

The Luminaries: A Novel Study Guide

The Luminaries: A Novel by Eleanor Catton

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Plot Summary

The Luminaries is a mystery by Eleanor Catton. The story begins with Walter Moody's arrival in Hokitika, New Zealand. Twelve men who are having a secret meeting in the lounge of the hotel where Moody is staying take him into their confidence. The men are connected by strange occurrences, including the death of Crosbie Wells (a hermit who lived outside of Hokitika), the attempted suicide of a prostitute (Anna Wetherell), and the disappearance of a wealthy gold miner (Emery Staines). Since all of these events happened on the same night, the group is under the impression that they are linked. The men believe that Wells was killed by a man named Francis Carver, but they need solid evidence against him. Hoping to find a pattern which, thus far, has eluded them, they turn to Walter Moody.

Moody learns from the twelve men that shortly after Crosbie Wells' death, they had sold his house to Edgar Clinch. Clinch hired Harald Nilssen to clear out Wells' belongings. While working, Nilssen found gold bars. Everything seemed to be working out to the good of everyone, until Mr. Wells' widow came to town. Her arrival surprised everyone because no one was aware that Wells had a wife. When she claimed that the property was rightfully hers, the men worried that it looked as if they had swindled the widow by selling the property so quickly. However, there was more to Mrs. Wells' background. It was soon discovered that she was a friend of Francis Carver. Furthermore, she had once had an affair with Alistair Lauderback, a politician. The novel continues unfolding as a tale of greed and revenge.



Part I – Mercury in Sagittarius, Jupiter in Sagittarius

Summary

Twelve men gather in the smoking room of the Crown Hotel. Some are nicely dressed, while others are wearing frayed cuffs. Walter Moody walks into this room of men who, upon hearing him coming, have stopped conversing. They show Moody no interest when he enters the room. Moody is preoccupied because he has had a terrible voyage from Port Chalmers.

Moody has barely taken a seat after obtaining a drink when he is addressed by one of the men. Moody tells him that he is just off the boat and has come on his own. Thomas Balfour, who owns Balfour Shipping, is intent on learning if Moody has any business at the Crown. Moody assures him that he is only at the hotel to stay while he makes preparations to become a gold miner. All of the men would like Moody to leave, but they cannot think of how to persuade him to leave without making him aware that he is intruding on a meeting.

Moody had a painful encounter that led him to Hokitika. He is reluctant to relate it to Balfour. Moody sailed from Port Chalmers aboard the Godspeed. His ticket afforded him a narrow space below decks. Since the hold was foul-smelling, he spent most of the trip hunched below the gunwales with his leather case clasped to his chest. The weather turned bad. Moody's first view of Hokitika was not a pleasant one. The captain dared not take the ship to port in the weather so the passengers had to be taken in a small boat to the shore. Moody saw something on the boat before they are taken to shore that he is reluctant to discuss. He procured lodging at the Crown because it was close to the quay. He wanted only shelter and solitude.

Moody tells Balfour how he came to be there because he can sense there is a secret about the room. He tells Balfour that his father had disappeared three years ago leaving his new wife behind and with no money. Moody made efforts to find his father and provided for his stepmother. His elder brother had gone to seek his fortune in the goldfields of Otago goldfields so did not know about the situation. He sent letters to him in New Zealand, but received no reply. Eventually after years of no response, Moody booked passage to New Zealand to inform his brother of the family situation and help in the digging for a while. In New Zealand he found not his brother, but his father. The man was drunk and angry to have been found. He is extraordinarily rich and remarried. Moody is unsurprised. Moody discovers that his brother helped his father abandon his life in England and journeyed together to New Zealand. His father attempt to detain Moody, but he escapes and made his way here to try his luck at digging. He swapped papers with a man headed to Liverpool so that it would look like he returned to England.



When Moody mentions that he came to Hokitika on the barque Godspeed, Balfour looks shocked and the attention of the room is openly fixed upon him. When questioned he informs the man that the captain is Francis Carver. Moody is not acquainted with the man and purchased his ticket from the ship's mate. Moody is under the impression that Carver was in a hurry to leave Dunedin for he was anxious to weigh anchor despite a coming storm. Moody saw something in the cargo that made him never want to make an enemy of Mr. Carver.

Aubert Gascoigne addresses Moody. He tells him that a crime has been on the lips of every man for a fortnight, the plight of Anna Wetherell. Miss Wetherell is a prostitute who was tried for attempting to take her own life. Dick Mannering introduces himself to Moody. Most of the men assembled in the room are not goldminers, but camp followers. They open businesses in the gold towns.

The men in the room come to a consensus to tell Moody why they are assembled at the Crown. A man has been murdered and they believe that Carver murdered him, but they do not know why or how. They ask if he will hear their story. Moody agrees to listen.

Thomas Balfour begins the story. Before he came to Hokitika, he owned a shipping business in Dunedin. He did good business and one of his clients was Alistair Lauderback, Superintendent of Canterbury. The man rose quickly through the political ranks. Balfour was impressed by the man. Lauderback owned four ships that he wanted to lease to a shipping company. Balfour agreed to the Virtue, but turned down the other ships which included Godspeed. The two men become friends. When his partner retired, Balfour moved the business down the Coast to Hokitika. When Godspeed enters the harbor one day, Balfour remembers it as one of Lauderback's ships. He introduces himself to the captain a Francis Carver. Balfour pegs him as a crook.

Lauderback runs for the Westland seat in Parliament and wants Balfour's help to be seen as a Westland man. He asks the man to secure him lodgings in Hokitika and he will ship a trunk of personal effects to Balfour to keep until his arrival. Lauderback will arrive on horseback so he can arrive as a man of the people. Balfour makes all of the arrangements for Lauderback's arrival. Lauderback's trunk is to be carried by the Virtue from Port Chalmers to Hokitika. On his ride to Hokitika, Lauderback and his aides stop at the dwelling of a hermit for refreshment and find the man dead of drink. The men refresh themselves and continue their journey. They then come upon a woman soaking wet lying in the middle of the thoroughfare. She is barely alive. Lauderback watches over the woman while his aides go to get help. The death of the hermit, Crosbie Wells, and the fate of the prostitute he found in the road takes up the minds of the people of Hokitika and not the election.

On the morning of Moody's arrival in Hokitika, Balfour had a meal with Lauderback. Balfour is distracted because he has lost Lauderback's trunk. It arrived in Hokitika on the Virtue two days before Lauderback arrived in town, but it then disappeared. Lauderback has been preoccupied with his tour of the camps and believes that the Virtue is still in transit from Dunedin, but Balfour knows that he will soon question the whereabouts of his trunk and Balfour will have to answer.



Balfour tells Lauderback that he has seen Lauderback's ship Godspeed in the harbor often. Lauderback admits that he sold Godspeed, but is confused when Balfour calls the captain Francis Carver and describes him. Lauderback knows him as Francis Wells. He thought he and Crosbie Wells, the dead man, were brothers. Balfour did not know Crosbie Wells. He only knew him to look at him. No one knew Crosbie had any family and there was not a will so his land and cottage were returned to the crown and sold. Then Crosbie's wife turns up with her marriage papers. Balfour thinks it odd that she turned up so quickly after his death when no one had heard of her. Lauderback is shocked to hear that Lydia Wells is in Hokikita.

Lauderback tells Balfour that Lydia Wells is the mistress of an establishment in Dunedin called the House of Many Wishes. It is a gambling house famous for its high stakes and dancing girls. Lauderback had a relationship with Lydia, but did not pay her. On coming back to Dunedin after a time, he returned to find that Lydia's husband had come home. He had not known that she had a husband. The man's name was Francis Wells. At the gambling house Lydia used her maiden name, Greenway. The man did not ask for anything right away, but told Lauderback that he was a murderer. He was being pursued on account of a murder and when the man caught up to Francis Wells he would see Lauderback as an associate and come after him as well. He asked for Lauderback to put in a word for him so he could get a job on the crew of Godspeed.

Lauderback heard nothing from him for a time. He gets an annual receipt from Danforth Shipping in the mail that is filled out in his name. It is a recurring shipment on Godspeed's trans-Tasman route under the name of Lauderback and paid in full. The account had been paid in cash. He was not sure what was happening, but planned to find out. Lauderback goes to Dunedin and straight for Godspeed. He finds only Wells aboard. He is holding a policeman's whistle in one hand and a pistol in the other. He shows Lauderback the shipping crate and it is full of women's gowns. It is as if he is sending to Melbourne for the latest fashions for Lydia. This time sewn into the gowns is a fortune in gold. The shipment will be in breach of duty if the Godspeed sails. It looks like Lauderback has been courting Wells' wife and has stolen in fortune. He would get a lifetime in jail. Wells wants the ship. Lauderback gives him the ship, but now he finds out that this man was not Lydia's husband.

Lauderback estimates that the gold in the dresses was worth a couple thousand. He thinks for a moment and then says that if the man really is Carver then the sale of the ship is void because he signed another man's name on the deed. Lauderback's copy of sale is in his trunk in the shipping crate that Balfour is taking care of for him. Balfour wonders if Carver would have stolen the shipping crate. It tells Lauderback that the Virtue has not made it to Hokitika yet with his crate. Lauderback swears Balfour to secrecy on all that they have discussed. He does not want it to affect his campaign. Balfour offers his assistance in helping him get back at Carver. He wants the time to figure out what happened to the shipping crate. He also knows that Lauderback is not telling him everything.



Analysis

The atmosphere in the Crown should have given Moody an inkling that something was off about the twelve men assembled in the Crown. They are an eclectic group of men who would not normally be populating a room together. Their reluctance to converse in front of a stranger is also a tell tale sign that something is off. Atmosphere is important in the novel. It gives the reader the feel of oppression that they men are suffering. They are worried about how they are involved and if they can be prosecuted for their involvement in a possible crime. It is raining and the rain adds to the dreariness of the town and to the men's attitudes.

The story they tell is of death and suicide. It is the underbelly of the town and they have chosen a shabby out of the way hotel in which to convene. The room offers solitude, but also goes with the solemn mood of the evening. As he sits listening to their story, Moody can feel the desperation of their tale and how each man is worried about their involvement. The atmosphere leads to the sinister tale they weave of murder and theft. These are not upbeat stories these men are telling. They are talking of death, deceit and prostitution. These are raw and unseemly topics so they have chosen an out of the way place where no one will see them together.

Discussion Question 1

Why did Moody come to New Zealand?

Discussion Question 2

Why do the twelve men trust Moody with their story?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Lauderback think that Crosbie Wells and Francis Carver are brothers?

Vocabulary

comportment, uniformity, deficiency, vigor, guile, valuable, inscrutable, recoil, largesse, disequilibrium, aggregate, pantheon, suffice, impertinent, importunate, discomfiture, entitlement, effusion, insular, miscellany, vanguard, subversive, approbation, benign, perpetuity, liberality, periphery, circuitous, edifice, sartorial, inebriate, despotic, deprecate, diatribe, irreducible, decadent, censorious, perspicacity



Part I - Mars in Sagittarius and Saturn in Libra

Summary

Reverend Devlin talks to Thomas Balfour after Lauderback leaves. He has heard their conversation. He is to be the new chaplain at the jailhouse. Devlin was listening because the name Crosbie Wells caught his attention. Reverend Devlin had arrived in Hokitika two days before the death of Crosbie Wells. He was ministering to the inmates when Anna Wetherell was brought in after being arrested. She was promptly propped against a wall and shanked. The next morning Devlin was requested to go to the Arahura Valley to assist in the collection of Crosbie Wells' body. While at Crosbie's cottage, Devlin finds a deed slightly charred in the stove that gives two thousand pounds to Anna Wetherell by Emery Staines and is signed by Crosbie Wells. Devlin conceals the deed.

The Reverend returns to the jailhouse to find Anna reviving. A clerk comes to collect bail from anyone who can raise the sum. Anna summons him and pays her bail and is released. Devlin hears that she declined to plead at her hearing and paid her fine without argument. The day before Crosbie's funeral, four-thousand pounds of gold were found in his cottage. Devlin still tells no one about the deed.

Balfour leaves Devlin at the Palace Hotel. As he passes the Reserve Bank, he sees Tauwhare. He offers his condolences for the loss of his friend. Tauwhare had gone to Crosbie's cottage the morning after his death. He had seen the doctor and chaplain taking the body away. The Reverend took pity on him and let him accompany the body of his friend to Hokitika. Tauwhare did not want the body to be left alone. He tried to explain to the men the sacred rites that needed to be administered. Shepard will not let him stay so Tauwhare keeps vigil from a distance. Tauwhare tells Balfour that he was in the valley the night Crosbie died. He saw four men that night from the ridge where he was trapping. Three men were on horseback and one man was on foot. The man on foot was alone. The man on foot was Francis Carver.

Balfour enters the bank and asks if Francis Carver has taken out a miner's right in New Zealand. He is told that he gets fifty percent of the net profits of the Aurora mine owned by Emery Staines. Mr. Frost informs Balfour that Mr. Staines is missing. He vanished two weeks ago. Frost implies that Carver may have had a hand in the disappearance. Balfour confides in the young man that he is trying to prove that Carver skimmed a fortune from a man and is looking into any information about the man.

Balfour is concerned about the disappearance of Emery Staines. He is the richest man south of the black sands. He owns more than a dozen claims. He is a kind, optimistic, and smart young man. Balfour does not want to think that he is dead. On the docks,



Balfour discovers that Carver did time on Cockatoo Island under George Shepard. When Carver got released, Shepard was transferred to New Zealand.

At the same time that Balfour is making his queries, Harald Nilssen is in his office talking with Joseph Pritchard. Pritchard is suggesting that it looks bad the Nilssen has profited from Crosbie Wells' death. Nilssen claims that he did nothing wrong. Pritchard thinks that it is suspicious that Crosbie's land was so off so quickly and without going to auction. He wants to know who planted his laudanum in the cottage. He never sold any to Crosbie Wells. Pritchard thinks that Staines body may also be in Wells' grave. Staines was well-liked so there will be an inquest. Pritchard believes that he and Nilssen will be seen as guilty. Emery Staines had last been seen around sundown on January 14, walking south down Revell street in the direction of his house. He had no enemies.

Nilssen received ten percent of Wells' fortune for the commission on the sale of his effects. He will have to give it back since Crosbie's widow has arrived. The two men wonder if someone was tipped about the fortune in the cottage and that is why it was sold so quickly. Pritchard wants Nilssen to seek to Quee, the Chinese man who does all the furnace work and could have smelled the gold. Pritchard cannot go himself because there is bad blood between him and Ah Sook. Ah Sook thinks that Pritchard gave Anna a bad batch of opium.

George Shepard, the jailer, comes to see Nilssen. He has permission to begin work on the new jailhouse. He plans to use convict labor. He has considered that Lauderback is more interested in transportation and that once he is elected he will want to use the convicts for that purpose. He wants to get started on the jailhouse so that Lauderback cannot use his workforce. Shepard has come to Nilssen because he can pressure him into investing his money from the Crosbie Wells estate to his fund for the jail. He believes that the quick sale of the land looks suspicious and that he could cause trouble for Nilssen if he wanted to do so. Shepard will use Nilssen's money to start the jailhouse. Then, when the public funds are available, he will repay him so that he can return it to Crosbie's estate. Shepard will go through Nilssen's company for supplies and get his commission. Nilssen agrees to the offer. Nilssen promises to keep their arrangement a secret.

Analysis

The men are in Hokitika to prosper. They want to make their fortunes along with the men mining for gold. There is a sense of greed about Hokitika because it is a mining town. This attitude makes it seem as though the men involved in the selling and buying of the estate of Crosbie Wells did so out of greed. This is pressed home when Shepard blackmails Nilssen into using his commission from the sell to back the building of the new jailhouse. He implies that he may not have received the money legally, especially since Wells' widow has come to town. The quick sale and distribution of the estate is seen as inappropriate. Nilssen knows he has done nothing wrong, but the implications make him feel he has something to hide.



The men have reputations to protect. Impropriety will ruin their reputations and affect their status in such a small town as Hokitika. The men want to prosper in their chosen vocations. That will not happen if any of their actions are seen as remotely criminal. How people view them is all important. They cannot be seen as being greedy and doing whatever it takes to get ahead. It will make people question their motives and not want to do business with them.

Discussion Question 1

What does Reverend Devlin find in Crosbie Wells' cottage? Why does he keep it?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Pritchard feel that is being framed? Why is the discovery of the laudanum in Wells' cottage important?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Nilssen agree to give his commission money to Shepard for his new jailhouse? What does Shepard imply?

Vocabulary

optimism, perennial, distinction, detritus, polity, pedagogic, utopian, auspice, adept, insentience, officiate, apocryphal, kerfuffle, dearth, languid, augment, exhortations, vivacious, haughty, enviable, abstraction, petulance, conjectural, reconcile, philistine, desecration, cudgel



Part I - Midnight Dawns in Scorpio and Moon in Taurus, Waxing

Summary

Pritchard goes to see Anna. She is gaunt. He remembers when she was with child, but she had lost her baby. It was buried in a grave on the terrace at Seaview. Pritchard asks about her health. She says that she has recovered and did not attempt to take her life. She has also given up prostitution, while she mourns the loss of her baby. He asks why she did not come to him for help. He believes the opium was poisoned and wants to test what is left of the lump. Anna says that she has eaten the rest, but he does not believe her because her eyes are clear. He begins to search her room. He lunges at her when he cannot find the opium. She pulls out a muff pistol and aims it at herself. Pritchard backs away from her. The door bursts open, and a person cries out. Anna turns and shoots herself in the breast. Albert Gascoigne had entered the room. He runs to Anna, but there is no wound.

