

The Lion's Lady Study Guide

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Plot Summary

In 1797, the shaman of the Dakota tribe of the Black Hills goes off alone to seek a vision from the Great Spirit. What he sees confuses him at first. He sees a sun in the night sky, a herd of buffalo led by a grey eagle, and a white mountain lion with blue eyes. A short time later, he understands the vision when daughter of the tribe's leader returns though she was believed dead. In her arms, she carried a small blond child, entrusted to her care when the child's mother died. This is how Christina came to grow up among the Dakota Indians although she and her family had always known that she would some day be returned to the white man's world.

The Marquess of Lyonwood, known by his friends simply as "Lyon," arrives home just in time to witness the deathbed confession of his wife. Her name is Lettie and she dies trying to give birth to the child of Lyon's brother, James. He removes himself from love, vowing that he'll never again marry. He does, however, continue to care for his family and he's accompanying his sister, Diana, during her first London social season when he meets Christina. Having been called a "lioness" by her own people, Christina's immediate reaction to Lyon is that she's found her mate. Although she plans to marry and deal with the bequests from her grandfather's estate, she has no plans to remain in England. She wants to return to America and to her Indian family. With that plan in mind, she proposes to Lyon, believing that he would make an appropriate husband for her short stay in London.

Lyon refuses the proposal but cannot deny the attraction he feels for Christina. That attraction grows mutually as Lyon exhibits all the attributes of a warrior and traits that Christina has grown up believing to be desirable but that many young London socialites find frightening. Christina is very self-sufficient, which Lyon in turn finds very appealing.

Christina is being chaperoned by her Aunt Patricia who wants Christina's money. Patricia goes to great lengths in an effort to achieve that. She arranges for Christina's kidnapping but Lyon discovers the plot and encounters the men before they can carry out the plan. Eventually, Christina and Lyon are forced to confront Christina's father who confessed to murder.

Although she began the marriage planning for a short-term arrangement, Christina is soon in love with Lyon and enjoys a love that is fully returned. There are compromises along the way as Christina learns to live in the world of the white man and Lyon learns that Christina is like no one that he has ever encountered.



Prologue, Chapters 1 and 2

Prologue, Chapters 1 and 2 Summary

In 1797, the shaman of the Dakota tribe of the Black Hills goes off alone to seek a vision from the Great Spirit. What he sees confuses him at first. He sees a sun in the night sky, a herd of buffalo led by a grey eagle and a white mountain lion with blue eyes. The shaman, a man named Waken, returns to his people and draws his vision on a deer skin though he reveals it to no one. He knows that the eagle is a sign that Grey Eagle will rule the tribe. This is an important revelation because Grey Eagle's daughter and grandson have been kidnapped and some presumed dead, prompting Grey Eagle to consider handing over leadership to a younger warrior. The buffalo, having the faces of Waken's ancestors, represent the tribe. The lion, which stood surrounded by the buffalo, is the big mystery but the shaman is certain that he will understand in time. When Merry arrives in camp with Christina who has light blond hair that is almost white and bright blue eyes, and then refers to the child as a "little lioness," the shaman realizes that the tribe is to protect that child.

Eleven months after the kidnapping, the tribe of Grey Eagle is still in mourning for the loss of Grey Eagle's daughter, Merry, and grandson, six-year-old White Eagle. Actually, they had survived though they were brutalized by the Indian who kidnapped them. While that Indian was beating White Eagle, a white woman named Jessica appeared, killed the Indian with a knife stab to the back and cared for Merry and White Eagle until they were recovered.

Jessica and Merry live together through the winter months as Merry and Grey Eagle recover. The two families grew close. Jessica pledged to help Grey Eagle return to his people if something happened to Merry and Merry pledged to raise Christina as her own before returning her to the white man's world as an adult.

When the three arrive in the Dakota camp, Black Wolf is eager to see his wife and son but reluctant to accept Christina. Merry says that unless Christina is accepted, she will also leave. Her husband wants someone else to raise Christina and it's while the council is considering the matter that Christina slips into the lodge and stands beside White Eagle, who she considers her brother. White Eagle decides to take matters into his own hands and interests Christina in a new "game" they have recently begun playing. He points to Merry and says, "My mama." Christina, who had become very possessive since her own mother's death, says, "My mama." White Eagle then points to his father and says, "My papa." Christina responds, "My papa" and promptly runs to sit in Black Wolf's lap. He accepts the child and then the shaman reveals his vision.

In 1810, the Marquess of Lyonwood arrives home to find his wife, Lettie, in serious trouble during the delivery of their first child. Baron Winters, their physician, says that the child is turned and that there's nothing he can do except hope the babe will turn to the correct position. As Lettie becomes weaker, she yells for James, telling him that



"your baby is tearing me apart." She soon dies and Lyon sends his brother, James, a message that both his mistress and child have died.

The journal entry, dated August 1, 1795, is Jessica's first impression of Edward, the man who would be her husband. She says that he could have had any woman, but wanted Jessica, that everyone believed he was kind, loving and a wonderful man, and that it was all a lie.

Lyon and his friend, Rhone, are among the guests at Lord Carlson's London townhouse where they first meet Christina. Rhone and Lyon are joined by Lyon's younger sister, Diana, who is engaged in her first London social season and is Lyon's responsibility. Diana pushes ahead of a couple waiting to talk to Christina, who is being introduced as "Princess." Christina takes Diana's hands, giving the impression that they are long-time friends and excusing Diana's impetuous rudeness. Rhone soon makes his way over for an introduction but returns to Lyon saying that Christina didn't answer any of his questions. Lyon believes he can do better and the two bet a bottle of liquor on the outcome. Christina manages not to answer any of Lyon's questions either, to Rhone's amusement. She does lead Lyon to believe she was raised in Boston but most of Lyon's information comes from others. She learns that her mother was Jessica, that some thought she was weak-minded, and that she is accompanied by her Aunt Patricia who is destitute and spent many years in America to avoid debtor's prison. When Patricia and Christina leave the party to go to Lord Baker's townhouse, Lyon decides that he will also attend that function. Diana requests permission to remain where she is and Lyon's friend, Sir Reynolds, agrees to accompany Diana home later.

Prologue, Chapters 1 and 2 Analysis

Merry knows that White Eagle will immediately be welcomed back into the tribe, as will she. The problem is that she has Christina who is a child of obvious white blood. Merry has pledged to care for Christina and knows that she will not remain in the Indian encampment unless Christina is also accepted.

Jessica's story is only hinted at with the information that Christina must eventually be returned to the white man's world. It will much later become known that Jessica was running from an abusive husband, that Christina is heiress to a huge estate and that she has white relatives but that Jessica doesn't feel any of them will care for Christina.

The entire story of Christina's acceptance into the Indian tribe is presented to the reader, but there are only vague stories of her life growing up among the Indians. She will reveal a few details in explaining herself to Lyon but the majority of her life among the Indians will remain untold. Christina does thrive among the Indians, learning from her parents, brother and the tribe and shaping her own views of how life should be. Those views will carry over to adulthood when she demands of her husband the same caring attitude that she witnessed between her parents. Christina tells her brother that she wants a husband just like her father. Her brother worries for her because he knows that a man like his father doesn't exist in the white man's world.



Later in the story the author reveals that James and Lyon had grown up as competitors for everything. As an adult, Lyon is often away from home and James spends time escorting Lettie to various events. Lyon will later say that James never lost the competitiveness and that was no doubt at least part of the reason for taking Lyon's wife as his mistress. Lyon will determine that he will never marry again though his mind will change upon meeting Christina.

It is also noted that Rhone is a lady's man and a rake, while Lyon is known to send women running for cover. There is the first indication of Lyon's work for the government and that he did what was necessary, carrying no guilt over his actions. He will later be accused of being a murderer and say that he worries that Christina will find out about his past though there will be few details offered.

When Lyon gets no real answers from Christina, he tells Rhone and Sir Reynolds that he is curious about her life and uses that as a reason to follow her to the next event. He insists that once his curiosity has been satisfied, he will no longer be interested in Christina. Christina is intensely aware of Lyon and is startled when he's introduced. She was referred to as a "lioness" among her Indian family and the shaman had dreamed of her as a white mountain lion. She will later tell Lyon that as soon as he was introduced, she knew that she had found her mate.



Chapters 3 and 4

Chapters 3 and 4 Summary

The journal entry dated August 10, 1795, is Jessica's account of Edward's first kindness to her father. They remain in England "longer than Edward really wished" so that Jessica's father could share her birthday celebration. The day after she turned seventeen, she and her husband leave for their new life. While she hates leaving her father, she begins to be excited about her future.

