

The Moonstone Study Guide

The Moonstone by Wilkie Collins

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Plot Summary

The Moonstone, by Wilkie Collins, is an exciting nineteenth century English detective story. The object of everyone's attention is the Moonstone, a beautiful and flawed diamond that was stolen from the statue of a moon god from a shrine in a remote area of India. The theft occurred by a Mohammedan emperor in the eleventh century. The stone eventually was taken by John Herncastle during the storming of Seringapatam in 1799. When he died, he bequeathed the Diamond to his niece, Rachel Verinder.

There is a legend surrounding the beautiful Diamond. From the beginning, the Diamond was followed and watched by three Brahims, who disguised themselves. They followed the Diamond wherever it went, hoping to seize it and return it to the shrine. Disaster was supposed to befall those who stole the Diamond. Some people believed in the myth; other did not.

After John Herncastle returned to England, his life was miserable. He was basically a social outcast who lived in fear of being killed because of the Diamond. The Diamond was kept in a London vault with instructions from Herncastle. If he succumbed to a violent death, the Diamond was to be taken to Amsterdam and cut into six stones which were to be sold. If he died of natural causes, the Diamond was to go to his niece, Rachel Verinder. Herncastle died of natural causes and the Diamond was delivered to Rachel on her eighteenth birthday by Franklin Blake. Rachel knows nothing of the legend of the Moonstone, but those around her do. The Moonstone affects them all in some way and the book consists of the different characters telling their part of the story of what happened during that year. The Indians also make their presence known in London and make it clear that they are also there and waiting. Rachel excitedly wears the Diamond at her birthday party, where it is seen by the three Indians who are posing as jugglers. The next morning, the Moonstone is missing and the suspense begins.

The unique structure of this detective novel adds to the suspense. The novel consists of the piece work of the different narratives of different characters, each adding what they know to the events surrounding the missing Moonstone. The suspense holds threader's interest throughout the book as the reader finds himself/herself forming theories throughout the book and then waiting to see if they prove out. This well-written book is worth the reader's time. The reader will find the book hard to put down and will be happy to have read the book.



Prologue and First Period, pgs. 33-77

Prologue and First Period, pgs. 33-77 Summary

The Moonstone, by Wilkie Collins, is an exciting nineteenth century English detective story. The object of everyone's attention is the Moonstone, a beautiful and flawed diamond that was stolen from the statue of a moon god from a shrine in a remote area of India. The theft occurred by a Mohammedan emperor in the eleventh century. The stone eventually was taken by John Herncastle during the storming of Seringapatam in 1799. When he died, he bequeathed the Diamond to his niece, Rachel Verinder.

The author begins by explaining that he has refused the friendship of his cousin, John Herncastle because of events that occurred at the storming of Seringapatam. Their differences had to do with a yellow Diamond known as the Moonstone. The Diamond had been stolen by the Mussulman's. There were always three Indian priests who followed and watched the Diamond through the ages. Herncastle believed the myth surrounding the Moonstone.

After the capture of Seringapatan, there was looting. The narrator finds Herncastle killing an Indian. In his hand was a jeweled dagger with the Moonstone. The narrator and his cousin have not spoken since the incident.

The story, First Period, begins with the loss of the Diamond from Lady Verinder's Yorkshire house in 1848. The family lawyer thinks they should make the facts of the Diamond public. Betteredge, the narrator, begins writing. He had worked for Julia Herncastle who married Sir John Verinder. The Diamond was originally brought to the house by Franklin Blake. Three Indians appeared at the house right before Franklin's arrival. Betteredge told them to leave and Penelope overhears a conversation between them and the small English boy who is with them. They are looking for Franklin and something they refer to as 'it.' They later learn that 'it' means the Moonstone.

Later that evening, Betteredge is talking to Rosanna on the beach when Franklin appears. They talk about the three Indians who they call the jugglers. Franklin shows the Diamond to Betteredge. According to Herncastle's will, the Diamond belongs to Lady Rachel, Julia's daughter, and Franklin says he is delivering it. Betteredge tells Franklin what he knows of John Herncastle. Franklin wants to know if there is a conspiracy following the Diamond that will fall on his cousin Rachel.

The Diamond had always been kept in a safe place through Franklin's father. It was not with John Herncastle. Instructions were left for the disposition of the Diamond upon Herncastle's death since he feared being murdered. The Diamond was appraised after Herncastle's death and valued at forth thousand pounds. If the Colonel dies a violent death, the Diamond was to be sent to Amsterdam and cut into six stones and sold. Franklin wants to know why, and if there is some kind of conspiracy surrounding the Diamond. He has been followed since removing the Diamond from the bank. Why did



Herncastle leave the Diamond to Rachel on the condition that Julia must be alive? Franklin wonders if it is some kind of act of vengeance. They have the four weeks before Rachel's birthday to find the answer.

Prologue and First Period, pgs. 33-77 Analysis

The Prologue sets the stage for the book by telling the story of the Moonstone and how Herncastle came to possess it. The Moonstone, taken from a statue of an Indian deity, was watched over and followed by three Indians over the centuries. It was embedded in the handle of a dagger by Sultan Tippo. Herncastle apparently murdered three Indians with the dagger. As one of the Indians died, he spoke of the curse of the Moonstone.

Betteredge learns the strange conditions of John Herncastle's will from Franklin Blake. Herncastle had been an outcast and lived in fear of a violent death because of the Diamond. Franklin wants to know if there is some conspiracy surrounding the Diamond. Why was it supposed to be cut into six stones and sold if Herncastle met a violent death? Julia and John did not get along. Was John engaging in some act of revenge by giving the Diamond to Rachel only on the condition that Julia was still alive? Much of the suspense of the novel is being created in this section.



First Period, pgs. 78-131

First Period, pgs. 78-131 Summary

Lady Verinder and Rachel are surprised to learn that Franklin has arrived and departed in their absence. Penelope tells Betteredge of Rosanna's strange behavior when she returned to the house. As Betteredge is locking up that night, he discovers trespassers on the property who are run off. He finds a bottle of black ink like the Indian jugglers had with the boy. The Indians did not appear again in the weeks before Rachel's birthday.

Franklin and Rachel spend their time together in the weeks before her birthday. Franklin is in love with her. Lady Julia invites Mr. Godfrey Abelwhite for Rachel's birthday. During this period, a strange man comes to visit Franklin but won't say why. Rosanna also becomes ill enough to require a visit from the doctor, who recommends fresh air. Betteredge sides with Rosanna about her remaining at the house.

The day of Rachel's birthday arrives and Franklin leaves to get the Moonstone from Frizinghall. He returns with the Abelwhite cousins. Franklin tells Betteredge that there was no sign of the Indians. The Diamond is given to Rachel and Julia is given the relevant part of the will. Betteredge talks to Julia, who has the same questions that he and Franklin had. Rachel wears the Diamond at her birthday dinner. One of the dinner guests tells Rachel that she would not be safe in India with the Diamond because most Indian Diamonds are part of Indian religion.

