

The Monkey Wrench Gang Study Guide

The Monkey Wrench Gang by Edward Abbey

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Plot Summary

The Monkey Wrench Gang, by Edward Abbey, is a novel that follows four characters through their adventures as they protest the destruction of the southwestern United States. Their adventures help all of them to discover who they really are and what they truly want in life.

On the surface, The Monkey Wrench Gang is a novel about four characters and their fight to protest the industrialization and destruction of the southwestern landscape. On reading the novel, however, one finds the novel is much more about the characteristics of mankind, and how their environment and experiences alter those characteristics. Doc Sarvis is a heart surgeon with a thriving medical practice whose wife has died. He has a physical and emotional relationship with a woman half his age, Bonnie Abzug, and has seen an increase in cancer in his patients due to the industrialization of the southwest. Doc, in his spare time, along with Abzug, destroys billboards. Abzug is a confused and lonely young woman who claims to loathe industrialization and who loves Doc but dreams of excitement and intrigue. Seldom Seen Smith, a river boat guide, is a polygamous Mormon whose livelihood depends on the wilderness. His hometown of Hite, Utah was buried underwater with the building of Glen Canyon Dam. George Hayduke, a Vietnam veteran, dreamed of the cleanliness of the canyons during his fourteen months as a POW, and came home to find much of it destroyed.

These four characters meet during a river boat trip and start a chaotic ride as the foursome protest construction, strip mining, logging, oil drilling, and other industrial operations. Their actions, however, become increasingly violent and dangerous, causing authorities to take notice and begin hunting them down. Led by Bishop Love, a Mormon with high political dreams and personal stakes in the industrialization of the area, the Search and Rescue team are never far behind. One by one, the foursome begins to question their own actions and their futures. Only Hayduke, filled with rage and anger, wishes to continue his quest, and seems untouchable. Loyalties are challenged and motives are questioned as the foursome find themselves pursued to the edges of the landscape. Eventually, Hayduke's spiral of anger and destruction, combined with Abzug's personal confusions about love, Doc's own conscience, and Smith's love for his wife break the group apart, allowing authorities to capture them one by one. In the end, these four characters discover their true identities, their own strengths, their own weaknesses, and their own reasons for their beliefs.



Introduction

Introduction Summary

The Monkey Wrench Gang is a novel set in the southwestern United States that follows the lives of four environmental activists as they attempt to halt the strip mining, logging, and oil drilling industries in the area. Throughout their journey, they find strength in one another and find where their own loyalties truly lie.

The introduction, written by Douglas Brinkley, begins by explaining the characteristics of Edward Abbey, the author of the book. Abbey was raised in the Appalachian Mountains, and grew up in the early thirties. In 1944, at the age of seventeen, he struck out for the West, hitchhiking from his home in Pennsylvania to Seattle, and then hopping boxcars to Navajo County. His travels, along with his experiences in the southwest, led him further into his strong beliefs against strip miners, logging companies, power plants, oil companies, and other forms of big business or industry that caused harm to the environment. The FBI, more moderate ecological groups such as the Sierra Club, and critics dubbed Abbey the "desert anarchist". He served in WWII, and upon his return home, attended the University of New Mexico and achieved a B.A. in philosophy. Abbey's vocal nature against the establishment led the FBI to investigate him as a communist and terrorist for the next thirty-seven years. Some critics claimed he wrote *The Monkey Wrench Gang* as a bible for eco-terrorism. Abbey himself freely admitted he wanted to see the Glen Canyon Dam destroyed, but also claimed his novels were written simply to amuse and enlighten people about ecology. However, one group of grassroots environmentalists took the novel to be their calling. The leader of the group was Abbey's own inspiration for the character in the story, Hayduke. Abbey never claimed any tie to the movement, although he befriended several of the key members. Through his works, Brinkley notes, Abbey became a folk hero while he was still alive, and Brinkley predicts his legend will live on beyond his death.

Introduction Analysis

Brinkley's explanation of both Abbey and the true history behind *The Monkey Wrench Gang* immensely helps the reader establish connections within the novel. Realizing Abbey is himself a left-wing ecological champion as well as a hater of the establishment and of any industry harming the environment, it is easy to see Abbey's themes within the novel. Further, knowing his hatred of the Glen Canyon Dam helps to explain the character's own drives and ambitions throughout the novel. It is also clear, through Brinkley's description of the grassroots organizations who used Abbey's novels as bibles, and of the FBI response to those groups, as well as Abbey himself, that Abbey's characters are a near reflection of his own life. Aside from simply being an interesting character analysis of Abbey, the introduction serves to prepare the reader for the themes and concepts, as well as the characters, used within the novel.



Prologue: The Aftermath

Prologue: The Aftermath Summary

There are several hundred people attending the dedication of a new bridge that spans Glen Canyon between Utah and Arizona. Glen Canyon houses the Colorado River, which was once a raging force of nature, but is now a tame glacier river, thanks to the building of the Glen Canyon Dam. The ribbon that is to be cut spans from one side of the bridge to the other, and the edges of the bridge are adorned with banners. As the ribbon is cut, onlookers notice it burns like a fuse to the center. Suddenly, unplanned fireworks begin to shoot off, and the bridge appears to be on fire. The onlookers begin to cheer, but are suddenly silent as a huge explosion rips the bridge in half, sending smoke, debris, and empty vehicles crashing seven hundred feet to the river below. The Governor of Utah, a highway commissioner, and two officers of the Department of Public Safety discuss the attack as they walk back to their vehicles, noting that the eco-terrorist group responsible for the bridge attack plans next to destroy the Glen Canyon Dam, according to reports.

Prologue: The Aftermath Analysis

In this first chapter, Abbey begins the story with the destruction of the bridge near his own personal enemy, the Glen River Dam. It is clear through his descriptions within this chapter that his love for nature is deep and profound, whereas the way he despises the ecological rape of the land is equally passionate. His descriptions of the once mighty Colorado River are vivid and alive, whereas those of the population of politicians is dry and unappealing, clearly displaying his own biases. It is also made clear that the group responsible for the destruction of the bridge is an ecologically based protest group, and that their next goal is the destruction of the Glen Canyon Dam, foreshadowing events later in the novel.



Origins I: A.K. Sarvis, M.D. and Origins II: George W. Hayduke

Origins I: A.K. Sarvis, M.D. and Origins II: George W. Hayduke Summary

Doc Sarvis burns down billboards along highway 66 as a beautification project. Police typically arrive within fifteen minutes, but are unable to either explain the fires or put them out with their small extinguishers. Doc is driven on these expeditions by his lover, Bonnie Abzug, in a Lincoln Continental. The couple drives to a location on this evening, and stop briefly to listen to the sounds of the river they love. Abzug is a hard woman from the Bronx, who admits she loves Doc in a certain way. Doc, who has been loved only by his mother, his now deceased wife, and his children, feels lucky to have a buddy such as Bonnie. Doc's car has several emblems of his beliefs, including a medical symbol, American flags, window stickers for law enforcement, and a bumper sticker stating "God Bless America, Let's save some of it." He lights the billboard on fire as Abzug waits in the car with the engine running.

In chapter two, George W. Hayduke is in southwestern United States, having realized that industry is destroying the landscape. Having just returned from Vietnam, Hayduke is listless, driving aimlessly around the desert drinking, until he settles on the idea to visit Lee's Ferry on the Colorado River. As he drives through Flagstaff, he remembers a police officer who incorrectly arrested him for public intoxication many years ago. Hayduke decides to get revenge, and locates the man's home. Arriving, he watches as the police officer enters his house, leaving his patrol car running. Hayduke steals the vehicle, and drives to the railroad tracks where he jumps from the car as the train hits the vehicle. He grabs the police officer's shotgun, helmet, and flashlight before leaving, and takes them to his jeep, which is already full of all forms of weapons possible. As he drives north the next day, he notices an abundance of power lines that didn't exist previously, an increase in traffic, and too many bridges that he swears he will soon destroy. As he drives to what he thinks should be the Colorado River, he arrives at Glen River Bridge and stops, awestruck and angry. He urinates off the bridge, and howls into the darkness.

Origins I: A.K. Sarvis, M.D. and Origins II: George W. Hayduke Analysis

In this chapter, the reader meets two of the primary characters of the story—Doc Sarvis and Bonnie Abzug. Doc is a tall, balding man who is grim and serious, whereas Abzug is a hard woman from the Bronx with a raspy voice and strong opinions. It is clear, both from the activities of these two during the chapter as well as from their own conversations and thoughts, that the two are environmentalists. Readers will note the



apparent discrepancies between the activities of these individuals and their own actions, as they smoke, light fires, and drive large gas guzzling vehicles, but act in protest of the destruction of scenery through burning billboards. Brinkley explained in his Introduction that Abbey often contradicted himself in the same way. It is also clear through the decorations adorning Doc's vehicle that, while he acts in protest against the establishment, he hides behind those establishments, again showing a clear contradiction. Finally, this chapter serves to introduce the relationship between Doc and Abzug, as well as to foreshadow the environmental themes in the novel.

This chapter introduces another main character in the story, George W. Hayduke. A short, broad, hairy twenty-five-year-old drifter, Hayduke has just returned from Vietnam and has clearly been affected by his role in the war. Armed with more weapons than even most soldiers, Hayduke is clearly a violent individual, but also has a sense of right and wrong, as is shown by his actions towards the police officer. He does not kill the man, but does punish him for his actions previously in life. Additionally, it is clear that Hayduke loves nature and longs only for things to remain pure and simplified within what he believes to be his landscape. However, as the larger companies rape the land, Hayduke becomes more and more angry, wishing only to tear down their progress. This foreshadows events later in the novel. Further, his journey towards the same river discussed by Abzug and Doc foreshadows the meeting of these individuals.

This chapter also continues the irony presented in previous chapters, as Hayduke poisons his own body on a very consistent basis, drives a Jeep, uses modern weapons and technology, and yet still protests the progress of the landscape's destruction.