The conversation between Christina and Patricia in the coach on the way to the next party involves Lyon, and Patricia says that Lyon "won't do" as a potential husband for Christina because he's "too shrewd." Christina assures her aunt that she will not fail in her quest. At the Baker townhouse, Christina slips away for a moment alone and encounters Lyon on the way back to the dining room. Lyon continues to be confused by Christina's use of some words. She says that he reminds her of someone "back home," that it makes her too homesick to continue, and that when she is with him she forgets "all the laws." She seems to mean "rules," but the word "laws" confused Lyon even more. She calls him a warrior and says that she finds him "too appealing to deny." Lyon kisses her and she responds. She tells him that becoming involved with her could result in his death. She then returns to her aunt's side, turning her back on Lyon, which delights Patricia and infuriates Lyon.

Later in the evening, Lyon and Christina are again talking when a bandit known as "Jack" enters the party and demands money of the wealthy guests. A knife comes from somewhere behind Lyon, striking Rhone and ending the situation. Christina tells Lyon that it would be unsafe for him to interfere because of the number of elderly guests who might have been hurt. He seems upset that she was not worried for his safety. She says that she knows he is a great warrior and would have not been seriously hurt himself. Rhone goes to look for the knife and discovers that it's disappeared.

The journal entry is dated August 15, 1795, and Jessica talks of her learning that Edward insists that she remain inside the castle walls. Then she learns that conditions for the people of his kingdom are horrible. She says that she imagined she was going on an adventure but "walked into purgatory."

Mister Henderson and Mister Borton, solicitors for Christina's grandfather, Earl of Acton arrive to speak to Christina. Patricia is angry when the lawyers want to talk to Christina without Patricia's presence but Christina, in an effort to smooth the situation, allows Patricia to remain. They announce that there is a bid for the purchase of the Earl's estate, but that the Earl's will hands all the money to Christina. She will not be in control of the money at all. If she marries before her nineteenth birthday the money will go to her husband. If she does not, her father will take control.



Christina has read her mother's journal and knows that her father is dangerous. Jessica has written about her husband, Edward, and his greed. Her journal includes that Edward followed Jessica and Christina to America and tried to kill her. Christina believes that her father will try to kill her to gain her fortune. Christina tells her aunt that she does not want her father in control of her money and urges her aunt to make a list of potential husbands. She asks that Lyon be put at the top of the list although her aunt continues to say that Lyon would be unmanageable and should not be considered.

Chapters 3 and 4 Analysis

Christina's Aunt Patricia gripes about everything and Christina admits that she no longer listens, but she will continue to insist that the woman deserves respect because of her age. This is a sign of the Indian values instilled in Christina. She will also later say that Patricia cannot help being what she is.

Christina tells Lyon that his eyes are "as black as a Crow's." Lyon is immediately confused thinking that she means a bird while she is referring to a members of the Crow Indian tribe. Lyon asks if birds are her enemies. Christina "feigns innocence" and asks Lyon if he wants to talk to her about birds. This kind of conversation is typical of Lyon and Christina's relationship and is often amusing.

Christina immediately recognizes "Jack" as Rhone, as does Lyon, although neither admits to it. While Lyon is holding Christina behind his back to protect her from any danger, it's Christina who pulls a knife and throws it at Rhone's hand, forcing him to drop the gun and flee. She realizes that young ladies would not react in that way so she says that she feared she might swoon. She will later go to his house to offer her assistance in caring for the wound and Lyon will later pay off all Rhone's family debts in an effort to stop his friend's illegal activities. Rhone chose that particular party because he is interested both in money and in revenge. Card sharks took his father's money and he wants to make those people pay for their deeds.

After the solicitors leave, Christina tells her aunt not to worry and that having her father in control of her money "does not suit her purposes." She assures her aunt that she will take care of her financially. This is not sufficient for Patricia and she will soon enter into an agreement with an unscrupulous man to have Patricia kidnapped and forced into marriage. Patricia apparently agrees to help with the kidnapping in return for money.



Chapters 5 and 6

Chapters 5 and 6 Summary

The journal entry is dated October 12, 1795, and Christina's mother reveals her discoveries of her husband's behavior. She writes that anyone who is thought to be "subversive" is summarily executed, that peasants are killed and that food and water are withheld on the belief that hungry people are too weak to rebel. She says that she confronted Edward and warns Christina to "learn from my mistakes."

Lyon spends a lot of time thinking about Christina before deciding that he will visit her. This is improper without requesting an audience but he does not want to give her aunt a chance to refuse. He arrives, finds Christina at home alone, and has the butler summon her. The two verbally spar with Lyon still trying to gain information. When he says that she is "quite a philosopher," she is greatly offended but then figures out that she thought he meant philanderer. She says that she confused the two words because they are so nearly spelled the same and it is then that Lyon guesses that English is not her native language and that she has not been speaking it long. She tells him she speaks many languages, prefers French, and prompts him to believe that she was raised in France and has not admitted it because of hostilities between France and England. The conversation becomes quite confused as they are both so fully aware of the other, to the point that Lyon says he forgot the purpose of his visit. At one point, Lyon says he is either going to strangle her or kiss her and Christina says she prefers a kiss. They share a passionate kiss and Lyon says he believes Christina has had many men. She does not deny it.

While Christina is entertaining Lyon, her aunt is plotting with a man named Emmet Splickler to have him kidnap Christina and force her into marriage. Patricia notes that Emmet's father was greedy and spineless and that Emmet has followed in his footsteps. She says that he's nervous at first, then agrees to the plan. He'll sign over Christina's fortune to Patricia and Patricia notes that the bulge in Emmet's pants grows as he considers that he'll then have the opportunity to bed Christina.

The journal entry dated August 20, 1795, indicates that Jessica walked into her husband's room to discover a sexual encounter in progress. The woman, Nicolle, senses Jessica's presence, looks at her and continues the act.

Lyon goes to visit his mother, startling his sister with his cheerful mood. The visit consists of Lyon saying, "Good afternoon, Mother," and his mother replying, "Good afternoon, Lyon." Since his mother will speak of nothing but James and Lyon refuses to talk about James, the two then sit in silence for an hour while James reads the paper.

Lyon arrives at Rhone's townhouse to find his friend pacing the floor, dealing with his injured hand. He reveals what he knows - that Rhone's father had been cheated at cards and that Rhone was out to get revenge and money - and then says that he's paid



off the outstanding debts. He tells Rhone that it's the same as Rhone's friendship when Nettie died. As they are talking, Christina arrives. Lyon is angry, fearing that Christina is taken with Rhone. She soon indicates that she knows of Rhone's robbery attempt as well. She puts salve on his wound and bandages it again and Lyon insists on accompanying her home. When they arrive at the door, Lyon asks if he can accompany her to an upcoming party and she agrees. She then asks Lyon if he will marry her, "Just for a little while." He is so surprised that he cannot form an answer, she asks him to at least think about it, then goes into the house.

Chapters 5 and 6 Analysis

Christina makes a reference to the "Great Spirit," and when Lyon questions her, she says she is talking about God with whatever name one chooses. This could have been a clue to Lyon about her upbringing but he does not catch it. She is obviously struggling with the nuances of the language. Lyon says that she is as changeable as a chameleon and says she is not pleased to be called a lizard.

Christina asks him if he believes in destiny and he says no. She replies that it does not matter whether he believes or not, that destiny will take its course either way. When she tells him that he has to leave, he can't believe that he is allowed her to dismiss him again and concedes that she's "won the battle," though not the war. He says that it is not until she is leaving that he realizes that she's barefoot. At one point she makes a reference to a buffalo and Lyon will much later wonder where she had seen buffalo.

Patricia says that she has three problems, which are dealing with Emmet Splickler, eliminating Christina's Indian, and Christina's father, because he would be angry at having lost the fortune. Patricia says Christina must remain in England until Edward has been dealt with, hence the need to eliminate her niece's Indian family.

This is the first reference to the manner in which James died. Lyon says that it was a "freakish accident," but goes into no more detail. Although it has been three years, his mother remains in mourning. He says that she is in a dimmed room with dark coverings and clothing and that he would not even be able to find her except for her pasty white face "glaring" at him.

Diana is worried about Lyon when he enters the house smiling and is still smiling after his visit with his mother. She fears that he is cutting her social season short, sending her back to the country. Instead, Lyon offers to send for a favored aunt and then asks Diana to invite Christina for tea. She says that she suddenly understands his mood and asks if he's smitten with the princess. Lyon asks Diana if Christina's conversations make sense to her and she tells him that it's a ridiculous question.