During the dinner, the Indians appear. They are soon escorted off the property. One of the guests, a Mr. Murthwaite tells Betteredge that the Indians aren't jugglers; they are members of the Brahim caste. He says they have to have a serious purpose to portray a lower caste. Franklin tells him the story of the Moonstone. Murthwaite says their purpose is to restore the Diamond to the forehead of the statue it was removed from and that they will wait patiently and stop at nothing. He says that it is a wonder that Franklin is still alive. Murthwaite recommends that the Diamond be sent to Amsterdam for cutting into smaller stones.

The next morning the Diamond is missing. Betteredge tells Lady Verinder what he knows. Franklin has sent for the police and says the Indians are in prison unjustly. Franklin says they couldn't have taken the Diamond. Superintendent Seegrave arrives and says the robbery was committed by someone inside the house. Lady Verinder refuses to let them search the servant's quarters, but the servants volunteer.

First Period, pgs. 78-131 Analysis

Lady Julia is nervous about the Diamond and her brother's motives. She seems to have the same questions that Franklin and Betteredge have.



One of the visitors, Mr. Murthwaite, speaks to the Indian jugglers in their own language and later tells Franklin and Betteredge that they are Brahims impersonating a lower caste. This is a serious offense in India to give up one's higher caste. When Franklin tells him the story of the Moonstone, he understands why and tells them to have the Diamond cut up in Amsterdam. The jugglers have come to retrieve the Diamond and restore it to the statue of the Hindu god and will stop at nothing to retrieve it.

When the Diamond is missing the next day, the suspicion is immediately on the Indian jugglers. Rachel behaves very strangely and stays locked up in her room, except for having some sharp words with Franklin. She comments that the Diamond will never be found, the same comment that Rosanna made to Franklin. They wonder if Rosanna is somehow involved.



Frist Period, pgs. 131-171

Frist Period, pgs. 131-171 Summary

Franklin's father finds a Sergeant Cuff to investigate the case. Betteredge goes to meet his train. Sergeant Cuff speaks with Superintendent Seegrave, then goes up to see Rachel's room. Then Cuff goes to see the door that Franklin and Rachel had painted since it was smudged when the Diamond was found to be missing.

Rachel appears and angrily tells Cuff not to allow Blake to take part in the investigation. The men try to find out when the smear appeared on the door painting; Penelope says there was no smear at midnight. They check for stains on her skirts and found there are none. Cuff announces that nobody has stolen the Diamond.

Cuff tells Lady Verinder that they must search for the clothing with the paint smear. He says they need to search the wardrobe of everyone who was in the house that night. Lady Julia consents, but Rachel does not, so Cuff says there will be no search. Out in the yard, while Betteredge and Cuff are talking, Cuff sees Rosanna hiding in the shrubbery.

Cuff interviews the servants one by one. They all had comments about him when they emerged except for Rosanna. Afterward, Cuff says he wants to know when Rosanna goes out. When she does, he follows.

That night Franklin tells Betteredge that he wished that they had thrown the Moonstone in the sand that first day, given all that had happened. Franklin, hearing that the maids found Rosanna's door locked and unanswered when she was sick and that others said she was seen in town, says that Rosanna has stolen the Diamond. Cuff won't let him tell Lady Verinder because he doesn't want Rachel to know.

Cuff figures that Rachel went into town to buy material to make another dress to replace the one with the paint stains. Cuff follows Rosanna to a cottage in the fishing village where she picks up a package. She then walks north up the coast. They are walking down to the beach as they are talking. Cuff finds footsteps in the sand. They walk on to the fisherman's cottage that Rosanna visited and Betteredge introduces Cuff to the Yollands. Mrs. Yolland tells them that Rosanna plans to leave her job. Rosanna had gone to her daughter's room alone to write a letter and had purchased some things to use for her traveling. Mrs. Yolland tells Betteredge to return the money to Rosanna and shows the men the items - a tin box and dog chains. Cuff feels Rosanna hid something in the case and sunk it under the water. He doesn't feel that it is the Diamond.

Back at the house, they find that Rosanna had returned an hour earlier. Cuff notices something strange in Rachel's window. Lady Verinder is waiting to talk to them.



Frist Period, pgs. 131-171 Analysis

Rachel has some angry words with Franklin, which no one can hear. She locks herself in her room again when she returns to the house.

Cuff wants to check the wardrobes for clothing that has a paint smear. Everyone consents except for Rachel. He calls off the search when she refuses. It is her Diamond that is missing, yet she isn't very helpful in the search.

Rosanna attracts Cuff's attention. When he finds her hiding in the shrubbery, Betteredge says she has a fancy for Franklin Blake and is waiting to meet him. Cuff recognized Rosanna from the prison in London and is curious about her, but all in the household vouch for her. Cuff is suspicious about Rachel's behavior. She was seen in town when she was supposed to be sick in her room. She frequently disappears outside, saying she doesn't feel good.

Betteredge is protective of Rosanna and is careful in what he tells Cuff. Cuff seems to sense this and feels that it is because of Rosanna's deformity. They find that Rosanna has been doing some strange things and plans to leave the Verinder household.



First Period, pgs. 171-202

First Period, pgs. 171-202 Summary

Lady Julia tells them that Rachel is going to stay at her aunt's house in Frizinghall. She told her mother right about the time that Rosanna returned. Cuff asks them to delay her departure for several hours. Out in the hall, in response to Betteredge's question, Cuff replies that he thinks Rachel has stolen her own Diamond with the help of Rosanna. Rachel is upset at the delay in her plans.

Franklin tells Betteredge about his discussion with Rosanna. Rosanna appeared while Franklin was playing billiards and asked to speak to him. She left upset when he didn't look at her. Before retiring for the evening, Betteredge finds Cuff asleep on chairs outside Rosanna's door in case Rachel and Rosanna try to talk, which they didn't.

The next morning Cuff talks to Franklin, who says he has nothing to say to him. He says he has no interest in Rosanna in front of Rosanna. Betteredge later learns from Penelope that Rosanna is very upset. Just as he is going to talk to Rosanna, Cuff returns. He has talked to the Indians who will soon be freed. He says their purpose is to recover the Diamond. He also found that Rosanna bought enough material to make a nightgown.

Before Rachel leaves, Cuff says that her leaving will interfere with his finding the Diamond. She leaves, refusing to talk to Franklin, who announces that he is also leaving. Cuff believes that Rachel has the Moonstone with her. Cuff then learns from Joyce, one of the local policemen, that Rosanna has been missing for an hour. Cuff feels she will meet Rachel at Frizinghall.

Cuff learns from Nancy that Rosanna gave a deliveryman a letter to an address in Frizinghall to be posted from Cobb's Hole, so it wouldn't arrive until the next week. Cuff feels it contains the location of the hiding place. The servants tell Cuff that Rosanna was seen headed for the beach, so they go there. Cuff matches one of Rosanna's boots to a footprint in the sand. They follow the footsteps to the rocks in the storm. They feel that she has had an accident and people from the fishing village come to help her search for her. They feel she has taken her own life. A note is found in the house which confirms this fact.