Origins III: Seldom Seen Smith and Origins IV: Ms. B. Abzug

Origins III: Seldom Seen Smith and Origins IV: Ms. B. Abzug Summary

In chapter three, Seldom Seen Smith, whose real name is Joseph Fielding Smith, is preparing for a job. He is a Mormon living in Utah who has three wives. Smith owns and operates a river trip business, and is heading to Lee's Ferry. He and a girlfriend pass Glen Canyon City, which was designed to be a quickly rising city but is simply a blink on the roadside. They pass Lake Powell, and Smith feels familiar anger as he recalls his love of the Colorado River, which used to run through the area, and the cities that now lie under the lake. The two stop and look at the dam, discussing its size and the idea that there has to be a way to destroy the dam. The woman says to pray, at which Smith drops to his knees on the bridge and begins praying to God to create an earthquake that destroys the entire dam and bridge. He is stopped by a guard, who tells him it is illegal to pray on a public bridge. Smith's jeep is covered with advertisements for his company, all of which claim to be based in Hite, Utah, which is now under Lake Powell. The two camp at Lake Powell, and as they stand in silence, they hear the sound of a man howling like a wolf. Shortly thereafter, Smith sees a naked man through his field glasses. At the end of the chapter, Smith finds himself thinking of his upcoming customers, those of Sarvis and Abzug.

Bonnie Abzug is a twenty-eight-year-old woman from the Bronx. She has passed through a number of jobs, finally settling as Doc's assistant in his medical practice. She recalls that when his wife died in a plane crash, he was completely destroyed, and so she joined him as a companion. She repeatedly refuses marriage, preferring to be free of an contractual obligation. She owns her own geodetic dome in the poorer area of Albuquerque. Her dome is generally unlivid in, as she stays often with the doctor at his ranch, but she does have it decorated with recycled tin cans, mirrors, and plastic baubles. Abzug is smart with a quick wit, as well as being beautiful. She loves Doc as much as she can, preferring him over other men. Abzug joins Doc on his nightly outings primarily for something to do, but also because she too believes in the idea. She does, on occasion, question their methods, as she is aware their activities are somewhat dangerous to the environment. Several notes are made in local papers about their destruction, and the two are proud of their activities. One night, as they are about to saw through a billboard base, Abzug realizes the posts are metal, not wood. She mentions to Doc casually she would like an acetylene torch. Shortly thereafter, the two are back to work, although the torch is much slower and brighter. Both believe they are meant for better things. Doc again mentions the boat trip to her at the end of the chapter.



Origins III: Seldom Seen Smith and Origins IV: Ms. B. Abzug Analysis

In this chapter, readers are introduced to Seldom Seen Smith, a Mormon outbacker who has turned his love for the outdoors into a business. Smith is clearly a womanizer, but also seems to be an intelligent individual, with high ideals and even higher ambitions. He, like the other characters in the story, dreams of destroying Glen Canyon Dam as well as the bridge. In Smith's case, the situation is personal, in that he seems to have strong ties to cities now buried under the lake. Additionally, this chapter serves to foreshadow the meeting of Smith, Hayduke, Sarvis, and Abzug. With the clear ecological principles of all four individuals, readers can sense adventures in the remainder of the novel.

Chapter four gives deeper insight into the character of Bonnie Abzug. Clearly a strong, independent woman, she needs to feel needed and requires a sense of security. It is clear, through her relationship with Doc, that the two are highly fond of one another, and enjoy each others company despite their age difference and her refusals of marriage. She is a strong environmentalist, firm in her beliefs, and highly devoted to her faiths. However, she does seem to question their activities more so than her companion, and does recognize the irony of the situation as they destroy things in order to protest against the destruction of nature.

It is also clear in this chapter that the activities of Abzug and Doc are gathering the attention of the local media. However, the two of them still feel as though their activities are not enough, and that they are destined for more, foreshadowing their activities later in the novel. Further, their thoughts of a trip down the river foreshadow again the meeting of Abzug, Doc, Hayduke, and Smith.



The Wooden Shoe Conspiracy and The Raid at Comb Wash

The Wooden Shoe Conspiracy and The Raid at Comb Wash Summary

Smith finds himself without any assistant for the boat and his passengers. His girlfriend picks up the passengers consisting of Doc, Abzug, and two other women in nearby Page while he packs the boats. When they return, they find Hayduke has been hired on as the assistant. Hayduke is clearly intoxicated, and throws his beer cans on the ground. As they travel down the river, they run into several areas of rough water, which they navigate well, although Hayduke does fall in once. Eventually, they stop to camp along the bank, with several noting the beauty of the uninterrupted landscape. Smith cooks steaks for his passengers and crew. They eat peacefully, with Doc discussing the problems with progress. The women excuse themselves to retire to bed while the men stay up, discussing their hatred of industry and their desires to destroy the dam. The men begin to plan smaller protest events, such as the destruction of bulldozers and powerlines. While Doc questions whether there are listening ears, Hayduke notes they should be more worried about one another. However, all men seem to silently agree they can trust one another.

In chapter six, the group prepares for their attacks thoroughly as they hide food, field equipment, and other basic necessities across the canyons of southeast Utah and northern Arizona. Hayduke initially objects to the presence of Abzug, but is outvoted since Doc is funding their projects. Hayduke is also outvoted when he wants to purchase guns for protection, and dynamite. Doc is convinced violence is not the solution, but that instead, mayhem is to be used. Hayduke knows the system will eventually push to violence, so simply bides his time.

The group locates their first target in a construction site meant to build a new road. Doc is the first watch person. As they walk to his lookout point, Smith pulls up survey stakes, noting that everyone should always pull up stakes when they see them. Doc is left to keep watch while the others head to the site where bulldozers and other equipment wait. At first they destroy everything by cutting oil lines and gas lines, snapping rods, and pouring sand and Karo syrup into crankcases and fuel tanks. Later in the evening, however, they change to just using sand and Karo, knowing the equipment will be destroyed when their users attempt to start and run the machines. Hayduke wants to light all of them on fire, but Smith disagrees, noting that they are currently committing simple vandalism, whereas fire would be arson. Hayduke wants to stay in the morning to watch the reaction, but Smith wants to go home. Abzug and the others take turns destroying the machinery and being second watch. As they finish, they hear Doc hoot a warning and see a jeep coming up the path. They scramble, but the driver of the jeep,



seeing nothing wrong, continues on. They head back to Doc, and the four escape to the truck.

The Wooden Shoe Conspiracy and The Raid at Comb Wash Analysis

This chapter shows the meeting of the four characters as they travel down the river with one another, and foreshadows the relationships they will develop throughout the novel. Hayduke again shows an inconsistent nature as he is clearly drunk, seemingly uncaring of the environment as he throws his beer cans on the ground but still proclaiming love for the river and its lands. Doc again emerges in this chapter as the philosopher, denouncing progress and explaining to Smith why progress is against nature. The men learn in this chapter to trust one another, and begin to plan their smaller acts against industry. Their discussion of the destruction of the dam shows a clear desire on all parts to end its existence. As with other chapters in the novel, the descriptions of the scenery surrounding the men is vivid, showing Abbey's love for the land.

In chapter six, the small group begins to lay the groundwork for their destructive plans. It is clear through the descriptions of their plans that the group has thought of various types of mayhem they can cause, and various ways to destroy the plans of industry. Hayduke appears to be generally outvoted at every turn, but this seems not to bother him, as he is simply waiting for the situation to unfold before them. Bonnie is as brisk as ever, but does seem to warm up to Smith. Doc shows his sensitive side as he clearly does not intend for the situation to turn violent. This difference between Doc and Hayduke foreshadows issues between these characters later in the novel. During the first raid, the group acts haphazardly, not really knowing what to do. As they progress, however, they think further into the fact that their goal should be true destruction of the machines, rather than simple disability. Hayduke knows that by not destroying the machines permanently, the group is really only delaying progress, rather than halting it. Additionally, Hayduke's comments about wanting to watch in the morning foreshadow events in the next chapter.



Hayduke's Night March and Hayduke and Smith at Play

Hayduke's Night March and Hayduke and Smith at Play Summary

Chapter seven finds Hayduke awakening the next morning alone. He finds himself thinking of Abzug, and becomes aroused, despite his desire not to. He has stayed the night near the construction site to watch the results of the evening's destruction, against the advice and wishes of the other three. He has enough water and food to walk back to an agreed upon location to meet them. He eats breakfast, covers his tracks, and then watches as the workers arrive at the site. He watches as they realize their machinery is broken, and watches others start their machines without knowing they will soon be destroyed. Satisfied, Hayduke begins to walk in the other direction, pulling up surveyor stakes as he goes. To his knowledge, he is not followed. He travels, stopping only to rest and drink, and thinks again of how he loves the landscape. He locates the site of a soon-to-be-built bridge, and writes a note in the sand as a warning. He sleeps again, awakens near the highway, and arrives at Natural Bridges to meet his companions.

As the foursome eats lunch, a man walks up asking to borrow their bolt cutters. While Abzug drives him away, the foursome becomes somewhat suspicious, and they leave the area. On the way out they are stopped by members of search and rescue, one of whom, Bishop Love, knows Smith personally. It is clear the men are unfriendly with one another, but Love lets the foursome go. Smith explains Bishop Love is largely involved in real estate, mining, farming, and politics, in addition to being a Mormon minister. Hayduke and Abzug argue, and seem to have a certain angry chemistry. Doc and Abzug are dropped off at the airport, while the other two men travel to three bridges that cross the Colorado River. Hayduke realizes that Glen Canyon Dam has virtually destroyed the Colorado River. Hayduke, after examining the three, determines the quartet will need massive explosives to destroy the bridges. As they talk, the men notice that the construction crew a few miles away has left the site the equipment unguarded. Smith gives Hayduke lessons in starting and operating the machinery. Hayduke smashes a bulldozer into the rest of the equipment and pushes them all over the edge of the canyon. Smith and Hayduke flee the scene as the construction workers pursue them. Smith and Hayduke pull off the dirt road and hide the truck, avoiding capture.

Hayduke's Night March and Hayduke and Smith at Play Analysis

Chapter seven explores Hayduke's character more fully than in previous chapters. It is clear Hayduke is an individualistic man who listens to no one when his mind is set. In his mind, he has worked to do well, and wants to see the fruits of his labor. He is



satisfied at the results, and tries to hide his tracks as he walks back to meet the others. However, there are several references within this chapter that imply he is being followed, foreshadowing events in the following chapters. Also, Hayduke's warning to the men at the bridge construction site imply Hayduke will return for further destruction. Additionally, it is clear Hayduke is attracted to Abzug, which may cause issues between the men later in the story. It is clear from this chapter that Hayduke is an individual who is very able in the countryside and knows much about getting around without any assistance.