Anna is confused. She does not know what has happened. They have Anna reload the gun to check it. Gascoigne fires at the headboard of her bed. There is a hole in the pillow. They are confused about what happened to the first bullet.

Pritchard leaves Anna and Gascoigne together. He cannot help thinking about Anna. Since she is a seasoned opium eater, she would not be prone to an overdose. He thinks about how he first met Carver and how Carver became his source for opium. Carver could not have poisoned the opium. He believes that Anna is lying to him. He thinks that she knows more than she is telling about that night. Nilssen's clerk brings a note from Nilssen. Quee admits that the gold was his work, but he does not know how it ended up in Crosbie's cottage. Many men are involved. Everyone is to meet in the back room of the Crown at sunset.

Balfour peaked Charlie Frost's interest when he asked about the Aurora goldmine. He remembers seeing the name recently, but he does not remember in what context. He pulled the records and sees that for the last quarter Aurora's profit was twelve pounds. The amount is odd for a mine that holds so much promise as Aurora. The claim had suddenly run dry after Emery Staines bought it and sold fifty-percent shares to Francis Carver.

Frost goes to see Mannering who sold the mine to Staines. Mannering tells Frost that Anna was with Staines the night he disappeared. She was lying half dead in the street and Staines was nowhere to be found. She cannot remember anything. Mannering mentions that it looks like Frost knew the gold was in Crosbie's cottage with how fast the sale went through. It looks like he and Clinch were in it together.



Mannering knows the widow. He believes the Crosbie Wells was played by her. She would do nothing except for money. Frost does not believe that the fortune belongs to Crosbie Wells. The gold had been smelted and inscribed with the word Aurora. The man in the bank smelted it again and pressed it into bullion. Frost made a note of it so it is officially recorded. Mannering asks if he could make that page disappear. More men know about it.

Mannering takes Frost to see Ah Quee. He explains that the Aurora is a duffer claim. When he owned it, he would take the gold that had been found and feed it back into the claim. It made the Aurora look like a good steady claim. Ah Quee caught on to what he was doing so he smelted the gold in one-pound blocks. He would carve the name of the mine in the block of gold. They are going to go see Quee and find out how four thousand pounds of gold that had been smelted and stamped with Aurora have turned up in the cottage of Wells.

Balfour goes to see Lowenthal. He wants to know who has been putting notices in the paper begging for Staines return. He is surprised to learn that it is Anna. Their talk turns to Carver. Neither man thinks much of Carver. Lowenthal mentions that a fortnight ago Godspeed left Hokitika in the middle of the night and was not scheduled to leave that day. The departure did not get recorded in the departure log. Balfour finds that interesting because that night Carver was seen in the Arahura Valley. That means that when Carver came back to Hokitika from the Arahura Valley he would have gone directly to his ship and departed. Lowenthal mentions that he is not the first to ask about the notices about Emery Staines. Reverend Devlin had inquired about them, and he seemed to want to speak to Staines urgently.

Lowenthal interjects into the story that is being told at the Crown. In June of 1865, a man enters the newspaper office with a birth certificate with the name Crosbie Francis Wells wanting to place an ad in the paper offering twenty pounds to anyone who found a shipping crate he had lost. He would pay fifty if the crate were unopened. When setting the type for the ad, he found that all the letters would not fit properly so he omitted the middle name of Francis from the man's name. The man returned when he saw the paper the next day. He was displeased by the omission. From the description the men have given of Carver, this man was not Crosbie Wells. He was Carver.

Analysis

Pritchard is concerned with conspiracies. He believes that someone is trying to make it look like he had a hand in Wells' death and in what happened to Anna. He is a chemist. He cannot have his reputation tarnished in such a way or he will lose his business. He wants to protect Anna. He feels protective toward her, but he also supplies the opium to the opium den that she uses. As a chemist, he should supply drugs that help people to overcome illness, not make them dependent on drugs.

Anna is also a contradiction. She is a naive prostitute. Her naivety is how she becomes entrapped into the life of a prostitute, but she is able to keep her innocence, while



practicing a profession that is not viewed kindly by society. Anna gives up prostitution and opium and is at loose ends. She needed the opium to deal with her life as a prostitute. Now that she has given up prostitution, she does not need the drug.

Deception is seen in this section. Mannering deceived Ah Quee when he salted Aurora to make it seem like it was a profitable claim. The gold bars from Wells' cottage were stamped with Aurora. Mannering knows that Ah Quee smelted it. He believes that man has deceived him somehow and cheated him out of gold.

Discussion Question 1

Why is Pritchard desperate to have Anna's remaining opium?

Discussion Question 2

Why is Mannering so upset when he finds out that the gold in Wells' cottage is stamped with the word Aurora?

Discussion Question 3

What does Lowenthal think of Carver? Why?

Vocabulary

habitual, colloquially, benediction, debacle, prophecy, nefarious, imbibe, collusion, docile, pugnacious, authoritarian, deferential, explicable, prodigal, profligate, interlocutor, hedonist, ingenuity, acuity, phlegmatic, cacophony



Part I - Sun in Capricorn and Medium/Coeli/Imum Coeli

Summary

Gascoigne first encountered Anna when he went to the jailhouse to collect bail. Anna told Gascoigne that she had gold in her dress which she can use to pay her bail. However, she cannot get to it in the jailhouse. Gascoigne pays for her bail pretending that it came from Anna. Anna follows him to his quarters and they take apart her dress. He gives her a dress of his late wife's to wear. Anna is surprised to learn that she will be tried for attempted suicide. Gascoigne thinks that someone waited until Anna was unconscious and sewed the gold into her dress. She finds that unlikely. Anna was with Emery Staines the night before. She left his house to have opium. That is the last thing she remembers. Anna does not know how the gold got in her dress nor how she came to be found unconscious halfway to the Arahura valley. Gascoigne asks why Staines has not come looking for her when he found out that she was not in his bed the next morning.

Gascoigne and Anna agree to hide the gold away. To explain her new dress, she will say that she is in a period of belated mourning for the death of her baby. Gascoigne keeps the gold hidden in his cottage. Anna goes to Staines house to find that he has disappeared and learns of the death of Crosbie Wells. It all happened on the same night. Anna is tried for attempted suicide and fined five pounds.

Gascoigne questions Anna about the gun. She does not know what happened. Anna was to go hat shopping with a female friend of Gascoigne's, but he is reluctant to take her now. Anna tells him that she is three months late on her rent. Clinch had given her an eviction notice that morning. She owes six pounds. She wants to use some of the gold to pay him, but Gascoigne will not hear of it.

The valet asks Gascoigne about the pistol shots as he leaves the hotel. Jo Pritchard said that Anna was cleaning the gun and it went off. However, that only accounts for the first shot. Clinch does not like Pritchard because he supplies opium to the community and Anna uses it. He also does not like Francis Carver because he assaulted Anna and made her lose her baby. Carver supplies Pritchard with opium, too. Gascoigne berates Clinch on not taking better care of Anna. Clinch will not have him talk to him about Anna. Clinch is in love with Anna and pampers her. He gave her his best room and she took no notice. When he found out that Anna was pregnant and had been when she arrived in Hokitika, he thought about making her an offer of marriage. He is picking up after Anna one day when he discovers that her dress was heavy. He finds that the dress has gold sewn into it. He believes Anna is trafficking gold for Dick Mannering. He checks her other dresses and they are also stuffed with gold. Clinch does not see why he should foot the bill for Anna's expenses when she has all this wealth.



Analysis

Gascoigne does not let people see him with Anna in public. It is important that he protect his reputation by not letting anyone see him with a prostitute. He helps Anna because he wants to protect her. Though intrigued by the gold being sewn into her dress, he is more curious about how she acquired the gold. It is a puzzle that he needs to solve. Gascoigne does not want to use Anna in any way. He sees her as helpless. He likes to be a protector.

Though Clinch also wants to protect Anna, he does not like her attitude toward him. He treats her with respect, but she does not do the same. She barely acknowledges that he is there. This attitude makes him resent pampering her. When he finds the gold in her dresses, he resents not charging her money because he felt sorry for her. It makes him bitter. This bitterness leads him to want the gold for himself.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Gascoigne pay Anna's bail? What is his impression of her?

Discussion Question 2

Why will Gascoigne not let Anna spend any of the gold? What scares him?

Discussion Question 3

Why is Clinch resentful of Anna? How does he feel about her?

Vocabulary

innate, servile, amalgam, ascetic, declamatory, paradoxical, recapitulate, rhetoric, impertinent, tacit, opulence, ministrations



Part I - True Node in Virgo and Venus in Capricorn

Summary

Ah Quee traveled to New Zealand under contract. In exchange for the cost of his return passage to Kwangchow, Quee Long agreed to give the majority of his earnings on the goldfield to a corporate purse. This arrangement made him very poor. His dream is to return to Kwangchow with seven hundred and sixty-eight shillings in his pocket. Sook Yongsheng is visiting Quee. They are not friends. They both have a fondness for Anna.

Ah Sook tells Ah Quee that when he was in Hokitika buying opium from Pritchard he saw a man he thought he would never see again—Francis Carver. Sook tells Quee that Carver is a murderer and that Sook had vowed to take Carver's life as an act of vengeance. Carver was speaking to a young Maori man. Carver gives the man several coins. Ah Sook followed the Maori man and asked about his conversation with Carver. Tauwhare tells him that months ago Carver offered a reward for any news of a man named Crosbie Wells. Tauwhare has since met Crosbie Wells and they have become good friends. Tauwhare had not seen Carver until that morning, January 14th, and he approached him and told him that he had news of Crosbie Wells. They agreed upon a payment of two shillings.

Upon returning to Kaniere, he found Anna waiting for him and gave her a present of a half-ounce of resin that he had just purchased from Pritchard. When Ah Sook learns that Anna attempted to take her life, he is very distressed. He believes that Pritchard's shipment of opium must be poisoned. He finds out from Balfour that Pritchard's opium supplier is Francis Carver. He is told that Carver sailed two days ago and, most likely, will not be back for some time. Ah Sook seeks out Crosbie Wells and finds out that he is dead. He follows news of Wells' fortune closely.

Mannering and Frost appear, yelling for Ah Quee. A pistol is placed against Ah Quee's temple as he is asked what his business is with Crosbie Wells. Why did Wells have four thousand pounds of Aurora gold?. Ah Quee had come across the gold in Anna's dresses. While she slept, he would take the gold and replace it with lead weights. He then smelted the gold and inscribed it with the Aurora name. Ah Sook acts as translator and tells Ah Quee's story. He assumed Mannering was using Anna to transport the gold to evade duty at the bank. He does not know how the gold came to be in Wells' possession. He does not know the whereabouts of Emery Staines.

Nilssen arrives. He discovers that he has come on the same mission as Mannering to find out about the gold. Ah Sook tells them that Crosbie Wells struck it big in Dunstan. He was very rich two years ago. He shipped the bonanza to his home. Nilssen questions if someone is trying to frame them all.



Gascoigne goes to the Wayfarer Hotel. He goes to see Lydia Wells. This was the woman to whom he was to bring Anna so they could shop for hats. Lydia had told him not to give Anna her name and to tell her it was a surprise. She had told Gascoigne that she and Anna had once been the best of friends. He tells Lydia that Anna cannot make her rent and that her landlord will evict her. Lydia proclaims that Anna must come and live with her. She can work for Lydia as a maid so that she does not have to return to prostitution. Lydia has bought the Wayfarer Hotel. She plans to hold séances. She is also to be married. Gascoigne is unsettled by this news because he likes Lydia. She will not tell him the name of her fiancé.

Lydia tells Gascoigne that she owned a gambling establishment in Dundedin. Her gambling wheel was weighted so that it never hit the jackpot. It did only once and that was because the pin jammed in the pivot because of dust. She gave the winner of the jackpot a choice of the hundred pounds in pure or her as a wife. This is how she became Mrs. Crosbie Wells. If he had chosen the hundred pounds, she would have been bankrupted. The two were ill-suited.

Analysis

Ah Quee traveled to New Zealand for a better life, but instead found discrimination. He is paid little for hard work and is kept down by the white mine owners. He cannot pay off his indenture because he makes so little. Ah Quee sees opium as the white man's way of oppressing the Chinese. He does not approve of Ah Sook's lifestyle and does not understand how he can seek vengeance against Carver for his father's death when he owns an opium den. Opium is the reason his father died, and Ah Sook partakes of it everyday. Ah Quee sees this as an affront.

Discrimination is seen in how Mannering treats Ah Quee. He assaults him in his own home and calls him a cheat and a liar. Ah Quee is technically a thief for taking the gold from Anna's dresses. He sees it as payback for how he has been treated since he came to New Zealand. It is restitution for all of his hard work. If he were a white man, he would not be treated in such a disrespectful way. This conduct reaffirms Ah Quee's distrust of the white man.

Lydia Wells deceives Gascoigne into believing that she and Anna are friends. She shows him what kind of woman she is when she tells how she cheated people in her gambling establishment in Dundedin. Gascoigne is appalled that she would do such a thing. To marry a man just so that she did not have to pay him money shows that she cares more for money than anything. She has no respect for feelings or people. She is always looking for a way to get ahead.

Discussion Question 1

Where did Ah Quee find the gold that he smelted?



Discussion Question 2

Why has Ah Sook vowed vengeance against Francis Carver?

Discussion Question 3

What kind of woman is Lydia Wells? How did she cheat people in her gambling establishment?

Vocabulary

deprecation, defeatism, auspicious, ignominy, filial, redemptive, repudiate, pertinence, empirical, duplicitous, licentious, indeterminacy, approbation, atypical, capricious, cordial, coquettish, sojourn, insensate, efficacy



Part I Conjunctions and Mercury in Sagittarius

Summary

Reverend Devlin leaves the dining room of the Palace Hotel and takes a walk along the beach and up to the terrace of Seaview. He comes upon Tauwhare. Devlin is curious as to why Lauderback thought Wells and Carver were brothers. He asks Tauwhare if he knew anything about the unfinished business between Wells and Carver. Tauwhare is deeply ashamed that he betrayed his friend for money. He saw Carver go to Crosbie's cottage and thought only that it was the reunion of two friends. When Crosbie was dead the next morning, it was plausible to suspect that Carver had something to do with the laudanum left in the cottage. He knows nothing about them being brothers. Crosbie never mentioned Carver. The two men visit Crosbie Wells' grave together.

Frost goes to see Lowenthal. He tells him what transpired in Chinatown. It is being said that perhaps Lauderback is using Lowenthal as a pawn by coming to him on the night of Crosbie's death. A list of suspects is made that includes Lauderback, Carver, Lydia Wells, Emery Staines, and Anna Wetherell. A small group of men are to meet at the Crown Hotel to pool information. Mannering, Ah Quee, Ah Sook, Frost, Nilssen, Clinch, and Pritchard are in the group. Lowenthal says that he will attend and suggests that Thomas Balfour should be present. Lauderback is sitting on a secret, and Balfour could break his confidence.

Mannering goes to talk to Edgar Clinch. He tells him about the proposed conference and that they have chosen neutral ground in the Crown Hotel. It is the least attractive and least popular establishment in Hokitika. Clinch tells Mannering that Lydia Wells had been there and taken Anna. They know each other. He believes they are in on something together that pertains to Anna's dresses. Lydia Wells has paid Anna's debts and gone to the Wayfarer indefinitely. Mannering is upset because Lydia paid Anna's debt to Clinch, but she has not paid the hundred pounds that she owes him. She cannot just walk out. Anna said to tell Mannering that Gascoigne has his money under his bed. Mannering refuses to see about it and says that she is still in his employ. He believes that Anna Wetherell knows more about any of this business than anyone. She and Lydia Wells are into something together.

Walking to Hokitika together, Ah Quee tells Ah Sook that there is no gold on the Aurora. He comments that Ah Sook's trade has been slow. He does not know how Anna has lost her need for opium. Ah Quee does not think the fortune he found on Anna is hers. Ah Sook sees the taking of the gold in Anna's dresses as stealing.

Nilssen pens a note to Pritchard and has Albert deliver it to him. He wonders if he should tell the assembly of men that evening the details of Shepard's proposition. He wonders how much Shepard knows about Crosbie Wells' death. Albert returns with



Pritchard's reply. He has a ticket that Mannering is giving away for the theater that night. Nilssen declines his offer to attend. Pritchard tells Nilssen that Gascoigne knows something about the business with Anna. It would be good for Nilssen to talk to the man.

Balfour returns to the Palace Hotel in hopes of finding Devlin. He wants to know what connection Devlin has with Emery Staines. The Reverend was not at the hotel, at his tent on the beach, at the police camp, or anywhere else that Balfour checked. He is about to give up when he sees Devlin walking down Revell Street. He is accompanied by Tauwhare. He invites the two men to dine with him so that they can talk. Benjamin Lowenthal enters the restaurant while the three men are eating. He invites all three of the men to the meeting at the Crown that evening.

Mannering goes to see Gascoigne. He tells him that Anna said that he is holding money that is to be given to him. Gascoigne will not hand it over without Anna's consent. He tells him that he pitied Anna and cared for her when she was released from jail and became her friend. He felt someone was using her for ill. Upon finding the gold in Anna's dress, he felt it best to keep it hidden. It is worth over a hundred pounds. There is a knock on the door by Harald Nilssen. Upon entering, he comments that he seems to be two steps behind Mannering at every turn. Nilssen thinks that he and Mannering are there on the same errand. So, he invites Gascoigne to the council. He soon realizes his mistake, but nothing can be done. Gascoigne is told that he is going to the meeting.