Franklin is still leaving and tries to pay Cuff his fee to end the investigation. Cuff refuses saying he will talk to Lady Verinder.

First Period, pgs. 171-202 Analysis

The mystery of the relationship between Rosanna and Franklin deepens. Rosanna tries to talk to Franklin while he is playing billiards. When he didn't look at her, she figured it was because of her deformity and ran out of the room upset. The next day, he upsets



her again by telling Cuff he has no interest in her. Rosanna is visibly shaken and Franklin is also upset over the incident and wants Betteredge to talk to her.

Franklin is upset that Rachel refused to talk to him before she left for Frizinghall. The two had been very close before her birthday and now she won't have anything to do with him. He is leaving and says that she will return once he is gone. He doesn't tell anyone what has happened between them.

Rosanna kills herself on the beach, leaving a note to Betteredge telling him of this fact. No reason is given and they can't find her body.

The Diamond seems to have caused a lot of problems in the Verinder household and no one knows why.



First Period, pgs. 203-234

First Period, pgs. 203-234 Summary

Cuff Betteredge meet with Lady Verinder. Betteredge assures her that Cuff did nothing to upset Rosanna. Cuff feels that Rachel will be able to shed some light on Rosanna's behavior. Julia says that her daughter isn't capable of hiding the Diamond as Cuff suspects.

Cuff discuss Rachel's behavior in refusing to cooperate and says it is consistent with someone who is in debt. Cuff explains his efforts to keep the scandal quite. He believes Rosanna was helping Rachel raise money since he knows that she was acquainted with a London money lender. He recommends that they watch Rachel. He will send a servant to replace Rosanna and talk with the money lender. Lady Verinder refuses.

Cuff's other suggestion is to tell Rachel of Rosanna's death and see if she talks. They agree on this tactic. Lady Verinder says that she, not Cuff, will talk to her daughter. She drives herself to Frizinghall in the storm. Franklin delays his departure until they find out what comes of Julia's talk with Rachel.

While Lady Verinder is gone, Franklin and Betteredge talk. Franklin defends Rachel. Julia remains at Frizinghall and send letters to Franklin and Betteredge. Betteredge receives a check for Cuff's fee and dismissal. Julia's letter says that Rachel has never had any private conversations with Rosanna. Rachel says she has no debts and did not hide the Diamond. Cuff says that this doesn't end the family scandal. He says the Indians will appear wherever Rachel goes, and they will hear from Cobb's Hole when the letter is delivered. He also says they will hear from the money lender.

Lady Verinder's letter to Franklin says that she is taking Rachel to London for medical treatment. She tells Franklin to give Rachel some time. Franklin tells Betteredge that the Colonel got his vengeance, all one has to do is look at what happened to the Verinder household that was once so happy. Franklin says his goodbyes and leaves the Verinder house.

Penelope and Lady Verinder's maid are sent to the Verinder house in London. Betteredge remains at the Yorkshire estate and watches as Cuff's prophesies come true. Lucy Yolland arrives, looking for Franklin, whom she calls a murderer and blames him for causing Rosanna's death. Lucy has a letter for Franklin from Rosanna and she will only give it to Franklin who had already departed.

Letters from London inform Betteredge that Franklin has left England. Penelope writes that Rachel is seeing Godfrey and Lady Verinder spent a lot of time with her lawyers about a poor relation named Miss Clack. He receives a newspaper item from Cuff about the money lender, Mr. Septimus Luker, being bothered by three Indians. Luker felt that robbery was the motive. Cuff's predictions had come true.



First Period, pgs. 203-234 Analysis

Most of the decisions in this section are made by Lady Verinder. She talks to her daughter and sends word that her daughter had no private discussions with Rosanna and has no debts. She dismisses Cuff and takes Rachel to London.

Betteredge watches as Cuff's three predictions come true about Cobb's Hole, the money lender, and the Indians. He wonders about Rachel's involvement. The logical questions here is what is Lady Verinder's role in all of this? When she first learned of Rachel receiving the Diamond, she said that she didn't want Rachel to keep it. She seems to know about the legend of the Moonstone. Cuff never once suspects Lady Verinder, or was that part of his strategy?



Second Period, pg. 235-275

Second Period, pg. 235-275 Summary

Miss Clack, a poor relative of the Verinders, was asked by Franklin to write her narrative of the Moonstone from the diary she kept while visiting her Aunt Verinder in London. She tells of how Godfrey received a note requesting a meeting in Strand. Thinking it concerned one of his charities, Godfrey went. He was tied up and searched by three Indians. The next day, the same thing happened to Luker at a different location. The only difference in the two incidents is that Luker's bank receipt was taken. Both incidents were reported to the police.

Miss Clack is talking to Lady Verinder when Godfrey arrives. Rachel walks in and tells Godfrey that she wishes he had brought Luker along. She wants to hear about the muggings, but Godfrey won't talk much about it, although he agrees that he thinks the Indians are the same as those who appeared at the Yorkshire house. He tells them that the receipt stolen from Luker was for a valuable gem he had deposited in the bank and that some people are saying that the gem is the Moonstone and that Godfrey pawned it. Rachel becomes hysterical and has to be sedated. Rachel leaves and Godfrey burns a piece of paper, referring to a conspiracy.

After Godfrey leaves, Lady Verinder asks Drusilla to stay and keep her company. She wants her to be a witness to her will when her lawyer arrives. Lady Verinder confides that she is very ill with a heart disease and could die at anytime. When the solicitor, Mr. Bruff, arrives, the three of them talk about Luker and the Indians. Bruff and Drusilla also discuss the possibility of Godfrey or Franklin stealing the Moonstone. Bruff doesn't believe it was either of them but thinks the Moonstone is in London.

After the lawyer leaves, Drusilla remains with her aunt for a while. The next day Lady Verinder's maid appears at Drusilla's residence with a package of the publications she had left.

Second Period, pg. 235-275 Analysis

The mystery of the Diamond and who did what deepens. The Indians are in London and have mugged and searched Godfrey and Luker. From Luker they took a receipt for a gem that Luker had deposited at the bank. Godfrey refers to a conspiracy and burns a piece of paper in front of her aunt and Drusilla. Rachel becomes hysterical very easily since the Diamond was stolen. If the Diamond is in London, how did it get there?



Second Period, pgs. 275-312

Second Period, pgs. 275-312 Summary

At Aunt Verinder's house, Drusilla overhears Godfrey saying that he would do something that day. She then finds him talking to Rachel. Rachel says she accepted a dreadful responsibility with the Diamond and has a secret. Godfrey again asks Rachel to marry him. After a discussion, Rachel accepts his proposal. A few minutes later, Lady Verinder dies.

The engagement is known ten days after Lady Verinder's funeral. Godfrey's father is named Rachel's guardian. It's decided that Rachel will stay in Brighton at the home of the elder Abelwhite. Drusilla helps out with Rachel's move and is invited to stay with her at Brighton. She helps prepare the house for Rachel's arrival. Bruff escorts the ladies to Brighton.

