, yet Garrigan remains oblivious. In retrospect, he realizes that the phrase "*I should have known*" sums up his life.

Garrigan's other primary relationship in the novel is with Idi Amin. His affinity for Amin at first appears to be a genuine antidote to what has been missing from his previous relationships. Their conversations at first seem genuine, but upon further examination it is apparent that the Scottish physician is only fooling himself. Garrigan's relationship with Amin depends upon his ability to deny the havoc Amin creates all around him.

Garrigan is gradually drawn into Amin's world, but the connection he makes with Amin is that of an observer who gets trapped, not that of a friend. When new to Uganda, Garrigan hears Amin announce that he is "the last rightful King of Scotland" and thinks this may have some "special relevance" for himself, "as if I were his subject," he remembers. After Garrigan successfully treats Amin for gastrointestinal distress, the two go out on the town as if they were old college chums. By the time most of the world's nations have condemned Amin for his brutality and bizarre behavior, Garrigan is deeply involved with him. Even while agreeing with the West German Chancellor that a particular Amin statement is "an expression of mental derangement," Garrigan pursues his fascination with the Ugandan ruler. "My life had already fallen into a pattern that concentrated on Amin. The closer I got to him, the fewer my illusions about him—and still I stayed, more fascinated than frightened," recalls Garrigan.

To continue living in Uganda under Amin's rule, Garrigan creates a fantasy world for himself—something with which he has experience. For example, while working at the rural clinic, he and Sara take in a friend's younger brother, Gugu, who is orphaned as a result of the fighting surrounding the town. Meanwhile, Garrigan is oblivious to the war raging around him and to the fact that the clinic and his relationship with Sara are "going downhill." Looking back on this period in his life, Garrigan admits that he "had been using Gugu to live out some kind of fantasy family life." His association with Amin soon becomes a similar fantasy, and Garrigan is able to convince himself when he hears of the atrocities that they are exaggerated. Only when he begins to consider seriously the possibility of killing Amin, as requested by a British official, does Garrigan make the decision to leave Uganda. What finally provokes him to wake up and leave is the realization "that [he] had become enough like Amin to contemplate killing him for the sheer pleasure of it."

When Garrigan finally escapes Uganda and arrives in London, it is not to his sister or close friends that he returns. An uncle has bequeathed to Garrigan a small cottage on a tiny island in an isolated corner of Scotland, and that is where he finds shelter from the storms of the previous eight years. By literally moving to an island, Garrigan believes that he has, at last, placed himself apart from humanity. Foden, though, has other plans for the Scottish doctor. Just as Garrigan finishes writing his memoir of horror, he receives a phone call from Amin, ensconced in Saudi Arabia but still able to contact his former personal physician. Garrigan, despite his best efforts, discovers that he still "is a piece of the continent, a part of the main," as Donne writes, very much connected to the hundreds of thousands who have died in Uganda.

Source: Susan Sanderson, Critical Essay on *The Last King of Scotland*, in *Novels for Students*, The Gale Group, 2002.

Critical Essay #2

Dupler has published numerous essays and has taught college English. In this essay, Dupler looks at how the concept of identity plays a central role in a novel with a postcolonial setting.

Postcolonial studies has arisen as a literary field as scholars think about the changes occurring in the cultures and individuals that have become free of British colonial rule. Postcolonial studies concerns itself with the analysis of the nationalism and politics that brought about colonial rule and then dismantled it. The field also considers differences between people that led to concepts like nationalism; how these differences are created and sustained by cultures and individuals; and how they become conflicts. In the postcolonial world, first and third world cultures often collide, and in these conditions, racial and gender differences are often magnified as well. The concept of *identity* is a major consideration in postcolonial studies because the ways in which people identify themselves and their world also determine what differences they might have with others. There is personal identity, which is the way individuals see themselves, and cultural identity, which are ideas of identity given to individuals by their societies. Identity is central to Giles Foden's novel, *The Last King of Scotland*. This novel is positioned as a postcolonial novel, being set amidst the chaos of political change in the ex-British African country, Uganda, showing the collision of politics, cultures, and individuals. In the midst of this post-colonial setting, the complex issue of identity, both personal and cultural, underlies and influences the characters and their stories.