In chapter eight, the foursome find themselves confronted on several occasions by individuals who seem to know their actions of destruction. These seemingly small events foreshadow both the group's rising visibility as well as the rising risks the team takes to protest the "rape" of the land. In addition, the interplay between Smith and Love, along with Smith's description of Love later in the chapter, show that not only is Love a threat to the group, but he is a threat with a personal interest. In addition, the chemistry between Abzug and Hayduke, although generally violent and demeaning, has a passion hidden within that suggests a relationship between these two later in the novel. Additionally, Hayduke's actions at both the bridges, discussing explosives, and at the construction site, show his own increasing propensity for violence.



Search and Rescue on the Job and Doc and Bonnie Go Shopping

Search and Rescue on the Job and Doc and Bonnie Go Shopping Summary

Hayduke and Smith begin celebrating their latest victory, but Smith, sensing danger, stops to look back at their pursuers. Smith sees Bishop Love joining the search for the men. Smith informs Hayduke as they drive in panic that it is up to him to form an escape plan. Hayduke offers to shoot cows and place them in the road, but instead, Smith suggests lighting a vine-covered fence on fire after they pass through it. This slows the pursuers, but only briefly. Hayduke finally offers to use a steel bar to move boulders onto the road below after Smith passes, and to walk the rest of the way out of the canyon after making sure Bishop is stopped. Smith agrees, and drives ahead. Hayduke slows the Search and Rescue team at first by moving boulders onto the road, but sees he will not stop them that way. He eventually drops a boulder directly onto Love's Blazer. Hayduke joins Smith at the top of the canyon where they celebrate through the night, drive to the Henry Mountains, and sleep.

In chapter ten, Abzug and Doc are shopping for various supplies for their eco-terrorism raids, purchasing explosives and other equipment, claiming it is for a mining claim. The couple stops in a bar before Doc has to return to the hospital and fight. Abzug is noticeably irritable, and appears to be annoyed that Doc sees her as "someone around" to keep him company. Doc, conversely, is confused, and wants to know exactly what it is Abzug wants. She clearly does not know. Doc accuses her of being in love with Hayduke or Smith, and Abzug denies loving Hayduke, but admits it may be possible, although not true with Smith. They leave as Doc uses his hands on Abzug's body to make her more at ease. Abzug allows his caresses, but stops him eventually, hurting his feelings. When he asks if they are still lovers, Abzug hesitates, but replies yes. After dropping him off, Abzug returns to her dome, tense, and tries to meditate only to find thoughts of Hayduke interfering. She realizes she is bored.

Search and Rescue on the Job and Doc and Bonnie Go Shopping Analysis

In chapter nine, readers are able to see a much darker side of Hayduke hinted to in previous chapters. It is clear by now Hayduke has a severe drinking problem, but this chapter also shows an increase in violent tendencies in Hayduke, foreshadowing events later as Hayduke spirals out of control. Smith, on the other hand, is shown again as the voice of reason and sanity, and as one against violence against men or animals. Further, Love proves himself to be a formidable and determined enemy capable of



amassing men and equipment when needed in a short amount of time. Such determination forewarns readers of Love's role later in the novel.

In chapter ten, Abzug's true nature is brought to light. Instead of the loving, independent woman she appeared to be, Abzug is now shown as a bored, near thirty, argumentative woman who really does not know what she wants in life. While Doc clearly loves Abzug, he also accuses her of being in love with Hayduke or Smith, showing his own insecurities, it seems. Abzug denies feelings for Hayduke, but finds herself thinking about him later in the chapter. When combined with the argumentative scenes between these characters earlier in the novel, readers begin to suspect a budding relationship between them. It is obvious Abzug cares for Doc, just as Doc cares for her, but as their relationship develops through this chapter, it is equally clear there is discord and dysfunction that is likely to derail their already tentative relations.



Back to Work and The Kraken's Arm

Back to Work and The Kraken's Arm Summary

Hayduke and Smith stop at Burr Pass to destroy and ignite a bulldozer, the last step of which Smith disagrees. As they drive further on, they find geophones, or devices used to scout land for development, which Hayduke and Smith pull up with the power of the truck. Shortly after, the men find an unmanned oil rig. Smith voices concern, and Hayduke tells him to go on ahead and find a camp to make breakfast. Hayduke destroys the engines that power the rig and walks up the canyon to find Smith. The two continue to drive across Utah, cutting fences to allow cattle and horses to roam freely as they go. Smith drives to the Glen Canyon Bridge, and again prays to God about the situation, after which he and Hayduke discuss ways to destroy the dam, including a plan using houseboats filled with explosives. They head to a bar, where Hayduke attempts to start a fight, but fails. Smith takes Hayduke to his jeep, and the two drive out of town to camp. Smith awakens to Hayduke having a nightmare, and responds by throwing a shoe. Hayduke awakens, grabs his gun, and aims it at Smith. Hayduke awakens fully, realizes Smith was trying to help, but warns him that to awaken him from a nightmare is unsafe.

The foursome eat in a local restaurant, where Abzug and Hayduke again seem to argue with a sense of intimacy, and then travel to their next destination, that of the coal company extraction center. Hayduke proposes they take explosives, put them on the conveyor belt, and let the machine take them to the loading towers to explode them. They argue about the use of explosives, and instead decide to take out the power and derail the coal train. Each individual has his or her own thoughts as they arrive at the site. Hayduke claims to have studied the situation and knows what time the trains will run. He also states he read that the trains are automated. The eventual plan is for Hayduke to mine the bridge through a pressure release set off by the train, thereby destroying train, bridge, and railroad, then saw through the power poles with the chainsaw, and place explosives in the control rooms. Smith, Abzug, and Doc will place explosives on the conveyor belt to destroy the loading towers.

Back to Work and The Kraken's Arm Analysis

This chapter emphasizes again the differences between Hayduke and Smith. Hayduke, on two separate occasions, completes acts of vandalism that Smith disagrees with, showing himself to be more daring and more dangerous. His attempt to start the bar fight not only foreshadows a bar fight later in the novel, but also shows that Hayduke simply wants to entice violence, regardless of the consequences. Smith, on the other hand, is willing to pull up geophones and cut fences that free the animals. It is clear his ambitions lie more in saving than in destroying. However, several previous references by Hayduke to his time in the war combined with his nightmare and his reaction to being woken up suggest his behaviors are related to his experiences in Vietnam, and the



effect of those experiences on his mental health and overall attitudes. Smith, praying at the bridge and attempting to help Hayduke, shows himself again to be a caring, intelligent, honest man.

In chapter twelve, readers again see Hayduke's tendency towards violence and his continued persistence that lives may have to be lost in order to save the landscape. The others, however, again argue for sanity and pacification, although they eventually agree to Hayduke's plan. Hayduke and Abzug again argue with that same sense of angry intimacy that suggests a relationship between these characters later in the novel. Hayduke's detailed knowledge of the train times, and the lack of a crew, foreshadows events in the next chapter as he is proven incorrect.



Duologues and Working on the Railroad

Duologues and Working on the Railroad Summary

Smith and Doc discuss Hayduke in detail. Smith is beginning to distrust Hayduke, but Doc notes Hayduke is trustworthy but angry because of his experiences. Smith also admits he wonders why Doc is a part of the group, to which Doc replies he has seen cancer due to air pollution eating up his patients. Next, Hayduke and Abzug are discussing Smith. Hayduke doesn't trust Smith, but Abzug notes he is the only decent one in the group. Hayduke and Smith are next discussing Abzug, whom Hayduke claims to dislike, but whom Smith believes to be vital. Finally, Abzug and Doc are discussing Hayduke and Smith. Abzug claims to despise Hayduke, but likes Smith, although she believes him to be sexist. Doc begins to come on to Abzug, but she interrupts him. Doc states he doesn't believe he wants to hear what she has to say. In the next scene, Hayduke and Abzug are discussing their movement, when Abzug suddenly asks if Hayduke would like to kiss her. He states he would, but needs to talk to Doc first. Abzug, angry, storms away.

Hayduke wakes everyone early, and Abzug wakes Doc, reminding him she still loves him. As they drive to the site, Abzug begins to doubt their plans, as do the others, but all remain convinced they are doing good works. Abzug and Doc are posted above the bridge as lookouts while Smith and Hayduke dig the holes and place the charges under the railroad that crosses the bridge. Suddenly, Doc and Abzug sound their alarm, and Hayduke and Smith clear the equipment. The track car passes them, and they return to work. Abzug realizes she is fond of all three men. The foursome gather around Hayduke as he explains how to set off the charges. Hayduke sets the dynamite, and the foursome hears the train coming. Hayduke climbs to the lookout post to relay signals to Abzug who will set off the charge, with Doc as a backup. Just as Hayduke gives the signal, he sees a man in the cab, and realizes the press lied. Abzug finds herself unable to detonate the explosives because of fear, but Doc assists her. Hayduke watches as the bridge explodes and the train sliding backwards into the canyon. The engineer jumps clear, however, and Hayduke and the others make their escape.

Duologues and Working on the Railroad Analysis

In chapter thirteen, conversations between all four characters help give insight into the minds of each individual. Smith is clearly wary of Hayduke, but Doc understands that he is filled with a rage and anger at the government and at any force that attempts to destroy because of his experiences in Vietnam. Doc himself has seen more and more people diagnosed with cancers and various tumors and believes the cause to be the increased air and water pollution. Abzug, although she denies it, clearly finds Hayduke attractive in an animalistic, exciting way and holds a grudge that he had enough dignity to refuse her advances to spare Doc. Hayduke too clearly has feelings for Abzug, although he states he wishes she were not with the group. It is suggested that Abzug



has told Doc she has feelings for others, foreshadowing her and Hayduke's relationship later in the novel.

In the beginning of chapter fourteen, Abzug wakes Doc and is particularly loving. However, readers are led to believe Abzug is using the Doc, aware that Hayduke and Smith are watching her. Abzug also appears weak in her resolve to continue their protests as they drive to the site, but still holds clear resentment against Hayduke. Hayduke shows his skills in this chapter as his military expertise of explosives and strategic planning comes in to play. Doc makes a statement that reflects Abzug has told him she is leaving him, but refuses to say more. However, his actions show his love for Abzug, at least on a companionable and sexual level. Abzug's own thoughts about the men as she watches them work, however, convey a sense of inconsistency and a lack of true emotional identification. Readers sense that Abzug doesn't know what, or who, she wants. She is even unable to complete the demolition task, and relies on Doc to assist her. Whereas previously she appeared as an independent, confident and loving woman, she is now seems confused, lost, and highly codependent.

Hayduke's reaction to seeing a man in the train is typical of his character, but shows at least a human side to the man. He had read that the trains were unmanned, and when he discovers this is not the case, he is angered that "they" lied to him again. He does express a short fear for the man in the train, and is glad the man is unharmed, but his primary focus is on the lies he was told, symbolizing again his reactions to being in Vietnam.