Rachel tells Drusilla that she will never marry Godfrey. When Godfrey arrives later that day, he tells Drusilla that the engagement is broken. Rachel says she loves another man. After their talk, Godfrey leaves for London. The next evening, Godfrey's father and Mr. Bruff arrive. Mr. Abelwhite wants to know why Rachel broke the engagement. He says he takes the broken engagement as an insult and says she has the Herncastle blood in her. He tells Bruff that he refuses to be Rachel's guardian. Bruff tells Rachel of a clause in the will regarding the appointment of a new guardian and invites her to stay with his family. Rachel accepts and leaves with Bruff.

Second Period, pgs. 275-312 Analysis

Rachel accepts Godfrey's offer of marriage, and, after being in his father's home and guardianship, breaks the engagement. Godfrey's father does not take the news well. He says she has the Herncastle blood in her and refuses to be her guardian. Luckily, barrister Bruff is present.

Rachel apparently had time to reconsider her engagement to Godfrey. Before he proposed, she kept telling them that they would just be cousins. For some reason, she gave in to his pressure. At Brighton she realized she didn't want to marry him and said so.

Rachel does not seem as hysterical as she was before her mother's death, which seems to have had a sobering effect on her. She also confided to Drusilla that she loved another man. Perhaps Lady Verinder was correct in telling Blake to give Rachel some time.



Second Narrative, pg. 312-338

Second Narrative, pg. 312-338 Summary

The Second Narrative is the work of Mathew Bruff, the Solicitor. One of the three Indians appeared at his office and afterward, Bruff talked with Mr. Murthwaite. His story begins with Lady Verinder's will with Mr. Murthwaite. His story begins with Lady Verinder's will and how another solicitor asked to see it. The solicitor's client was Godfrey. The way the will was written, there was no way a husband of Rachel's could touch her inheritance. Bruff had a talk with Rachel and she broke her engagement. Godfrey, Bruff discovered, needed a large amount of money.

The Indian who came to see Bruff was recommended by Mr. Luker. He wanted to borrow money and offered a gem as collateral. It seems Luker had no money to lend. Bruff said he didn't lend money to strangers and the Indian departed, after learning the customary terms for lending in England. Bruff next met with Luker, who told him he recognized the Indian visitor as the chief from his previous encounter with them. Luker, terrified, told the man he had no money to lend and recommend Bruff.

That night, Bruff went to a dinner party where he talked to Mr. Murthwaite. Bruff mentioned the Moonstone to get his attention and told him the story of the Indian visitor. Murthwaite points out that the Indians would have obtained a copy of Herncastle's will and known that Rachel received the Diamond. They had to have their organization watching and following the Diamond, waiting for a chance to retrieve it.

Murthwaite has a copy of a letter to the three Indians who were imprisoned in Frizinghall. He was asked to translate it and kept a copy, which he shows to Bruff. Murthwaite explains the letter to Bruff. They discuss all of the events that have occurred and then wonder how the Diamond traveled to London. They both feel that it is in Luker's possession. They conclude that the Indians think the Moonstone was used as collateral for a loan. This is why they wanted to know the terms of lending. The Indians will make another attempt at the end of the year when the Diamond was pledged which would be the end of June 1849.

Second Narrative, pg. 312-338 Analysis

Godfrey's motives were not as pure as they seemed in regards to Rachel. Bruff found out that Godfrey needed a large amount of money and passed this information on to Rachel. As a result, she broke her engagement.

Bruff already knew the story of the Moonstone. He had handled the Moonstone for Herncastle. He is curious when he receives a visit from an Indian offering a gem as collateral for a loan and then wanting to know the terms of lending in England. He and Mr. Murthwaite discuss the situation at a dinner party and conclude that the Indians think that the Moonstone was pledged as collateral for a loan. Both Murthwaite and

Bruff feel they will return again in June, 1849, when the loan is due. They feel that that was the message that the Indians conveyed to both Luker and Bruff.

The briefly discuss how the Diamond raveled to London. They don't spend much time on the subject or come up with any answers. Murthwaite again warns that the Indians will not hesitate to kill to get the Diamond



Third Narrative, pgs. 339-380

Third Narrative, pgs. 339-380 Summary

This narrative is written by Franklin Blake, who was traveling in the East in spring 1849. A servant brings him a letter from Mr. Bruff. Franklin's father had died, leaving the bulk of his estate to Franklin, who immediately returned to England. He had gone abroad to try to forget Rachel. However, now, the closer he is to England, the more he thinks about her. Rachel is living with a sister of her father's.

When he calls on Rachel, he is told she is out. He returns, but she still is out so he met with her aunt, who can't help him. He tells Bruff he is going to Yorkshire to see if he can find out why Rachel won't even talk to him. Franklin says he will try to find the Moonstone thief.

In Yorkshire, Betteredge is happy to see him. Franklin says he is there to look for the Moonstone. Betteredge tells him that Cuff has retired. He also tells him about the sealed letter from Rosanna. The next morning the two men go to Cobb's Hole to obtain the letter. Rosanna's letter contains directions to the hiding place. Franklin follows the directions and finds the tin case with the nightgown with the paint smear. The nightgown has his name on it.

Franklin and Betteredge discuss the situation. Rosanna is implicating him, Franklin. Rosanna's letter says that she loves him. She tells the story of what happened and how she found the stained nightgown in his room when she went to clean. She replaced the stained nightgown with the one she made. As he is reading the letter, there is a knock at the door and Mr. Candy's assistant, Ezra Jennings, hands a list of names of people who are sick to Betteredge. Rosanna thought that Franklin stole the Diamond to cover his debts. If he would have talked to her, she would have given him the name of a money lender in London. Rosanna believed that she was protecting Franklin.

Third Narrative, pgs. 339-380 Analysis

Franklin returns to England to collect his inheritance. Rachel won't see him or communicate with him in any way. He believes that it is because of the Moonstone and thinks that if he finds out who took the Moonstone, he will solve his problems with Rachel. He doesn't understand her animosity towards him and thinks that the only way to find out is to solve the case of the missing Diamond.

The letter from Rosanna to Franklin reveals that Penelope was not wrong in saying that Rosanna was in love with Franklin. The nightgown that Rosanna found in Franklin's room with the paint smear was replaced by Rosanna and hidden in the tin case along with a long letter. Rosanna thought she was protecting Franklin, who she believed took the Diamond to help cover his debts.

Franklin had been upset about his encounters with Rosanna at the time and had asked Betteredge to talk to her, but he never had a chance. Rosanna was basically obsessed with Franklin who would never have anything to do with a servant.



Third Narrative, pgs. 380-417

Third Narrative, pgs. 380-417 Summary

During the walk to the train station, Franklin asks Betteredge if he was intoxicated on the night of Rachel's birthday and Betteredge says no. Sleepwalking? No. Franklin is trying to account for the paint on his nightgown. Betteredge points out that he couldn't have taken the Diamond to Luker without knowing it and tells him to talk to Bruff. They see Ezra Jennings at the train station.