Nationalism is a form of cultural identity and can impose identities upon individuals. The concept of nationalism is a major influence for the characters in *The Last King of Scotland*. Early in the story, Nicholas Garrigan, the main character, notices a sign that says, in large print, "YOUR COUNTRY IS YOUR FAMILY," foreshadowing the intricate manner in which all the characters relate with the cultures they are from. Garrigan identifies strongly with his own country of Scotland; his first-person narrative makes it clear throughout that he is Scottish and that being such implies certain traits and behaviors. Early on, he tells the reader that he is in "an inappropriately northern place to embark upon this northern tale," making clear that although he is writing of Africa, he is located, literally and figuratively, in Scotland. Garrigan also remarks that he was "brought up according to the strictest precepts," or, in other words, his culture told him specific ways to act and perceive. In tough times, Garrigan tells himself that he must "cultivate the discipline of his native land," appealing to his national identity when his personal one is uncertain.

Nationalism as identity can be subtle in its effects. Among people from the United Kingdom, Garrigan makes it clear that he is Scottish and quite different from the English. At one point, Garrigan notes that he is "missing Britain," but quickly corrects himself by adding, "Or Scotland. Home." From a native Ugandan's standpoint, this correction would seem meaningless; there would be little difference between an English person and a Scottish one. Garrigan shows this also, when many of the Africans he meets consider him English, until he informs them otherwise.

Garrigan identifies other people he meets in the story by immediately pointing out their national identities, whether it is the South African Freddy Swanepoel, the Israeli Sara Zach, the many native Africans he meets, or his fellow British working in Uganda. And like Garrigan, other characters also identify with nationalistic markers. In their first major conversation, Sara Zach identifies Garrigan as Scottish, telling him, "I never met a Scot before." Garrigan replies that he is a "typical example" of a Scottish person, choosing cultural identity over an individual one. However, when pressed to explain himself, Garrigan has trouble defining what a typical Scottish person would be like, showing confusion about his own self-concept. His best reply is that being Scottish means that he likes football, rugby, and drinking. Sara Zach thinks this idea is absurd, and then resorts to her own nationalistic idea that Israeli men would identify themselves very differently. Nationalism permeates even the small moments between characters of the book; the other doctors with whom Garrigan works view him as a "Scottish doctor," a seemingly insignificant but telling perception.

Garrigan's personal identity is a complex one. While he frequently mentions his personal connection to Scotland, he can't help but think of his father, who dies while Garrigan is in Africa. He describes his father as a strict Presbyterian minister who had a particular view of the world and of Garrigan. One of Garrigan's earliest memories is of his father telling him that he is "set for damnation," and Garrigan has gone against his father's advice by moving to Africa. Garrigan has memories of times when he did not receive enough attention from his father, and also thinks of his father in close moments with Idi Amin, such as when Amin is sick in bed and during Amin's wedding. When Garrigan is very ill with a fever and having a crisis, he dreamily recalls his last conversation with his father, who told him to "minimize the harm" he could do in the world. Garrigan pleads out loud to his father to understand him, verbalizing his feelings that he has been disapproved of by a father who is no longer there. Garrigan has internalized his father's disapproving view of him, and this faulty self-concept affects him deeply, robbing him of the integrity needed to stand up to the corruption of the dictator Amin.

Garrigan hardly mentions his mother at all, except to note that she "died of grief" when his father passed away. Not only Garrigan's mother, but all the important women to Garrigan in the novel are vague to him and to the reader. Garrigan seems incapable of understanding women in the story beyond superficial description. Garrigan has a relationship with Sara Zach that is filled with empty conversation, and he knows her so little that only after she is gone does he realize that she was a spy. Garrigan also attempts to get to know Marina Perkins, the ambassador's wife, but completely misreads her and alienates her with a try at seduction. Later in the story, he is surprised to find out that she is having an affair, which upsets him greatly.