The men have told their story up to the present. The narrative has accounted for every man in the room. The twelve men are connected only by their association to the events of January 14th when Anna had nearly died, Staines disappeared, Wells died, Carver sailed away, and Lauderback arrived in town. Nine months ago, Carver had cheated Lauderback out of Godspeed. He had then lost the shipping crate that he had used to blackmail Lauderback, a trunk which contained four thousand pounds in pure gold sewn into the lining of five dresses. Carver came to Hokitika thinking that the shipping crate had been delivered there. He had placed an advertisement for its return. It is unknown why Carver used an alias to blackmail Lauderback. It is unknown as to why or how Carver had Crosbie Wells' birth certificate. He also let it be known that he would give a reward to anyone who could give him the whereabouts of Crosbie Wells.

Crosbie Wells was in the Arahura Valley miles to the north of Hokitika. He had apparently had a substantial fortune before coming to Hokitika. Anna had come to Hokitika on the Godspeed. A few weeks after her arrival, she purchased five dresses from a salvaged wreck. No one knows if she knew of the fortune that she carried in her dresses. Clinch found out about the gold and assumed Mannering had a hand in it. Ah Quee also found the gold and took the gold from the dresses and smelted it as if it had come from the Aurora. It would be banked and he would get a profit. It is not known what happened to the gold once it was put in the vault at the camp station. It is believed that Emery Staines had something to do with the gold's disappearance. The deed that the Reverend found implies that Emery Staines and Crosbie Wells were associated. The gold seems to have been a partial gift to Anna.



Anna appears to have been pregnant with Carver's child, and he assaulted her resulting in the loss of the baby. It is unclear what his motivation was for this act. Tauwhare had encountered Carver and told him of Wells' whereabouts. Carver was seen in the Arahura Valley with a vial of laudanum. He returned to Hokitika and immediately set sail for Dunedin. Lauderback arrived at the cottage soon after Carver and found Wells' dead. He journeyed on to Hokitika and was interviewed by Lowenthal. Hearing about the death of Wells, Lowenthal informs Clinch who is looking for an investment. He goes to the bank where Frost facilitates his purchase of the deed to Wells' estate. Nilssen is then commissioned to clear out the cottage. He finds the fortune. Lydia Wells arrives from Dunedin just days after the funeral. The sale of Wells' estate is appealed. Ah Quee was only able to strip four of the five dresses. Anna finds the gold in the dress and seeks Gascoigne's help.

The change of dress alerts Clinch who suspects that it has something to do with the gold in the dresses. Lydia Wells has paid Anna's debts to Clinch. She has left the Gridiron to stay at the Wayfarer. How much Anna knows and how much she will reveal to Lydia Wells is unknown.

Moody feels that Carver is certainly behind something. He does not feel, however, that he could engineer a plot to ensnare twelve men. Lydia Wells is obviously a ruthless woman who has been involved in Carver's schemes in the past. Her claim to Crosbie's estate is legal. He distrusts Lydia more than he does Carver. He feels the men present are envious of Staines and jealous of Anna. Lauderback and Shepard are alike for they are political figures who have their own agendas. Both have a connection to Carver.

Moody tells the men of his journey on the Godspeed. His passage from Dunedin to the Coast was a rough one. His ticket was purchased hastily. There was only a small space in steerage. It was unfit for human habitation so he spent most of his journey on the deck. A storm came up and turned nasty. He did not want his suitcase to be washed overboard so he attempted to throw it into the hold. The case opened and the contents spilled. He shimmied down the ladder to pick up his belongings. A knocking came from one of the shipping crates. It sounded as if a man were trapped and thrashing in the crate. Moody called out and heard the name Magdalena shouted over and over again. It is believed by the men that the man in the crate was Emery Staines. It is unknown if Staines stowed away himself or was brought aboard by accident. There is also the possibility that he was captured by Carver.

Moody believes that the man in the crate was Emery Staines. Moody had helped the man out of the crate. He was weak and not breathing very well. When he loosened the man's collar, his chest began to bleed. The blood was pumping from his body. He seemed like an apparition. Moody grabbed his suitcase and went back up the ladder leaving the man bleeding. If the man is Emery Staines, he is still aboard the Godspeed. The ship is waiting offshore for the tide. Moody wonders if perhaps he imagined the whole thing. A boy enters the room saying that the Godspeed has run aground. It is foundering on the bar. She is wrecked.



Analysis

Tauwhare is in great despair for having betrayed his friend. He knows this betrayal led to the man's death. It was for money that he told Carver of Wells' whereabouts. He despises himself for his need for money and want of it. He thought the men were friends. Friendship is important to Tauwhare. It has more value to him than money. He does not lust after gold like the white men. He sees beauty in nature.

The twelve men who convene on the Crown do not inhabit the same social circles. They are thrown together by circumstance. Some are friends and some do not like each other. They come together for a common goal. They want to solve the mystery of a man's death and see that justice is done. Gold, greed, and deception play major parts in their story. The men must peel back the deception to understand what has brought them together and what can be done.

Moody listens to the story. He can see that the men are intertwined, but he also wonders about the people not in the room that are involved in the story. Does their absence from the room mean they are guilty; or, do the men just not see them as important to their story. Anna is absent when most of the story revolves around her. The story is told by these twelve men; so, the actions of Anna, Shepard, Lydia Wells, and Carver cannot be seen in their truest form. The story lacks their views, which makes it incomplete. The mystery cannot be solved by men who are only involved on the peripheral.

Discussion Question 1

Why is Tauwhare ashamed of himself? Does he view himself as responsible for Wells' death? Why?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Moody distrust Lydia Wells more than Carver? What does he think of her character?

Discussion Question 3

What did Moody see in the cargo hold of Godspeed? Why did it distress him?

Vocabulary

torpor, perambulation, truncate, infantile, perspicacity, supplication, equanimity, proximal, beatitude, taxonomy, impugn, demagoguery, munificent, colossally, heinous, repudiation, prophylactic, credence, validity, multifarious



Part II

Summary

Tauwhare goes to the newspaper office to see Benjamin Lowenthal. Lowenthal tells him about the séance that Lydia Wells is planning for that evening. She plans to commune with the spirit of Emery Staines. There is a party before the séance where all are invited, but one needs a special ticket for the séance. Tauwhare is not interested. He wants to advertise his services as a guide. Lowenthal tries to get Tauwhare to help with clearing the cargo from the rescued remains of Godspeed, but he will not. He also tells him that a barrister has been brought in to straighten out the Crosbie Wells affair. Fellowes is to make a report for a Supreme Court judge and this means there could be a murder trial.

Thomas Balfour has told Lauderback that his shipping crate with his personal effects has disappeared, but the man has no real interest. Now that the Godspeed is ruined, he has no reason to blackmail Carver for he will not get his ship back. Lauderback has been in low spirits since the wreck. In an attempt to get Lauderback out of his mood, Balfour mentions Shepard receiving money from a private source for the jailhouse. It was to speed up construction before the election. Lauderback is furious and writes a letter blasting Shepard for his tactics.

Walter Moody has become friends with Aubert Gascoigne. They discuss how they cannot pin anything on Francis Carver. The body of Emery Staines was not found on the wreck of the Godspeed. Walter believes he must have been seeing things. Moody has yet to start his prospecting. He has resolved to wait until the case of Emery Staines and Crosbie Wells is closed before he begins. He has tried to remain aloof to the other twelve men who were in the Crown on his first night in town. He believes that, eventually, one will break his word. He does not want to get entangled in their situation. Walter is anxious to see how his trunk has survived the wreck. He leaves Gascoigne to return to his room where his trunk awaits.

Lowenthal receives Lauderback's letter about Shepard. Knowing that Shepard would want to defend himself, Lowenthal makes a copy so that Shepard may read it and make a rebuttal. Lowenthal knows that only one of the twelve men at the meeting know about the private investment and that only one has a friendship with Lauderback. Francis Carver enters the newspaper office. Lowenthal tries to engage him in conversation, but he does not get much of a response. Carver wants to place an ad in the paper about the auctioning off of the parts of Godspeed. He is rude to Lowenthal. In an outrage, he berates Carver on how he abused Anna and killed her baby. Carver denies that he was the father of Anna's baby.

Ah Sook misses Anna's visits to his opium den. He does not understand why she has not come to replenish her supply of opium. The two would lie quietly and smoke their opium. Ah Sook goes to Hokikita to speak to Anna. He goes to the Gridiron Hotel and Clinch has to show him that Anna now stays at the Wayfarer's. Ah Sooks sees Anna as



a new woman. She is sober and alert. He is jealous that she has cured herself of her addiction when he cannot. Ah Sook is taken aback when he sees Lydia Wells. He remembers her from the Sydney courtroom when she pointed to him during her testimony. Lydia recognizes him also, but she does not remember where she has seen him. She invites Ah Sook to the séance. She wants him to sit upon a cushion to give a sense of mysticism over the séance. Ah Sook has learned that Emery Staines will be at the séance. He wants to tell Ah Quee because Ah Quee wishes to talk Staines. After Ah Sook leaves, Lydia goes straight to the Palace Hotel.

Harald Nilssen receives an urgent summons from George Shepard. Shepard accuses Nilssen of telling someone about their agreement. Learning of Lauderback's letter, he knows that someone has betrayed him, but he does not want to believe it. Shepard is to write a reply to Lauderback's letter and mention Nilssen by name. To try to regain Shepard's trust Nilssen tells Shepard that Lydia Wells was Lauderback's mistress. The fortune in Crosbie's cottage is the blackmail taken from Lauderback. He says that Mr. Staines gave him this information. Nilssen also tells Shepard about the deed of gift that Devlin carries in his Bible. Devlin is then named as the man whom Nilssen confided in and the one who went to Lauderback.

Shepard enters the jailhouse and asks to see Devlin's Bible. He tells him that he wishes to read and his wife is reading their Bible. When Devlin later goes to retrieve his Bible, it is lying open on Shepard's desk with the deed in full view. Devlin explains that he kept it because it was not legally binding. If Mr. Staines ever returned, he would go to him and see if he wished to sign it. Shepard dismisses him and writes his letter of rebuttal to Lauderback's letter. He writes that Nilssen gave the four hundred pounds as a donation, not as an investment. It was an act of charity. He closes his letter with the wish that Lauderback will inform the public about his intimate relationship with Lydia Wells.

Gascoigne goes to see the progress of the rising of Godspeed. He meets Francis Carver. He tells him that his late wife's father was a maritime insurer with Lloyd's of London. He informs Carver that Protection and Indemnity should cover his cost of the salvage. Since he has only owned the ship for ten months, it would still be under protection if Lauderback paid a yearly fee into a mutual fund. Protection and Indemnity is a mutual pool into which shipowners pay a yearly fee and then can draw from the funds if they find themselves liable for damages. There could be a credit against Godspeed. Carver could be able to access this money. Gascoigne tells Carver so that he can gain Carver's trust, which might prove valuable.

Ah Sook goes to see Ah Quee. His meeting with Lydia had upset him. He had looked up to Carver. He had been twelve when Carver was introduced to the Sook family. Carver was born in Hong Kong to a British merchant trader. He spoke fluent Cantonese. He worked for the merchant firm of Dent & Co. He was responsible for transferring Chinese wares to and from export warehouses along the Pearl River. Ah Sook's father owned one of these warehouses. In February of 1839, the Sook warehouse was searched. Opium was found and Sook's father was executed. Within a week of the execution war broke out in Kwangchow and Ah Sook turned to Carver for help. Carver was happy to take over the warehouse. Ah Sook worked for him as an employee.



In 1854, Carver obtained his lifelong dream of owning his own ship. Since Ah Sook could no longer manage the warehouse, he begged to go with Carver. At their first stop in Sydney, Ah Sook is robbed. He goes to the brothel where he knows Carver is staying and is assaulted by and left lying in the street. Carver acts as if he does not know Ah Sook. A woman from the brothel helps him and gives him opium for the pain. Ah Sook realizes that Carver had been smuggling opium into China using the Sook family warehouse. Carver had betrayed his father and turned his back on him. It takes him awhile to get over his injuries. He wants to kill Carver and sneaks into the brothel. He mistakes the rooms and ends up in the room of the woman who helped him and the man who beat him. The woman shoots the man in the temple and places her gun in his hand. Ah Sook runs away, but he is caught and taken to jail.

The woman, Margaret, was Jeremy Shepard's wife. At his trial, she says that her husband committed suicide and that she witnessed it. Once released from jail, Ah Sook looks for Carver and finds that he has been imprisoned for smuggling, breach of customs and evasion of duty. There were sixteen Kwangchow women in the ship's hold suffering from malnourishment. Carver was sentenced to ten years penal servitude. Ah Sook would have to wait to get his revenge.

Ah Sook tells Ah Quee that Emery Staines has returned and he has been invited to the party and he in turn asks Ah Quee. Ah Quee says it is a trap to capture Ah Sook. Ah Sook believes that Carver is at sea so he is safe even if Lydia recognized him. Ah Quee berates him for using the drug that got his father killed. He agrees to go with Ah Sook to speak with Emery Staines.

Walter Moody discovers that the trunk in his room belongs to Alistair Lauderback. He searches the trunk. He finds the deed of sale of Godspeed, which is signed by Francis Wells or it could be a C. Francis Wells. Hidden away he finds letters to Lauderback from Crosbie Wells. Crosbie Wells is the bastard son of Lauderback's father making Alistair Lauderback and Crosbie Wells brothers. Alistair did not reply to the letters, but Crosbie continued to write to him. In the last letter, Crosbie tells Alistair that he has a house in the Arahura and what it looks like. He asks him to stop in when he is passing through the valley. Moody finds it horrible that Lauderback never responded to his brother's letters. In his letters, Crosbie says that he told his wife of his illegitimate parentage so she know Lauderback was Crosbie's brother. Walter realizes that the gold used to blackmail Lauderback was Crosbie's from his dig in Dunstan. Moody feels a connection with Crosbie Wells because his situation resembles Moody's. They were abandoned by their fathers and relocated to New Zealand to be spurned by his brother. He bundles the letters back together and returns them to the trunk. He then tells the maid that the trunk is not his and he is very displeased.

The men go to the Wayfarer's Fortune for drinks to speculate about the séance that will happen that evening. Mannering arrives early. He is surprised to see Ah Sook and Ah Quee sitting by the hearth with painted faces. He is perturbed to learn that Anna will not be coming downstairs until the séance. At eight o'clock, the Wayfarer's is filled to capacity. Pritchard instructs Charlie Frost to watch Lydia Wells during the séance and to have Harald Nilssen watch Anna so that nothing gets by them. Nilssen confronts Balfour



and he denies telling Lauderback about Nilssen's commission. Tauwhare asks Clinch why he bought Crosbie Wells' cottage. He bought the land so that he could say the gold from Anna's dresses came from the land and no one would ask questions. He did not know that Ah Quee had already taken the gold from the dresses. Lowenthal tells Clinch that Anna was not telling the truth about the father of her baby. Clinch does not believe it. Gascoigne introduces Walter Moody to Lydia Wells. He tells her that Walter was one of the passengers on the Godspeed the night it came to ground.

During the séance, Lydia Wells begins to speak Cantonese. She shudders, the lamp on the table falls, and the table erupts in flames. The men react quickly and put out the flames. The men ask Ah Quee what was said. She said "one day I come back and kill you. You kill a man. He die—so you die. I come back and kill you, one day." It has to do with Francis Carver. The men are upset that Emery Staines was not contacted. Ah Quee finds out that Carver is in town at the Palace Hotel. Lydia Wells claims that she does not remember what had happened. Ah Sook has disappeared and Lydia questions where he has gone. He left when he discovered that Carver is in Hokitika.

Analysis

Tauwhare does not feel an obligation for friendship because of his connection to the twelve men at the Crown. He is used to being on his own and not answering to anyone. He is a native sees the town as a plight on his land. He does not understand the obsession for gold. He knows that if he did not have a connection to Crosbie Wells these men would not acknowledge him and treat him as beneath them.

The men of the Crown begin to slowly tell their secrets to others. The men need little provocation to tell what they know. One man telling causes a cascade as the other men are called out. They readily give up others to save face.

Ah Sook misses Anna. He ventures into Hokitika to see her and this decision alters his life. Lydia knows him and goes straight to Carver with the news. Ah Sook does not realize that Carver is in Hokitika so does not realize that he is in danger. The reader is able to see that the seance will not be a pleasant experience for Ah Sook. Lydia and Carver are bound to use their deception against the man.

Lydia profits greatly from her seance and the drinks before. She used the prospect of seeing Anna to lure the men to the Wayfarer and then does not have Anna appear until the seance. She knows that they want to see Anna and will pay for the chance. She keeps her away from them so that they will come later when Anna will start reading fortunes. It is a way for Lydia to profit. She is always looking for a way to make money. She and Carver have the same mentality. They just have different ways of obtaining what they want.



Discussion Question 1

Who is the first of the twelve men to tell their secret to another? Why? What does he tell?

Discussion Question 2

What does Shepard do upon reading the letter that Lauderback has written to the West Coast Times? How does the letter affect Harald Nilssen?

Discussion Question 3

What happens during the seance? How does it affect Ah Sook?

Vocabulary

germane, fallacious, vicissitude, rapport, loquacious, reconnaissance, meridian, capricious, injurious, pander, ostentation, supercilious, instigation, garrulous, wastrel, ameliorate, aloof, summation, disposition, praxis, arcana, complicity, aperture, lambast, adjudication, insolence, tenuous, stalwart, resonate, ascetic, detachment, haughty, infinitesimal, abstemious, purloin, allusion, circularity, pertinent, implacability, condescension, founder, extant, dereliction, incumbent, providential, conciliation, virtuous, acumen, amicable, destitute, ministrations, lackadaisical, poignant, audacity, ambiguity, abject, licentiousness, depravity, sullen, degradation, blaspheme, melancholy, assignation, repudiate, impudence, inhospitable, irreverent, incontrovertible, equilibrium, surety, adept, instigation, occult, acuity, receptivity, subterfuge, paroxysm



Part III

Summary

Walter Moody sees the engagement of Francis Carver and Lydia Wells in the paper. It has Carver's address as the Palace Hotel. Moody knows that Carver may pay for a room at the Palace, but since the night of the séance, Carver has slept in a small room next to the kitchen in the Crown that gives him a view of the Kaniere road.