In London, Bruff says that all of this explains Rachel's behavior. She thinks he took the Diamond. Bruff says that they must speak to Rachel. Bruff also points out that they don't know who was wearing the nightgown. Bruff will invite Rachel to his house for a day. While waiting for the time to go to Bruff's house, Franklin reads a letter from Betteredge. Ezra Jennings told him that Mr. Candy wanted to see Franklin and was sorry he missed him.

Franklin appears at the Bruff house at the appointed time. When he talks to Rachel, she talks about what he has done and calls her a coward. He tells her the story of what happened at Shivering Sand. Rachel says that she saw him take the Diamond. He tells her that they have both been victimized and wants her to tell him everything she remembers. She tells him the story and how infuriated she was that he brought in the police. She says he pledged the Diamond to a money lender in London and left the country. Rachel says that she will never expose him.

Bruff comes to see Franklin that evening. Franklin agrees that he won't see Rachel without Bruff's consent. Bruff tells him that it is almost the end of June. They will keep watch over Luker and the bank to see if the Moonstone is redeemed. Then they will learn who pledged it and that might set things right with Rachel. However, he thinks the Indians will also be there.

Franklin goes to meet with Sergeant Cuff at his Dorking home but finds he has gone to Ireland. He leaves a message and returns to London, deciding to talk to the people who had been at the birthday dinner. He finds that any of the ones in London are out of the country, so he goes to Frizinghall. He first visits Mr. Candy, who he finds is ill with memory problem.

Third Narrative, pgs. 380-417 Analysis

Bruff analyzes the situation in a more level-headed manner than Franklin did. He says they don't know who was wearing the nightgown and that Rosanna's letter is proof that she is good at deception. Her purpose was to cause trouble between Franklin and Rachel. She wanted Franklin for herself.



Rachel's encounter with Franklin reveals some explosive information. She saw Franklin take the Diamond, which is why she was so infuriated with the farce with the police. She loved Franklin and wouldn't expose him. Franklin says he is victimized and can't explain it. He is following Bruff's advice and waiting the two weeks to see if the Moonstone is redeemed and by whom, hoping it will clear him with Rachel.

Franklin has to try to clear his name. It is two weeks until the day for the Moonstone to be redeemed. He still loves Rachel.



Third Narrative, pgs. 417-446

Third Narrative, pgs. 417-446 Summary

Ezra Jennings walks with Franklin on the way to the Abelwhite house and tells Franklin that it is a miracle that Mr. Candy survived his illness. He has no functional memory of the past according to Jennings. Jennings tells Franklin the details of Mr. Candy's illness. He also wrote down everything that Mr. Candy said when he was delirious and then destroyed the notes.

Jennings is also suffering from an incurable illness and is dying. The men talk, with Jennings asking about Franklin's physical condition when the Diamond was stolen. He slept soundly on that one night only. They will meet again in two hours to talk.

At the appointed time, Jennings gives Franklin what notes he has. Jennings confirms that Franklin says he never has taken opium yet he slept soundly that one night. He remembers a discussion in which he attacked the medical profession. Jennings theorizes that Franklin was given a dose of opium by Mr. Candy, which is why he doesn't remember taking the Diamond. The medicine came from Lady Verinder's medicine chest.

Jennings's notes can't literally prove anything, but Jennings suggests they recreate the circumstances. He shows Franklin some documentation in a book to support his theory. Jennings explains the effects of opium. Re-creating the circumstances may reveal what he did with the Diamond. He tells Franklin that he and Bruff assume the Moonstone is in London. They have no proof.

Jennings says he will write Rachel and tell her of the situation. He will ask her permission to recreate the circumstances to test his theory about the opium.

Third Narrative, pgs. 417-446 Analysis

Jennings kept notes about Mr. Candy's ravings when he was delirious with fever and from them concludes that Franklin was given a dose of opium. Since Franklin never had any experience with opium, he couldn't recognize it or the effects. This would explain why Franklin had no recollection of taking the Diamond, even though it doesn't explain how the gem traveled to London. Jennings points out that they have no proof that the Diamond traveled to London or that Luker pledged it. They are all assuming that from the information they had available.

Jennings's plan to recreate the circumstances with Franklin quitting smoking and trying opium seems to have some merit to it. The literature suggests that people tend to remember things they don't consciously remember if the circumstances are recreated. Franklin is willing to try the experiment if they can obtain Rachel's consent.



Fourth Narrative, pgs. 447-483

Fourth Narrative, pgs. 447-483 Summary

Ezra Jennings is the narrator for the Fourth Narrative. Jennings wrote the letter to Rachel on June 15, 1849. By the next day, Franklin had already stopped smoking. On June 17 they receive a letter from Rachel saying that she now believes in Franklin's innocence and Ezra feels that she still loves him. She consents to the experiment and says she will travel to her country house to assist. She wants to be there for the opium experiment.

Bruff does not favor the experiment. He feels it is just a trick that would unsettle Rachel and the household. Betteredge arrives, since he has been instructed by Rachel to do whatever is asked of him. They are trying to restore the house to the condition it was in during Rachel's birthday.

Franklin receives a letter from Sergeant Cuff on June 20. Cuff says unless he is accused of making some mistake, he would prefer to remain retired. Blake decides to tell him all that has happened and to let him make up his own mind.

June 25th is the day of the experiment. Rachel will arrive with Miss Merridew, her legal guardian, and Mr. Bruff. They plan to have dinner at the same time the birthday dinner occurred. Franklin and Jennings find the Tincture of Opium vial in the medicine chest. At ten, Bruff and the women arrive. Ezra wants their presence kept a secret from Franklin. Rachel is very excited about being reconciled with Franklin.

Betteredge is asked to place the medicine chest in Rachel's sitting room, which he does. They prepare the opium dose in water and place a crystal in Rachel's Indian cabinet, where the Diamond was taken from. Franklin takes the dose. It takes an hour to take effect.

Franklin talks under the influence of the opium and gets out of bed. He is worried about the Indians and the fact that the Diamond isn't locked up. He goes to Rachel's room and took the crystal. But he doesn't leave. He falls asleep on the sofa in Rachel's sitting room.

The men decide that the experiment proves that Franklin took the Diamond under the influence of opium but they don't know what he did with it. Ezra thinks it is hidden in Franklin's room. Bruff says he will return to London to watch Luker and the bank and wants Franklin to come with him. Rachel waits for Franklin to awaken and leaves with them in the morning.



Fourth Narrative, pgs. 447-483 Analysis

Rachel consents to the experiment with the opium and instructs Betteredge to help in any way. Betteredge arrives to take notes and is rather sarcastic and skeptical. Franklin apparently doesn't remember asking Betteredge about what he drank the evening of the party. Betteredge told him he drank a lot of water.