Lyon's tone with Christina has undergone a dramatic change during the encounter at Rhone's house. It is likely that Lyon simply feels at home with his friend and feels no need to hide his feelings, but it is also likely that his fear of Christina being attracted to

Rhone prompted the outward show of possessiveness. He calls her "love," tells Rhone outright to stay away, and kisses Christina in front of Rhone.



Chapters 7 and 8

Chapters 7 and 8 Summary

In the journal entry dated September 1, 1795, Jessica relates the story of finding her husband "caressing" a large number of gems. She came to the conclusion that he planned to carry them with him when he fled the country, for the people were almost ready to revolt. Jessica vows to steal the jewels from her husband when it comes time for her to escape, and that she will some day return them to the rightful owners, the people.

Lyon arrives at the party on Thursday before Christina. He is soon confronted by Cecille, his former mistress. She is determined to have him for her husband and arranges a moment alone in the library where she tells Christina to stay away from Lyon. Christina does not react until Cecille says that she will make up lies about Christina and that the Countess Patricia will be hurt. Then Christina grabs Cecille by the throat, pinning her against the wall and holding a knife to her cheek. Christina says that if there are any lies that hurt her aunt, she'll search out Cecille and cut her face to ribbons. Then she released Cecille and tells her to leave the party. Lyon sees the women leaving the party, enters the library by a side door and listens, prepared to come to Christina's defense. He is surprised by her action and does not make his presence known and the two women leave the library. He takes time for a drink, is at first laughing over what he's witnessed then angry that she's obviously lied to him. He notes that the knife Christina uses to threaten Cecille is the same as the knife used to stop Rhone from his robbery attempt, and that Christina had said at the time that she was afraid.

Lyon returns to the party to confront Christina. She is immediately worried that he had seen the encounter in the library but he doesn't say so. She asks if he has considered her proposal and whether he would like to "mate" with her. He says he will not marry her but will mate with her, but it takes several minutes for Christina to catch the meaning. Then Lyon says that he would never lie to her because she's been "so open and honest with me," which makes Christina ashamed of herself for lying and for continuing the lies. Sir Reynolds tells Lyon that Patricia was ill and already left the party, that he is going to accompany Diana to another party, and promises to pretend that Christina left with her aunt. He says that they have at least two hours before Christina's aunt is likely to suspect that she did not also go to the next party. Lyon says he will take her mind off her fears and they kiss for long moments. Christina says they cannot "share a blanket" unless they are married but continues to kiss him. When she realizes that they have arrived at her aunt's home, she hastily adjusts her dress and prepares to get out. Lyon asks when he will see her again and she says never. She does explain that it was "selfish" to ask him for marriage, that he might have fallen in love with her, and that it would have broken his heart when she returned to her home. Lyon tries to argue but she says only that she will not see him again. He returns home, telling himself that she is a liar and that there was no way to know how many hearts she had broken. He also



admits that he is already in love with her and that he's "stuck with Christina whether he wanted to be or not."

The journal entry is dated September 3, 1795. Jessica says that her parting from her faithful maid, Mylala, was difficult because they knew they would likely never see each other again. She says that Mylala was like her sister and that her blood sister, Patricia, is a conniving woman who is very cruel. Jessica says that Patricia and Edward would have made a good couple because they are so much alike. She ends with a warning. If Patricia is alive, beware of her because she feeds on the pain of others.

Lyon spends the day following the realization that he is in love with Christina at Bleak Bryan Tavern. Lyon owns the establishment and set Bryan up in business as a payment for his loyalty. He finds a sailor named Mick who says that he remembers Patricia on the voyage from the Colonies. He says that Christina was accompanied by a missionary but cannot recall the name. He promptly goes in search of his shipmates in an effort to find out that man's name, hoping for a promised reward from Lyon. Lyon leaves the tavern with Bryan's warning to "guard your back," and an added warning to "guard your heart," but notes that the second has come too late. With the news that the missionary had planned to return to England to visit Christina after a short stay in France, Lyon decides that the only way to hold on to her is to marry her.

When Lyon returns home, he discovers Rhone waiting with the news that he's learned that a man named Emmet Splickler is planning to kidnap Christina. The attack is set for midnight and there will be several attackers. Lyon declines Rhone's offer of help and goes to Christina's to protect her. She is at home alone, her aunt having "gone to the country to visit a sick friend." Christina and Lyon argue because Christina wants to help, but she is notably impressed that Lyon has come to her aid. Christina soon proves that she is able to protect herself. She says that she must braid her hair so that an attacker won't be able to grab handfuls in order to subdue her. Lyon tells Christina to remain inside a room while he deals with the attackers and Christina pretends to agree. She hears a scratching at the window and fears that the attackers are trying to break in which will ruin Lyon's plan of defense. She is on the verge of telling the intruders that the back door is open when she discovers that it's Rhone. Lyon meanwhile takes care of several men at the rear of the house. When Christina opens the front door for Rhone, attackers rush the door. Lyon fights off several while Rhone slams the door in the fact of Emmet Splickler, breaking his nose.

When the fight is ended, Christina looks afraid and Lyon is on the verge of trying to comfort her when he discovers that she's not afraid because of the fight she witnessed, but fears that Lyon will be angry with her because she left the room after he told her to remain inside. Lyon then tells Rhone that he had told him to go home. Rhone asks if Lyon killed any of the men in the back of the house and Christina says she hopes not because "just think of the mess." Rhone asks if she should be crying and Christina suddenly realizes that she probably should, but does not. Rhone then remarks on Christina's bare feet but she does not respond, telling him to be careful on his way home. Lyon reminds him to send the carriage back so that he can load up the attackers to haul them away.



When they are alone, Lyon goes to wash off the blood. Christina touches a scar on his chest saying that a scar is not a flaw, but the mark of a warrior. They kiss and Lyon tells Christina that she should walk away. She says that she does not want to and they make love. Lyon discovers that Christina was a virgin and she says that she did not tell him because he would not have believed her. He says that he believed she had many lovers because of her passionate kisses. Christina invites him to make love to her again. He says that they have a lifetime together and urges her to wait but she says they have only the one night and must make the most of it. Afterward, Christina cries, saying no one had ever made her feel as she now feels.

Lyon insists that they will be married while Christina says she cannot marry him. She says that she will marry someone then return to her home. Lyon, still not knowing all the details of Christina's upbringing, refuses to listen. When they realize that it is nearly dawn and that Lyon's carriage has probably been outside Christina's home for hours, Lyon rushes downstairs without a shirt and with his pants half undone. He opens the door, lounges against the doorframe and greets several people who are headed home from all-night events. Christina says that she will not be in England long enough to care about her reputation and that she still will not marry Lyon. He ignores her, sends for part of his own staff to stay with her, and leaves once those staff members have arrived.

Chapters 7 and 8 Analysis

When Lyon arrives at the party at the Hunt residence, he encounters Diana. She tells him that Christina had come to tea the previous day and that she was surprised he didn't show up. He says he had business but actually forgot. Diana says that Christina said "the strangest thing," which was that it was Lyon's fault that his mother remained enshrouded in her grief for her dead son because it was Lyon's duty to direct her back to her family. Diana says she did not understand and not wanting to appear "unschooled," did not ask.

Though Lyon arrives at the party prepared to reject Christina's offer of marriage, he is not planning to reject her. He says that he will have her, but on his terms with no marriage vows attached. When he sees Cecille lead Christina into the library, Lyon prepares to come to the defense of his "angel." He is again talking as though he has a proprietary interest in Christina.

When Lyon says he will not marry her, Christina reassures herself that she can find someone else but she knows that it does matter to her because she is so very attracted to Lyon. She continues to feel ashamed because of the lies she has been telling him but decides that it does not matter because she will never see him again. She knows that the time is drawing to a close and she must quickly select a husband. She tells Lyon that she won't be seeing him anymore but does allow him to accompany her home at his insistence. In the carriage, Christina admits that she feels trapped in the small and enclosed space. When Lyon realizes the extent of her fear, he opens the drapes. She says that she should not have let him know of the phobia since it gives him something to use against her.



Rhone learns of the plot against Christina from a man named Ben who was hired to participate but paid off by Rhone not to. There is a brief discussion as to whether Ben can be trusted. It's noteworthy that Rhone learns of the event because of his own illegal activities as "Jack." It's one of "Jack's" associates that tells Rhone of the plan.

When Lyon knocks on Christina's door, she answers herself dressed only in her robe. Lyon fusses at her for her attire, for opening the door without knowing if there is danger on the other side, and for allowing the servants to leave her alone in the house. Christina's lack of understanding about the ways of the English is at fault here and there will be other instances in which she shows the results of her Indian upbringing. While Lyon wants to keep his violent past and his ability to kill from Christina, she begs him not to kill the men who are going to attack because it will make a mess inside and she will have to clean it up. Lyon begins to understand her slightly better at this point, though he still does not have a clue as to what shaped her attitudes.