Moody is not a skillful prospector. He knows he should find a group to prospect with, but he prefers to go alone. Moody finds Ah Sook sleeping in a tent on his claim. He is happy to see the man since he has been thought missing. It has been a month since the man has been seen. Ah Sook asks about Francis Carver. Moody informs him that he is sleeping at the Crown Hotel. Moody tells Ah Sook that Ah Sook will not receive a fair trial if he kills Carver. He will be hanged. Ah Sook is not worried about that. Moody tells him what type of gun to buy and where to get it. For his help, Ah Sook tells Moody that he needs to go north for gold.

Anna only leaves the Wayfarer's Fortune to take her daily exercise with Mrs. Wells. When Mrs. Wells is summoned to appear before the Magistrate about the estate of Crosbie Wells, Cowell Devlin takes the opportunity to visit Anna. He hands Anna the document that he found in Crosbie Wells' cottage. She is illiterate. Anna confesses to Devlin that she cannot read and asks how she can read this document. She has never seen the document before and had no idea that Emery Staines intended to leave her two thousand pounds. He explains that the fortune in Crosbie's cottage actually belongs to Emery Staines. The document is not good, however, since it is not signed. Anna asks if she can be left alone for a moment. While the Reverend goes to get the tea, she signs Emery Staines name to the deed. She had never seen Emery's signature before, but she knows she has signed it perfectly.

Devlin is astonished at what Anna has done. It is an act of fraud. Anna sees it as a valid document. She puts the deed in the bodice of her dress. Devlin asks her about her dresses and if she knew they once belonged to Lydia Wells. She claims that she did not. She suspected that they may be hers. Anna claims that Emery is not dead. She feels him inside her head.

Mr. Everard tells Gov. Shepard that the Chinese man who was to be watched has bought a gun from Brunton, Solomon & Barnes two hours ago. He asks the man to go back to Hokitika and tell every man that Shepard is on the lookout for Ah Sook. If anyone sees him, they are to send for Shepard. He also asks the man to take a message to Francis Carver. He is to tell him exactly what he told Shepard and to buckle on his holsters.

Ah Quee is released from his indenture on the Aurora because of Emery Staines' absence. He goes to the Company offices to get a new post. Men looking for Ah Sook



attack him when he is leaving the office. Dick Mannering tells the attackers that they have the wrong man and scares them away. Mannering looks at Ah Quee's indenture papers and finds that he has been placed on a claim that belongs to him.

Lydia Wells returns to find Devlin with Anna. He tells her that he and Anna were having a theological discussion. Devlin chastises Lydia for not giving Anna any freedoms. He asks why Lydia offered to pay Anna's debts to Mr. Clinch. She says that she did it out of concern for the girl. She makes Anna tell Devlin how she slept with her husband and became pregnant. Lydia sent her away and has repented her decision. Lydia wants to know what Devlin is doing in her home. Anna tells her that he gave her a document giving her half the fortune found in Crosbie's cottage. Devlin offers to escort Anna to the Courthouse to seek legal counsel.

Gascoigne is asked to look into a letter from the Garrity Group to draw funds to pay Francis Carver for removal of Godspeed from the harbor. The letter from Carver to the Garrity Group claims that Crosbie F. Wells was the owner of the ship and Carver is acting as his proxy. Among the receipts of debts incurred is the bill of sale of Godspeed. Gascoigne examines the signature. It is signed C. Francis Wells. Lauderback comes to protest the Garrity Group letter. Lauderback tells Gascoigne how Francis Carver pretended to be Francis Wells and signed the deed with a false name. Since this was not witnessed, it is Lauderback's word against Carver's. There is no other document that contains Crosbie Wells' signature for comparison. Gascoigne tells him that he has no case.

Anna has had a connection to Emery since her blackout and the night he disappeared. She has vague visions of where he is and knows that he is alive. She can see herself through Emery's eyes and knows that he loves her. Devlin believes that she is delusional and that Emery Staines is dead.

Anna goes to the Courthouse for a legal opinion. Mr. Fellowes asks how she came to have the document. She says that someone slipped it under the door. Fellowes tells her that Staines no longer has two thousand pounds to give away. His assets have been seized due to his absence. Anna tells him that the gold in Wells' cottage belonged to Emery that it bore the seal of the Aurora gold mine. Fellowes agrees to check with the Reserve Bank about the gold and makes an appointment to meet Anna back at the Courthouse at five o'clock.

Te Rau Tauwhare finds Emery Staines inside Crosbie Wells' cottage. The boy is asleep and he looks very haggard. His breaths are fretful and inconstant. The boy believes it has only been three days that he has been gone. Tauwhare finds a wound above the boy's collarbone that has begun to putrefy. Emery has been out looking for his gold, but he cannot find where he buried it. He is sick with fever and not making sense. Tauwhare goes to Hokitika for help.

Ah Sook attempts to hide out until nightfall. He is roused out of his hiding place and goes in search of another. He goes to the Police Camp because it is the last place anyone would look for him. He goes to George Shepard's house. Margaret Shepard lets



him in. She is surprised to see him. She hides him under the bed. There is a rap at the door. It is Francis Carver looking for Shepard. Margaret tells him that he is at Seaview. Sook wants to rush out and shoot him, but he does not want to harm Margaret. She gives Ah Sook a change of clothes and lets him stay hidden until nightfall.

Tauwhare goes to Pritchard for help. They rent a trap and Pritchard takes laudanum with him. Charlie Frost tells Fellowes that the gold from Wells' cottage was smelted by Ah Quee who works on Staines' goldmine, the Aurora. When shown the deed, he assures Fellowes that it is Staines signature so that man must be alive because when he saw the document it was not signed. Benjamin Lowenthal goes to Pritchard's to find it closed. He finds Pritchard's assistant around back and the boy fills his prescription. He tells Lowenthal that Pritchard went off with a native fellow. The two tore off in a trap two hours ago. The native man kept saying he needs medicine and Pritchard kept saying whore's bullet.

Ah Quee is summoned to the Courthouse. Fellowes goes to see Harald Nilssen. He shows Nilssen the deed bearing Emery Staines signature. Fellowes asks if Nilssen found the document in Crosbie Wells' cottage. He claims with certainty that they cleared the place from top to bottom and it was not in the cottage. Pritchard and Tauwhare prepare Staines for the trip to Hokitika. Gascoigne is surprised to see Anna walk into the Courthouse. She greets him before taking a meeting with Fellowes. Shepard enters the Courthouse for his warrant for Ah Sook. Fellowes shouts for help and says that Anna collapsed. Shepard says that he smells laudanum. Shepard orders her to be taken to the Police Camp.

Devlin makes room for Anna at the Police Camp. She is not feverish or lashing out in her sleep as she did last time. She is sleeping peacefully. He asks Gascoigne how she received the laudanum. Gascoigne does not know since Pritchard's has been closed all afternoon. Pritchard and Tauwhare bring in Emery Staines. They are wary of taking him to the hospital because they do not think he will survive there. Emery wants to see Anna. They take him in the Police Camp to be with her.

Ah Sook makes his way to the Crown Hotel. There are two people talking in the hotel room. It is Francis Carver and Lydia Wells. Ah Sook watches them through the window. Shepard catches him and shoots him in cold blood. Shepard claims that Ah Sook was drawing his pistol to shoot Carver and Shepard shot him. Margaret Shepard cries for her friend. Shepard confides in Devlin that his wife Margaret was his brother's wife. He married her after his brother died. Jeremy Shepard was shot through the temple in a tavern. He married Margaret because it was the moral thing to do. Ah Sook killed his brother, but at the trial Margaret Shepard claims Jeremy killed himself and she witnessed it. His brother was not suicidal. Shepard believes Margaret saved Ah Sook because she was fond of him.

Emery Staines has been cleaned up and his wounds bandaged. He will not leave Anna, so she makes a bed for him. They lie down facing each other. Their bodies mirror one another breathing in tandem.



Analysis

Lydia Wells and Francis Carver are made for one another and after years of waiting they are able to be together. Lydia married Crosbie as a way to keep from bankrupting her business so this will be her first real marriage. Lydia uses people. She takes Anna in and then hides her away because she knows that everyone is interested in Anna. It will make them interested in her hotel.

The celestial connection between Anna and Emery is seen when Anna, who is illiterate, signs Emery's name to perfection. For her to be able to do this when she cannot even sign her own name is miraculous. Anna does not understand why it is wrong to sign the deed. She knows that Emery wants her to have the money. She can feel his thoughts and feelings.

The discrimination against the Chinese can be seen when the men looking for Ah Sook attack Ah Quee and do not care that they have made a mistake. This discrimination is what lead Ah Quee to take the gold from Anna's dresses. He does not get a fair deal in any of his dealings. Ah Quee has been used by others most of his life and he just wants to get ahead.

The theme of revenge that is threaded throughout the book is shown in this chapter through Ah Sooks's determination to kill Carver. He wants to avenge his father's death. It is also shown in Shepard's determination to find Ah Sook before he can carry out his plans. Shepard blames Ah Sook for killing his brother. His thinking may be wrong, but he would never be swayed from it. Shepard kills the innocent man in cold blood and makes up the story that Ah Sook drew on him. It is a way for Shepard to feel superior because he believes he did not act in revenge. How the characters interact with one another affects the outcomes of their actions.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Devlin show Anna the deed that he found in Wells' cottage? How does she react?

Discussion Question 2

Where is Emery Staines found? What is he doing there?

Discussion Question 3

What is Margaret Shepard's relationship with Ah Sook? Why is she so distraught about his death?



Vocabulary

intermittent, notorious, conjunction, adept, provocative, anomaly, myriad, perambulation, platitude, fortitude, ameliorate, illiterate, diminution, fortuitously, austerity, paltry, retaliation, benevolence, provocation, eminence, adjudication, unrequited, retort, putrefy, cacophony, volition, ambiguous, reticule, inconsequential, coherent, dissolute, redress, ministrations, placate, tandem



Part IV

Summary

Anna has her first glimpse of New Zealand. Her first impression is of lonely water, a clear sky, and rugged land untouched by human life or industry. She meets a young man on the deck. They watch the albatrosses together. Albatrosses are good luck. Anna does not know what to make of the young man. He is talking to her like they are close, but they have barely spoken while on the journey from Sydney. They talk as they watch the albatrosses.

Anna and Emery have remained in the Police Camp jail since their incarcerations. Anna's bail has been set at eight pounds, a sum she cannot hope to pay without external help. She has no gold sewn into her gown and no employer who could consent to pay the debt on her behalf. Emery Staines was arrested on the morning of his reappearance on charges of fraud, embezzlement and dereliction. His bail is set at one pound one shilling. He opts not to pay so that he can remain with Anna.

Anna's health begins to improve after their reunion. She gains weight and her color returns. The doctor has prescribed a decreasing dosage of laudanum to wean her from her addiction. He prescribes the same for Emery. Emery thirsts for the drug, while Anna does not relish the daily dose.

Alistair Lauderback is elected as the inaugural M.P of Westland. The walls of the new jail have gone up, and the prisoners are transferred to the new building. Mrs. George spends her evenings in the Seaview graveyard and her nights in the residence alone. Francis Carver and Lydia Wells are married. On the day after the ceremony, Carver receives a large cash payment from the Garrity Group and pays his debts. Cowell Devlin keeps people from seeing Emery Staines while he recuperates in the jail. He only allows Tauwhare to visit because his visits improve Staines' mood and health. Staines does not remember everything that happened. He remembers approaching Wells' cottage and passing a party of diggers sitting around a fire. He remembers the rotten hull of an abandoned canoe. He remembers nightly dreams about Tarot, gold-lined corsets and a fortune in a flour sack, hidden beneath a bed.

Devlin tells him that all of his assets have been seized. Staines is unconcerned. He has a nest egg in the Arahura Valley. He just needs to dig it up. Devlin is worried about Staines. He approaches Walter Moody about helping him. Moody says that he cannot drag all of the men plus Lauderback, Shepard, Carver, and Lydia Wells into court to tell the whole story. Devlin wants Moody to act as counsel for Anna Wetherell. The charges against Anna are forgery, public intoxication resulting in disorderly behavior, and grievous assault. The bullet in Staines shoulder came from Anna's pistol. Devlin is worried that they will use the deed against her. If she pleads guilty to the assault, they will charge her with attempted murder. Staines does not understand the gravity of the situation and is not able to help Anna.



Walter Moody prepares for court. The plaintiff plans to call Rev. Cowell Devlin, Gov. George Shepard, Mr. Joseph Pritchard and Mr. Aubert Gascoigne in the case against Anna. In the case of Emery, the witnesses include Richard Mannering, John Long Quee, Benjamin Lowenthal, Edgar Clinch, Harald Nilssen, Charles Frost, Lydia Carver and Captain Francis Carver. Anna's case will affect Emery's case in the afternoon. The judge will delay the sentencing of Anna until after Staines case is heard.

Anna enters the court. She pleads not guilty to the charges. The plaintiff's attorney brings up the fact that Anna is an opium addict and has tried to kill herself once before. He talks about the dangerous and unpredictable behavior of an opium addict and ponders how much opium two thousand pounds would buy. How would the public suffer if such a quantity to be placed in the hands of such a damaged and ill-connected person such as Anna? In his opening remarks, Moody commends Anna's resolve for reform.

Mr. Broham, the plaintiff's attorney, questions Anna. She tells him that she quit her job as a whore. She had no plan to support herself. He talks about the deed of gift from Emery Staines. Anna says that she quit her employment because she fell in love with Emery Staines. The night of January 14th she met Staines for a drink and they went back to his residence. She went back to the Gridiron and lit her pipe. She took more than usual and left the Gridiron under the influence. She woke up in jail. She did not know what happened to Emery. She waited for him to come back. When he did not, she took the board offered by Mrs. Wells. Mr. Broham asks if Emery Staines was injured that evening. Anna says that he was not. He picks up a pistol and asks Anna if she recognizes it. She confirms that it is hers. She carried it when she was working, but not that night. No one can vouch for the whereabouts of the pistol. He asks if she shot Mr. Staines. She denies it. Anna knew Staines was rich, but they never spoke of money.

Anna learned about the deed of gift when the chaplain brought the paper to the Wayfarer's Fortune. She went to the bank and fainted. She was sober. She spent the morning with the chaplain and the afternoon with Edgar Clinch. George Shepard could not have smelt laudanum at the time of her faint. She has not touched opium since she was released from jail. When asked about the pistol, Anna says that the pistol was in the front of her dress and Mr. Gascoigne came in the room suddenly startling her and it misfired. It was thought that the pistol might be broken so they reloaded and fired a second time into the pillow to make sure it was working properly. It is not known what happened to the first bullet.

Moody contends that all the charges against Anna were brought by Governor Shepard. He asks if she has a personal acquaintance with the man. She says none at all. Governor Shepard has not spoken to her at length, but has decided that she is insane. They share an acquaintance in Ah Sook, a dear friend of Anna's who Shepard shot dead. Ah Sook was accused of murdering Shepard's brother fifteen years ago in Sydney. Shepard knew that Anna was Ah Sook's friend because she is called Chinaman's Ann.

Joseph Pritchard then takes the stand. He confirms Anna's story of what happened with the pistol. Moody asks him why he went to see Anna that afternoon. Pritchard says that



he believed there was more to the story behind her attempted suicide. He thought her opium might have been poisoned or cut with something. He wanted to examine it. He could not find her supply to examine it. Pritchard could tell that she was sober and had been probably since her overdose.

The next witness is Aubert Gascoigne. He confirms the misfire. He admits that he did not suspect that Emery Staines was present in the Gridiron Hotel that afternoon, but that it could be possible. Reverend Devlin is then called to that stand. He tells how he found the deed of gift in Crosbie Well's cottage in the ash drawer at the bottom of the stove. Devlin took it to keep it safe until Anna's health improved. He did not show it to the police because the document had not been signed by Emery Staines. Broham says that the document he holds has Mr. Staines signature. Devlin says he does not know how the document got signed. He did not witness it. He first noticed the signature when he took the document to Miss Wetherell. Moody asks the Reverend how Governor Shepard became aware of the deed. Devlin says that it was by accident when he loaned the man his Bible. He kept the deed in his Bible for safety. Shepard was alone when he discovered the deed. He advised the Reverend to share the deed with Miss Wetherell. Devlin had to wait until he could talk to Anna alone and this took several weeks because Mrs. Carver was always present. During that time Shepard was alone with the Bible many times because Devlin takes it to the Police Camp with him and leaves it at the jailhouse while he completes his tasks. Moody asks the Reverend's impressions of Anna's character. Devlin likes her courage to reform. She has fought against her addiction and has given up her life of prostitution. He sees her as perfectly sane.

When Shepard takes the stand, he dwells on Anna's poor character, citing her opium addiction, her profession, and her suicide attempt as evidence of her ignominy. He tells of how her acts have wasted police resources and offended moral decency. He believes she belongs in the asylum at Seaview. After Moody's setting the stage with the revelation about Ah Sook and Devlin's testimony, Shepard comes off as petty. Moody asks Shepard if he has been able to detect any difference between Staines signature on the deed and any other documents signed by Staines. He has not, but it has to be a forgery because it was not signed when he saw the deed. Moody claims that someone besides Anna could have signed it. Someone who wants to see Miss Wetherell indicted. Moody shows a document that bears Anna's signature. It is marked with an X because she cannot write. He asks how Anna could produce a perfect replica of Staines name when she cannot even write her own.