Rachel is still clearly in love with Franklin. She insists on being present for the experiment even though they don't tell Franklin. The experiment proves Ezra's theory about Franklin taking the Diamond under the influence of opium. Rachel spends the night keeping watch over Franklin's drugged sleep with Ezra. Franklin doesn't know that she is there until the next morning. She returns to London with him and Bruff.

The end of the month is coming and if the Diamond was pledged, it will be time to redeem it. They all want to know who will redeem it.



Fifth Narrative, pgs. 484-502

Fifth Narrative, pgs. 484-502 Summary

The Fifth Narrative is by Franklin Blake. He begins by saying he has no memory of what happened while he was under the influence of the opium. He and Rachel are reconciled and happy. They wanted Ezra Jennings to come to London with them but he declined.

At the train station, they are alerted that Mr. Luker left his house in the company of two plainclothes police officers. They think he may be going for the Diamond. They go to the bank and see him there. Bruff's men find Luker paid by check and received a receipt. Bruff and Blake had followed the wrong man and are eager to see how their associates made out. Back at Bruff's office, they find their second man has had no luck. The third man returns and says Mr. Luker went back to his house and dismissed the guards. There has been no sign of the Indians.

The next morning Sergeant Cuff appears. The facts of the story they told him never dawned on him. He came to help in any way he could since Lady Verinder was so generous with his fee. Cuff gives Franklin a letter to be opened after they know the whole story. It contains the name of the person he suspects.

The boy Bruff employs called Gooseberry arrives. He followed a black bearded man dressed like a sailor because he saw Luker pass something to the man. He followed the sailor to a Rotterdam steamboat. At the wharf, the boy noticed an Indian in a cab and a man dressed like a mechanic. The sailor took a room at a bar, the Wheel of Fortune. A while later, the mechanic was thrown out of the bar. After this, the boy returned to the office.

They go to the Wheel of Fortune and asked to see the sailor. They found that he didn't answer his call and the staff in is in the process of breaking in. They find the sailor dead and an empty small wooden box with a receipt. Cuff pulls off the man's wig and beard and washes off the makeup. The dead man is Godfrey Abelwhite which is the name in the sealed letter Cuff had given to Blake.

Fifth Narrative, pgs. 484-502 Analysis

Rachel and Franklin are happily reconciled. The whole group leaves for London. Bruff has been having Luker watched. When they arrive at the train station, they are met by Gooseberry and other men from his office. They tell them Luker left his home with two guards. Rushing to the bank, they check the people in the office. When Luker leaves, they each follow different people. Gooseberry follows the man dressed as a sailor to the wharf area and notices another man dressed as a mechanic and an Indian riding around in a taxi.



The next day, he returns with Sergeant Cuff and Franklin to the lodging house where the sailor is found dead. The sailor turns out to be Godfrey Abelwhite, who was wearing a disguise. There is an empty jewel case with a receipt. Apparently the Moonstone is missing again.



Sixth - Eighth Narratives, pgs. 505-520

Sixth - Eighth Narratives, pgs. 505-520 Summary

The Sixth Narrative is by Sergeant Cuff and is basically his report to Franklin Blake. Cuff says that Godfrey died from being smothered and that the three Indians were probably in some way involved in the death. Luker identified the empty box found as having contained the Moonstone. Cuff believes that the motive was stealing the Moonstone. The murderers gained access to the room through a trapdoor in the roof. The three Indians left England on a steamer bound for Rotterdam.

Cuff's investigation of Godfrey showed that he had a country villa bought under another name where he kept a woman. All the expensive furnishings and artwork were paid for. Godfrey had been in charge of a trust fund that was emptied out before it came payable. This is how he paid for the villa. His father had refused him a loan and then he asked Rachel to marry him, which would have ended his money problems with the trust, but she refused before her eighteenth birthday. Godfrey is a part of the conspiracy with the opium, along with Betteredge and Candy.

Godfrey brought the Diamond to Luker on June 23, 1848. He was trying to sell the Moonstone. Godfrey had watched Franklin take the Diamond and he received the gem from Franklin before he passed out.

Luker would only accept the stone as a pledge for a loan. Godfrey had been to Amsterdam and made arrangement for the Moonstone to be cut into separate stones. This would give Godfrey the money he needed to pay off the trust the next year.

The Seventh Narrative is a letter from Mr. Candy to Franklin telling of the death of Ezra Jennings. All of his papers were reburied with him at his request, except for a journal that he wanted Franklin to have.

The Eighth Narrative is by Betteredge. He tells of the marriage of Rachel and Franklin on October 8, 1849. They are expecting a child within a few months, which Betteredge predicted from Robinson Crusoe.

Sixth - Eighth Narratives, pgs. 505-520 Analysis

Godfrey Abelwhite was not the do gooder he presented himself as. He had a lavishly furnished country villa purchased under another name, where he kept a woman. He had paid for it by robbing a trust that he was in charge of. When he couldn't get a loan to cover a trust payment, he tried to get Rachel to marry him, but she refused.

It was Godfrey who put the opium in Franklin's water at the party. He watched him walk into Rachel's room and take the Diamond while in a drugged state. He received the Diamond from Franklin and said nothing. Since Rachel didn't say anything about



Franklin, Godfrey kept the Diamond, since he needed money. He pledged it with Luker then used the money to cover the payment for the trust. He made arrangements to have the stone cut in Amsterdam after he redeemed it but was killed before he could do so.

Godfrey's double life and money problems were the cause of all the troubles.



Epilogue, ogs. 521-526

Epilogue, ogs. 521-526 Summary

The Epilogue is a statement by one of Sergeant Cuff's men who followed the three Indians to Rotterdam on the next steamer. He learns that the Indians didn't go as far as Rotterdam. The captain said that he let the Indians off at Gravesend since they claimed they were on the wrong boat. The Indians went back to London, then on to Plymouth where they found passage to Bombay. Sergeant Cuff alerted the authorities in Bombay.

During calm weather off the coast of India, the three Indians steal a lifeboat and made their escape, according to the captain of the boat.

Mr. Murthwaite writes to Mr. Bruff of his adventures in India in a province called Kattiawar. He decided to visit the sacred area of Somnauth and notices that there are quite a few people traveling there. There was to be a big religious ceremony to honor the moon god. Murthweaite recognizes the three Indians from the night of Rachel's birthday. They were the three Brahims who sacrificed their caste for their god. They would leave, each going in a different direction and never see each other again. In the statue of the god of the moon was the Moonstone.

Epilogue, ogs. 521-526 Analysis

The three Indians were traced by Cuff's men and known to have returned to India. They were indeed Brahims who sacrificed their caste to serve their god. Mr. Murthwaite, while traveling in a remote area of India, stumbles into a festival for the moon god. He recognizes the three Indians from the night of Rachel's birthday. They are undergoing a rite of purification, each beginning his own pilgrimage, never to see each other again. The Moonstone, which has been missing since the eleventh century, has been returned to the statue of the moon god. The legend of the Moonstone was apparently true.