Rest and Relaxation, Saturday Night in America, and The American Logging Industry: Plans and Problems

Rest and Relaxation, Saturday Night in America, and The American Logging Industry: Plans and Problems Summary

Abzug and Doc find themselves confronted by a ranger as they leave Navajo National Monument. The ranger asks about their origins, their activities, and their missing friend, Hayduke, whom Abzug claims is a brother named Joe Smith. He also asks if they know anything about the derailed train. He asks to investigate the vehicle, and after much argument and threats, does so. He finds boxes of explosives, but looks inside to find peanut butter and other stored goods. Abzug tells him they retrieved the boxes from a nearby campfire, and the ranger, now accompanied by other rangers, declare it must have been the Shoshone Indians. As the rangers leave, Smith and Hayduke emerge from the bushes.

Doc is scheduled to return to his practice, but Bonnie chooses to stay behind. At the airport, Doc tells Smith to take care of Hayduke and Abzug. He also pulls Hayduke aside and tells him he blesses Abzug and Hayduke, even though Hayduke claims not to want Abzug. When he says goodbye to Abzug, he is comforting as she begins to cry, and tells her to take care of Hayduke and Smith. They express love to one another, and Doc flies away. The three head to a bar, where Hayduke again attempts to start a fight after someone insults Abzug. He is knocked out and comes to in a hotel room, with Abzug nursing his wounds tenderly. She tells him Smith fought to defend Hayduke and both were beat up. Smith voluntarily sleeps outside and leaves Hayduke and Abzug to make love.

The following morning, Smith decides to return home to his wives. After a short goodbye, Hayduke and Abzug begin driving to the forests above the Grand Canyon to investigate the logging operations. They argue, fight, and make love often throughout the trip. Hayduke is violent in his lovemaking, and Abzug seems to enjoy the thrill. They also stop to destroy signs. As they arrive at a logging site, Hayduke attempts to explain how clear cutting logging operations function, and Abzug is angry about the loss of trees. Hayduke admits he is asking for a counter industrial revolution and notes that the wilderness is the only thing he believes is worth saving. They check for a night watchmen, and finding none, begin to destroy the site.



Rest and Relaxation, Saturday Night in America, and The American Logging Industry: Plans and Problems Analysis

The events in chapter fifteen show that the activities of the foursome are beginning to draw even more attention. Now on the news, their destruction has reached a level that will certainly get them caught. When the ranger asks specific questions, Doc and Abzug show a weakness in coming up with quick, logical answers, giving them an even more suspicious air. Thankfully, their final answers about the boxes lead the rangers in a different direction, but their activities have made a memorable impression on the rangers, foreshadowing the hunt for the foursome later in the novel.

In chapter sixteen, Abzug decides to stay with the two men while Doc travels home. Smith agrees to look out for the two, but Hayduke is clearly uncomfortable when Doc advises him on his relationship with Abzug. Doc knows Abzug has chosen Hayduke, but Hayduke, still stubborn, refuses to believe Abzug is attracted to him. Smith himself admits he is drawn to Abzug, but also knows she is interested in Hayduke. Abzug, showing her confusion about her emotions, cries when Doc departs, and reminds him she loves him. Abzug loves Doc, but desires more excitement. In the bar later, they find excitement as Abzug helps to start the fight. In the hotel room later, Abzug attends to Hayduke's wounds. Her actions seem extremely selfish. Having just left Doc, she immediately takes advantage of a situation where someone is in pain, and uses it to her advantage. Smith, the gentlemen, leaves the room to allow them privacy. This chapter shows a number of emotional connections between the characters, many of which have been foreshadowed throughout the novel.

In chapter seventeen, the dysfunctional relationship between Hayduke and Abzug becomes apparent. They are violent, disrespectful, and angry with one another consistently. Although they stop to have sex, and do enjoy those relations, their sexual encounters are equally violent. Knowing Hayduke's tendencies towards violence and a lack of compassion, this is not surprising, but does foreshadow problems later in the novel. Additionally, Hayduke's comments about the wilderness symbolize both his lack of faith in humans and his love for nature. Finally, the locked door at the logging site and the lack of any security foreshadow the events in the next chapter.



Dr. Sarvis at Home, Strangers in the Night, and Return to the Scene of the Crime

Dr. Sarvis at Home, Strangers in the Night, and Return to the Scene of the Crime Summary

Doc finds himself at home. He completes several complicated surgeries, and then travels to a nearby bar, convinced that the patients he is working on are all sick because of air pollution. He has a few drinks then mounts his bicycle, now his primary means of transportation. His slow riding holds up traffic, and when a truck driver honks, he flips the driver off. The driver pursues him, but Doc eludes him by driving between a billboard and a wall. Doc arrives home and eats a can of beans, leftover salad made by Abzug, and a beer. He reads a postcard from the threesome in the desert, and misses Abzug. He watches commercials of oil companies trying to convince the world they are safe, and kicks in the screen. He then breaks several dishes trying to shove them into the overflowing dishwasher, looks through the paper, sees an ad for a boatshow, and thinks he will go look for the new houseboats soon.

Hayduke and Abzug are at the logging site, with Abzug as watch. Hayduke begins destroying bulldozers as usual, but is surprised when he hears a voice telling him to come out from under one. The voice tells him to finish his work. When Hayduke emerges, he finds a masked man, who tells him he works slow, but is thorough, which the masked man likes. The man admits he has tied up the night watchman after getting him drunk, and hands Hayduke the keys to the machines. Abzug yells out, asking if Hayduke is okay, and he affirms. Hayduke drives the bulldozer into the rest of the nearby equipment at the instruction of the man, and the bulldozer dies. The two men run as they see lights coming, and Hayduke realizes the man has left his side. Abzug and Hayduke flee, and hear the man flee as well, on horseback.

Abzug and Hayduke sleep in the forest, make love, and head into town for breakfast. That evening, they camp again, and smoke marijuana. Hayduke notes, while he is high, that they don't have to keep destroying things, and that law enforcement will eventually catch them. Abzug laughs, and Hayduke responds, happy. The following day, however, he is rude and growly again. They drive on and revisit the coal site to find there is power again. With Abzug on watch, Hayduke cuts notches in each power pole down the line. He suddenly hears a helicopter and hides. When it leaves, he resumes his work until the power lines fall. He thinks again that they will soon be caught, and goes to find Abzug, who has vanished.



Dr. Sarvis at Home, Strangers in the Night, and Return to the Scene of the Crime Analysis

Chapter eighteen shows the depth of Doc's feelings for Abzug and what the loss of her really means to his life. He is clearly distraught and barely able to deal with daily existence. He can handle his professional life, but has difficulty with personal issues. Unable to drive, he finds himself getting into fights even on his bicycle. He can't cook, and also can't seem to handle normal situations without her. His thoughts of houseboats symbolizes his plan to hurry the demolition of Glen Canyon Dam.

In chapter nineteen, Hayduke and Abzug meet a masked man whose purpose appears to be much like their own. This event foreshadows Hayduke and the masked man meeting again later in the novel. Additionally, the introduction of this masked character shows that the foursome are not the only ones protesting the destruction of the landscape. This chapter also shows again the dysfunction that makes up their relationship. While it is clear these individuals care for one another, it is also clear they are dangerous with one another. Additionally, again readers see Hayduke's tendency toward violent behavior, and how this tendency leads toward near-miss discovery.

Chapter twenty extends this theme with the near capture of the two individuals again as they revisit the bridge they exploded mere days ago. When a helicopter flies overhead, Hayduke experiences not only severe anxiety, but also hallucinations, brought about from his time in Vietnam. Hayduke's mental issues are becoming more obvious in the novel, and his small breakdowns more frequent. However, he also appears to be able to control his emotions and his panic long enough to at least hide and escape when needed. It is questionable, however, how long he will be able to continue this control.



Seldom Seen at Home, George and Bonnie Carry On, and At the Hidden Splendor

Seldom Seen at Home, George and Bonnie Carry On, and At the Hidden Splendor Summary

Smith is laying in bed with his third wife, Susan, and is having a nightmare. In his dream, Search and Rescue has captured him and thrown him into a room. He realizes he is naked, and as the voice of the director speaks to him, he is pinned to a wall where robots insert electrodes into his penis, anus, onto his scrotum, and up his nose. They give him a computer program to run, and when he cannot, since he is a human, they throw the switch to kill him. He wakes, screaming, and in the arms of his wife, who consoles him.

Hayduke realizes the helicopter flew away to chase Abzug, who has fled the area on foot. He sees the helicopter land and the armed men follow Abzug into a gully. Hayduke destroys the helicopter radio and crawls into the gully, pulling tumbleweed onto himself to hide and wait. He sees Abzug, in custody of the men, approach, and he fires a round over their heads. Abzug takes the gun from the guard on Hayduke's orders, and Hayduke finds himself wanting to kill the men, particularly the pilot, who Hayduke sees as a mass murderer due to his experiences in Vietnam. He tells them to strip, and again contemplates killing them, but Abzug persuades him to spare their lives. Hayduke destroys the helicopter, and the two fugitives flee. As they reach the jeep, they hear the sirens and see police vehicles. They drive without lights to avoid detection, and when Abzug objects to traveling with the dynamite Hayduke picks up, he tells her she can walk. Abzug questions again why she is here and why she has chosen to be with Hayduke. She is cheered momentarily when Hayduke tells her they will stop at a Holiday Inn for pie, since she misses civilization. However, when Hayduke passes through a bridge under a railroad, he stops to destroy it. Abzug cries, and falls asleep. Later, as they pass the loading depot of the coal station, Hayduke stops again, despite Abzug's protests. He tells her to go on without him to the Holiday Inn, since she doesn't want to help, and call Doc and Smith to arrange a meeting in a few days. If Hayduke didn't arrive at the hotel, she is to meet with Doc and Smith. She demands a kiss, asks if he loves her, asks how much he loves her, and is unhappy when he explodes and tells her to leave. She cries and says she loves him, to which he replies he is glad, and again tells her to leave. She drives away crying, and Hayduke is happy to be alone.