On April 27, 1865, Anna lands at Port Chalmers. Anna is delayed when her trunk is misplaced. She is the only passenger from the ship left on the docks. A woman approaches her and says that she is waiting for a young woman named Elizabeth Mackay. Anna tells her that there were no young women on the ship. The woman tells her that she runs a boarding house for girls in Dunedin. Miss Mackay paid her board in advance to stay and she should have been on the ship. She offers Anna the room that Miss Mackay would have occupied.. The woman introduces herself as Lydia Wells. Anna has come to Dunedin to start over. She plans to become a camp follower.



Emery Staines trial begins at one o'clock. He pleads guilty to the charges against him. Broham attempts to discredit Staines by listing all the trouble of his absence and how Mrs. Wells' hopes were raised by the promise of a substantial inheritance. Moody contends that Staines knows the trouble he has caused and is willing to pay damages or debts incurred.

Staines is called to the stand. Broham asks about the ore found in Crosbie Wells' cottage. Staines tells him that it came from his claim the Aurora, which belonged to him. It was excavated by Mr. Quee. Staines did not bank it against the Aurora like he was legally obligated to do. He buried it in the Arahura Valley because Maori land cannot be prospected. He planned to give half of it to Anna. He does not know how it ended up in Wells' cottage. Wells could not do anything with the gold because it was stamped with the name Aurora. Staines did not bank the money because he did not want Carver to get his fifty percent.

Staines says that he was under the influence of opium while he was away from Hokitika. He is unsure of his whereabouts during his absence. He thinks he spent most of the time in the opium den at Kaniere Chinatown. When he was found in Wells' cottage, he believes he was looking for his ore. He first touched opium on the night that Crosbie Wells died and the night he spent with Anna. He woke to find her gone and went in search of her. He found her in her room and tried her pipe. He found it heavenly. He went to Chinatown for more opium. He woke one day and Ah Sook was not there. There was no opium, so Staines went in search of it in Anna's room. He waited until she went to lunch and slipped into her room. He found her supply, but he had to hide when Anna returned from lunch. He hid behind the drapes. That's how he shot himself with Anna's gun. He stayed hidden from twelve to about three. No one knew he was in the room. He kept quiet even when he was shot because he did not want to give up the opium. Emery does not believe that Anna knew he was there and tried to shoot him. He trusts her because he loves her.

Moody asks Staines why he has a poor opinion of Francis Carver. He says that Carver assaulted her resulting in the loss of her child. Emery learned about the assault from Mr. Lowenthal, who found her battered and bloody on the road. He was not surprised because after being naïve and partnering with Carver the first day he was off the boat in Dunedin he began hearing things about him and Mrs. Carver. They worked as a team to swindle people.

After hearing the news about Anna's assault, Emery went straight to the Arahura Valley to tell Crosbie Wells. He was the father of Anna's baby. Wells was very quiet and did not say much. Emery told him about the fortune he buried near the man's cottage and that he wanted to give Carver's share to Anna. Wells drew up the document, but Emery didn't sign. He is not sure of why he didn't sign it, except that he had been drinking and had fallen asleep.

Lydia Carver is questioned about the séance she held to contact Emery Staines. She chose him because his disappearance was the talk of the town and she thought it would draw a crowd. He was just a name to her. She learned about the death of Crosbie Wells



from Francis Carver and set sail immediately for Hokitika. She and Mr. Wells had been living apart for nine months because he used a young girl in her charge. They had an argument and Crosbie left Dunedin and she did not know where he went. The woman in question is Anna Wetherell.

Mr. Moody questions Lydia about Crosbie's strike in the Dunstan Valley and how it was not reported to the bank so that only she and Crosbie knew about it. It was not taken to the bank because the price of gold was fluctuating daily and they were waiting for a good time to sell. It was probably worth several thousand. The ore was stolen. She has no idea who stole it. She did not discover the gold's disappearance until Crosbie came back from the fields April or May of last year.

Francis Carver is called to the stand. Carver says that he met Emery Staines in Dunedin last year. He was fresh off the boat from Sydney and looking to become a prospector. Carver offered to sponsor him and Staines accepted. Staines wrote to Carver letting him know that he purchased the Aurora. Carver receives dividend payments every quarter. So far he has received fourteen pounds. He was not made aware of the bonanza that Mr. Quee found nor that Staines falsified Aurora's quarterly report. He learned that the gold in Mr. Wells cottage is from the bonanza when it was published in the paper. Carver says that he only slapped Anna in the face was she was insolent. She was on opium and talking nonsense. The last he saw was her laughing and stumbling around. Carver asked her about Mr. Wells. He had a private matter to discuss with him and did not know how to find him. He wanted to talk to him about insurance for Godspeed. He said he was descent to Wells and Wells was descent to him.

Moody asks about Carver's relationship with Lydia. Carver has known her for almost twenty years. He thought they would have been married before, but he was sent to Cockatoo for ten years. When he got out she was married to Wells. He vowed to marry her if she were ever free again. He tells Moody how he worked aboard the Godspeed and how Mr. Wells returned to Dunedin and bought the Godspeed. Mr. Carver holds the deed of sale so he can act as his proxy. Moody comments that Mr. Carver seems to have benefited more from the transaction than Wells.

Moody calls Thomas Balfour to the stand. He asks about Mr. Lauderback's shipping crate that was shipped on the Virtue. The crate disappeared from the dock. It would have been distinctly labeled as Mr. Lauderback's. They found the crate on the Godspeed when it wrecked off the bar. He was told by a member of the crew that a year ago Mr. Carver had been looking for a crate labeled for Mr. Lauderback and thinking this was the one they took it aboard the Godspeed. The men cannot find Carver anywhere to tell him of their find. Carver comes rushing to the quay upset and tells them that they must weigh anchor at first light with no explanation of why. When the men showed him the crate, he was very upset. It was not the one he had been looking for.

Moody calls Mr. Lauderback to the stand. He identifies Carver as the man to whom he sold Godspeed. Lauderback says that Carver told him that his name was Crosbie Wells. He played the jilted husband because he knew Lauderback had been with Lydia and he used it to take his ship. Lauderback admits that he had been sending Lyida's old gowns



to Melbourne every month to be altered with the latest frills or flounces. The shipments went back and forth with his name. Carver had intercepted a trunk and packed it with a fortune in gold. If found, Lauderback could be charged with theft and evasion of duty. He had to give the ship to Carver. He never saw the crate again. Lauderback found out Carver's true identity when the real Wells wrote to him. Moody uses the signature of the letter to verify the signature of Crosbie Wells on the deed of gift for Anna Wetherell. The signature in no way resembles the signature on the bill of sale for Godspeed. Moody proclaims that Carver obtained Godspeed by extortion, impersonation, and fraud probably with the help of Lydia Wells Carver.

In April of last year, Anna is taken to the House of Many Wishes by Lydia Wells. Anna is naïve and does not realize that this is not a boarding house for girls. Lydia leaves Anna to bath and get acquainted with her new surroundings. A man enters the room after she has finished her lunch. He introduces himself as Crosbie. He tells Anna that Lydia has given her a line so that she would come home with her. Then, she would be obligated to Lydia.

In April of 1866, Te Rau Tauwhare is outside of the courthouse. He talks to the sergeant waiting by the armored carriage to transport the felons back to jail. The bailiff instructs the sergeant that Francis Carver is to be taken to Seaview. Carver is cuffed into the carriage. The sergeant asks Tauwhare if he would like to ride along with him to Seaview, but he declines. He is focusing on the latch on the carriage.

The judge hands down his sentencing of Emery and Anna. Emery is sentenced to nine months of servitude, with labor. Anna is acquitted of all charges. The sergeant rushes into the court to say that Carver is dead. Someone bashed his head.

In April of 1865, while Anna is with Crosbie Wells at the House of Many Wishes, Lydia is at the Hawthorn Hotel telling fortunes. Francis Carver enters and tells her that Alistair Lauderback is on his way to Dundedin. They have caught him in their trap. Lydia has just told Emery Staines his fortune. Lydia tells Carver that she has told the boy that he is going to be exceptionally rich. Carver makes it a point to make the boy's acquaintance.

In April of 1866, Adrian Moody, Walter's father, arrives in Hokitika. He is searching for his son. He goes to the postmaster with a letter for Walter. In his letter, he tells how he left England because of debt. He left 20 pounds for his wife, but it was stolen and never reached her. He and Frederick struggled in their mining. Frederick tried to urge Adrian to send gold to his wife or even invite her to join them; but, he would not. Frederick and his father fought about his drinking and mending his ways and Frederick eventually left. Adrian does not know where he is now. He begs for Walter's forgiveness.

Frost goes to the jail to give Emery a list of his expenses. He suggests that Emery take on the debt that Anna owes Dick Mannering so that Anna can live on the gold that came from the orange dress, while Emery is in jail. He also suggests that Emery give Mr. Quee a bonus. He would like to return to China with exactly seven hundred and sixty-eight shillings. It would be good to also buy him out of his indenture and pay for his passage home.



Walter Moody leaves the Crown to go start his life as a digger. He heads north to the beaches. Another man is headed in the same direction and kitted out as Walter is in digger's clothes. They begin talking and agree to pass the time by telling one another stories.

In April, 1865, Lydia Wells returns to the House of Many Wishes to discover that Crosbie Wells has been there. She is glad to hear that he was entertained by Anna. She goes to Anna's room and the girl seems discomforted. Lydia takes no notice and offers to draw the girl's chart. She is amazed that she has the same birthday as the young man she did a chart for at the hotel. She is also the same age and they were both born in Sydney. Lydia tells her that she shares a destiny with this man. He is an astral soul-mate.

Analysis

The twelve men come together to protect Anna and Emery. The opposing counsel tries to make Anna seem base and dirty, but the feeling one gets is of innocence and naivety. Anna may be a prostitute and a drug addict, two things that would be looked down upon, but she is also beautiful and can act as if she does not understand what is happening. Moody uses this to make it seem as if she was manipulated into the circumstances rather than complacent in them. Anna can switch her intelligence on and off, depending on what the circumstances require.

Revenge is given as a motive for Anna being on trial. Shepard wanted to get back at her for being friends with Ah Sook. Revenge does drive many of the characters, but revenge could so drive Moody and Anna to shift the blame of her forgery to Shepard. They liked Ah Sook and know that Shepard did not kill him fairly. A part of them could want to avenge his death and make Shepard look culpable for forgery and framing Anna. This could make him lose his job and he would not have the power to misuse of authority in the future.

Love is also shown in this section. Several of the twelve men have a protective love of Anna and they take the stand to protect her. Pritchard affirms that she has not taken any opium and Devlin does not tell that she signed the deed. They want to see Anna improve her life and have a second chance. Emery Staines admits that he loves Anna and has a connection to her that no man who does not know true love could understand. This love is important to the novel for he connected Anna and Emery even when they were apart. It sustained Anna and helped her through her time in jail and with Lydia. She knew Emery was alive and would be back for her. This love also kept Emery alive against all odds. He survived to make it back to Anna where he belongs.

The deception of Carver is shown to everyone at the trial. Carver and Lydia Wells use deception to get whatever they want. They do not think of how they hurt people. This deception led to the death of Crosbie Wells, the addiction of Anna, Anna's life as a prostitute, and to Emery's jail sentence for fraud. After all, he had hidden the gold so



Carver would not get a share. Their deception is interwoven throughout the story and is at the heart of it all.

Discussion Question 1

How does Moody depict Shepard during the trial? Does his tactics work?

Discussion Question 2

Why is Francis Carver taken into custody?

Discussion Question 3

Who kills Francis Carver? Why does he kill him?

Vocabulary

rancorous, perfunctory, eccentric, dereliction, inconsolable, foibles, prurience, abstinence, radical, aberration, aspersions, flummoxed, protestation, ignominy, collusion, aghast, serendipity, illogical, prerogative, paradoxical, emphatic, mercenary, infallible, perpetuity, portiere, elemental, remanded, clew, retaliation, contrition, deference, capricious, aspersions, affinity, prognostications, incognito, repugnance, fluidity, squalor, fastidious, auger, phenomenon



Part V

Summary

Anna is mortified that the man she entertained the afternoon she arrived in Dunedin is Mrs. Wells' husband. This shame makes her try to obtain the good opinion of everyone she meets. Wells sees her as sweet. He and Anna are left in the house alone as Lydia is not at home often. Wells does not want to return to the field. He made a significant strike the previous year and wants to invest the money. He spends his time looking for investments.

Lydia is distant with Wells and Anna. Anna strives to get the woman's good opinion. The operations of the House of Many Wishes are told to Anna slowly and gently. She is shown the gambling hall, but she is not invited to attend the evening parties right away. Anna watches the men arrive from her bedroom. She can hear laughter and applause. Anna asks if she can go to the bar. She is allowed to do so, but the patrons are not allowed to address her directly. Also, she cannot dance. Crosbie tells her that the longer the men wait the more money she will fetch.

On the 12th of May, the House is hosting a party in honor of naval officers and must make preparations. Wells is unhappy about the party. When he asks for the paper, he is told that it was burned. This upsets him. Lydia seems nervous about him seeing the paper. Crosbie asks for the key to the safe. He wants to look at his dust. Lydia does not want to give him the key and they struggle. When he opens the safe, it is empty. Lydia tells him that his gold is somewhere safe and she will have it back to him tomorrow as well as his papers. She will not tell him where it is.

After learning from Lydia that he would come into good fortune, Emery Staines spends the night celebrating. In the morning, he finds that he is in debt to the house. Francis Carver offers to sponsor the young man. He would set him up as a miner and pay his debts in Dunedin for half-shares in Staines first claim. Emery knows he has been played. He remembers enough of the evening to know that Carver made sure that his glass was always full and his bets equally matched. He chalks it up to experience and accepts Carver's terms of sponsorship. He vows that he will not let something like this happen again.

Carver tells Staines that the West is better for gold. Hokitika is a new town where it is said that a man can make his fortune in a single day. Carver gets him kitted up and buys him a ticket to Hokitika, which does not sale for two weeks. Emery sees a lot of Carver in that two weeks. Emery is an avid reader who is not unintelligent. On his twenty-first birthday, he was asked where he wished to go in the world and said Otago. He sees gold mining as an adventure. His wish was granted and that is how he found himself in Dunedin.



At breakfast one morning, a letter comes for Carver. It is composed of one line of script. Once he has read it, Carver throws it into the fire. He takes Staines up to his room and asks him to watch over a trunk that is labeled, Alistair Lauderback, Danforth Shipping, Godspeed. He offers Staines a sovereign to watch over the trunk for three hours. Carver gives him a pistol to wave about if someone comes in. Staines wants to know what is in the trunk. He is told that the less he knows the better and that for the day his name is Francis Wells. After Carver leaves, Emery picks the lock on the trunk to see what is inside.

Crosbie Wells finishes reading the paper. He tells his wife that the arrivals caught his eye. Alistair Lauderback is arriving in Dunedin that night and Lydia tried to keep it from him. He wants to know why. She tells him that if he spurned him again it would upset Crosbie and spoil the party. Crosbie wants to know why she is having a party for the naval officers. She tells him that it will be good for her business. Alistair Lauderback will not be there. She has never met him.

Crosbie questions her again about the gold and is told it is in a vault at the Reserve. He calls her a liar and slaps her. There is a knock at the door and it is announced that there is a package for Lydia Wells. Crosbie will not let her go get it, but has Anna go. It is a pint-sized bottle from a local chemist. Lydia says that it is hair tonic. Anna takes the bottle to Lydia's room. She finds a bottle of hair tonic there that does not match the bottle just delivered. She holds the bottle to the light and discovers that it is laudanum.

Staines holds a gown up to the light. There are five gowns in the trunk. He wonders why they are so important to Carver. There is a knock at the door. In the hallway is a Chinese man dressed in a tunic and woolen cape. He asks for Francis Carver. Emery tells him this is the room of Francis Wells. The Chinese man says he is looking for Carver and shows him a letter from Cockatoo Island Penitentiary telling Mr. Yongsheng that Francis Carver has been released from jail and has sailed for Dunedin, New Zealand. Someone else has printed Hawthorn Hotel upon the paper. Staines is not surprised that Carver is a former convict, but he tells the Chinese man that there is nobody named Francis Carver there.

Anna and Lydia Wells prepare for the party that evening. They are putting up decorations when a Chinese man comes to the door looking for Francis Carver. Crosbie Wells tells the man that he has never heard of Francis Carver. The harbormaster gave this address as a place to find Francis Carver. Crosbie tells him that he was told wrong. After the man leaves, he takes up the paper and finds the projected departures. On the ship, Godspeed, he finds the name F. Carver (seaman). Anna comes up asking who was at the door. Lydia would like to know. Crosbie tells her it was a Chinaman and asks if she knows anyone who did time at Cockatoo Island. She tells him no and he admits that neither does he. He asks her about Francis Carver and she does not know him.

Crosbie tells Anna that Lydia is a heartless woman and has stolen her money. She will do the same to Anna and will ruin them both. Crosbie is piecing together the connection between the party and Francis Carver. He just does not know what it means. He knows



that his papers are going to be used by Francis Carver for something. He vows to make the acquaintance of Carver that night.

Carver meets with Lauderback. He knows him as Francis Wells. Carver is sitting on a chair facing the gangway with a pistol in his hand. Lauderback assures him that he has not seen Lydia since they last spoke. Carver says papers say otherwise and Lauderback knows that he is referring to the Danforth Shipping receipt. Lauderback knows that he is being had.