Characters

Lady Rachel Verinder

Rachel is the daughter of Julia Verinder and the niece of John Herncastle, who bequeathed the Diamond to her only on the condition that Julia was still alive. She will receive the Diamond on her eighteenth birthday on June 21. Rachel was an independent woman with a mind of her own. Her behavior changes after the Diamond is missing and her mother takes her to London for medical treatment. Rachel, who said she and Godfrey would always just be cousins, accepts Godfrey's proposal of marriage and then breaks the engagement. When Godfrey's father refuses to be her guardian, the solicitor Bruff becomes her guardian and then Merridew Verinder. She is in love with Franklin all along and saw him take the Diamond, not knowing that he had been drugged. They are reconciled after Jennings proves his opium theory. Rachel marries Franklin and is awaiting the arrival of their first child at the end of the book. Rachel was never told anything of the story of the legend of the Diamond until the end.

Gabriel Betteredge

Gabriel Betteredge is the narrator and the page of the Herncastle household. When Julia Herncastle married Sir John Verinder, Betteredge served with Lady Verinder. He is the son of a farmer. He married Selina Goby and they had a daughter, Penelope.

In 1848, Mr. Franklin, Herncastle's nephew, wants him to write a narrative of the Diamond's story. Betteredge is seventy years old at the time. Betteredge had been a page boy in the Herncastle household. He served Julia Herncastle after her marriage. In 1847, he became the house steward. He helps Sergeant Cuff in the investigation of the missing Diamond. When Franklin returns to the country estate, he helps them re-create the night of the birthday when the Diamond was stolen. It was Betteredge who gave Franklin the glass of water. He never says if he knew about the opium. He stays on with Franklin and Rachel after they are married.

Betteredge knew the story of the legend of the Diamond. He discusses it with Franklin and Lady Verinder, but never with Rachel.

John Herncastle

John Herncastle is the cousin of the narrator of the Prologue. Both were involved in the capture of Seringapatam. Herncastle believed in the myth surrounding the Moonstone. During the battle, Herncastle killed several Indians and took the dagger that had the Moonstone in the handle. He is referred to as the wicked colonel by Betteredge. When he died, he bequeathed the Moonstone to Lady Rachel and Franklin Blake came to deliver the Diamond.



The Herncastle family has five children. The eldest son Arthur received the estates and the title. The second son John received money. John Herncastle had kept the Diamond all those years, never showing it to anyone. John was basically treated as an outcast when he returned to England because of the Diamond. His sister Julia had him visit once, a year and a half before his death. Upon his death, the Diamond was bequeathed to Rachel Verinder.

Sergeant Cuff

Sergeant Cuff is a detective from London who was brought in to investigate the missing Diamond. He accuses Rachel of hiding the Diamond as is eventually dismissed by Lady Verinder. He predicts three events to Betteredge, all of which come true within a week of his departure. Cuff retires to a house in Dorking and is in Ireland when Franklin comes to see him. He returns and visits Franklin when he learns about the opium. He goes to the lodging house at the wharf with Franklin and Gooseberry and finds Godfrey Ablewhite's body with an empty gem box. His man tracks the three Indians to a boat headed for Bombay, but they steal a lifeboat and arrive in India without being detected by the authorities.

Mr. Franklin Blake

Mr. Franklin Blake is the nephew of John Herncastle. He asked Betteredge to write the story of the Diamond. Franklin was educated in Germany, France and Italy. When Rachel is taken to London by Lady Verinder, after publicly snubbing Blake, he leaves the country. Blake is the author of the Third and Fifth Narratives. He discovers that he was drugged with opium and had no memory of taking the Diamond. Ezra Jennings helps them re-create the circumstances of the night of the theft and this leads to a reconciliation with Rachel. They marry and are awaiting the arrival of their first child at the end of the book.

Mathew Bruff

Matthew Bruff is the Verinder family solicitor. He takes over as Rachel's guardian when Abelwhite refuses to be guardian when she breaks her engagement to his son. Bruff is the narrator of the Second Narrative. He talks to Mr. Murthwaite and concludes that the Indians think the Moonstone was pledged for a loan that is due in June 1849 and that they will try to steal the Diamond then. He tells Franklin of this when Rachel tells Franklin she saw him take the Diamond. Bruff is at the country house for the opium experiment and has people in London watching Luker. They discover that it is Godfrey who pledged the Diamond and was killed when he redeemed it.



Godfrey Abelwhite

Godfrey Abelwhite is the son of Julia's sister, Caroline. He is invited to the Verinder estate for Rachel's birthday. He is a barrister involved in social causes. In London he talks Rachel into accepting his proposal of marriage, but she breaks the engagement. A year after the Diamond is pledged, it is redeemed by a man dressed as a sailor. That man was Godfrey and he was found dead at a lodging house near the wharf. The box which held the Moonstone was empty.

Rosanna Spearman

Rosanna Spearman is the second housemaid in the house of Lady Verinder. She was a new servant at the time of Franklin's arrival. She had been imprisoned for thievery when Lady Verinder gave her a chance to prove herself by hiring her. Rosanna suffered from fainting fits and a deformed shoulder and was resented by the other servants. She is twenty-five years old when she appears at the Verinder house. Rosanna is frequently ill and take many walks to clear her head. She commits suicide at the beach, but her body is never found.

Ezra Jennings

Ezra Jennings is Mr. Candy's medical assistant. He wrote notes of Mr. Candy's delirious ravings and concludes the Mr. Candy gave Franklin a dose of opium without Franklin knowing it. This is how Franklin took the Diamond without knowing he had done so. He suggests that they re-create the circumstances of that night to see if Franklin will remember anything. Ezra is the narrator for the Fourth Narrative. He dies the month before Franklin and Rachel's wedding and leaves his journals to Franklin.

Julia Verinder

Julia Verinder is Lady Verinder and is the youngest of three sisters. She married Sir John Verinder. They had one daughter, Rachel, before Sir John died. After the problems with Rachel after the Diamond went missing, Julia took her to London for medical care. Julia is diagnosed as having a serious heart problem and dies shortly after.

Miss Drusilla Clack

Drusilla Clack is described as a poor relation of the Verinder's. She is the narrator of the Second Period. She has kept a diary and was paid by Franklin Blake to write her narrative of the Moonstone. She is involved in Christian charities and in trying to save the souls of Lady Verinder and Rachel.



Penelope Betteredge

Penelope is the daughter of Gabriel Betteredge. She works as a maid in the house of Lady Verinder and is the personal maid to Rachel. She kept a diary and helped her father write the narrative of the Diamond from her diary.

Nancy

Nancy is a maid in the house of Lady Verinder.



Objects/Places

Seringapatam

Seringapatam is a place in India that was stormed and captured by the British.

Yorkshire

Yorkshire, on seacoast of England, is the location of Lady Verinder's country house.

Cobb's Hole

Cobb's Hole is the fishing village on the Yorkshire coast near the estate of Lady Verinder.

Frizinghall

Frizinghall is a town near the Verinder estate where the Diamond was placed in a bank.

Shivering Sand

The Shivering Sand is an area of beach by the Verinder estate where there is quicksand.