Christina tells Lyon that she proposed because she thought she could marry him "for a little while" but now feels they will fall in love and it will break their hearts when she leaves. She says that she cannot stand to live as the English live, "in little boxes" and always hurrying off to another party. She says that she has every intention of eventually returning "home," but continues to lie about where that is. This time she tells him that it is a French convent though she has previously said she was raised by a family called Summerton.



Chapters 9, 10 and 11

Chapters 9, 10 and 11 Summary

The journal entry is dated September 7, 1795, and outlines Jessica's discovery that she carries Edward's child. She says that she first put the morning sickness down to the weather, having been aboard a ship bound for several days. She says that she begins to feel safe after several days at sea, feeling that she is beyond Edward's grasp. She ends with the statement, "God forgive me, Christina, but I prayed for your death."

Christina argues with Lyon's servants as they pack up her possessions. They are sympathetic but adamantly refuse to disobey Lyon's orders. People are indeed gossiping about the couple and Lyon has their engagement notice posted in the paper, an act that Colette, the lady's maid, believes ultimately romantic. When a visitor arrives at the townhouse, Christina goes downstairs. Expecting that it is Lyon, she begins yelling but discovers that it is Lyon's Aunt Harriet. When Christina apologizes, saying she thought it was Lyon, Aunt Harriet says that she is impressed that anyone would dare yell at Lyon. Aunt Harriet asks Christina if she loves Lyon and notes that it is remarkable for a couple to have the opportunity to base a marriage on love. She urges Christina to talk with Lyon about her fears.

As Christina and Lyon talk later, Diana acts as chaperone on Aunt Harriet's instruction but Lyon orders Diana out. Christina realizes that she can argue with him only until he touches her. As they kiss, Aunt Harriet begins to yell for them to open the door. Christina asks if Aunt Harriet has "the sight" because she can see through doors. Aunt Harriet says that she does not need to see what is happening because she knows Lyon well enough to guess. Aunt Harriet then realizes that the door was not locked and tells Lyon that she will not have him sully Christina's reputation. Lyon says that he has one more question for Christina and Aunt Harriet agrees to wait outside. This happens several times as Lyon asks why Christina has finally agreed to marry him and she says it is because of the way he fought for her protection. She says that she now believes he "won't be an easy man to kill," that her father will soon be arriving in England, that she believes he will try to kill Christina, and that Christina now believes the only way that would happen is if he were to kill Lyon first. While Lyon still does not have all the details, he does believe that Christina is afraid. He also believes that the key to Christina's past is the missionary who arrived with her in England, a man who Lyon has discovered is named Claude Deavenrue.

The journal entry dated October 1, 1795, indicates that Jessica's father was happy to see her until he discovered that Edward had not approved the visit. He then sends word of Jessica's whereabouts. Jessica cannot change her father's mind about Edward, writes the entire story down on paper, hides it so that her father will find it several months later, buries the jewels beneath the "blood roses" in her father's garden, and sets sail for her sister's home in America.



Christina is nervous during the wedding and is angry at Lyon for forcing her to pledge to a holy man they will remain married "until death." They meet Lyon's mother who does not acknowledge Christina, gives Lyon her blessing, and then begins to talk of James. Christina notes that the wedding gown was a waste because it was to be worn only once and they briefly attend the reception where Christina meets Bryan. Bryan immediately begins to recount the story of Lyon questioning Mick about Christina's voyage to England but Lyon cuts him off. On the way to the townhouse, Lyon again attempts to question Christina about her life but she evades his question.

The journal entry dated October 3, 1795, indicates that Jessica's crossing to America was rough but that she finally felt safe. She says that at that point she had no indication that Edward would follow her.

Lyon awakes to sunlight streaming into his window but finds that Christina has "fallen out of bed." He will soon learn that she prefers the floor and feels as if the soft bed is trying to "swallow" her. He picks her up, deposits her on the bed and they again make love. There is a banging on the door and Lyon rises to discover Mister Henderson, Mister Borton, and Christina's Aunt Patricia on the doorstep. Patricia is angry, threatens to have the marriage annulled, slaps Christina. Lyon tells her that he will go to the authorities with her role in the Splickler incident if she does not leave immediately. She does.

After the details have been arranged with the attorneys, Lyon and Christina are again alone. He says that Patricia seemed on the verge of saying something about Christina's background and asks what the woman would have had against her. She does not tell him but becomes tense, which he notices. After they make love, Christina tells him she needs "soft words," or words of love that she heard between her Indian mother and father to prove that the wife remained desirable after making love.

Chapters 9, 10 and 11 Analysis

Christina continues to insist that Lyon believes he is marrying a princess but she doesn't complete her thought and that she's not a princess because she was raised by the Indians. She has woven several lies about her upbringing, ranging from a life with a family named Summerton to a life in a convent as the spoiled child raised by nuns who also taught her self-defense and allowed her to run barefoot. When Christina tells Aunt Harriet that marriage would be a mistake for Lyon because she wants to return home, Aunt Harriet says that it would be a simple matter for Lyon to make a visit home with Christina.

Lyon, Rhone, and their friend, Andrew, watch a group of women who are attending Diana's party held in the garden. Lyon says he immediately locates Christina, that she obviously loves the music coming from a spinet, that she is swaying gently, and that she is obviously lost in the music because she picks a leaf from the hedge and eats it, then picks and eats another. When Andrew asks which is Princess Diana, Lyon says she is the blond "eating the shrubs."



After making love, Christina asks Lyon if she will always feel as if their souls had merged. Lyon says that he believes she will. As they are falling asleep, Lyon notes that Christina is like "a contented kitten." He has suffered nightmares nightly and seldom sleeps more than a few hours at a time, so he fully expects that later in the night he will wake and again "meet his past," but he does not wake until morning. He says that it is the first time he has slept through the night in two years.

Lyon notes that he learned of Patricia's role in the Splickler incident when she said that she was going to the country to visit a sick friend, leaving Christina alone. He says that he knew Patricia has no friends at all. Patricia says that it was Lyon who hampered her return to the city and that he must have known she would try to stop the wedding. Lyon does not deny the accusation but there are no details about Patricia's trip or Lyon's role in the delay. Patricia then begins to offer details of Lyon's past but one of the lawyers stops her, saying that "it was wartime," apparently as an excuse for Lyon's actions.

When the attorneys give the details of Christina's inheritance, Lyon says that she has more money than he. Christina says that their plans must include a significant settlement upon Patricia, and that if they don't provide for her financially they'll have to allow her to live with them. It almost seems as if Christina is already making long-term plans for her life with Lyon. He notes that Christina is manipulating him with the threat that Patricia might have to live with them but does not seem to mind.



Chapters 12 and 13

Chapters 12 and 13 Summary

The next journal entry is dated October 5, 1795. Jessica says that Patricia is bitterly unhappy in Boston, wants to return to England, and continually berates Jessica for leaving Edward. When Jessica refuses to say that she will return to England, Patricia tries to convince Jessica to allow Patricia to raise the child as her own. Jessica writes that she is certain of Patricia's motive to present her father with a grandchild that she'll pass off as her own. By now, Patricia's father has stopped bailing her out of financial problems which is why Patricia and her husband, Albert, are in America to avoid debtor's prison. Albert is kind to Jessica and provides her newspapers to read. Jessica learns about the western frontier and the people heading out to settle that land.

Christina and Lyon head to Lyonwood the following day and Lyon gives in to Christina's request to take an open buggy rather than an enclosed phaeton. The conversation at one point turns to Lettie. Christina questions Lyon about his feelings for his dead wife. He says that Lettie is dead and Christina is all that now matters. Lyon tells Christina that she must get past the idea that marriage is for awhile because they are to be together forever. He says that she loves him because he is a warrior. She responds that he is a warrior and a vain one, but a warrior nonetheless.

When they arrive at the house, the servants are waiting to be introduced. Christina immediately captivates their loyalty and tells the head butler, Brown, that she will not interfere with his running of the household.

Over the next few days, Christina and Lyon spend hours together, mostly outside. They often take picnic lunches and usually find their way back to a small creek. On Friday, Lyon is leaving for London. He and Rhone have planned a card game with the men who stole from Rhone's father. Christina begs to go along but Lyon refuses. Lyon asks Christina if she has something to tell him before he goes. She eventually does say that she loves him and he urges her to say that she also trusts him. She says that he should "savor one victory at a time," which makes him laugh. He says that he believes he now has Christina for his own and she says that she has finished living a lie, and that she will be interested to see if he still wants her when he discovers exactly what she is like without the lies. Lyon says that he could not be happier with his life. She responds that he should "enjoy the feeling."