Abzug, Smith, and Doc are waiting for Hayduke, who is four days late. Abzug reads the papers, which describe the coal train being derailed a second time, explosions of storage towers, loading belts, and conveyor belts, fires in engine rooms and



construction sites, and other forms of industrial sabotage, all with a signature of "Rudolf the Red". Abzug whines that the police depiction of her is inaccurate. Doc admits he thinks the foursome should stop for a while. They discuss the plan of using houseboats to blow up Glen Canyon Dam again. Abzug asks aloud what she is doing with these men, and Doc tells her to stop whining and to take a long walk. Abzug believes Hayduke is lost without her, and condemns him in her mind. She thinks of the jeep still waiting at the Holiday Inn.

Seldom Seen at Home, George and Bonnie Carry On, and At the Hidden Splendor Analysis

Chapter twenty-one, while short, shows the married side of Smith, which makes his character even more endearing. Throughout the novel, Smith has seemed caring and compassionate, despite his polygamy. In this chapter, his dreams show his deep fear of being captured, and on waking, he appears vulnerable and scared. In his wife's arms, he is calmed and quieted, showing not only his love for his wife, but also his own need for love and compassion.

Chapter twenty-two is a longer chapter, but one that more fully develops Abzug's character, as well as the theme of Hayduke's inner psyche. Knowing Abzug is in trouble, Hayduke lays in wait to save her. He does, but is overtaken with power, and desires to kill two men. His primary reasoning for this wish is that one of the men is a pilot, and Hayduke blames all pilots for mass murder, due to their role in Vietnam. Hayduke becomes confused due to his anger, which he is clearly nearly unable to control. If Abzug had not been present, it is unclear whether Hayduke would have killed the pilots or not. This, when combined with his unstoppable urge to destroy industry, despite any consequences, show not only his instability, but also his passion for what he believes is right. Further, Hayduke cares for Abzug, but is not capable of having the stable relationship she seems to desire. In terms of Abzug's character, this chapter shows more of her selfish and needy side. In previous chapters, the author hinted at Abzug's insecurities and selfish behaviors, but this chapter fully shows the depth of these themes. Abzug misses society, civilization, and all of the comforts of home that have been provided by the development of resources she and her friends are fighting to stop. She believes she loves Hayduke, but when given a choice between comfort and supporting his beliefs, she chooses the comfort of civilization, showing her selfishness.

Chapter twenty-three helps to clarify Abzug's behavior in the previous chapter. In this chapter, Abzug shows a sincere and honest concern for Hayduke, albeit in relation to her own sanity and her usefulness to him. She realizes Hayduke is somewhat unstable, but attributes his success so far to her abilities to keep him in check. This may be a ploy to convince herself of her usefulness to him in her own mind, as he has made it clear that while he cares for her, he is not capable of stability. Ironically, it was stability that Abzug believed was the root of her restlessness with Doc. However, now it appears it is stability she seeks. Additionally, this chapter serves to show Hayduke's extensive actions destroying industrial areas throughout the area over the past several days, and

to show the increase in the use of violence, as well as his adopted name, that of "Rudolf the Red". Again, this spiral of violence foreshadows the climax of the novel.



Escape of the Depredator, Rest Stop, and Bridgework: Prolegomena to the Final Chase

Escape of the Depredator, Rest Stop, and Bridgework: Prolegomena to the Final Chase Summary

Hayduke makes it to the Holiday Inn to collect his jeep, and then stops at a cafe in Mexican Hat. After a trip to the restroom, he comes out and finds himself sitting next to Bishop Love of the Search and Rescue team. Love asks questions that show he knows Hayduke and Smith are involved in the destruction. When Hayduke tries to leave, Love yanks him back down. Hayduke orders another cup of coffee and throws it into Love's face to escape. He leaps past the two men, runs out the door and the two blocks to the jeep. After a short car chase, Hayduke pulls off into an automobile graveyard, waits to see Love's blazer roar by, and then pulls out behind him, so that he is following Love instead. When the highway breaks off, Love takes the left fork, and thus Hayduke takes the right. He comes to a wall of a plateau. Undeterred and now pursued again by Love, who has discovered his treachery, Hayduke drives up the plateau. At the top, he finds nothing but a hundred foot cliff. Love, now convinced he has Hayduke trapped, takes his men up the plateau on foot. He doesn't want to call for reinforcement, although his brother recommends it. When they reach the top, however, they find the jeep and Hayduke have disappeared.

Hayduke tells the story of his escape to his three friends at the campsite. Hayduke tells them he winched the jeep down the cliff, with him inside. They claim to doubt his story, but all know it is likely to be true. Abzug and Hayduke retire after dinner, and Hayduke sees Abzug has zipped their sleeping bags together. Uncomfortable since Doc is near, Hayduke at first refuses, but Abzug convinces him Doc is not jealous, so the two sleep together. Hayduke awakens in the night by rainfall on his face and is terrified until he realizes where he is. The following morning, they are awakened by the sound of a plane and decide to remain undercover throughout the day. They play cards to pass the time. Later, Abzug and Hayduke return to bed as Doc falls asleep, leaving Smith to remain alert.

Hayduke is anxious to get started. The plan is to have Hayduke and Smith destroy each of the three bridges and for Abzug and Doc to be lookouts and to make signs warning drivers that the bridges are out. They are to start with the White Canyon bridge. As they drive to the destination, armed with signs and thermite material, Abzug feels fatalism weighing on her, and wonders about her future, and with whom she will share it. She realizes she is lonely. Hayduke stops on the way to destroy bulldozers, and Smith assists him in driving them over a cliff. Abzug notes the fire may cause an early alarm that will halt their bridge plan, but Hayduke notes the fire may simply distract law



enforcement from any activity at the bridge. Hayduke and Smith mix the thermite while Doc and Abzug set up the signs. When they return, Hayduke ignites the thermite. However, it does not burn through the bridge as planned. As they inspect it, they see headlights coming from both directions. Smith leads them to an off road trail, but notes one of the vehicles follows them. Smith, in the track, and Hayduke, Abzug, and Doc in the jeep turn around, and shine their floodlights on the driver just as he tops the hill, blinding him. Shots are fired at both the jeep and the truck, as Doc crawls in the back muttering about caltrops. Hayduke realizes they are again on the run.

Escape of the Depredator, Rest Stop, and Bridgework: Prolegomena to the Final Chase Analysis

In chapter twenty-four, Hayduke shows his unique skills both at being nearly caught due to his own lack of forethought, as well as a knack for escape. Bishop Love is not one to give up, as is shown in this chapter, foreshadowing his intense search for the fugitives later in the novel. He is stubborn, however, and unwilling to call for assistance, later giving Hayduke and the others several opportunities of escape that would otherwise be lost to them.

In chapter twenty-five, Hayduke's detailed account of his escape from Bishop Love shows not only his own fearlessness but also his strong survival instinct and his unwillingness to give up, regardless of the odds. These character traits, along with his terror upon waking in the night, presumably stem again from his time in Vietnam, and foreshadow his actions at the end of the novel. Additionally, the scene between Abzug and Hayduke show that Hayduke only wants to do right by the Doc, and truly is a good friend. Abzug, on the other hand, is again shown as selfish. While she is correct in her assessment that Doc is an adult and only wants her to be happy, she has also fooled herself into thinking Doc is not jealous, which he clearly is. The plane the following day symbolizes the manhunt now on for the four fugitives. Smith is again shown as the thoughtful, careful, and wise guide of the group, as he stands watch and prepares for the upcoming chase he appears to know is at hand.

Chapter twenty-six is the beginning of the end for the foursome. Abzug is again wondering about who she will spend her future with, and is therefore again shown as a confused and lonely character who is primarily concerned with her own well being. Hayduke, unable to resist, stops to destroy bulldozers on the way to destroying the bridge, even though such actions almost certainly cause their downfall. This shows not only his true belief in his cause, but also an unfortunate lack of forethought. When the thermite fails to destroy the bridge, Hayduke takes it personally, as his character has been prone to do. When they are followed, Smith again shows an ability to think quickly and act quickly on those thoughts. However, in this case it appears the foursome are in true danger of capture. Doc's mutterings about caltrops foreshadow his use of them in the next chapter to help stave off their capture.



On Your Feet: The Chase Begins, Into the Heat: The Chase Continues, and Land's End, One Man Left

On Your Feet: The Chase Begins, Into the Heat: The Chase Continues, and Land's End, One Man Left Summary

Doc stops some of the oncoming pursuers by dropping caltrops into the road behind the jeep. Caltrops are small balls of spikes that are used to flatten tires. The foursome take off on a side trail that is barely road, and Doc wonders why he is here. They head toward the Maze, which is a barren stretch of land they have stashed supplies in. They stop the vehicles, see helicopters approaching, and take off on foot with their packs and Hayduke's rifle. Smith tells Abzug when she asks that the Maze is thirty-five miles away at least, with little water in between and landscape that is mostly plateaus and cliffs. Abzug begins to whine about being hungry, her feet hurting, and other things, while Smith looks at the situation from a peak. Search and Rescue are all over the area, armed. The foursome cut across a gulch, find an opening in the wall, and climb up the canyon. When asked, Smith tells the group there are hundreds of those between them and the Maze. Hayduke lags behind and suddenly finds himself bathed in a spotlight. He shoots at the light, joins his companions, and helps them rappel down a cliff after they dump their packs. Unable to find an anchor, Hayduke jumps thirty feet to the canyon floor below.

A vulture is circling the foursome, waiting for them to falter. Hayduke is bruised and bloody from his fall, but refuses to take any pain medication. Doc asks Hayduke to tell them about the war while they rest. Although no one is listening, Hayduke tells them he was a POW made to work for the Vietnamese for fourteen months. He was thrown out eventually, and spent six months in Army psychiatric wards until his parents and a Senator freed him. When he discovered "they" were trying to rape the southwest US like they did Vietnam, he felt the same anger, and decided to do something. Doc admits he is losing his mind in the heat. They foursome continue forward into more canyons, and Smith senses they are near water. As they near a green clearing however, they realize it is probably a trap and turn back. They walk backward through a patch of wet sand to hide their tracks as they hear the oncoming Search and Rescue Team, and find themselves in a canyon with a steep cliff wall. Hayduke scales it first, then helps the others climb. They hear someone calling for Doc as they reach the top. Sam, the bishop's brother, steps into the clearing, sees the foursome, and asks for the Doc's help, as Bishop Love is having a heart attack. Doc, unable to deny help for a dying man, climbs down and Abzug follows him, despite Hayduke's strong objections. Hayduke belays her down, crying, swearing that they never needed girls. The two men set off



alone on foot. On the ground, the Doc is told he is under arrest, and he shrugs, asking about Love. Love himself is clearly in bad shape, confused, and still looking for Smith.