There are revealing differences in how Garrigan presents European and African characters in the story. The European characters tend to be shadowy, strange, and untrustworthy. The English are either spies attempting to manipulate the government of Uganda behind the scenes, such as Nigel Stone and Major Weir, or depressed bureaucrats stuck between the two worlds of England and Africa, like Doctor Merrit and his wife. Sara Zach is an Israeli spy who deceived Garrigan. Freddy Swanepoel, a white

South African, is a shady character with underworld connections. Marina Perkins is unpredictable and carrying out a clandestine affair. There is another white character who is briefly but strongly introduced in the book, Anglo-Steve (or, English Steve). This man has gone all the way into Africa, disappearing to live in the bush and believed to be crazy. When Garrigan identifies himself as sharing European heritage, but views all other Europeans as strange, misplaced characters, he undermines his image of himself. This can also be seen the other way around: Garrigan, having a shaky image of himself, projects questionable images of the people he most closely associates with. Hence the problems in completely understanding identity. Garrigan seems to understand this complexity of identity when he states early on, "Can you tell the truth when you are talking to yourself?"

Just as there is a trend in the way Garrigan identifies European characters, he also shows patterns when describing African characters. Early in the story, on his trip to Mbarara through the countryside of Uganda, his bus ride is interrupted by soldiers who harass the passengers. Garrigan backs down to a soldier's demands for money, while a Kenyan man stands up to them and pays the price by getting hurt. Garrigan describes this African man as brave and "dignified," and feels "ashamed" and "embarrassment" when thinking of himself in comparison. This scene shows many of the feelings that Garrigan has for Africans throughout the book. They are either faceless soldiers performing inhuman violence that fills him with fear, or strong and dignified people that make him feel inferior.

Nowhere is this paradoxical view of Africans more apparent than in the way Garrigan views Idi Amin. Amin fills him with fear, but also attracts him with many qualities Garrigan admires. In the beginning of the story, Garrigan finds that he "couldn't say no" to Amin's personality, which is "punish or reward." Time and again in the story, Garrigan is witness to Amin's violence as well as to his brilliance in manipulating people and events. Garrigan's relationship with Amin is complicated by the fact that it is a reversal of the long-ingrained identities created by colonialism. In the past, the differences between Europeans and Africans were also the differences between the powerful and the subordinated. Amin is a masterful manipulator of people because he understands these subtle identity problems and plays upon them. In calling himself the "last king of Scotland," he deftly places himself between Garrigan and England, and also makes himself both a sympathizer and superior to Garrigan.

When analyzing identity issues, the very way in which this story is told presents complexities. When Garrigan describes other people in the first person, he is seeing them through his own filter of the world; thus his descriptions of them may say just as much about Garrigan and his culture as they do about the other people and their cultures. The field of postcolonial studies has addressed this complex issue of identity in narrative. Postcolonial studies has asserted that the way identities are formed, both personal and national, helped shape and propel colonialism. Colonialism spread because of the way in which a dominating culture identifies with the culture being dominated. Dominant cultures create attractive images of the other culture. The subordinate culture becomes a figment of the dominant culture's imagination, and individuals of the other race and culture have certain useful identities impressed upon

them. These are never real, but these images create certain behaviors. For example, part of the allure for the British people who colonized Africa was the idea that in Africa they could recover a forgotten or better part of themselves. Tired, depressed bureaucrats in worn-out cities could imagine the other culture as a place of fertility and strength, of endless opportunity, of vitality that they themselves had used up. This image of Africa differed greatly from the real thing, but it was the image that took them there, that propelled the spread of colonialism.

This imagining of the African culture shows up in Garrigan. He recalls dream images he had as a child of a place with "a sensuous geography of temples and jungles." Garrigan wonders about what had led to all his problems in Africa, his "malignant destiny," and then mentions the "special vision of myself that took me there in the first place." Reality for Garrigan eventually differs from his imagination. When Garrigan is confronted by the harsh situation of warfare, he thinks of the English actor Michael Caine in a movie about Africa—another deeply ingrained image that is confronted by the real image. Garrigan says that the "old vision of Africa I'd had, the same that led me there and doomed me: it returns like a specter," or an unreal image that haunts him. Garrigan also acknowledges that his problem is that "the world doesn't deliver what I seek." Even some of the Africans in the book understand the identity that has been put upon them by Europeans. Waziri, a Ugandan, asks Garrigan if he wants to see "the real Africa," with a "slight mocking tone in his voice." This real vision of Africa turns out to be a superstitious dance that is put on "for the tourists."