The journal entry dated October 11, 1795, is Jessica's narration of leaving Boston. She says she slipped away when Christina was three months without so much as a note so that Patricia would not know where to look for her. Jessica and Christina, traveling with a couple named Jacob and Emily, join a wagon train. Jessica writes that when they reach a beautiful valley she is optimistic about the future and believes that she is finally free.



Lyon has been gone just over an hour when Christina receives two letters. The first is from her aunt, bitterly complaining of several points including the fact that she never gets invited to parties now that Christina is married. The second is from the missionary, Claude Deavenrue and Patricia's letter ends with a note that she's forwarding this letter and hopes Christina does not find bad news. Moments later, Christina screams out and collapses. The letter indicates that her Indian family died of spotted fever. Christina's immediate grief is real but she also fears her aunt's treachery and does not fully believe the news until she verifies that the letter is real. She leaves for London immediately, looking to have Lyon support her belief that the letter is not actually from Deavenrue. Lyon and Sir Fenton Richards agree that the handwriting of the letter and the envelope is very similar, but not an exact match

Lyon and Richards had been talking business prior to her arrival. Lyon learns that Rhone has been placed under house arrest and that he's about to be charged for his role as the robber known as "Jack." The charges were brought by Wellingham, one of the men who stole from Rhone's father, who noticed the bandage on Rhone's arm. In an effort to clear his friend's name, Lyon plans to hire bandits to pretend to be Jack. They put in a public appearance while Rhone is under house arrest, clearing Rhone's name. Richards then says that Christina's father, Edward Stalinsky, is on the way to London. He then reveals the details of the "Brisbane incident." According to Richards, a man named Brisbane, who had a wife and children, was facing charges for treason but wasn't at the top of the conspiracy. He entered into an agreement to deliver those above him in return for leniency. Before he could do so, his wife and children were killed and their throats slashed. Brisbane was also killed and the general consensus at the time was that he had killed his family before committing suicide. It was Christina's father who had "found" the family. Lyon and Richards will soon come to the conclusion that Stalinsky himself was involved with the treason and that he killed Brisbane's family.

Lyon tells Richards that Christina fears her father and that is reason enough for distrust. It is in the middle of their conversation about Edward that Brown rushes in, declares the Christina went into a swoon when she read a letter that had been delivered, and Christina hands both letters to Lyon. Lyon first reads the letter from Patricia which outlines all Lyon's transgressions. He believes that she has come to him in search of denial but knows that he cannot deny any of it. As Lyon searches for words to explain, Christina grows impatient then understands his fear. She says that she already knows that he is a warrior, but that he kills only when challenged and hunts only "jackals." Lyon and Richards reassure Christina that the writing on the envelope from Deavenrue does not match that on the letter. Richards asks if the Indians are "like family" to Christina and she says yes. As soon as Richards leaves, Christina bursts into tears. With the truth finally in the open, Christina begins to talk about her life as a child. When Lyon asks if her Indian father would like him, she responds that he hates all whites except Christina. Lyon says he is relieved that Christina will no longer have to pretend and they make love.



Chapters 12 and 13 Analysis

Lyon has begun letting Christina know that he is aware of her fabrications about her past. He also lets her know that he saw her threaten Cecille with a knife. Christina says that Lyon must promise not to take another lover. She says that she's aware that it's fashionable to have a mistress, but that she will not allow it. This is another case of Christina saying that the marriage is a union of convenience until she returns home but indicating that she's thinking long term. Though she doesn't object out loud when she discovers that she and Lyon have separate rooms, she tells Lyon that it's not right for husband and wife to sleep apart.

Christina asks how many of Lyon's family live with him and cannot imagine that the huge house is for him alone. Once inside, Christina says she wants to see the stables. Lyon says he thought she was afraid of horses but she reminds him that she hasn't indicated fear of the animals, but fear of the saddles. He forbids her to ride bareback and she hopes that the stable master won't tell that she has already been riding most mornings, though she returns to bed before Lyon awakes. He will return unexpectedly one day to find her in the fields behind the house, riding bareback with more grace and skill than anyone he knows.

When Christina cries out and collapses, she is immediately the center of the attention of the staff. She has cared for tenderly, which is a statement of their devotion. Brown refuses to entrust her to anyone else, though he admits that it might be a chore for him to hold onto a mount in order to accompany Christina to London. It is another statement of their loyalty that they do not oppose her wishes to go to London, but seek to help her do what she feels she must do. When they arrive and Lyon sees Brown, he is immediately concerned that something has happened to Christina.



Chapters 14 and 15

Chapters 14 and 15 Summary

The next journal entry is dated October 20, 1795. Jessica writes that she wakes one night during the wagon train trip west to discover Edward bent over the bodies of Jacob and Emily. He had slashed their throats and demands to know where Jessica had hidden the jewels. She screams the alarm and the camp comes awake, forcing Edward to run. When the camp again settles down, Jessica picks up Christina and rides calmly out of camp. She says that she now knows she'll never be free of Edward.

Lyon leaves that afternoon and Christina believes he is going for the card game with Rhone. Actually, he is gone to arrange for "Jack" to make an appearance that night to clear Rhone's name. Christina is at home when Diana arrives, crying. She explains about Rhone's arrest and Christina tells her not to worry, that Rhone will be cleared. As the ladies talk, Diana tells of James' accident. He fell from a horse and the physician told Diana's mother that James died instantly, though Diana believes that statement might have been designed to reassure her mother. On the subject of her mother, Christina says that she plans to take the woman to Lyonwood. While Diana doesn't voice her true opinion, she's relieved that someone else is on the verge of taking responsibility for her mother.

Diana then leaves, ordering the driver to take her to Bleak Bryan's Tavern. The driver, a man named Everett, stammers, saying that it is a bad part of town but Diana assures him that her husband knows of her errand. Once there, Everett asks if he can wait inside the carriage but Christina tells him to leave, that Bryan will see her home. Once inside, a man reaches out for her and Christina slaps his hand away with a knife in her own hand. He yells that she cut him, she returns that he tried to grab her. She then announces that she is Lyon's wife and that she is looking for Bryan. She is immediately left alone while someone goes for Bryan. She asks a man named Nitty to teach her to play a game of cards, which she discovers is poker. She turns out to be an adept player and is in the middle of a hand when Lyon arrives.

While Christina is inside, Lyon and Bryan are outside making arrangements for the appearance of "Jack." A man tells Bryan that he's needed back inside but Bryan pushes aside the request until he hears an uproar of laughter. He walks in, sees Christina and returns to fetch Lyon. Byron tells Lyon that the problem inside is really his and Lyon enters, expecting to find he's needed to throw someone out. Instead, he discovers that his wife is playing poker. The room becomes silent as the men wait to see if Lyon laughs or yells. When he yells, everyone leaves.

The journal entry is dated November 1, 1795. Jessica writes that she doesn't want anyone else to die at Edward's hand because of her, so strikes out from the wagon train on her own. She sees a band of Indians headed to the train but isn't close enough to warn them. Then she sees a man beating a child and reacts almost without thinking,



leaving Christina on the ground and rushing them man. She stabs him in the back and says that he never moved. The child was White Eagle and Jessica picks him up, crooning to him until he begins to breath more evenly.

When Lyon returns, "Jack" has put in an appearance, Christina is asleep on the floor, Lyon reminds himself to do something about the too-soft mattresses, and says that Christina will have to compromise. When he wakes, Christina is gone and the servants say she left with Lyon's blessing. Lyon yells but quickly calms himself, telling the staff that he'd forgotten the plan. He arrives at his mother's home to find Rhone sitting with Diana who is crying. When he gets the story from Diana, he finds that Christina has already been there and has taken Lyon's mother to Lyonwood with her. She has indicated that if his mother is ready to die, she'll take her to find a place in the woods to do so. Lyon reassures Diana that Christina wouldn't seriously harm their mother and leaves for Lyonwood. He's noted the apparent connection between Rhone and Diana and wonders about having Rhone for a brother-in-law.

At Lyonwood, Elbert is dragging Lyon's shoes outside to the porch. He announces that Christina ordered it because she is divorcing Lyon. Elbert says that Christina's symbolic gesture indicates that Lyon is "cast out, pushed aside, forgotten, dead in her heart." He would have gone on but Lyon stops him. Brown says that Christina has told him she's from France, and that putting Lyon's shoes on the doorstep is part of her law. Brown asks if that is true and Lyon, smiling, says that if Christina said so, it must be so.

Lyon is taking a bath when Christina arrives. As they argue, she ventures too close and Lyon pulls her into the tub. They are soon making love and Christina says that the outcome isn't fair because Lyon was supposed to have courted her before she gave in.