Smith and Hayduke reach Lizard Rock where their stash is, but find Search and Rescue camped nearby. Smith speaks of going home and Hayduke knows they need to separate. While Smith sleeps, Hayduke leaves. Smith awakens and sets out on foot, alone in the rain. He hears gunshots behind him and hopes Hayduke is still alive. He sleeps very little, and is starving to death, so he steals meat from campers. The campers report the crime. Smith lays down to sleep, and is awakened by rangers responding to the stolen food report. They arrest him, and as he falls asleep in their blazer, he hears them discussing how they have just captured Rudolf the Red. The chief ranger responds over the radio and informs them they do not have Rudolf the Red, they have Smith. He also informs them Rudolf the Red has been shot and killed.

On Your Feet: The Chase Begins, Into the Heat: The Chase Continues, and Land's End, One Man Left Analysis

Chapter twenty-seven describes the foursome's adventure through the southwestern landscape in search of an escape. While Doc shows ingenuity through the caltrops, they are not enough to stop Bishop Love, as was foreshadowed throughout the novel. Abzug is again shown in a whiny light as she consistently complains about being tired and thirsty. Doc also wonders about why he is here, showing an equal lack of resolve. Only Hayduke and Smith appear to be committed to the cause. Hayduke shows again a propensity for violence through his comments about shooting the enemy, his shooting at the floodlight, and his choice to continue carrying the gun. He also shows a lack of self preservation through his leap off the cliff, although at the last minute he does show doubt about his choice of actions.

In chapter twenty-eight, the vulture symbolizes the dire situation the four individual are in. Hayduke's hatred toward governmental authority is finally explained as he tells of his time in Vietnam. Forced to care for injured VC soldiers, left to die in the jungle, and then trapped in mental wards for six months, Hayduke has a clear and deserved hatred for all forms of authority. As such, his motives for wanting to halt the destruction of the southwest is much more defined than that of the other characters, which explain his continued resolve, in the face of any obstacle. Doc, on the other hand, is clearly not doing well in the heat, which partially explains his departure at the request of Sam Love. Additionally, Doc shows his true character in this chapter, that of a doctor at heart. Knowing he will be arrested, Doc simply cannot let a man die just to save himself. Abzug's decision to join Doc shows her own true character. Although she was bored with Doc and is looking for something more exciting, it is clear that in the end she chooses sanity, civilization, and stability, even though she hurts Hayduke in the process. Hayduke, clearly upset over her choice, is not down for long, again showing he is now incapable of deep attachment due to his experiences in the jungle. Smith, as always,



carries on in the same calm, careful manner. The saving of Bishop Love by the Doc and Abzug foreshadow his help for their case later in the novel.

In chapter twenty-nine, Smith's true character is revealed. Smith simply wants to go back to his wives and his farm and his business. He is homesick and misses the women he truly does love. While he doesn't want to leave Hayduke alone, and thus promises to send food and provisions, he wants the chase to end. He fears for Hayduke, believing the loneliness will be too much for him. While Hayduke thinks he will be fine, it is questionable, knowing Hayduke's own tendencies toward destruction of self and surroundings, whether or not he could survive without someone else. However, Hayduke, stubborn, leaves Smith anyway to try it on his own, foreshadowing the end of the chapter. In the end, Smith no longer cares about being captured, but simply wants food, rest, and civilization. His capture, however, leads readers to the information that Rudolf the Red, aka George Hayduke, has been shot and killed. This information, while devastating, foreshadows the following chapters.



Edge of the Maze: The Chase Concluded and Epilogue: The New Beginning

Edge of the Maze: The Chase Concluded and Epilogue: The New Beginning Summary

Hayduke, alone, waits until he thinks the rangers have left Lizard Rock. When he approaches, however, a dog alerts the guards, and the chase begins. He runs towards the Maze, knowing they will shoot him down and knowing he will take some of them down with him. He reaches the edge of the rim as he hears gunshots. Over the ridge lies a torrent from a flash flood. He crams himself into a crease in the earth barely large enough to fit his body, and shoots down a helicopter. He is past fear, and has defecated in his pants. He removes them to let them dry. The men keep their distance and Hayduke waits, thinking it won't be long before they ambush him.

Sam Love waits with the soldiers. It has now been six hours, and Hayduke is still in the crevice. The soldiers have the area surrounded. Suddenly he hears the rattle of gunfire. He looks through his field glasses to see a man who looks like Hayduke, with the yellow cap, shaggy beard, and same clothing, and knows it must be Hayduke. The man is being ripped apart by bullets, and falls over the edge of the canyon. The team does not find the body, nor flesh or bone at the site, but does find a trail of blood leading over the canyon wall. Sam Love questions whether Hayduke is truly dead.

In the Epilogue, Smith, Abzug, and Doc are jailed in San Juan County, and charged with a vast array of felonies. All post bail, thanks to Doc. Shortly thereafter they are charged with a variety of federal offenses, and again post bail. Utah tries them first, and finds they have no hard evidence that any of the individuals were involved in the incidents. Bishop Love speaks in support of the defendants, since they saved his life. After much negotiation, Doc agrees to become Mormon, practices in the area for ten years, marries Abzug, and all plead guilty to all misdemeanors and one felony. They serve six months in a county jail. The federal charges are dropped. Smith is divorced by two wives, leaving only Susan. Doc and Abzug move into a houseboat near Smith and Susan's ranch. One night, while playing cards in the boat with their parole officer, they hear the sound of approaching horses. Doc, knowing something is wrong, goes to the door to be told by a stranger that there is a friend of his who needs help. Telling the others to stay, he follows the stranger to find Hayduke. They greet one another warmly, and Hayduke explains the soldiers at the Maze shot nothing but a dummy. Hayduke congratulates Doc on blowing up Glen Canyon Bridge, but Doc lets him know he was not involved. He tells Hayduke to go stay at the house until they arrive. Doc tells Hayduke Abzug is pregnant. Hayduke, smiling, tells Doc he has taken a night watchman job, and Doc smiles, knowing where it must be. Doc goes back to the boat, and when asked who was outside, hints to the others that it was Hayduke by using foul language.



Edge of the Maze: The Chase Concluded and Epilogue: The New Beginning Analysis

The final numbered chapter of the novel appears, at least on the surface, to describe the tragic death of George Hayduke. He is lonely, hungry, exhausted, and scared, developing his true character. Although he is filled with anger and resentment, he is, at heart, just as human and vulnerable as the rest of the characters. Sam Love's visual depiction of the shooting of Hayduke appears to be definitive. However, knowing Hayduke removed his pants prior to the shooting, combined with a lack of massive blood, tissue, a body, and Sam's own doubts, readers are left to wonder if Hayduke is, in fact, still alive. The vulture at the end of the chapter, however, who has acted as a symbol for death throughout the novel, appears to symbolize Hayduke's demise.

The Epilogue provides a closing to the story and answers to the questions left in the previous chapter. Doc, Abzug, and Smith are let off with fairly light sentences, despite the severity of their crimes. Bishop Love, who throughout the novel pursued them without hesitation, comes to their defense, and forgives all wrongdoings, showing his character to have been changed. Abzug, after having her brief but exciting affair, marries Doc and mothers his child, showing her own true desires for stability and security. Smith, who remains married only to Susan, shows his own true characteristics as a loving, caring man who loves only one woman.

At the end of the novel, readers are delighted to find Hayduke very much alive, partnered with the masked man from the previous chapter. As hinted at in the last chapter, Hayduke admits he used the pants and other articles of clothing to create a scarecrow the soldiers shot. Additionally, the fact that neither Doc's crew nor Hayduke were responsible for the Glen Canyon Bridge event show, as was foreshadowed previously; there were many groups of individuals performing similar acts of protest. The conversation between Hayduke and Doc implies Hayduke's new position is that of a watchman at the Glen Canyon Dam. Finally, Doc's use of profanity, which is extremely rare for him and in fact is not heard at all in the novel, alerts the others that Hayduke is alive.



P.S.

P.S. Summary

In the final, informational section of the book, there are four portions, those of a Chronology of the author's life, a review of the book by Jim Harrison, an essay about Abbey by Bill McKibben, and a summary of two additional books by Abbey. The chronology tells much of Abbey's life, including Abbey's own protests against industry, his destruction of bulldozers and billboards, his speeches against government, and his left wing writings and opinions. The book review hails the story as one of profound love for the southwest, convincing characters, and a must read for all who care for the lands outside of their own area. The essay by McKibben describes Abbey as a nature writer with an attitude. He notes Abbey is dangerous only because he challenges people to think of the damage they do and the consequences of that damage. Finally, there is a summary of two of Abbey's other novels, *Brave Cowboy* and *Fire on the Mountain*.

P.S. Analysis

This section, a hodgepodge of additional information, is not vital to the plot line of the novel. However, the chronology of Abbey's life shows readers a very strong parallel to that of the events within the novel. Abbey himself destroyed bulldozers, burned bridges, destroyed billboards, and made several public statements against industrialization and the rape of the southwestern landscape. His attitudes are clearly similar to those of his characters. The book review gives additional insight into the effect the novel had on society at the time. The essay about Abbey gives a deeper understanding of why the novel affected society and Abbey's inner motivations, and ties the two together to form a complete analysis of both the author and the novel. Finally, the summary of the other two novels shows his tendency to write about the changing landscape of the southwest, and of his urge to save that landscape.



Characters

George Hayduke

George Hayduke, aka Rudolf the Red, is one of the four main characters in the novel. Hayduke is from Tuscon Arizona, but spent three years in Vietnam. The first two years were spent as a medic for the US, but after capture by the Vietcong, Hayduke spent fourteen months as a prisoner of war. Upon return, he was sent to military psychiatric wards, where doctors found him unfit for civilization. He learned to say what they wanted to hear, and through his lies, his parent's help, and the help of a Senator, he was freed. Upon returning to his homeland, however, Hayduke finds the landscape drastically altered as industry such as logging companies, power plants, and mining companies strip the land of all beauty. Hayduke is highly unstable, and this "rape" of his land gives rise to vast anger repressed after his time in the jungle.

Hayduke meets the other three individuals on a trip down the river. He is unkempt, swears a lot, and drinks constantly. However, as his three friends discover, he is also full of care, heart, passion, and a strong sense of right and wrong, although this sense may not agree with modern society. He is determined, under any condition, to stop the people he feels are destroying his home. However, his methods become increasingly violent and dangerous, and Hayduke finds himself mentally returning to Vietnam several times in the novel. When Abzug, one of the other three companions, decides she wants to be with him, Hayduke tries, but is simply incapable of showing her the affection, attention, and dedication she believes she needs.