Two hours later, Carver goes to the House of Many Wishes. The party is in full swing. He shows Lydia the signed deed. She tells him that Crosbie has taken up with Anna and Lydia sent up a fresh decanter for them laced with laudanum. Carver plans to take Crosbie somewhere and kill him. Carver goes upstairs and sees someone lying in the bed. He moves toward it and is clubbed in the back of the head. Crosbie hits him on the knuckles as Carver goes for his pistol and then across his jaw. Crosbie asks who the man is. He asks if he is Carver. He is told that he used to be. His name is now Crosbie Wells. Crosbie asks about his bonanza and is told that it has been shipped offshore. Crosbie knocks that man unconscious. Anna appears in the doorway and asks if he will kill him. He tells her no and carves the letter "C" in the man's face so that he will be remembered. The letter "C" is for Carver. Crosbie tells Anna to take and drink and that she will be asleep in a minute. She asks how much she should drink and is told as much as she can manage.

Crosbie goes to the docks to find a ship to get away from Dunedin. He tells the official that he needs to go quietly. He tells that man that he is running from a man named Carver. He stole his fortune. The man says that he has not heard that Crosbie had a fortune and is told that Crosbie only told his Lydia. The man scoffs and tells him that there was his first mistake. He tells Crosbie that there is a schooner leaving for Hokitika leaving at first light. Looking at his papers, the official tells him that there is a crate on the Godspeed authorized by him to go to Melbourne. The man believes that Crosbie is attempting to get his gold offshore so he can have it tax-free. Crosbie tries to tell him that it was not him that signed for it.

The official says that he is pulling the inventory first thing in the morning and will not let it go offshore. Wells offers to sign for it to go to Hokitika with him so that it is not going offshore. The official cannot get it on the Blanche since she is leaving at first light, there is not time. Crosbie offers to sign a transfer so that the crate will be taken off the Godspeed and sent to Hokitika when there is a ship available.

Analysis

This section shows why Carver was searching for Crosbie Wells. It was not only for the gold, but for revenge. Carver does not like Crosbie because he is married to Lydia and he wants to get him out of the way permanently. His plan is thwarted and Wells disfigures him fueling his anger for revenge. This is the catalyst that prompts the death of Crosbie Wells.



It also shows how Emery Staines met Carver and why he does not trust him. Trust is important to Emery and he learns that Carver is not a trustworthy man. He cannot sever his ties with him since he agreed to a partnership, but his realizations will lead him to buy a duffer claim so that Carver will not prosper from the partnership. It will also lead to his trial for fraud.

Ah Sook appears always on his quest for vengeance. It is when he gives up this quest that he finally finds Carver. He, however, is never allowed his revenge.

Crosbie Wells shows mercy and spares Carver's life. He is not racked with revenge. He just wants to live a quiet life. Carver wants only what others have so is never satisfied. He is always looking for something else to obtain. He takes Wells' gold so that he can take Lauderback's ship. As a rich man's son, he believes that everything should be handed to him. When it is not, he takes it. It upsets him when he believes that Crosbie took back his gold by taking the crate from Godspeed. He will do anything to get it back.

Discussion Question 1

How does Lydia's naval party fit into Carver's scheme to take Godspeed from Lauderback? How is Crosbie Wells involved?

Discussion Question 2

What has happened to Crosbie Wells' gold? Why is his birth certificate missing?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Crosbie Wells flee Dundedin? Who does he fear is chasing him?

Vocabulary

inconsolable, censorious, artifice, pensive, disconsolation, inquisition, whimsical, preamble, perpetuity, quixotic, alchemical, deceit, conspiracy, paranoiac, interminable, raucous, brawl, evasion



Part VI

Summary

Emery Staines is in Hokitika, but has not started prospecting. He cannot find a stake or a company that he likes. The life of a prospector is hard on him. He likes to be in good company and indoors. The only thing that spurs him forward is the conditions of his sponsorship with Francis Carver.

When he takes his pouch of dust to the bank, he meets a man on the steps. The man asks him if he values loyalty or honesty. Staines claims he values loyalty in himself and honesty in others. The man wants a favor. He has a large gold nugget that he needs cashed in so he can pay a land agent to purchase land in the area. He has been robbed so he has not paper so cannot take the gold in the back himself. He did not go through the custom house when he arrived so no one knows he is in Hokitika. Staines is wary of the man's story. The man is Crosbie Wells.

Staines remembers Francis Carver telling him one month ago to for the day his name is Francis Wells. He asks Crosbie if he knows Francis Carver. The man stiffens and asks why. Staines tells him that just for an afternoon Carver took the name Wells. Crosbie says that Carver is the one who took his papers, his money and tried to take his life. He has been keeping his head down and looking over his shoulder till he is practically mad. Staines agrees to take Crosbie's nugget to the bank.

Godspeed is coming into the Hokitika harbor. Anna Wetherell is standing on the deck taking in her first view of Hokitika. It is smaller than she imagined. The buildings have a grim, forsaken look.

The journey from Dunedin to Hokitika is the first voyage for Godspeed under the command of Francis Carver. Because of his injuries, he missed the opportunity to tell James Raxworthy that the ship's ownership had changed. Godspeed left the harbor and Carver could only wait for the ship to return. Mrs. Wells looked after him, but could not look at his facial disfigurement without despair. When Godspeed returned to port, Carver met with James Raxworthy and told him that the ship had been sold to a Mr. Wells and the man had promoted Carver to Captain. He disbands Raxworthy's crew and assembles his own. Carver discovers that there is an item missing from the inventory. The trunk was recalled by customs. His inquiries come up with nothing. Going over the shipping news, he discovers that only one other ship left the port the day that Godspeed did and it was headed to Hokitika. He comes up with the plan of using Crosbie Wells name and saying he has lost a shipping crate and offering a reward for its return. If he finds Crosbie Wells he will kill him.

Mrs. Wells turns Anna Wetherell out of her household. She blames her for being an accomplice for the attack on Francis Carver. She claims she was asleep and did not see anything. Mrs. Wells has passed Anna's debts to Mr. Mannering and Anna will become a



camp follower. Anna runs to her room and drinks the laudanum-laced whiskey and waits for the opiate takes effect. She knows what awaits her in Hokitika. She cannot do anything about it because she is pregnant. In Hokitika, Carver accepts an acceptance of lodging for her from Edgar Clinch.

The gold nugget that Staines takes to the bank is worth over a hundred pounds in cash. Staines is interrogated by all those in the bank about where he got the nugget. He gives vague answers. When the banker puts the value on the board, he leads a round of applause and the diggers chant his name. Emery thinks that Crosbie had him take the nugget because he knew what the men would do and he did not want to have his name remembered. Crosbie tells him that he is buying property in the Arahura Valley and Emery is welcome any time. Emery promises to keep Crosbie Wells' secret.

The bellman calls out that there is a shipwreck on the bar. The Titania has run aground. It was coming from Dunedin by way of Auckland.

Edgar Clinch gives Anna a tour of the town on the way to the hotel. Emery Staines sees Anna and remembers her from their voyage on the Fortunate Winds. They shyly regard one another. He has wished to see her again. He asks what has brought her to the Coast and if she plans to stay. Anna tells him that she does mean to stay and will be staying at the Gridiron Hotel. When Emery is told Anna's name he looks at her curiously. He asks if he may call upon her when she is settled and Clinch drags her away.

Carver talks to Tauwhare. He admires the greenstone club the Maori man carries. Tauwhare mimes hitting the man in the throat and chest with it and tells Carver that it is harder than steel.

Lowenthal finds that Carver's ad is a word too long to fit in the two-inch advertisement. Emery Staines comes to ask Lowenthal what is available in the town for an investment. Lowenthal gives him a piece of paper showing properties that are for sale. Staines sees the Gridiron on the list and says that he will take it.

Carver is not hopeful that his ad will bring any results in his search for his trunk. He can only hope if found the person will not examine the dresses too carefully and will think the reward is being offered because of sentimental value. He believes that Crosbie Wells had the trunk recalled and used the gold to bribe the customhouse officials. He believes the fortune gone for good.

Carver meets Pritchard while drowning his sorrows at a bar. Pritchard tells him he is a chemist, the only one in town. Carver asks if he has a supply of opium. Pritchard tells him that he cannot accommodate him and Carver says that he is not buying.

Analysis

Crosbie Wells is always on the lookout for Carver. He is worried that he will find him and seek his revenge. He cannot afford to have his name mentioned in Hokitika; so, he cons Emery Staines into taking his gold nugget to the bank for him. He knows that there will



be lots of attention with a nugget that size. Word will spread. A man cannot get that kind of money without others wanting to know where he got it and then telling everyone he knows.

Emery Staines is new to prospecting and is naive. He does not realize that there will a big hoopla if one take a large nugget of gold to the bank. He gets more than he bargained for and does not like the attention especially when the money is not his. He cannot explain that it is not his and again he is entangled into dealings with a man he barely knows and gets the short end of the stick.

Anna's life gets worse after Wells leave Dunedin. She is hooked on laudanum and sold into prostitution by Lydia Wells. This predicament does, however, lead her to Hokitika where she is reunited with Emery Staines, who she met on the boat from Sydney. The connection between the two is apparent.

Carver searches desperately for the shipping crate full of dresses. The dresses play an integral part to the story. They get many people in trouble. Carver also mets Tauwhare and puts into place the inquiry that will lead to Crosbie Wells' death and to Tauwhare seeking revenge for his friend.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Crosbie Wells not want to take his gold nugget to the bank?

Discussion Question 2

Why is Anna sent to Hokitika? What awaits her there?

Discussion Question 3

What shipping crate is Carver desperately seeking? Why is it so important?

Vocabulary

profligacy, reverie, sycophant, countenance, injunction, pittance, envisage, litany, dolorous, inexorable, cordial, articulate, muddle, colossal



Part VII

Summary

Clinch does not like that Anna is visiting the opium den. He feels that it leaves her vulnerable. He wants to know how Anna came to be an opium addict. Anna does not want to listen to him and tells him to leave her alone.

Mr. Mannering questions Emery Staines about the gold nugget that he found. He wonders why Staines has not spent any of the hundred that the nugget brought. Staines talks to Mannering about keeping secrets and Mannering concludes that there is more to the story about the gold nugget.

George Shepard spots Sook Yongsheng in town and makes his wife go back to the camp. She obediently obeys. He watches Sook Yongsheng with his hand on his holster. A man asks him if everything is okay. Shepard hands over his parcels and pays for his goods and leaves.

Receiving correspondence from Crosbie Wells encourages Alistair Lauderback to run for Parliament for the Westland seat. Crosbie writes that he has moved to West Canterbury. He finds it a lonely place. He is estranged from his wife. Crosbie does not want to dwell on what brought him to this place. He will not prospect anymore because he does not want his fortune stolen again. Crosbie is happy to have a friend like Terou Tow-Faray.

Emery Staines notices that the dress that Anna is wearing is meant for a more buxom woman. He asks if he can ask her a question. She is taken aback and worried about what the question will be. Staines asks her about Crosbie Wells, a mutual friend. Anna is shocked by the mention of Crosbie's name. Anna wants to know how Staines knows Crosbie. He admits that he is keeping the man's secret of his whereabouts and how the two met. Crosbie mentioned Anna's name in connection with a gold nugget, Francis Carver and a robbery of some kind. Staines would like to hear the whole story. Anna wants to know if Crosbie is in Hokitika. She wants Staines to deliver an important message to him.

Wells is talking to Tauwhare. He tells the man a story of a man who lost his arm in the floods at Dunstan. The man's real sorrow was that the arm that he lost was tattooed. The tattoo was a present to himself for going round the Horn. He asks Tauwhare if he ever forgets that his face is tattooed. Tauwhare says that he never forgets. Wells tells him that he cut a man's face leaving him with a scar. He asks Tauwhare if he has ever killed a man. Tauwhare has not, and Wells admits that neither has he.



Analysis

Clinch wants to help Anna, but he smothers her with his kindness. He wants to protect her from her addiction. He loves her and does not like the life that she is leading. Anna finds him annoying and always butting into her business. This lack of respect will lead Clinch to attempt to steal the gold from her dresses without her knowledge.

This section foreshadows what is to come. Anna learns that Crosbie Wells is in Hokitika and she must get a message to him. He does not know that Anna is pregnant with his baby. She trusts Emery to take the message to Wells. They have just reunited and they already for a bond between them. It is a twinkling of what is yet to come.

Wells talk with Tauwhare about tattooing shows that he has not forgotten about Carver. By asking Tauwhare if he ever forgets he is tattooed, he is really questioning if Carver will ever forget how Wells disfigured his face. Tauwhare's answer is not comforting. It shows that Carver will never forget nor forgive Wells for what he did.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Clinch not like Anna visiting the opium den?

Discussion Question 2

Why is Emery Staines keeping Crosbie Wells whereabouts a secret? Why is Anna interested him?

Discussion Question 3

Why is Anna Wetherell in Hokitika? How does she know Emery Staines?

Vocabulary

dissemble, complicit, impertinent



Part VIII

Summary

Ah Quee tries to explain to George Shepard that he is indentured to the Aurora and that Mannering makes it a duffer claim. He thinks Mannering is a very bad man. Shepard wants to know how Mannering make it a duffer claim. Ah Quee takes his purse and transfers a penny from it to his left pocket and then takes the penny from his pocket and returns it to his purse. Shepard loses his patience and does not want to launch an investigation into Mannering's finances on Ah Quee's word. He tells him to return to the Aurora and be happy that he has work.

Alistair Lauderback writes a letter to Tom telling him that he is running for the Westland seat in the Parliament. He plans to travel to Hokitika overland than by water. He wants a trunk of his personal affects to be collected by the ship Virtue and taken to Hotitika. He defers to Tom about a place to lodge, dining and such.

Mannering drives Anna to Chinatown. He tells her that he has never had a girl murdered or beaten. Misery is not good for business.

Mannering tells Staines that fraud is the true crime in a goldfield. There are two charges, salting a claim and crying a duffer claim. Staines asks which is worse. Mannering tells him that if one is caught salting one might get murdered in their bed, but if one cries duffer and gets caught one could get lynched. He is showing Staines the Aurora goldmine. Staines wants a mine that will not profit so that Carver will not get any profit.

Anna stops in to see Ah Quee on her way from Sook's opium den. He touches every part of her dress, seeming to weigh it in his hands.

Analysis

Many events are set in motion in this section. Ah Quee is rebuffed by Shepard because he is Chinese. This is just one more strike against the white man and why Ah Quee will not trust them. He takes the gold from Anna's dress because he feels that it belongs to him. He thinks that Mannering is smuggling gold on Anna. To get back at Mannering for making him mine a duffer claim, he takes the gold and puts it toward Aurora so that he can get a percentage of the money. He believes that he deserves it.

Lauderback is influenced to run for the seat in the West because he learns that Crosbie Wells is a resident. He seems to finally want to see his half brother. If this meeting would have happened, Lauderback would have learned sooner of the deception of Carver and may have prevented Crosbie Wells' death for Carver would have been arrested.



The reasoning behind many of the character's actions is seen in this section. Their actions are influenced by how they are treated and how they think they are or will be perceived. How people treat others has an affect on everyone around them and can influence others to act the same way. Carver tricked Staines so he could deceive him into becoming partners with him. Staines, in turn, buys a duffer mine so that he can trick Carver into thinking that their partnership is valid, but it will not profit. It is a case of you reap what you sow.

Discussion Question 1

Why will George Shepard not listen to Ah Quee's claims against Dick Mannering?

Discussion Question 2

Who is Alistair Lauderback? Why is he coming to Hokitika?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Mannering salt the Aurora goldmine? Why does Staines want to buy it?

Vocabulary

compunction, inclination, articulate, dastard, imperative, lucid



Part IX

Summary

Anna has spent the night with Ah Quee. She wakes in the morning with a woolen cape over her. She watches him fuss over breakfast and tend to the fire. She is content with him.

Staines arrives at the camp station and is surprised to see that the Aurora's box is flagged. When the box is unlocked, he finds smelted gold bars. He is alarmed by this find and wants to get rid of the gold. He pays the escort to turn his back while he transfers the contents of the box.

Staines buries the gold bars in the Arahura Valley. It is inhabited by the natives who do not have any use for gold so it should be safe. He arranges stones on top so that he can recognize where they are hidden and kicks away his footprints. He does not want the fortune to be found.

Wells compares the white man's need for gold to Tauwhare's need for greenstone. He sees them both as minerals. One is seen as more valuable than the other, but they are both rocks. Tauwhare says that it is not the same. It makes him angry that Wells believes that it is.

Analysis

Ah Quee uses Anna's innocence to his advantage. She would never believe that while she slept the man takes apart her dresses taking gold and replacing it with weights. She trusts him and feels safe in his presence. This sense of trust makes her an easy target. Once again she is cheated, and her sense of security is false as it was when she was staying with Lydia in Dunedin.

Greed is prevalent in this section of the book. Ah Quee steals from Anna, but he sees it as getting what is rightfully his. Emery Staines does not want Carver to prosper from the gold that he finds in Aurora's box; so, he hides it to keep for himself. He does not think of Ah Quee and that he would get a percentage if it is banked against the claim. His only concern is not letting Carver get his hands on it. Seeing all of that gold, could also make him not want to share.

Wells tries to explain that greed is not just for gold. By telling Tauwhare that greenstone could be just as coveted as gold, he is saying that anything you put importance on can be corrupted if coveted by others. Tauwhare holds greenstone in high regard so wanting it only for himself and his people is a sense of greed. Tauwhare does not want to see this quality in himself and denies that gold and greenstone are the same. Greenstone is sacred to him and he will not have it viewed in the same way as the men who lust after gold.



Discussion Question 1

Why does Anna feel safe with Ah Quee?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Staines not declare the gold that he finds in the Aurora's box? Why does he bury it?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Tauwhare become angry when Crosbie Wells compares gold to greenstone?