They begin to talk honestly about their pasts. Christina explains to him that her people would have considered the yelling such as Lyon did at Bryan's a serious affront. She says that she was yelled at only once growing up. White Eagle caught a small snake and received praise for his find. When Christina also caught a snake, her father yelled at her. She says that it was because her snake was poisonous and her father feared for her safety but that it was still an affront. Lyon explains that he felt that same fear for her safety at the tavern and Christina admits that she sees his point of view. Lyon then tells about Lettie and James. Later that night, Christina leaves Jessica's journal for Lyon to read and he notes that it's a sign of her trust. Lyon then reveals to her his fears that her father was involved in the Brisbane murders and says that he has a plan for gaining an admission of guilt. Christina says that she trusts him to do so.

Chapters 14 and 15 Analysis

It is Jessica's description of the murder of Emily and Jacob that starts Lyon thinking that Edward could have been responsible for the deaths of the Brisbanes.

As Lyon and Christina argue over her presence in the tavern, Lyon yells at Christina for putting herself in danger. Christina will later admit that she didn't realize the danger.



What Christina does understand is that Lyon yelled at her in front of Bryan. The action breaks her heart because she says that Lyon's action humiliated her. She believes that any reprimand should have been saved for when they were alone. As he prepares to leave the house, Christina announces that he is going to have to apologize, and asks if he prefers to do so before he leaves or when he returns. She also tells him that they will have to "start all over" but doesn't explain until later that she expects to be courted all over again. Christina and Lyon will not understand the other's point of view on this matter for some time. Lyon says that when he saw her sitting in the tavern, all he could think of was the danger she'd put herself in. He will eventually admit that he's pleased that the two of them had the same idea for clearing Rhone's name.

Christina says that she believed the errand was worth the risk because she planned to have Bryan help her arrange for someone to pretend to be "Jack" in order to clear Rhone. She says that she believes Rhone to be terrified because of his being locked in. She doesn't understand that Rhone is actually free to have guests and is having parties nightly.

The story in Jessica's journal is the same as Merry told at the Indian camp. Merry says that the Indians had argued over whether to attack the wagon train and that the leader alone had opted against the attack. When she saw Jessica holding White Eagle, she begged her to take White Eagle and leave but Jessica refused to leave without the Indian woman.

When Christina arrived in London with her aunt, she "discovered" Elbert in a gutter. He says that she dusted him off and gave him a job. Now that Christina is no longer in her aunt's home, she knows that Elbert will not be able to please the old woman nor to keep up with her demands. She therefore gives him a job at Lyonwood. Lyon does not seem surprised by the action and notes that it would be like Christina to give that much thought to another's well-being. Brown is very worried that Lyon will accept Christina's divorce decree. He asks and Lyon notes that it is a sign of his youth that he does not know Lyon better than to believe he might simply leave. It is interesting that Christina arbitrarily determines what is hers to keep and what will be Lyon's. By her reckoning, the servants, Lyon's mother and the house have all become Christina's.



Chapters 16 and 17

Chapters 16 and 17 Summary

In the November 3, 1795, journal entry, Jessica says that she and Merry made pledges regarding the two children. If anything happened to Merry, Jessica would get White Eagle back to his Indian tribe. If anything happened to Jessica, Merry would care for Christina until she came of age, when she would return her to the white man's world.

Lyon is uncomfortable as his family sits down to dinner. He and Christina are joined by Lyon's mother, Aunt Harriet, Diana and Rhone. Christina eventually tells the family some details of her childhood. Aunt Harriet suggests that Christina not tell others, predicting that members of the ton would not understand and that Christina would become the brunt of jokes.

The final journal entry, dated May 20, 1796, was written the day before Jessica and Merry leave the "safe haven" they'd lived in over the winter months. It is not clear why Merry wanted to leave but she notes that she has no plans other than the hope that someone will have pity on her.

Christina and Lyon have a plan to trap Christina's father. They attend a party where they meet. Christina tells her father that she will be relieved to have him meet her stepfather, a man she calls MacFinley. She says that MacFinley was with the wagon train when a man attacked and killed two of Jessica's traveling companions. She says that MacFinley always felt Jessica was a bit weak-minded but that he still harbored the idea that the attacker might have been Edward. During the course of the conversation, Christina also tells Edward that her mother had often ranted about taking something from the wall and burying it. Edward becomes agitated and wants to know where Jessica claimed to have buried it. Christina says that her mother said it was buried in the garden beneath the blood roses. Edward passes off his interest as mere curiosity. Edward and Christina make plans to meet the following day for lunch but Christina, unable to face him again, sends a request the following day to delay the meeting a couple of days.

Meanwhile, Edward is being watched and Lyon receives word when the man books passage on a ship out of the country on the day he was to have again met with Christina. He is also notified when Edward goes to the garden at the Earl of Acton's house. Lyon plans to go there but Christina insists on accompanying him, despite being ill with morning sickness.

When they arrive, Christina has a box of fake gems that she tells Edward she will give him but only if he will tell the truth about her mother. Edward admits that Jessica was not "weak minded" and then admits his role in the Brisbane murders. He is then arrested by Sir Richards and his men. They tell him that they will be taking him to stand trial in his own country.



Months later, Christina gives birth to a son, Dakota Alexander, who would become the next Marquess of Lyonwood.

Chapters 16 and 17 Analysis

After Christina's admission about her childhood, there is a conversation about Diana's new puppy. She asks Christina if she had a puppy as a child and Christina makes a flippant remark about eating dogs. She says that she was kidding but Diana is not certain. Later, the puppy will go missing and everyone will wander around in the rain in search of the dog. Christina will then admit that the joke about eating dogs came back to create a problem for her.

Lyon's mother, Millicent, enters every conversation with a comment about James. For example, when France is mentioned, Lyon's mother says that "James loved to go to France." The comments become a habit and Millicent doesn't even seem to realize what she's saying. When Christina says that her people ate dogs, Millicent replies, "James never ate his dog." It seems to take her a moment to fully realize what she's just said and she joins in with the laughter of the family. It is a first step toward coming back to join her family and it seems that it would not have happened without Christina.

After dinner, Sir Richards arrives with the news that Christina's father is in London. Richards, Rhone, and Lyon go to the property owned by Christina's grandfather to search for the gems buried there by Jessica. They discover the treasure but the large number of roses mean it takes longer than they'd planned. Christina looks at the jewels and says they are ugly because they cost her mother her life. It is unclear whether Edward chases Jessica only because she had stolen the gems but it seems possible.

Christina has little interest in seeing her father brought to justice for the crimes he has committed. What she is really looking for is the admission that her mother was not weak-minded as everyone said. When Edward is faced with the opportunity to leave without being arrested, he does so. It is unclear whether Christina realizes that he would likely have said anything at that point, but his words do seem to make her happy.

It is interesting that Edward threatens Christina when he realizes that he is about to be arrested. He says that he will make certain that her life is dragged through a public trial so that everyone knows of her upbringing. It is also interesting that even though Christina makes a significant settlement upon her aunt, Patricia has apparently been in touch with Edward upon his return to England or shortly before. Edward asks Christina about her upbringing and she denies that she was raised by "savages," instead telling him the story of the stepfather who did not actually exist.



Characters

Christina Stalinsky

Christina was not yet born when her mother fled her cruel father. Born in Boston, Christina was just months old when her mother then fled Boston, joining a wagon trail headed west. When her father caught up with them, Christina's mother again fled, leading to the meeting of Christina's mother and Merry. Christina spends the next months in a mountain cabin with Merry and Jessica looking over her and Merry's son. When Jessica is killed, Christina is taken in by Merry. There are few other details of her life among the Dakota Indians, but she was loved and cherished and taught for her future life with the English.

When she travels to England as a young woman, she has no intention of staying there. She wants only to retrieve the fortune left to her by her grandfather but soon finds that there are two options to either marry and hand control of the fortune to her husband or to remain single and hand control to her father. She decides that she must marry and blurts out a proposal to Lyon, a man to whom she is greatly attracted because he reminds her of the warriors of her childhood. She is not at all intimidated by Lyon, which is a fact that baffles Lyon and others. Instead, Christina feels that their destinies are interwoven.

Christina has no real intention of remaining in England. She plans to remain long enough to complete her task and then to return to the Indians who raised her and whom she considers her true family. With that ultimate goal in mind, she fully intends to leave the husband who helps her achieve that goal. When she realizes that she cannot possibly spend time with Lyon without falling completely in love with him and him with her, she decides that he is not the man she should marry because the parting would be too difficult. She does give in to his demand to marry but remains serious in her plan to eventually leave. She comes to the eventual decision that she will not actually leave him because their love for each other is simply too strong.