Garrigan also identifies with the colonial myth of the tired, effete European going to a land of vitality and strength. On his first day in Africa, when Garrigan sees soldiers, he states, "I was conscious of my nakedness, of my pale, presbyter's face . . . my narrow chest . . . and my long, thin legs." This is in stark contrast to the way Garrigan describes his own symbol of Africa, Amin, who has "a quality of naked, visceral attraction." Garrigan is fascinated by Amin's "physically dominating" presence which "radiated a barely restrained energy." Beside Amin, Garrigan becomes weak and filled with "hopeless perplexity." In a revealing summary of his first meeting with the dictator, Garrigan invests a sentence with double meaning when he writes, "I had no way of getting back myself." He is talking about going home, but also speaking of losing himself and his own identity when confronted by the powerful vision of Amin. Garrigan describes Amin as appearing like "a being out of a Greek myth." This is interesting because myths are stories that cultures tell to define themselves and their place in the world, or stories told to define identity. For Garrigan, Amin represents an identity that renders him powerless because it plays upon the deepest stories he knows. Other Europeans share this mythology of Africa. Swanepoel says to Garrigan, "we all come back here," because Africa is the "[c]radle of the human race!" By including Garrigan as "we," he is identifying with him as a person sharing European heritage, as well as sharing the common myth of Africa as a place of primal vitality that contains something that must be recovered.

Garrigan's identity problems take their toll. Because Garrigan doesn't understand the complexities of identity as well as Amin and is confused about his own personal and cultural identity, he becomes susceptible to this dictator and eventually under his control. In the end, he is forced to look back upon his life in Africa from a vantage point

of exile on an island in Scotland. His disapproving and confused self- identity have come true; his identity problems created problems with his integrity that consume him, and he is forced to rewrite his story to come to terms with his new identity.

Source: Douglas Dupler, Critical Essay on *The Last King of Scotland*, in *Novels for Students*, The Gale Group, 2002.

Topics for Further Study

Based on what you learn about Garrigan in the novel, do you think he is a good doctor? Explain your answer.

One of the turning points in the novel occurs in 1976, when members of the Palestinian Liberation Organization hijack an airplane and divert it to Entebbe Airport near Kampala, Uganda. Research what actually happened and write a news story as if you are a journalist covering the event a few days after the Israelis stormed the plane.

Many historians, scientists, and others have argued that Idi Amin's violent and bizarre behavior can be attributed to mental degradation from an advanced case of syphilis. In the novel, Garrigan rejects this theory. Investigate what has been written about Idi Amin while he was president of Uganda, and, using the information you uncover, make your own argument about why he acted as he did.

Garrigan mentions a number of times that he hears news stories about the Scottish independence movement on the radio. Investigate this effort by Scots to make their country independent of Great Britain. Create a time line, beginning in the 1600s and continuing through today, that shows the important dates and events of this movement.

HIV/AIDS cases in Africa have recently received a lot of attention in the press and from political and medical leaders worldwide. Research the current status of HIV/AIDS in Uganda. Have rates for these diseases increased or decreased over the past decade? What is the government doing to combat HIV infection? How does Uganda compare with other African countries in this regard?

Compare and Contrast

1**970s:** Idi Amin asks Garrigan to investigate a fatal "new disease" among his soldiers. Although Garrigan finds nothing out of the ordinary, he wonders later, with the advent of HIV/AIDS, whether he was treating some of the earliest cases.

Today: The HIV/AIDS infection rate for adults in Uganda is 8.3 percent, and about 820,000 people are suspected to be living with HIV/AIDS.