When Hayduke is cornered at the end of the novel, he realizes he is frightened and alone. Instead of allowing his fear to overtake him, however, Hayduke manages to fool his pursuers into believing he is dead, escapes, and joins in with a man he met at a construction site earlier in the novel. He does, however, seek out his old friends, showing he is capable of at least some form of affection. His calling, however, is to help save the land he loves.

Seldom Seen Smith

Joseph Fielding Smith, or Seldom Seen Smith as his wives call him, is a Mormon river boat guide. Smith practices polygamy and has three wives within driving distance from one another in Utah. His business, which earns him a modest living, is guiding river boats and their passengers down the Colorado River. During one trip, he meets Hayduke, Doc Sarvis, and Bonnie Abzug who, like him, want to change the world by halting the industrialization of the southwest.

Smith's reasons for his hatred of what is happening in Utah stems from both his professional ambitions as well as his personal ones. Smith remembers, as a child, playing in the passages and canyons that now lie under Lake Powell, thanks to the



ecological nightmare known as Glen Canyon Dam. Under the lake lies Hite, Utah, a town Smith relates to and a town he loves. He is bound and determined to destroy the dam so that Hite can rise again. Additionally, with the continued damming of the river, Smith's position as a river guide is threatened.

Throughout the novel, Smith plays the voice of reason and experience. He is a sucker for women and thus sometimes sides with Abzug simply out of affection, but in general, Smith is the one the other three look to for guidance and answers. He knows the land, understands the weather, and knows how to make it across most of Utah alive and unseen. It is only in the end, when Hayduke and himself are left alone, that Smith shows his own weaknesses. Missing home, he attempts to return, only to be caught, jailed, and divorced by two wives. Yet in the end, Smith makes it back to the one wife who always remained loyal, the one he truly loved, and continues his business.

Bonnie Abzug

Bonnie Abzug is a young woman from the Bronx with beauty, brains, and a lot of problems. Abzug begins as the assistant, in more ways than one, to Doc Sarvis, an older widower who is a nature lover and an environmentalist. Abzug, when not staying with Doc, lives in an environmental dome in a bad part of town. She believes in smoking pot, meditation, reggae, and all other things hip and socially acceptable within environmental circles. She is happy enough with her life, but as the novel goes on, she finds herself bored and looking for excitement. She believes she finds this excitement in Hayduke, but soon realizes that while she may love him, he can never love her in return the way she desires. He is filled with an anger she can never complete with. She finds herself wanting to return to the luxury of civilization made possible only through the very power plants she and her friends are trying to destroy. She hurts Doc and Hayduke both several times in the novel without remorse, but in the end, returns to the safety and comfort that is her relationship with Doc. Although selfish and self centered, Abzug does show, through her relations with Doc, a side that has at least a marginal capacity for empathy and compassion.

Doc Sarvis

Doc Sarvis is a surgeon from Albuquerque who destroys billboards in his spare time. He is in love with Bonnie Abzug, a woman half his age who cohabitates with him on a part time basis. Doc is old fashioned, and thus an unlikely environmentalist, but has seen an increase in cancer, lung disease, and other contamination conditions in his patients. As a result, he is anxious to destroy the companies he feels are killing the young people of the area. He finances the activities of the foursome, but as a doctor, often disagrees with Hayduke's propensity for violence. When Abzug leaves him for Hayduke, he is understanding, but lost in his despair. In the end, it is Doc's profession that allows officials to catch him. He is a noble man who cannot let another man die simply to save himself.



Bishop Love

Bishop Love is the leader of the Search and Rescue team. Love and Smith has a history, in which Smith's constant work to stop Love's land development has led to bitter feelings. When Love realizes he is hunting for Smith and his friends, the hunt becomes more personal. Love goes through much at the hands of the foursome, but refuses to give up until he captures them. Love has high political aspirations, and believes single handed capture of the gang would result in a higher chance of becoming governor. However, when Love has a heart attack in the desert while hunting Smith and his friends, it is Doc who saves his life. As a result, Love is a changed man who speaks on behalf of the foursome at the trial, and eventually is the priest who marries Doc and Abzug.

Sam Love

Sam Love is the brother of Bishop Love. Sam is the sole source of logic and reason among the Search and Rescue Team, but is often overruled by his brother. Sam, however, seeks out Doc when Love has a heart attack, and is the reason Love survives. Sam also watches as what appears to be Hayduke being shot to pieces, and finds himself ill. However, there is lingering doubt in his mind that Hayduke is dead.

Vulture

The vulture appears throughout the novel as a symbol of death or destruction. In the beginning the vulture is present and alert as the Glen Canyon Bridge is destroyed. It is also present as the foursome travel through the desert during the chase, as Hayduke completes his acts against the government, and as Hayduke's scarecrow is shot to pieces at the edge of the Maze.

Susan Smith

Susan Smith, one of the wives of Seldom Seen, is a sweet woman who clearly loves Smith. She knows he is polygamous, but accepts that as fact and has moved on. Susan is the one Seldom most wants to see throughout the novel, the one he turns to in the night for comfort, and the only one to remain loyal to him after his arrest. Susan is smart, beautiful, and one of the primary reasons Seldom lives through the end of the novel.

Masked Environmentalist

While the character is never given a name, the masked environmentalist appears several times throughout the novel, and is a fairly influential character. He is first seen catching Hayduke in the act in chapter nineteen. He has tied up the night watchman,



gotten him drunk, and is clearly an environmentalist as well, since he knows Hayduke's moves, and admires his handiwork. He even shows Hayduke how to start the machines. From his comments and actions, it is clear he is an eco-terrorist, much like Hayduke. It is no surprise, then, at the end of the book, that Hayduke has joined with him. This character represents the numbers of individuals at the time who were also involved in environmental protest.

Industrialists

Throughout the novel, there are men and women who are put into danger or put out of work by the Monkey Wrench Gang. While the foursome are against the results of industrialization in the southwest, they seem to care little for those men and women whose livelihoods depend on such development. They destroy equipment, bridges, dams, bulldozers, and other equipment without much regard for the people who run them. However, on several occasions, readers see these workers as they run to save their machinery, jump out of trains about to derail, and work to put back their lives after the gang has interfered. These individuals represent the working force behind industrialization.



Objects/Places

Glen River Dam

The Glen River Dam is the initial focus of the four environmentalists in the novel. The damn, an ecological nightmare, buried towns and entire stretches of landscape underwater when it was formed.

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Albuquerque, New Mexico is the home of Doc and Abzug, and the area these individuals first begin destroying billboards in what they call a beautification project.

Colorado River

The Colorado River is the river that was stopped by the Glen Canyon Dam. It is also the river used by Smith in his business, the river both Doc and Abzug dream of traveling, and the river Hayduke dreams of while a prisoner in Vietnam. The river, to all of them, symbolizes the beauty and peacefulness of nature.

Vietnam/Vietnam War

As a country, the area of Vietnam consists mostly of jungle. It is the home of Hayduke for fourteen months. The war itself has had a dramatic impact on Hayduke, leaving him with a rage and anger against the United States government and any form of industrialization.

The Maze

The Maze is a dry, hot, desolate area of land that is closed in on all sides by huge canyons and plateaus. There is no escape from the Maze, but Smith convinces his three friends they can survive for years in the Maze thanks to their stashes of provisions.

Lake Powell

Lake Powell is the reserve water from the Dam, and the focus of Smith's hatred. Underneath the lake lies the passages and nature he recalls from his youth, as well as his hometown, which was flooded with the building of the Dam.



Hite, Utah

Hite, Utah is the hometown of Smith, and now lies underwater due to the construction of the Glen Canyon Dam.

White Canyon Bridge

White Canyon Bridge is the first of three bridges that the foursome attempt to destroy.

Green River, Utah

Green River, Utah is the home of Smith, and the eventual home of Doc and Abzug, as well.

Glen Canyon City

Glen Canyon City is a two store town near the Dam that expected to grow with the continually promised nearby power plant. However, the power plant was never built, and thus, the town barely exists.

Jack Mormon

A jack Mormon is a Mormon who still practices polygamy, as Smith does.

Ecoterrorist

An ecoterrorist is an environmentalist whose actions, done in protest of industrialization, are a danger to society. Hayduke is an ecoterrorist in the novel.

POW

A POW is a prisoner of war, or someone taken captive during war and held by the enemy. In the novel, Hayduke is a POW of the Vietcong.



Themes

Environmentalism

The primary theme of the novel is the environmentalist beliefs of the characters, and the steps these individuals are willing to take in order to protect the environment. Hayduke as a semi-psychotic Vietnam veteran is convinced that the environment is the only thing left worth saving in the world. His actions, however, seem contrary on many levels. On one hand, Hayduke is a beer guzzling litterbug who would happily take a human life. He uses fire to destroy machinery, which in turn destroys the environment. He drains bulldozers of oil, but lets the oil seep into the ground. While his cause is just and pure, his actions are not. The same is true for Bonnie Abzug. She dislikes the abuse of the environment, believes in living responsibly, and confronts the destruction on nature wherever she can. However, once she has lived without power, water, immediately available food, or other comforts, she decides she is less of an environmentalist than she originally believed. While her reasons for believing in caring for nature are solid, her resolve to do so is not. Doc Sarvis, too, has many of the same issues. He believes the destruction of the environment by industrial corporations is harmful to humans, and as a result, decides to help combat the situation. However, he is an older man whose capabilities are simply not as strong as he would like. Only Smith, whose lifestyle, opinions, and choices agree with a belief of environmentalism, appears to be dedicated to a life of environmental protection.

Despite these clear contrary points in the novel, the theme is still clear. Abbey believed the mining, logging, and development of the landscape he loved was not only problematic, but nearly unholy. To Abbey, the wilderness of the desert was home, and those who sought to destroy it, even for what they believed was a good cause, were uprooting his home.

Industrialization

Contrary to the theme of environmentalism is the theme of industrialization. Throughout the area, individuals are interested in the natural resources the desert has to offer, and are willing to destroy the beauty of the area in order to mine those resources. Abbey describes, in detail, the lack of trees due to logging, the huge holes in the ground from oil drilling, the hazy air from coal plants, and the disruption of natural water flows due to damming and bridging. Further, Lake Powell, the byproduct of the Glen Canyon Dam, is a testament against industrialization, as the lake now covers towns, trees, and other scenic components.