Marquess of Lyonwood

Better known as Lyon, he is a former government employee and has a reputation for his willingness to fight. He himself says that he does not always fight honorably but fights for the right reasons. He was married to a woman named Lettie who died in childbirth. Lettie had been unfaithful and the child was not Lyon's, but his brother's. Lettie cries out the truth on her deathbed after several hours of labor. The admission breaks Lyon's confidence in people but he overcomes that doubt when he meets Christina. He is immediately taken with her looks but is more taken with her personality. At their first meeting, a party, he discovers that she manages to skillfully evade every one of his questions. He is later amazed that she simply dismisses him when she decides. He is so accustomed to the admiration of everyone he meets that he does not know how to



handle this. He continues to believe that she is simply trying to gain his attention and determines that he is going to bed her. After her proposal of marriage, his determination grows, although he initially declines her proposal.

He soon admits that he will be content with nothing less than marriage and finds that he can mention the subject without fear. When Christina says that she has changed her mind, he allows himself to be seen outside Christina's home, half-dressed, knowing that Christina will now marry him to avoid a scandal.

Lyon is arrogant and self-assured, prompting him to take on fights to protect Christina even when the odds are stacked against him. It takes some time for him to determine that he does not care that Christina is fully capable of caring for herself and he finds pride in her accomplishments rather than being intimidated. Lyon's love for Christina is so deep that he is quickly willing to share her view of the world and to give in to her on many points.

Rhone

This is Lyon's dearest friend. He is with Lyon when they first meet Christina and it is Lyon who says that Christina never really answered any of his questions. He bets Lyon that she will not answer his either and wins. Rhone's father has been financially ruined by some card cheats and Rhone has become known as "Jack," a bandit who robs wealthy guests of parties. Christina and Lyon know of the deception and Lyon pays off the debts of Rhone's family, exacting his promise to stop his quest for revenge in this manner. Rhone is in love with Lyon's sister, Diana, and asks for her hand in marriage, which Lyon approves.

Patricia Cummings

This is Christina's Aunt, a countess, and the woman who oversees Christina's launch into society. Sir Reynolds says that she's a "bitch," and that she would try to sell Christina into a marriage that would be profitable for the aunt. Patricia married a man who went heavily into debt and that her father refused to bail them out, leaving them to make their way to the Colonies rather than face debtor's prison. Patricia plans to have Christina kidnapped and forced into marriage in order to gain control of the fortune left to Christina by her grandfather or Patricia's father. Most who know Patricia call her "an old bat" or worse but Christina insists on the honor that is due all the elderly people, saying that her aunt cannot help what she is.

Merry

This is Christina's adoptive mother, an Indian from the Dakota tribe. Merry and her son had been captured by a warring band of Indians when they encountered Christina's mother who killed the band's leader and nursed Merry's son back to health. When Christina's mother was killed, Merry took the child to raise as her own, promising the



woman that she would send Christina back to the "white world" when she was grown. Merry faced the wrath of her husband when she arrived in the Indian village with a white child but stood firm in her decision to raise Christina as part of her own family and then return her.

Jessica

This is Christina's birth mother and the woman who nursed the Indian boy, White Eagle, back to health after being beaten by a rival tribe. Jessica was married to a king who was cruel to her and she ran away from him. She and Merry spend a year in the wilderness together and Christina was killed by a bear on the day before the women had planned to depart their winter camp. It was generally accepted that Jessica was "weak minded" although Christina did not think so.

White Eagle

This is the six-year-old Dakota Indian boy who is to be leader of his tribe but is kidnapped by a rival tribe. He is severely beaten by his captors and his mother fears that he will die, but he is nursed back to health by a white woman named Jessica. Over the months of living with Jessica and her daughter, there becomes a bond between White Eagle and Christina. It's White Eagle who prompts Christina to call Black Wolf "papa" during the meeting held to determine whether she would be raised in his home.

Black Wolf

This is Christina's adoptive father. His wife, missing for almost a year with their son, returns to the village with a white child she has adopted. Black Wolf, who hates the white man, refuses to participate in the child's rearing but says that she doesn't seem to realize that he is ignoring her. When he is on the verge of rejecting the child altogether during a council meeting, his son engages Christina in a "game" and says, "My papa," to which Christina immediately replies, "My papa." She then takes a seat in Black Wolf's lap, prompting his acceptance of the child to be raised as his own until time for her to return to the "white man's" world.

Diana

This is Lyon's sister who quickly becomes fond of Christina though she sometimes does not understand Christina or her statements. Diana has come out for her first London social season at the same time Christina arrives in London. While so much is going on in the lives of Lyon and Christina, Diana is also falling in love with Lyon's friend, Rhone. She gains permission from her brother to marry but is forbidden to marry quickly as Lyon and Christina did.



Baron Stalinsky

This is Christina's birth father. He is a cruel tyrant and rules his people with unbending demands. He has in his possession a large number of gems when Jessica makes her plans to run away from him. She steals the gems with the intention of eventually returning them to his people who are the rightful owners of the gems. When he meets Christina and learns the location of the gems, he goes there to find them and is confronted by Christina and Lyon. He admits to having killed two people Jessica was traveling with in America and then having killed an entire family that included children. He is taken to his own country to face trial.

Millicent

This is Lyon's mother. She is, according to Lyon, "a professional mourner" who has spent some three years in bed, grieving the death of her son, James. Christina cannot abide that Lyon has allowed his mother to wallow in her self-pity and forces the woman to begin rejoining the family. Millicent is reluctant but slowly makes steps in that direction under Christina's insistent influence.

Aunt Harriet

This is Millicent's sister and the aunt of Lyon and Diana. Aunt Harriet travels to London to oversee Christina's social season. Her first meeting with Christina is while Christina and Lyon are quarreling and Christina, thinking that the visitor is Lyon, begins yelling at the woman. She says that she is impressed with Christina's spunk for having the nerve to yell at Lyon.

Sir Richards

This is the man who employed Lyon for government work and who tells Lyon that Christina's father has returned to London. Richards joins Lyon in the plan to trap Stalinsky into a confession and then accompanies the man to his own country to stand trial.



Objects/Places

The Black Hills

This is where the Dakota tribe lived and where Christina was reared with the Indians.

London

This is where Lyon has a townhouse and where he and Christina meet as Christina is being presented to society for her first season.

Lord Carlson's townhouse

This is where Christina meets Lyon for the first time during a party.

Lord Baker's townhouse

This is where Christina and Lyon are attending a party when Rhone breaks in with his face covered and attempts a robbery that Christina stops by throwing a knife, striking Rhone's hand.

Gretna Green

This is where the Countess Patricia suggests Emmet Splickler take Christina once he kidnapped her.

Bleak Bryan Tavern

This is the tavern where Lyon spends most of the day following his realization that he is in love with Christina. He questions seamen in an effort to find out about Christina's voyage to England. It is also where Christina goes to help clear Rhone's name and where she learns to play poker.

Boston

This is where Patricia and her husband, Alfred, live and where Jessica goes to await the birth of Christina.



Lyonwood

This is where Lyon lives and where he takes Christina after their wedding. It is a country estate.

Porter's Townhouse

This is where Christina's father is staying upon his return to London and where Christina is due to meet him for the first time.

The Earl of Acton's Estate

This is where Christina's mother buried the jewels.



Themes

The Quest for Love

Lyon has been badly hurt by the infidelity of his brother and deceased wife and has pledged that he will never again fall in love. While it is not exactly love at first sight on Lyon's part, there is no doubt that he feels an immediate attraction and is the first to admit that he is in love with Christina. When he does make that admission, he begins searching for a way to make Christina also admit her love for him.

Christina has come to London for her own reasons and when she discovers that she must marry in order to collect her inheritance, she goes about it in a methodical manner. She instructs her aunt to make a list of potential husbands but adds that she wants Lyon's name at the top of that list. Christina first asks Lyon to marry her and gets his refusal but then refuses to marry him because she realizes that their attraction is too strong and that they cannot possibly live together without falling in love.

That love becomes strong between the two of them very quickly. They are almost immediately anxious to spend time together and to share a bed.

Lyon and Christina are not the only ones who are seeking love. Lyon's younger sister, Diana, has also fallen in love. Christina has noted the love blooming between Diana and Lyon's friend, Rhone, though Lyon refuses to acknowledge it for some time.

Trust

Christina had trouble with trust from when she was a young child, although the trust of her childhood was caused by the loss of her biological mother. When Christina arrives in the camp of the Dakota Indians, she is clinging alternately to her adoptive mother and brother. It is this need that prompts her brother's "game" that gains Christina acceptance into the tribe. When her brother, White Eagle, says, "My papa," Christina replies, "My papa" and rushes to sit in her adoptive father's lap. Though Christina seems a happy, well-adjusted toddler at this point, it's Merry who says that the child doesn't trust that the important people in her life will remain.