1**970s:** Idi Amin seizes power from President Apollo Obote in 1971 and promulgates a reign of terror for the next eight years.

Today: After seizing power in 1986, President Yoweri Museveni is elected Ugandan chief of state in the March 2001 popular elections.

1**970s:** Idi Amin expels from Uganda all Indians and Asians, who own and run a majority of the businesses in the country. As a result, Uganda's economy collapses and shortages of basic goods are widespread.

Today: In the last decade, the Ugandan economy has performed solidly, thanks to continued investment in the rehabilitation of the country's infrastructure, reduced inflation, and the return of many previously exiled Indian-Ugandan business people. Unfortunately, Ugandan involvement with the ongoing war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo could cause many of these economic advances to slip.

What Do I Read Next?

First published in 1902, Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* was the model for Francis Ford Coppola's movie *Apocalypse Now*. In *Heart of Darkness*, an ivory company assigns Marlow the task of finding a stranded riverboat in the Belgian Congo and bringing back the company's top representative, whose behavior is becoming erratic. Marlow witnesses horrors and brutalities he could never have imagined.

Foden's second novel is *Ladysmith* (2000). It tells the story of the South African town of Ladysmith, its residents, and how they survive a four-month siege by Boer forces. The novel is based partly on the letters of Foden's great-grandfather, a British soldier in South Africa at the end of the nineteenth century.

Critics have compared *The Last King of Scotland* to the writings of British author Graham Greene. In 1961, Greene published *A Burnt-Out Case*, the tale of a spiritually dead man who reconnects with himself by living at a leper colony in the Belgian Congo.

Foden's writing style has also been compared to that of Evelyn Waugh, an author known for his satirical wit. In his 1938 novel *Scoop*, Waugh tells the humorous story of journalist William Boot's trip to a fictional African country to cover a nonexistent revolution. Boot has no experience as a war correspondent but manages to get a story.

Further Study

Hanson, Thor, *The Impenetrable Forest*, iUniverse.com, 2000.

In this photograph-filled book, Hanson tells how he lived in Uganda's Impenetrable Forest, working with local guides and trackers to develop a tourism program in the new national park.

Isegawa, Moses, *Abyssinian Chronicles*, Knopf, 2000.

In this Ugandan epic set during the 1960s and 1970s, Isegawa tells the story of an extended family and a divided country. Mugezi, the book's narrator, remembers how he survived life in Idi Amin's Uganda.

Maier, Karl, *Into the House of the Ancestors: Inside the New Africa*, John Wiley and Sons, 1997.

Maier draws on his ten years traveling throughout Africa to bring the news of Africans reviving and expanding upon their cultures' rich traditions. The book is based on hundreds of interviews and combines history with contemporary reporting.

Mutibwa, Phares, *Uganda since Independence: A Story of Unfulfilled Hopes*, Africa World Press, Inc., 1992.

Mutibwa has written an analysis of the country under President Yoweri Museveni—calmer than the preceding twenty years but not without its problems.

Ofcansky, Thomas, *Uganda: Tarnished Pearl of Africa*, Westview Press, 1996.

In this book, Ofcansky, an analyst for the United States Department of Defense, first gives a brief history of Uganda before its 1962 independence from Britain. He concentrates on the period between 1962 and 1994, examining Uganda's politics, culture, economy, and foreign policy.

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Introduction

Purpose of the Book

The purpose of Novels for Students (NfS) is to provide readers with a guide to understanding, enjoying, and studying novels by giving them easy access to information about the work. Part of Gale's□For Students□ Literature line, NfS is specifically designed to meet the curricular needs of high school and undergraduate college students and their teachers, as well as the interests of general readers and researchers considering specific novels. While each volume contains entries on □classic□ novels

frequently studied in classrooms, there are also entries containing hard-to-find information on contemporary novels, including works by multicultural, international, and women novelists.

The information covered in each entry includes an introduction to the novel and the novel's author; a plot summary, to help readers unravel and understand the events in a novel; descriptions of important characters, including explanation of a given character's role in the novel as well as discussion about that character's relationship to other characters in the novel; analysis of important themes in the novel; and an explanation of important literary techniques and movements as they are demonstrated in the novel.