Vocabulary

staunch, protocol, veritable



Part X

Summary

Carver is riding on the Kaniere road and sees Anna on the roadside. He approaches her. Her walk is unsteady, and her face flushed. Anna taunts him that Crosbie got away and she helped. He wants to know where Crosbie is. Anna becomes frightened. He slaps her across the face. She turns to run and he grabs her shoulder jerking her back. A clap of gunshot is heard nearby scaring the horse.

When Anna opens her eyes Lowenthal is standing over her with a jar of laudanum and beside him is Edgar Clinch. They want to know what happened. She tells them Carver was the father of her child. She will not mention Crosbie Wells' name to protect him.

Wells finds Emery Staines on his door doubled over. Staines tells him that his baby is gone. Wells helps him in and listens to his story.

Staines wants to give Anna half of his secret fortune that he has buried. He will dig it up for her. Wells asks how much half would be. Staines guesses it would be two thousand. Wells takes a tin box down from the shelf and takes out a sheet of paper. He writes on the sheet the date and that Emery Staines is giving Anna Wetherell the amount of two thousand pounds. He signs his name and pushes the paper for Staines to sign. The boy is asleep.

Analysis

Anna wants to protect Crosbie Wells; so, she tells Lowenthal and Clinch that the baby is Carver's. What happened between Anna and Carver on the road is unknown. It also is not clear how Anna lost her baby. Her story is that Carver assaulted her, but there is no proof of that. One must assume that she is telling the truth.

The reader knows that Carver is looking for Wells because he disfigured him and he believes that he has the gold from the dresses. Carver wants revenge. Is he the type of man who would assault a pregnant woman to get answers? It seems that he was, indeed, the only one on the road with her. Anna's constant drug use could also be the reason that she loses her baby.

Emery Staines knows that Crosbie Wells is the father of Anna's baby and runs to tell him. He feels that Crosbie has the right to know that his son/daughter has died. This event makes Emery want to protect Anna and take her away from prostitution and men such as Carver. He believes that giving her half of his fortune will make up for what Carver did to her and protect her in the future. Unfortunately for Anna, he does not sign the deed giving her the money. When the deed is found, this leads to much speculation about who is the rightful owner of the gold discovered in Crosbie Wells' cottage.



Discussion Question 1

Who is the father of Anna's baby?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Anna say that Francis Carver is the father?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Emery Staines want to give Anna half of his secret fortune?

Vocabulary

clarity, atone, fortitude

Part XI

Summary

Anna contemplates her life. She is in serious debt to Dick Mannering and sees no way of being able to pay him back. She feels trapped in her circumstances. Anna realizes that as she gets older men will want her less and her value will decrease. Her opium vice is not helping her. She is wasting her money on the drug, and it is wearing away her looks.

Anna thinks about how a man can rise above his past and be whatever he wants. But, a woman once fallen has no future. This is not the life that she came to New Zealand to lead. She has fallen, and she sees no future for herself.

Emery Staines is in love with Anna. He is jealous of the men who have been with her, but is weary about paying for her services. He wants to be a proper suitor, not one of her clients. Emery wants to give her half of his fortune so that she will be able to pay her debts and not have to be a prostitute. He debates on how it would look to pay for her company and then give her his gift of two thousand pounds. He does not want to be improper.

Emery Staines also feels a connection to Anna that he cannot explain. He is drawn to her. It is more than desire or the thought of pleasure. He feels like a whole person in her presence. When she is not there, it seems that half of him is missing.

If Anna were not a prostitute with a debt hanging over her head, she would more than likely have many suitors. She is a beautiful young woman. She also possesses an innocence that makes other want to protect her.

Analysis

Anna has the ability to seem innocent even when she is a drug-addicted prostitute. Her life is far from innocent; yet, the men of the novel feel the need to protect and coddle her. This is because she is young and attractive. Anna is not independent like Lydia. She relies on others to help her get out of desperate situations. Crosbie tries to warn her about being naive, but it is her nature. She is trusting and therefore falls prey to the evils of the world. Anna and Emery represent innocence, and they are tested as they are battered by life.

Anna knows that she has no future. Without someone's help she will never be able to get out from under the debt she has brought upon herself. She feels helpless.

Emery and Anna share a celestial connection. He can feel a connection to her, but does not understand it. When he is with her he feels whole. The two must be together to fully function and realize their potential. Emery knows this. He wants to have Anna with him.



To be able to have her, she must be free of her debt to Mannering and her dependency on him. Emery can accomplish this by giving her half of his buried fortune. The reasoning behind the deed becomes clear to the reader. Emery Staines wants to marry Anna, but if he pays her debt she is obligated to him. If he gives her a gift of money, she can pay her debt and be independent. He would then be able to start a relationship with no strings and no obligations.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Anna owe a debt to Mannering? Why does she feel that she will never be able to repay it?

Discussion Question 2

How does Anna's opium habit affect her ability to pay her debt? Why does she feel that she has no future?

Discussion Question 3

How does Staines feel about Anna? How does he feel about her job as a prostitute? Does this affect the way that he sees her?

Vocabulary

usury, maxim



Part XII

Summary

Emery Staines buys Anna Wetherell for the night so that he can spend time with her. He wants her to know that he is in love with her. Buying her is the only way that he can spend time with her since she is a prostitute. This is the night when he will disappear and Anna will be found lying half-dead in the middle of the road to the Arahura Valley.

The two have a connection that they cannot explain. Anna sees this night as the beginning of their relationship. They are able to spend time together and get to know one another. Emery sees the beginning of their relationship as when they shared the spotting of the albatrosses on the ship as they approached Dunedin. It is a moment that only they witnessed. It was their first connection.

They know that they will share many more beginnings together because this is just their first night together. They have their whole lives with new experiences to enjoy together. Each feels that their hearts are opened wider and that they see more clearly.

It begins to rain. This rain will cleanse and make everything new. It is a fresh beginning.

Analysis

Emery Staines felt a connection to Anna when he met her on the boat to Dunedin, even though he did not know her name. He sees this as the beginning because men are visual creatures. Seeing her and sharing the viewing of the albatrosses with her has deep meaning. Anna sees their night together as the beginning because she knows that Emery is the one with whom she wants to spend her life. Nothing that came before that moment has any meaning. She wants to push away from her previous life and begin anew.

Their connection was foretold by Lydia when she charted Emery and Anna. Their connection is strong and will not be broken. Together they are stronger and can accomplish anything.

The rain symbolizes the washing away of impurities and sin. This is a fresh start for the two lovers. Unfortunately their love will be tested for it is also the night that they will be parted for many months. This separation does not lessen their bond, but makes it stronger as they seek to find one another again. Anna and Emery's celestial connection brings them comfort and nourishes them as they spend time apart. This connection is not understood by anyone who does not have a similar connection in their life.



Discussion Question 1

Why does Emery Staines purchase Anna for the night?

Discussion Question 2

Why is their night together seen as a new beginning? Why are the albatrosses important?

Discussion Question 3

How do the two feel about one another? What is the significance of the rain?

Vocabulary

solace



Characters

Walter Moody

Walter Moody has just come to New Zealand from Scotland. He came seeking his father because the man had left his stepmother destitute and Walter's sense of honor makes him want to rectify the situation. His meeting with his father is horrific and leaves him fearing for his life. He leaves Port Chalmers in a hurry and under a different name so that his father will not be able to find him.

In Hokitika, he stumbles upon the meeting of the twelve men at the Crown. He is taken into their confidence and told the story of the death of Crosbie Wells, the attempted suicide of Anna Wetherell, and the disappearance of Emery Staines. Moody does feel that Carver has done something, yet he sees no conspiracy to link the twelve men together.

Moody is trusted by the group. When the case of Anna Wetherell and Emery Staines goes to trial, he is asked to handle their legal affairs. He is trained as an attorney. Moody is able to get Anna freed, but Staines must do some jail time after he pleads guilty on some of his charges. Moody seems to be in his element in the courtroom; yet, he has come to New Zealand to be a prospector. After the conclusion of the case, he takes to the north to find his fortune.

Crosbie Wells

Crosbie Wells is a gold prospector who has decided to try his hand at running a mill. He was once a gold prospector with a four thousand dollar fortune. It was stolen by his wife (Lydia) and her lover, Francis Carver. They stole his gold, his mining license and his birth certificate. Wells must run for his life when Carver attempts to kill him. This leads Crosbie Wells to Hokitika.

Wells prospects until he has enough money to buy land in the area. He has Emery Staines take the gold to the bank and then buys property in the Arahura Valley. Wells is the half-brother of politician, Alistair Lauderback. He writes him letters, but never receives a reply, but continues to try and forge a relationship with him.

Wells is the father of Anna Wetherell's baby and draws up a deed for Emery Staines to give two thousand pounds of Staines' secret fortune to her. In the Arahura Valley, Wells befriends, Tauwhare, a Maori native who attempts to teach Wells his language. Wells is a good man who fell in with the wrong woman. This mistake costs him his life.



Anna Wetherell

Anna Wetherell is a prostitute who eats opium. Fresh off the boat from Australia, Anna is fell upon by Lydia Wells. She convinces the girl that she runs a boarding house, but she actually runs a gambling establishment and brothel. Anna sleeps with Crosbie Wells and becomes pregnant. Lydia sells her debt to Dick Mannering and Anna is sent to Hokitika to become a prostitute. She uses opium to dull her senses so that she can deal with her life.

Anna is found half dead in the middle of the road and taken to jail for attempted suicide. She wakes up in jail and discovers she has gold sewn into her dress. She convinces the law clerk, Gascoigne to pay her bail. Anna gives up prostitution and opium after her near death experience. Her debts build up and she is threatened with eviction. Lydia Wells offers to take her in as a maid, and she takes up residence with her.

Anna takes her chance to get out from under everyone when Devlin shows her the deed giving her two thousand pounds. With this kind of money, she will be set and not have to depend on anyone.

Emery Staines

Emery Staines is a young man who dreamed of being a gold prospector. He is taken in by Francis Carver and agrees to partner with him on a claim. He soon learns that Carver is not a respectable partner and buys a duffer claim so that Carver will not make a profit. Staines becomes one of the richest people in Hokitika. He is in love with Anna Wetherell. After spending the night with her, he disappears.

Emery Staines reappears weeks later with a bad wound and hooked on opium. He tried opium because Anna is an opium eater. He is soon left in a haze and weeks seem like only days to him. He ends up losing his mine claims and his properties and faces jail time.

Staines has a connection to Anna because they share a birthday and are from the same region. They are soul mates. Staines will do anything for Anna. He has Crosbie Wells draw up a deed to give Anna two thousand pounds of a fortune he has buried, but fails to sign the deed.

Staines' disappearance causes much speculation. Anna will not believe that he is dead. When he returns, he refuses to leave Anna's side while they both recuperate.

Lydia Greenway (Wells) Carter

Lydia Greenway Wells Carter is the widow of Crosbie Wells. She married him so that she would not have to pay out the hundred pounds of gold she owned when he won the jackpot in her gambling establishment. Lydia does anything that will make her a profit.



She is consumed by greed. She preys on young, naive girls fresh off the boat. She pretends to have a boarding house, but the girls end up as prostitutes in her gambling establishment. Anna Wetherell is duped in this way and falls into the clutches of Lydia.

Francis Carter

Francis Carver is the Captain of Godspeed. He is the son of a rich merchant and a convicted criminal. He spent ten years hard labor on Cockatoo Island. During the opium wars in China, he smuggled opium and cause the death of Ah Sook's father. He partners with Lydia Greenway Wells to blackmail Alistair Lauderback into giving him the ship Godspeed.

Carver impersonates Crosbie Wells and then attempts to kill Wells. Wells carves a C into the man's face so that he will have a C for Carver. Carver is very upset by the attack and offers money to anyone who will give him Wells' whereabouts. He kills Wells and rushes to Dunedin to tell Lydia so that she can come claim the man's estate.

Carver is driven by power and money. He will do anything to obtain these. He and Lydia Wells cheat and deceive people to get what they want no matter the consequences to the other party.

Alistair Lauderback

Alistair Lauderback is a politician running for the seat of Westland. He has Thomas Balfour set him up a residence so that it looks like he is from that area. Crosbie Wells is his half-brother who he has ignored. Lauderback decides to arrive in Hokitika over land so that he can stop by Wells' cottage on his way to Hokitika. He and his aides find Wells dead. He then finds Anna Wetherall half dead lying in the road to Hokitika.

Lauderback had an affair with Lydia Wells and Francis Carver uses this to get a position on Lauderback's ship, Godspeed. He then later blackmails Lauderback into giving him the ship. Lauderback wants his ship back. On learning that Carver posed as Francis Wells in order to obtain the ship, he thinks that he can get it back due to fraud. He asks Balfour to look into Carver's life.

George Shepard

George Shepard is in charge of the jailhouse in Hokitika. He is a stern man who does not like the Chinese because he believes a Chinese man killed his brother. He treats his wife like a servant. Shepard blackmails Nilssen into investing into his new jailhouse so that he can begin construction before the elections. Shepard warns Carver when Ah Sook buys a gun in Hokitika. He kills Ah Sook in cold blood and says that Ah Sook was drawing on Carver when he shot him.



Thomas Balfour

Thomas Balfour is a shipping agent. He is friends with Alistair Lauderback. Lauderback confides in him that he had an affair with Lydia Wells and that he was blackmailed into selling his ship, the Godspeed. Balfour attempts to find out more information on Francis Carver for Lauderback. He has also misplaced Lauderback's trunk and must make discreet inquiries to find out where it has gone. Balfour takes the lead in telling Walter Moody about the events that bring the twelve men to the Crown Hotel for a meeting. He is also the first to break his silence on what is discussed at the Crown.

Aubert Gascoigne

Aubert Gascoigne is a law clerk. He pretends that Anna pays her bail so that she can leave the jailhouse. Together, they take apart her dress and find over hundred pounds of gold. Gascoigne keeps it hidden under his bed because they do not know who owns the gold. He takes a protective stance with Anna. Gascoigne becomes friends with Lydia Wells and is disappointed to discover that she has a fiancé. He attempts to befriend Francis Carver so that he can learn more about him.

Cowell Devlin

Reverend Cowell Devlin is the new chaplain at the jailhouse in Hokitika. He goes with the doctor to Wells' cottage to claim the body. He finds a deed in the stove that would give Anna Wetherell two thousand pounds from Emery Staines. It is signed by Crosbie Wells, but not by Emery Staines. He holds on to the document for safekeeping. Devlin wants to protect Anna and Emery and asks Walter Moody to help assist them in their legal affairs.

Joseph Pritchard

Joseph Pritchard is the Hokitika's chemist. He also supplies opium to the opium den in Kaniere. Pritchard believes someone is trying to frame him when a bottle of laudanum from his store is found in Wells' cottage, although Wells did not buy any laudanum from him. He is also worried that the opium that Anna received from his latest shipment was poisoned. He cares for Anna and does not want to see any harm come to her.

Harald Nilssen

Harald Nilssen is a commission agent. He is hired by Edgar Clinch to clear out and sell the cottage of Crosbie Wells. He finds four thousand pounds worth of gold in the cottage hidden in various places. He gets 4 per cent in commission. George Shepard blackmails Nilssen into investing his four hundred pounds into the construction of the new jailhouse.



Sook Yongsheng

Sook Yongsheng owns the opium den in Kaniere. His father was killed for unknowingly bringing opium into China. Sook was acquitted of killing Jeremy Shepard, brother of George Shepard, twelve years earlier in Sydney, Australia. He has vowed vengeance against Francis Carver for smuggling the opium and getting his father killed. Sook is killed by George Shepard when he attempts to get revenge.

Dick Mannering

Dick Mannering owns the Opera House in Hokitika. He also owns the prostitutes in the town. He purchases Anna's debt from Lydia Wells and brings her to Hokitika. Mannering also owns several claims, including the Aurora until he sells it to Emery Staines.

Benjamin Lowenthal

Benjamin Lowenthal is the owner of the West Coast Times. He is the first to hear of Crosbie Wells' death and goes to Clinch because he knows that he is interested in buying property. His paper is the most read paper in Hokitika.

Quee Long

Quee Long is a Chinese worker who has come to New Zealand to make his fortune. He is an indentured worker who must work on a person's claim and give them a majority percentage of the gold. He works the Aurora claim, which is a duffer claim and will not make any money. Quee finds the gold in Anna's dresses and while she is knocked out by opium, he takes the gold out of her dresses and replaces lead weights into the dress so she will not notice the weight difference. He then smelts the gold and stamps the name Aurora on it so that it can go toward the Aurora claim and he will get a percentage.

Te Rau Tauwhare

Te Ray Tauwhare is a Maori native of New Zealand. He was Crosbie Wells' friend. He tells Francis Carver where to find Wells because he thinks they are friends. Carver pays him for the information. Tauwhare is ashamed that he sold out Wells. For revenge, Tauwhare kills Carver.

Charlie Frost

Charlie Frost is a banker that sold Wells' cottage to Clinch. He also noted in the books that the gold from Wells' cottage was stamped with the name Aurora.



Edgar Clinch

Edgar Clinch rents the Gridrion Hotel from Emery Staines. Anna Wetherell and the rest of Dick Mannering's girls stay there. Clinch is in love with Anna. He finds the gold in her dresses and devises a plan to buy up a plot of land and pretend that he found the gold there. When Crosbie Wells dies and his property comes up for sale, Clinch snatches it up to begin his plans.



Symbols and Symbolism

Godspeed

Godspeed is a ship owned by Alistair Lauderback. Lauderback is tricked into signing the ship over to Francis Carter. Walter Moody comes to Hokitika on the Godspeed. Later that night, it flounders near the shore and is sunk.