Christina's fears continue into adulthood though she becomes better at hiding her feelings. When she meets Lyon, Christina gives him a fabricated version of her childhood. Lyon realizes that Christina is not telling the truth but does not know why for some time. As it turns out, Christina lies for several reasons, including fear that she will be ostracized from the social circuit if her childhood is revealed.

When Christina and Lyon make the connection and begin to fall in love, Christina continues to hold to her fabrications. It takes time and patience for Lyon to win Christina's trust. When she finally comes to that point, she exhibits it to Lyon by leaving her mother's journal so that he could find it.



Self-Assurance

Both Lyon and Christina are extremely self-confident. In the case of Christina, there is little doubt that her upbringing was a major source of the self-confidence although it seems Christina was also a naturally self-confident child. She tells the story of her family heaping praise on her brother when he brought home a snake. Christina, jealous of the attention her brother received and confident that she too could gain that kind of attention, catches a snake of her own.

Lyon is similarly self-confident. When he is attracted to Christina, he tells her that he will have her. Christina proposes then withdraws her offer. Lyon tells her that he will have her, but that he won't marry her.

When Lyon learns of a plot to kidnap Christina, he goes to her house to confront the attackers. He does not notify the authorities or remove himself and Christina from danger. Instead, he carefully looks over his surroundings and plans his counter-attack. Christina similarly feels she is capable of protecting herself. When she needs to enter Bleak Bryan's Tavern, she knows that she will likely face ruffians and arms herself with a knife. While it may be that she does not have a full understanding of what she would face, there is little doubt that she's prepared for at least some level of trouble and simply is not afraid to face it.

Style

Point of View

The book is written in third person and is divided between limited and omniscient points of view. The majority of the book is written from either Christina's or Lyon's perspective though even those passages are not completely limited. For example, the story opens with the description of how Christina came to live among the Dakota Indian tribe. This section is written from an omniscient stand point and is largely from Merry's point of view rather than Christina's. The method works well and means that the reader has more information than would be available from more limited points of view.

There are additional perspectives presented through the use of Jessica's journal. In this case, the reader learns about Jessica's background and about Edward. There are few other ways the reader would effectively gain this information. Knowledge of Edward and his cruelty to his wife is necessary for the story line and the use of a journal presents the information in an understandable format.

Setting

The story is set in the late 1700s and early 1800s. There are two major setting locations for the story. The story begins in the Black Hills of America. There are no in-depth descriptions of the region which is acceptable because the area makes little difference to the story line itself. The remainder of the story takes place in London, England. There are limited descriptions, mostly of homes, conveyances and events. The few descriptions that are included are believable.

The descriptions of the preferences and limited descriptions of people and parties are also believable. The events seem historically correct with elaborate settings and arrangements. The lack of description may be disappointing to some but are not necessary for the effective telling of the story.

Language and Meaning

The story is written in a straight forward style and most readers will find it easy to read. There are a few words that some may not be familiar with such as "phaeton" but meanings are typically explained or easily discerned from the context. Chapters begin with journal entries in varying lengths. According to the story line, the journal entries were written by Jessica during her time in America. These are set apart from the text of the story and have a slightly different tone, making their inclusion believable.

The novel is divided between exposition and conversation. The conversations are informal and believable. These conversations accurately depict what might happen between a young woman with English as an unfamiliar language. There are times when



Christina mistakes the meaning of a word or misuses words that causes humorous misunderstandings.

Structure

The book is divided into seventeen chapters with a prologue at the beginning. The prologue outlines the introduction of Christina to her Indian father and the members of her tribe. There is also brief information about Christina's birth mother, including the role she played in saving the life of Christina's adoptive brother. The prologue outlines the reasons Christina came to be adopted by the Indians but offers no real information into her life with the Indians. There are references to the fact that Christina must return to England when she is grown but no reasons for that requirement are offered until much later in the book.

The chapters are identified only by number. Chapters are of varying lengths, from only a few pages in the case of Chapter One to more than twenty pages in several cases. Each chapter begins with a journal entry, written by Christina's mother over the course of 1795 and 1796. With only one exception, the entries are in chronological order. The exception is that the entry from Chapter Five is dated October 12, 1795, while Chapter Six is dated August 20, 1795. There seems to be an error on this point because the October 12 entry indicates that Jessica has learned of her husband's cruelty to his people and that she plans to confront him. The August 20 entry details that confrontation. It's left to the reader to determine the significance. The dates are likely the dates of the writing, not the dates of the events. The journal entries are meant to provide a look into the life of Christina's mother because her choice to leave Christina's father greatly impacted Christina's life. The use of the journal entries is an effective tool but the reader gets such small glances at a time that some readers may find it a bit frustrating.



Quotes

"White Eagle was her confidant. He didn't wish to break his sister's innocent determination, but he worried for her. He argued in favor of caution, for he knew, as well as everyone else in their isolated village, that Christina would one day return to the world of the whites. And in his heart the truth tormented him. He knew, with a certainty he couldn't deny, that there were no warriors like in father in this place called England. None at all" (Prologue, pg. 25.)

"And so the gossip makers called Rhone a rake and Lyon a pirate, but never, of course, to either gentleman's face. Those foolish women didn't realize how their insults would have pleased both men" (Chapter 2, pg. 32.)

"Another lie, another pretense. How her brother, White Eagle, would laugh if he could see her now. He knew, as well as everyone else back home, that there wasn't a submissive bone in Christina's body" (Chapter 3, pg. 71.)

"The results of his loyalty were twofold. Lyon was given knighthood for his courage, nightmares for his sins" (Chapter 5, pg. 89.)

"She didn't have to be strong when she was alone. She could cry, just as long as she was quiet about it. It was a weakness to shed tears, yet since no one was there to witness her distress, Christina felt little shame" (Chapter 7, pg. 129.)

"She had the audacity to tell him he might fall in love with her. Lyon knew the truth. Heaven help him, he was already in love with her. Needless to say, the admission didn't sit well" (Chapter 7, pg. 150.)

"Lyon slowly untie the ribbon from the bottom of Christina's braid, then unwound the silky curls until a blanket of sunlight covered her back. He lifted her into his arms and carried her over to the bed, pausing only to pull the covers back before placing her in the center" (Chapter 8, pg. 181.)

"If he hasn't sounded so caring, she might have been able to restrain herself. There wasn't any need to be quiet about it now, since he knew she was weeping, and she was soon wailing, loud and undignified as a crazed old squaw" (Chapter 8, pg. 187.)



"Lyon knew she wasn't aware she was being watched either. She wouldn't have eaten the leaf otherwise, or reached for another" (Chapter 9, pg. 210.)

"'I don't want you to pretend whatever it is that you pretend either,' Lyon announced. He laughed then, for he didn't have the faintest idea what he'd just said" (Chapter 13, pg. 273.)

"Christina's husky laughter wasn't echoed by her audience. They all watched the Marquess of Lyonwood, awaiting his judgment. He didn't look too happy. If the powerful Marquess wasn't amused, then neither were they" (Chapter Fourteen, pg. 287.)

"Christina, if you cut your hair every time you're unhappy with me, you'll be bald in a month's time, I can promise you" (Chapter 15, pg. 308.)

"Do you understand now how confused I was when Sir Reynolds called you Lyon? I knew in that moment that I had found my mate" (Chapter 15, pg. 316.)

"'Richards has given me his assurance that justice in England is equal to that of the Dakotas. He'd better be right, Lyon, or we shall have to take matters into our own hands.' Her voice had turned hard. 'Strike the door, husband. Let's get this pretense of a joyful reunion over with'" (Chapter 17, pg. 338.)

"He wanted to name his son Alexander Daniel. She was having none of that. She wanted to name him Screaming Black Eagle. Lyon was having none of that. In the end, they compromised. The future Marquess of Lyonwood was christened Dakota Alexander" (Chapter 17, pg. 260.)

Topics for Discussion

How does Christina come to live among the Dakota tribe? How does her brother aid in her acceptance? How does it shape her life?

What happens that embitters Lyon and make him pledge to remain apart from love? What changes his mind?

Who is Rhone? What part does he play in Lyon's life? When Christina recognizes him pretending to be "Jack," what does she do?

How does Christina propose to Lyon? What is his response? What makes him change his mind? What makes her change her mind?

Describe three instances in which Christina does not react as socialites of the day would have. What prompts her actions?

Who were Christina's parents? Describe her first meeting with her father.

How does Lyon set about to clear Rhone's name? How does Christina? What is the outcome?