In addition to this material, which helps the readers analyze the novel itself, students are also provided with important information on the literary and historical background informing each work. This includes a historical context essay, a box comparing the time or place the novel was written to modern Western culture, a critical overview essay, and excerpts from critical essays on the novel. A unique feature of NfS is a specially commissioned critical essay on each novel, targeted toward the student reader.

To further aid the student in studying and enjoying each novel, information on media adaptations is provided, as well as reading suggestions for works of fiction and nonfiction on similar themes and topics. Classroom aids include ideas for research papers and lists of critical sources that provide additional material on the novel.

Selection Criteria

The titles for each volume of NfS were selected by surveying numerous sources on teaching literature and analyzing course curricula for various school districts. Some of the sources surveyed included: literature anthologies; Reading Lists for College-Bound Students: The Books Most Recommended by America's Top Colleges; textbooks on teaching the novel; a College Board survey of novels commonly studied in high schools; a National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) survey of novels commonly studied in high schools; the NCTE's Teaching Literature in High School: The Novel;and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) list of best books for young adults of the past twenty-five years. Input was also solicited from our advisory board, as well as educators from various areas. From these discussions, it was determined that each volume should have a mix of □classic□ novels (those works commonly taught in literature classes) and contemporary novels for which information is often hard to find. Because of the interest in expanding the canon of literature, an emphasis was also placed on including works by international, multicultural, and women authors. Our advisory board members□educational professionals□ helped pare down the list for each volume. If a work was not selected for the present volume, it was often noted as a possibility for a future volume. As always, the editor welcomes suggestions for titles to be included in future volumes.

How Each Entry Is Organized

Each entry, or chapter, in NfS focuses on one novel. Each entry heading lists the full name of the novel, the author's name, and the date of the novel's publication. The following elements are contained in each entry:

- Introduction: a brief overview of the novel which provides information about its first appearance, its literary standing, any controversies surrounding the work, and major conflicts or themes within the work.
- Author Biography: this section includes basic facts about the author's life, and focuses on events and times in the author's life that inspired the novel in question.
- Plot Summary: a factual description of the major events in the novel. Lengthy summaries are broken down with subheads.
- Characters: an alphabetical listing of major characters in the novel. Each character name is followed by a brief to an extensive description of the character's role in the novel, as well as discussion of the character's actions, relationships, and possible motivation. Characters are listed alphabetically by last name. If a character is unnamed□for instance, the narrator in Invisible Man-the character is listed as □The Narrator□ and alphabetized as □Narrator.□ If a character's first name is the only one given, the name will appear alphabetically by that name. □ Variant names are also included for each character. Thus, the full name □Jean Louise Finch□ would head the listing for the narrator of To Kill a Mockingbird, but listed in a separate cross-reference would be the nickname □Scout Finch.□
- Themes: a thorough overview of how the major topics, themes, and issues are addressed within the novel. Each theme discussed appears in a separate subhead, and is easily accessed through the boldface entries in the Subject/Theme Index.
- Style: this section addresses important style elements of the novel, such as setting, point of view, and narration; important literary devices used, such as imagery, foreshadowing, symbolism; and, if applicable, genres to which the work might have belonged, such as Gothicism or Romanticism. Literary terms are explained within the entry, but can also be found in the Glossary.
- Historical Context: This section outlines the social, political, and cultural climate in which the author lived and the novel was created. This section may include descriptions of related historical events, pertinent aspects of daily life in the culture, and the artistic and literary sensibilities of the time in which the work was written. If the novel is a historical work, information regarding the time in which the novel is set is also included. Each section is broken down with helpful subheads.
- Critical Overview: this section provides background on the critical reputation of the novel, including bannings or any other public controversies surrounding the work. For older works, this section includes a history of how the novel was first received and how perceptions of it may have changed over the years; for more recent novels, direct quotes from early reviews may also be included.
- Criticism: an essay commissioned by NfS which specifically deals with the novel and is written specifically for the student audience, as well as excerpts from previously published criticism on the work (if available).