Aurora Goldmine

Aurora Goldmine is owned by Emery Staines and Francis Carter. Quee Long pans for gold there. It is not a profitable goldmine.

Gold

Gold is what the characters strive to obtain to change their lives. Crosbie Wells found gold that is stolen by his wife and Francis Carter. Quee wants gold so that he can return home and live comfortably. Gold leads the characters to do irrational things that jeopardize their futures.

Opium

Opium is the reason that Sook Yongsheng's father was killed. Anna is hooked on opium. It leads her to be jailed. Emery Staines tries opium and is lost in its grip and loses his fortune. Sook runs an opium den. He became hooked when it was used to help him deal with the pain when he was beaten. Pritchard starts dealing in opium when Francis Carter offers to be his supplier. Pritchard supplies the opium to Sook's opium den.

Laudium

Laudium is found in the home of Crosbie Wells after his death. He did not buy it from Joseph Pritchard, yet it came from his store. Pritchard feels that someone is trying to implicate him in Crosbie Wells' death.

Seaview Gaol

Seaview Gaol is being built to accommodate the criminals in Hokitika. The building is being overseen by George Shepard. He blackmails Harald Nilssen for the funds to start the construction.



Wells Cottage in the Arahura Valley

Crosbie Wells buys a cottage in the Arahura Valley because he wants nothing more to do with mining for gold. He wants to start a timber mill. He is found dead in the cottage. Four thousand pounds of gold bars are found there, too. The cottage and land are sold by the bank to Edgar Clinch before it is discovered that Wells had a wife. The wife shows up wanting her inheritance.

The Reserve Bank

The Reserve Bank is where the gold miners bring their gold to be weighed and processed. It is here where Charlie Frost sees that the gold bars taken from Crosbie Wells' cottage are stamped with the mark of the Aurora gold mine.

Wells birth certificate

Crosbie Wells birth certificate is stolen by his wife and given to Francis Carver so that he can use it to buy the ship Godspeed. He also uses Crosbie's name to transport Lydia's dresses that are filled with the gold stolen from Crosbie.

The Crown Hotel

The Crown Hotel is the meeting place of the twelve men who are affected by the incidents that happened on January 14. They are meeting to discuss how they are each involved and what to do. Walter Moody has just taken a room at the Crown Hotel and wanders in on their meeting. By doing so, he is drawn into their story.

Anna Wetherell's dresses

Anna Wetherell purchases dresses from a wrecked ship. They are the same dresses in which Lydia Wells sewed the gold that she stole from her husband, Crosbie Wells. Quee Long takes the gold from the dresses, while Anna sleeps off her opium daze. The dresses hold four thousand pounds worth of gold.

Alistair Lauderback's trunk

Alistair Lauderback sends his trunk by ship, while he makes his way to Hokitika on horseback. The trunk arrives and then disappears from Thomas Balfour's warehouse. It later turns up in the wreckage of Godspeed and is delivered to the room of Walter Moody. Once Moody has looked through the contents, he has the trunk sent to Alistair Lauderback's hotel room.

Settings

Hokitika, New Zealand

Hokitika, New Zealand, is a town built around a gold rush. It has recently been established so there are few amenities. It is populated mostly by men who are there to mine for gold. There is a Chinese community where Anna goes to the opium den. It is a town that will prosper as gold is mined and spent within the town.

Kaniere

Kaniere is where Ah Sook has his opium den. Anna Wetherell is a frequent visitor. Emery Staines stays there so no one can find him. It is seen as a plight on the community of Hokitika.

Sydney, Australia

Sydney, Australia is where Anna Wetherell and Emery Staines started their journey to New Zealand. Sook Yongsheng is put on trial for murder in Sydney. He is charged with killing Shepard. The charges are dismissed when the man's wife claims he committed suicide.

Dunedin, New Zealand

Dunedin is where Lydia Wells meets Crosbie Wells. She owns an establishment called the House of Many Wishes. Francis Carver is a frequent visitor when Crosbie is off mining for gold. Anna and Emery come from Sydney to Dunedin and cross the paths of Lydia and Carver, which is detrimental to their lives. Dunedin is where the stories of Crosbie and Carver begin and why Carver seeks revenge against Crosbie. It is a gold mining town that has gone bust.



Themes and Motifs

Greed

Francis Carver and Lydia Greenway Wells steal the gold that Crosbie Wells has procured. They use his birth certificate to con Alastair Lauderback out of his ship, the Godspeed. They use people to get what they want. They are most interested in making money and do not care whom they hurt to get it.

Lydia makes money by roping innocent young women fresh off the boat to work for her as prostitutes. She uses these young women because of her need for money and power over others. Greed sends Lydia Wells rushing to Hokitika to claim her husband's estate. Carver most likely found the gold after he killed Crosbie and he sent Lydia running to claim it. The two went through a lot to steal the gold and want it back.

The story is set in a gold rush in New Zealand. Gold causes envy. When one man finds a large deposit, it makes the other men wish they had found it and work harder to obtain it. Gold causes greed.

Revenge

Francis Carver seeks revenge against Crosbie Wells for viciously attacking him and giving him the scar that disfigures his face. He offers money to anyone who gives him information about Crosbie Wells. When Tauwhare takes him up on this offer, it sets off another thread of revenge. He believed Carver to be a friend of Crosbie's and saw no harm in telling him where to find Crosbie. After hearing that Crosbie is dead and he had seen Carver going to his cottage, Tauwhare knows he did wrong by his friend. He kills Carver out of vengeance for killing his friend and making him an unwilling accomplice to his friend's murder.

Sook seeks revenge against Carver for the death of his father who was killed for transporting opium. Carver was using the man's business as a way to transport opium out of China unknown to Sook's father. He was executed by the Chinese government who had no tolerance for opium traders. Sook finds out about Carver's involvement and vows vengeance. His attempts to kill Carver are unfruitful. His first attempt results in the death of another man, which sets off another thread of revenge.

George Shepard's brother is killed by Shepard's wife, Margaret. It is believed that Sook is the killer, but Margaret takes the stand at his trial and proclaims that her husband committed suicide. Sook is acquitted of the crime and released. George Shepard knows that his brother did not commit suicide and so still believes that Sook is the killer. He marries his brother's wife, Margaret and when he discovers that Sook is in Hokitika years later he plots his revenge. He kills Sook when the man is finally about to get his own revenge on Carver. Shepard kills the man not knowing that he is innocent for the murder of his brother. Margaret killed him because he was abusive and she took her



chance to rid herself of him when Sook appeared. Unfortunately, for Margaret, George Shepard felt it his duty to marry his brother's wife and take care of her.

Deception

Lydia Wells marries Crosbie Wells so that she does not have to give him the prize that he wins in her gambling establishment. Lydia will do anything to keep hold of money, whether it is hers or not. She attempts to deceive Crosbie again when he finds his gold missing from his safe, but he does not trust her.

Francis Carver uses deceit to trick Lauderback into signing over the Godspeed to him. Carver convinces him that he is Crosbie's brother and that Lauderback has shamed his brother by having an affair with Lydia. He also uses Crosbie's gold sewn into Lydia's dresses to scare Lauderback into signing over the ship.

Lydia deceives Anna into believing that she has come to the harbor to look for a woman who has paid to stay at her boarding house. She actually goes there to take in innocent young girls who have just come off the boat. Lydia actually runs a gambling establishment and the girls who work for her are prostitutes. Anna is naïve and is taken in by Lydia. Lydia eventually sells Anna's debt to Dick Mannering and she works for him as a prostitute.

Deception by Francis Carver and Lydia Wells causes havoc on many of the characters. Crosbie Wells loses his fortune and must run for his life. Alistair Lauderback loses his most prized ship. Anna Wetherell is duped into a life of prostitution and drugs. The three suffer greatly, while Lydia and Carver reap the rewards.

Love

Anna Wetherell and Emery Staines are in love with one another. It is the reason that she will not believe that he is dead. Their love helps Anna to give up opium and her life as a prostitute. She wants to be worthy of Emery's love. She does not think that she can do this while imbibing opium and being with other men.

Emery wants to know Anna better, so he takes up opium. The addiction takes a strong hold on him and leaves him craving more. He indulges so much that he loses touch with reality. In his quest to understand Anna, he throws himself wholeheartedly into what he sees her life to be.

The two are young and naïve and make mistakes, but their feelings for one another are real and their lives affect those around them. Anna stands by Emery even when he is missing and does not lose her faith in him and her love in him. Emery shows his love for Anna by standing by her at her trial.

Styles

Point of View

The point of view of the novel is third person, omniscient. As the plot unfolds through the eyes of multiple characters, the narrator shares all past and present actions. Each pivotal character has the opportunity to show their involvement.

The story is told through exposition and dialogue. This allows the reader to become acquainted with the characters and their idiosyncrasies. The dialogue shows the passion that drives each character. The story is told by a time line set in present time interspersed with events from the past. The viewpoint switches from chapter to chapter between multiple characters so the reader sees the story as seen from different points of view. It gives a multifaceted perspective of the events that unfold.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is complex. The book is intended for a mature and educated audience. The language is beyond many of the characters in the book, which indicates that the narrator is not one of the characters. The sentences are complex and the word usage is for a well-educated audience. It can make the book difficult for someone who does not have a strong vocabulary. It requires an intellectual approach that could make it difficult to read.

The language of the novel is on a mature level. It makes the reader think and draws them into the story. The flowery language is contrasted by the stark living conditions of most of the characters and the circumstances in which they find themselves. The language gives the reader hope for the characters as they traverse through their story.

The author's style is complex with compound sentences and intellectual vocabulary. The characters range from long in the beginning of the book to short and concise at the end. This makes the book difficult to start and moves quickly near the end. The story is engrossing. The style of the language keeps the reader on the outside of the story for the language does not fit the characters. This is useful for Walter Moody is an outsider who is taken into the confidences of the characters of the story. The reader feels his journey from outsider to community member.

Structure

The Luminaries is comprised of twelve parts. The first part is the most substantial of the story. This is where the men tell of how they are each connected by the death of Crosbie Wells, the suicide of a prostitute, and the disappearance of a prominent young man. It starts out slow, gains momentum, then dwindles until reaching a conclusion.



The main plot of the novel is simple. It centers around greed and revenge. However, subplots are more complicated as the characters become entangled in stories of one another. A man is murdered because he had money and disgraced the man who stole it from him. Francis Carver stole the gold Crosbie Wells had acquired and then attempted to kill Crosbie. However, Crosbie turned the tables and left Carver with a scar as a constant reminder of his failure. Carver sought revenge. When he finally found Crosbie, he killed him. Carver and Lydia's deceit is what drives the story, for they have affected every character in some way.

The novel is slow as it portrays the complex relationships of all the characters and how they are intertwined. The words are complex. The author does not tie up the loose ends. The reader must evaluate what they are told and decide what they believe happened.



Quotes

One needn't be private about another fellow's wrong! One needn't feel ashamed of another fellow's –deeds, you know!

-- Thomas Balfour (Mercury in Sagittarius paragraph 14)

Importance: Balfour wants to know what kind of man that Walter Moody is to see if he can trust him. The men in the Crown need someone who is not personally involved in the happenings to listen to their story and tell them what he thinks. By offering the story of his father's misdeeds, he shows that he is willing to trust these men and they should trust him.

Oh, Lydia Wells is a canny soul! She keeps her eyes on the pennies and her fingers on the pounds. She wouldn't sign her name except for profit.

-- Dick Mannering (Moon in Taurus, Waxing paragraph 7)

Importance: This quote shows Lydia Wells' true character. She acts like she is sweet and nice, but she will not do anything that does not benefit her. Mannering sees her as money grubbing and not caring for anyone who cannot offer her something. She is vain and shallow and does not care how her actions affects others. She uses young women to profit her business. She marries Crosbie Wells to keep from paying out a jackpot and ends up stealing his money and his identity. She uses people to gain what she wants.

I suppose that my impression of him is not an altogether good one. He is a rich man's son first and a convict second, but it might just as well be the other way about: I believe he shows the worst of both worlds. He's a thug, but he's conniving. Or, to put it another way, his life is lavish, but it's base.

-- Benjamin Lowenthal (Moon in Taurus, Waxing paragraph 3)

Importance: This quote shows Carver's character. He comes from a wealthy family, but he has a criminal mentality. He likes to live large, but prefers to steal from others rather than obtain things on his own. Carver wants things handed to him without working for it. Lowenthal works hard so does not like Carver's mentality. These are men who have worked hard to get what they have in life and Carver is a threat to them. He is a bully who manipulates people into doing what he wants.

I think the question you ought to be asking, my dear, is not how much; it is who, and why. Whose gold is that? Whose claim did it come from? And where was it bound?

-- Albert Gascoigne (Sun in Capricorn paragraph 4)

Importance: Gascoigne tries to make Anna see that the gold does not belong to her just because she found it in her dress. They need to find out why it was there and the rightful owner. It could be dangerous to keep the gold. It peaks Gascoigne's interest, and he cannot understand why Anna is not interested. It shows how Gascoigne views life with curiosity. It shows Anna as having a negative attitude about life.



We spend our entire lives thinking about death. Without that project to divert us, I expect we would all be dreadfully bored. We would have nothing to evade, and nothing to forestall, and nothing to wonder about. Time would have no consequence.

-- Walter Moody (Part II paragraph 4)

Importance: Moody is discussing how death is the meaning of life. Without death, life has no meaning. Death is on everyone's mind now that Crosbie Wells has died and Emery Staines has disappeared. People love to speculate. It makes life more exciting to have something to defy. Death is exciting because it is mysterious. It makes a person see that there is more to life than what they see and makes them feel connected to others. This is shown in how Wells' death brings the twelve men together.

You indulge the very drug that killed your father—and you have the audacity to style yourself his defender! You insist he was betrayed—and yet you betray him, every time you light your lamp!

-- Ah Quee (Part II paragraph 13)

Importance: Ah Quee tries to make Ah Sook see that he is betraying his father by smoking the very drug that killed his father. He wants to know how he can seek vengeance against another man when he betrays his father everyday by operating an opium den. Ah Quee sees Ah Sook as the person who has shamed his father and killed his reputation by succumbing to the drug for which he was killed. Killing Carver will not stop Ah Sook's addiction, which is the ultimate betrayal of his father. To avenge his father, Ah Sook needs to exorcise his own demons.

Revenge is an act of jealousy, not of justice. It is a selfish perversion of the law.

-- George Shepard (Part III paragraph 11)

Importance: Shepard wants to make one think that he is above revenge because it is a base concept; but, his killing of Ah Sook is an act of revenge. He thinks because he says it is not revenge that makes all the difference. Revenge is a perversion of justice which drives many characters in this novel. It ruins the lives of Ah Sook and Shepard. Shepard marries Margaret to punish her for tarnishing his brother's name. It is a kind of revenge against her because he does not love her and does not want her to be happy. Revenge takes up people's lives and makes them negative and unhappy.

There's no charity in a gold town. If it looks like charity, look again.

-- Crosbie Wells (Part IV paragraph 7)

Importance: Crosbie is trying to tell Anna that she cannot trust Lydia. She is only out to better her circumstances, not those of anyone else. In a gold town, people are out to make their own fortune and can be callous and manipulative. Greed is prevalent. People are only nice to advance their own agendas. Crosbie was taken in by Lydia and is bitter about how she manipulated him. He does not want Anna to be used as he has been.



True feeling is always circular—either circular, or paradoxical—simply because its cause and its expression are two halves of the same thing! Love cannot be reduced to a catalogue of reasons why, and a catalogue of reasons cannot be put together into love. Any man who disagrees with me has never been in love—not truly.

-- Emery Staines (Part IV paragraph 14)

Importance: Emery Staines is talking about how he cannot explain his love for Anna and how no one else can understand it if they have not known true love. What Emery and Anna have is unique. He feels that love cannot be justified, but must be felt. Reasoning and logic do not have anything to do with love. Anna and Emery can sense one another in a way that no one else can. This connection gives them insight into each other. They know each other better than anyone else. This connection comes from having the same birth date and time.

Let's say that the answer is conditional; in myself, I value loyalty; in others, honesty.

-- Emery Staines (Part VI paragraph 9)

Importance: This statement shows Emery's character. He is not quick to answer a question. He mulls it over before answering Wells' question about honesty and loyalty. Emery weighs what is important to him and honestly answers the man's question. Emery is an honest, loyal person. He views the world in the same way. Being cynical, Wells asks the question to test Emery Staines' character. Staines is upfront and trustworthy, and his answer proves it.

Misery won't do. Misery is bad for business, whatever the business. A man won't bet on it, and a man won't bet against it—and it has to be one or the other, you see, in our line of work.

-- Dick Mannering (Part VIII paragraph 1)

Importance: Mannering does not like that Anna does opium. He wants to let her know how it affects her and that he worries about her. Anna smokes opium because she cannot stand her life as a prostitute. This is not the life that she wanted. Anna gives up opium when she falls in love with Emery. She wants to experience life not dull the pain of her life. A man wants to forget his worries when he is with a prostitute. Anna's negative attitude is not good for business.

The baby's gone. Your baby's gone.

-- Emery Staines (Part X paragraph 2)

Importance: This tells the reader that Crosbie Wells was the father of Anna's baby. It shows that Anna cared for him and they had a relationship. Anna did not start prostitution until she was sold to Mannering and sent to Hokitika. By losing the baby, Anna lost the one thing she had in her life that was pure and innocent. Her child was the one thing that reminded her of who she was before she came to Hokitika. Anna's innocence and naivety were lost when she lost her baby. It also shows the friendship of Emery Staines and Crosbie Wells and how they have bonded. The two men both care for Anna and want to protect her.