However, there are areas of the novel that also show the need for progress and industrialization. The weapons the foursome use are a product of industrialization. The vehicles they drive, their homes, their comfort areas are all made possible by the power



companies these four fight so vehemently against. Thus, while the novel is in part a statement against industrialization, Abbey does recognize some need for industry.

Effects of Vietnam

The themes of the Vietnam war and its consequences run prominently through the book. Hayduke is a Vietnam veteran, and many of his current experiences relate back to his time in Vietnam. Hayduke spent fourteen months as a POW, and another two years fighting the VC for the United States. He recounts in the novel several times images that remain in his head of women and children fused together, dead, from the heat of napalm dropped on them. He recalls helicopters and shows a deep seated fear of them, because in Vietnam, these helicopters were responsible for nothing but death and destruction. His inability to place Abzug as a priority in his life also relates to Vietnam. Hayduke is a single focused individual, having been taught in the war to focus on one task. As a result, he is unable to synchronize having a deep, intimate relationship with Abzug and destroying industrialization. He is a man full of rage and hatred against his government, while still being a caring and compassionate man, in the only ways he knows how.



Style

Point of View

The author uses a third person narrative throughout the entire novel. This point of view is necessary, in that it allows the author to fully explore the thoughts and characteristics of all characters equally, from both a character standpoint as well as from the view of the other characters. It also provides a seemingly reliable and consistent viewpoint with which to explain the emotions and events within the novel. The important relationships that develop throughout the story would be impossible to discern if not for this third person view.

The story is told by alternating between descriptions of the landscape, dialog between characters, and a narrative of events. This method allows the reader to follow the events carefully, and includes the thoughts and emotions of the characters. Additionally, the author allows the reader to visualize, in graphic detail, the landscape these characters are so passionate about. This would have been difficult if the story were told in another viewpoint.

Setting

The novel is set in the southwestern United States, primarily in the area around Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Utah. The setting changes rapidly between the populated areas of the southwest and the wilderness of the area. The landscape in this novel is as vital as many of the characters in that the entire novel revolves around the destruction of the landscape and the responses of four environmentalists against that destruction. The vultures in the desert are used as symbols for isolation and death, the Colorado River is used as a symbol for hope and rejuvenation, and the Maze is used as a symbol for hopelessness and despair. The plot of the novel follows the landscape as the characters go against all odds to save their beloved lands. On the other hand, the cities and industrialized areas are used as well in the storyline to provide a contrast to naturalistic settings. These populated areas are, on one hand, what the foursome are fighting against, but on the other hand, are their areas of relaxation and comfort in between their protests.

Language and Meaning

The author uses a combination of language styles in the novel to switch between characters. When speaking as Hayduke, Abbey uses simpler language mixed with extreme profanity, as Hayduke is a character filled with anger, emotion, and a sense of mistrust. When speaking as Abzug, Abbey uses a blend of intellectual language and very minor profanity. Her character is also passionate, but in an almost uppity tone, and the language used when pertaining to Abzug portrays that. For Smith, Abbey uses a unique blend of less educated language with a simplistic, yet intelligent tone. Words



such as "reckon", "sombitch", "'gonna" and "ain't" are common in Smith's language, but Abbey doesn't present this language as less intelligent. Rather, Smith is presented as a man who knows his trade, nature, and is highly skilled, but simply is not book-smart. Contrary to him is Doc. Doc uses highly educated words and phrases, many of which the other characters barely understand.

This combination of language styles helps to bring out the characteristics of the four characters in an effective manner. The reader is able, simply through language style, to determine who is speaking in a conversation. Further, the author even uses language style in the end of the novel to hint to other characters that Hayduke is alive. This use of language is vital to the story, and makes each character much more unique.

Structure

The structure of the novel is not unique. The book begins with an introduction that helps to explain the author and his ties to the major plot lines in the novel. There is then a Prologue that discusses the destruction of the Glen Canyon Bridge. Following that section, there are thirty chapters of unequal length. These chapters first introduce the four main characters, then dive into why these characters are who they are. The chapters then follow these individuals as they meet, become friends, and begin to protest industry in the area. The ending chapters follow them through their final escapade, the chase, and their capture. The Epilogue ties up loose ends of the novel. The postscript section gives more information about the author, further helping readers to see the links between Abbey's life and the novel. In total, the book is 447 pages in length.



Quotes

"Time is relative, said Heraclitus a long time ago, and distance a function of velocity. Since the ultimate goal of transport technology is the annihilation of space, the compression of all Being into one pure point, it follows that six-packs help. Speed is the ultimate drug and rockets run on alcohol. Hayduke had formulated this theory all by himself." Chap. 2, p. 18

"The wilderness once offered men a plausible way of life...now it functions as a psychiatric refuge. Soon there will be no wilderness....Soon there will be no place to go. Then the madness becomes universal...and the universe goes mad." Chap. 5, p. 63

"When the cities are gone, he thought, and all the ruckus has died away, when sunflowers push up through the concrete and asphalt of the forgotten interstate freeways, when the Kremlin and the Pentagon are turned into nursing homes for generals, presidents, and other such shitheads, when the glass-aluminum skyscraper tombs on Phoenix Arizona barely show above the sand dunes, why then, why then, they then by God maybe free men and wild women on horses, free women and wild men, can roam the sagebrush canyonlands in freedom-goddammit!-herding the feral cattle into box canyons, and gorge on bloody meat and bleeding fucking internal organs, and dance all night to the music of fiddles! banjos! steel guitars! by the light of a reborn moon! - by God yes!" Chap. 7, p. 107

"That man can hear a dollar bill drop on a shag rug. Now he's running for the state legislature. We got plenty like him in Utah. They run things. They run things as best they can for God and Jesus, and what them two don't want why fellas like Bishop Love pick up. They say it's a mighty convenient arrangement all around. Jesus Saves at eight and a half percent compounded daily, and when they make that last deposit they go straight to heaven. Them and all the ancestors they can dig out of the geological libraries. It's enough to make a man want to live forever." Chap. 8, p. 117

"Okay God, I'm back. It's me again, Smith, and I see you still ain't done nothing about this here dam. Now you know as well as me that if them goddamn Government men get this dam filled up with water it's gonna flood more canyons, suffocate more trees, drown more deer and generally ruin the neighborhood. Why that there water's gonna back right up under Rainbow Bridge itself if you let them sonsabitches fill this dam. You gonna let them do that?" Chap. 11, p. 158

"I don't like it either...I'd a hell of a lot rather forget the whole thing and go fly fishing down on West Horse Creek. Let's forget Black Mesa. Let the coal company tear it up. Who cares if five years from now you can't see fifteen miles across the Grand Canyon because the air is so fucked up by these motherfucking new power plants? I'd rather be picking columbines up in the mountains above Telluride anyhow. Why the hell should we worry about it?" Chap. 12, p. 168



"But about your question: it's seeing too much insulted tissue under the microscope. All those primitive blood cells multiplying like a plague. Platelets eaten up. Young men and women in the flower of their youth, like Hayduke there, or Bonnie, bleeding to death without a wound. Acute leukemia on the rise. Lung cancer. I think the evil is in the food, in the noise, in the crowding, in the stress, in the water, in the air. I've seen too much of it Seldom." Chap. 13, p. 180

"I hate them, George Hayduke said, under the sun of Arizona, I hate them all. The moment he'd heard that bubble-nosed dragon approach, one memory before all others flashed on the screen of his mind: by a dusty road in Cambodia, the bodies of a woman and child fused together in a black burning mass of napalm." Chap. 20, p. 251

"The fury and frustration of those years bubbled up like swamp gas, like an evil methane, to the surface of his consciousness. And here was a helicopter pilot, most despised of all, a real live helicopter pilot, probably from Vietnam, at his mercy. The right age: he looked like a vet. Why not kill the evil bastard? Hayduke like many men had a not-so-secret longing to cut at least one notch on his gun butt. He too wanted a tragic past. At another man's expense." Chap. 22, p. 264

"George, he's kind of crazy...ain't no question about that, which makes me mighty glad he's on our side and not that bishop's, all things considered. Though if you wanted to look at the business from a strictly practical kind of way you might think maybe it'd be better to stay as far away from both of them as a man could get." Chap. 27, p. 334

"I sat in that rotting jungle every night, playing with my chain, and all I could think about was home. And I don't mean Tucson. I had to think about something clean and decent or go crazy, so I thought about the canyons. I thought about the desert down along the Gulf coast. I thought about the mountains, from Flagstaff up to the Wind Rivers. So they turned me loose. Then came six months in Army psycho wards - Manila, Honolulu, Seattle. My parents needed two lawyers and a U.S. Senator to get me out. The Army thought I wasn't adjusted right for civilian life. Am I crazy, Doc?" Chap. 28, p. 359

"Hopeless? Then there's nothing to worry about, he remembers, gasping like a marathon runner down the final lap. This is it. I've done it now, they'll shoot me down like a dog, there's no way off of here, no way. I don't even have my rope anymore - forget the rope- and the situation is absolutely hopeless and there's not a fucking thing to worry about and furthermore I got six shots left in the rifle and five and twenty for the .357." Chap. 30, p. 403

"Sam stared. The riddled body hung on the rimrock for a final moment before the impact of the hail of steel, like hammer blows, literally pushed it over the edge. The remains of Rudolf the Red fell like a sack of garbage into the foaming gulf of the canyon, vanishing forever from men's eyes." Chap. 30, p. 408



Topics for Discussion

Throughout the novel, the four main characters claim to believe in environmentalism, but do things contrary to the environment. Name three of these things, and explain why you believe they are against the principles of environmentalism.

George Hayduke is a Vietnam veteran who has clearly been affected by the war. Explain, using examples from the book, Hayduke's emotional ties to the southwestern landscape, and why his experiences in Vietnam have made him angry in relation to those ties.

Bonnie Abzug dates two different characters in the novel. Explain, with support from the text, why you think Abzug chose her lovers as she did. What characteristics did each have to offer her?

The four characters in the novel have different reasons for their belief that the industrialization of the southwest should stop. Explain each character's reason for protesting the development. Make sure to support your ideas with concepts from the novel.

There are many similarities between the life of Edward Abbey and the text of the novel. Using information from the introductions and the postscript, compare the events in the novel to the life of Abbey, listing and discussing at least three similarities.

What are your impressions of Abzug? Do you believe she is a strong, independent character, or is she codependent and insecure? Be sure to support your answer using examples from the novel.

The characters at the end of the novel are let off with a very light sentence. Do you think these individuals should have received stronger punishments for their actions, or do you believe the justice system was right in limiting their sentences? Explain your opinions.