- Sources: an alphabetical list of critical material quoted in the entry, with full bibliographical information.
- Further Reading: an alphabetical list of other critical sources which may prove useful for the student. Includes full bibliographical information and a brief annotation.

In addition, each entry contains the following highlighted sections, set apart from the main text as sidebars:

- Media Adaptations: a list of important film and television adaptations of the novel, including source information. The list also includes stage adaptations, audio recordings, musical adaptations, etc.
- Topics for Further Study: a list of potential study questions or research topics dealing with the novel. This section includes questions related to other disciplines the student may be studying, such as American history, world history, science, math, government, business, geography, economics, psychology, etc.
- Compare and Contrast Box: an □at-a-glance□ comparison of the cultural and historical differences between the author's time and culture and late twentieth century/early twenty-first century Western culture. This box includes pertinent parallels between the major scientific, political, and cultural movements of the time or place the novel was written, the time or place the novel was set (if a historical work), and modern Western culture. Works written after 1990 may not have this box.
- What Do I Read Next?: a list of works that might complement the featured novel or serve as a contrast to it. This includes works by the same author and others, works of fiction and nonfiction, and works from various genres, cultures, and eras.

Other Features

NfS includes □The Informed Dialogue: Interacting with Literature,□ a foreword by Anne Devereaux Jordan, Senior Editor for Teaching and Learning Literature (TALL), and a founder of the Children's Literature Association. This essay provides an enlightening look at how readers interact with literature and how Novels for Students can help teachers show students how to enrich their own reading experiences.

A Cumulative Author/Title Index lists the authors and titles covered in each volume of the NfS series.

A Cumulative Nationality/Ethnicity Index breaks down the authors and titles covered in each volume of the NfS series by nationality and ethnicity.

A Subject/Theme Index, specific to each volume, provides easy reference for users who may be studying a particular subject or theme rather than a single work. Significant subjects from events to broad themes are included, and the entries pointing to the specific theme discussions in each entry are indicated in boldface.

Each entry has several illustrations, including photos of the author, stills from film adaptations (if available), maps, and/or photos of key historical events.

Citing Novels for Students

When writing papers, students who quote directly from any volume of Novels for Students may use the following general forms. These examples are based on MLA style; teachers may request that students adhere to a different style, so the following examples may be adapted as needed. When citing text from NfS that is not attributed to a particular author (i.e., the Themes, Style, Historical Context sections, etc.), the following format should be used in the bibliography section:

□Night.□ Novels for Students. Ed. Marie Rose Napierkowski. Vol. 4. Detroit: Gale, 1998. 234-35.

When quoting the specially commissioned essay from NfS (usually the first piece under the □Criticism□ subhead), the following format should be used:

Miller, Tyrus. Critical Essay on □Winesburg, Ohio.□ Novels for Students. Ed. Marie Rose Napierkowski. Vol. 4. Detroit: Gale, 1998. 335-39.

When quoting a journal or newspaper essay that is reprinted in a volume of NfS, the following form may be used:

Malak, Amin. □Margaret Atwood's □The Handmaid's Tale and the Dystopian Tradition,□ Canadian Literature No. 112 (Spring, 1987), 9-16; excerpted and reprinted in Novels for Students, Vol. 4, ed. Marie Rose Napierkowski (Detroit: Gale, 1998), pp. 133-36.

When quoting material reprinted from a book that appears in a volume of NfS, the following form may be used:

Adams, Timothy Dow. □Richard Wright: □Wearing the Mask,□ in Telling Lies in Modern American Autobiography (University of North Carolina Press, 1990), 69-83; excerpted and reprinted in Novels for Students, Vol. 1, ed. Diane Telgen (Detroit: Gale, 1997), pp. 59-61.

We Welcome Your Suggestions

The editor of Novels for Students welcomes your comments and ideas. Readers who wish to suggest novels to appear in future volumes, or who have other suggestions, are cordially invited to contact the editor. You may contact the editor via email at: ForStudentsEditors@gale.com. Or write to the editor at:

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