London

London, the capitol of England, is the setting for the a large portion of the novel. The Verinder's have a house in London and the Diamond was taken to London.

The Strand

The Strand is an area of London where the Indians rented a room for a week and tied up and searched Godfrey.

Brighton

Brighton, in England, is where Godfrey's father lives and where Rachel lives after her mother's death.



Hotherstone's Farm

Hotherstone's Farm is located two miles from the Verinder's Yorkshire estate and is where Franklin rents a suite of rooms.

Dorking

Dorking, Surrey, is the town in England where Sergeant Cuff lives since his retirement.



Themes

Mystery and Suspense

Since *The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins is a nineteenth century detective story, mystery and suspense are an obvious theme of the book. A diamond called the Moonstone was stolen from the statue of a Hindu god in the eleventh century. There is a legend surrounding the Diamond about bad luck and there are three Indians that follow and watch the Diamond through the centuries, looking for a chance to retrieve it and restore it to its rightful place. This is the Diamond that is inherited by Lady Rachel Verinder. She is not aware of the legend of the Moonstone. That night the Diamond is stolen. It is pledged for loan in London. Three Indians follow it and wait for it to be redeemed. When it is, they kill Godfrey, steal the Diamond and return it to the statue it was stolen from centuries ago in a remote area of India.

The suspense of the novel is evenly distributed, for lack of a better term. It begins in the opening pages with the history of the Moonstone and continues to the last page of the book where Mr. Murthwaite tells of the religious ceremony in India. Throughout the book, the reader is trying to figure out who took the Diamond and how and waiting to find out what happens next as the story unfolds. They never know for sure that Mr. Luker has accepted the Moonstone as pledge for a loan and they don't know who pledged the Diamond. But they know the Indians are following it and waiting, like they are.

Relationships

Relationships are another theme of the novel. First, there is the relationship between Rosanna and Franklin Blake. Rosanna is a deformed servant who imagines herself to be in love with Franklin, who is in love with Rachel. Most of Rosanna's love is a fantasy since Franklin never encourages her but does not go out of his way to hurt her. He is not even aware of her feelings for him and only finds out after she kills herself.

Rachel and Franklin were in love, but after the Diamond was stolen, she kept snubbing him and in London, she refused to see him. She became engaged to Godfrey, found out from Bruff that he was only interested in her money, and then broke off the engagement. She did not love Godfrey because she was still in love with Franklin. She had seen Franklin take the Diamond and then watched him lead the investigation with the police. This is what she couldn't handle and never said anything until Bruff arranged a meeting for them in London.

As the story of the drugging with opium became known, Rachel and Franklin reconcile and marry several months later. They are both thankful to Ezra Jennings for figuring out about the opium. The book ends with them expecting their first child.



Patience

Patience can be given as another theme of the novel. The patience of the Indians in the retrieval of their Diamond spanned centuries. According to the legend, there were always three Indians who followed the Diamond, watching whoever they thought had it, always waiting for the chance to retrieve it. They were in the service of their gods and had sacrificed their Brahim caste. They didn't care who they had to kill to retrieve the Diamond, which was stolen from the statue of one of their gods in the eleventh century. They had followed the Diamond from India to England when John Herncastle stole it. He had to keep it locked in the bank and always feared for his life. The Indians appeared in Yorkshire, having followed Franklin with the Diamond, and saw Rachel wearing it. They then followed it back to London where it was pledged for a loan. The Indians talked to both Luker and Bruff about the customary terms of lending in England. Everyone waited for the Diamond to be redeemed. No one tried to force the issue or pressure Luker into talking. They all waited patiently to see if the Moonstone would be redeemed and by whom. The redeemer, Godfrey Ablewhite, was found dead the morning after the redemption and the Moonstone was returned to the statue of the moon god in a remote section of India.

Style

Point of View

The book is written from the first person point of view but the narrator changes from section to section as each person tells what happened. The narrator for the First Period and the Eighth Narrative is Gabriel Betteredge, the steward at the Verinder country house. The brief Second Period is told by Miss Drusilla Clack. the Second Narrative is told by Mathew Bruff. Franklin Blake is responsible for the Third and Fifth Narratives. Ezra Jennings does the Fourth Narrative and Sergeant Cuff does the Sixth Narrative. The Seventh Narrative consists of a letter from Mr. Candy. The Epilogue consists of statements from one of Sergeant Cuff's men and the captain of the ship, Bewley Castle, and Mr. Murthwaite. These are the people that tell the story of the novel from their own perspective. Each one tells the piece of the story that involved them and between all of them tell the complete story of the novel.

The first person point of view is very appropriate for the structure of the novel as each character relates what happened in their presence. The knowledge of the reader is in no way limited by this approach because there is more than one story teller, with each one telling the story from his/her own point of view.

Setting

There are various settings for the action of the novel. The story begins and ends in India with the theft and ultimate return of the Moonstone. The story of the theft of the stone and its history as it is moved around Indian is related. The remainder of the story is set in various parts of England. The Verinder country house is located in Yorkshire on the coast where there is an area of quicksand known as the Shivering Sand. This is where Rosanna committed suicide. There is a fishing village nearby called Cobb's Hole and a town called Frizinghall. Hotherstone's Farm is located near the Verinder estate.

London is also a setting for much of the book's action since most of the characters have homes there and it is where the Diamond was taken and pledged for a loan. The Strand is the area where the Indians had rented a room and searched Godfrey.

Brighton is an area where Godfrey's father lives and is where Rachel went to live briefly after her mother's death.

Doking is in Surrey and is where Sergeant Cuff retired to.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel pertains to the vernacular of the period - nineteenth century. The style of the writing also pertains to the period as does the spelling of some of the



words (i.e., recall is recal). The setting for the story is England so most of the characters are referred to by using a title like mister, miss, Lady, my lady, etc. The meaning of the words also pertains to the period. There are no foreign words or phrases that need translating.

The novel is very readable. There is not much that slows down the reader. There are a few words used that are specific to the nineteenth century England that the reader may puzzle over, but they do not detract from the story in any way. The language and style of writing add to the reality of the time period and are appropriate to the novel.

Structure

The structure of the novel is rather complicated. It is divided into Periods and Narratives, some of which contain chapters. Basically, each person has been asked to tell his part of the story of the missing Diamond and what happened. Some write their stories from their journals and diaries. Some of the Narratives are from letters written by the characters. All of these pieces fit together to tell the story of the novel.

There is a detailed Table of Contents describing which section came from which character, including the Prologue and Epilogue. There is a lengthy Introduction and Prefaces to both the first and second editions. There is also a Note on Sources at the end of the book.

At first glance the structure looks messy and complicated, but it actually works very well for the novel. The different sections consist of the contributions of each of the characters. The book is well structured and well written.



Quotes

"The adventures of the Yellow Diamond begin with the eleventh century of the Christian era." Prologue, p. 34

"For my part, I stuck fast by the plain facts as we knew on the subject of the jewel: and nothing could alter the legal obligation that now lay on Mr. Franklin to put it in his cousin's possession." First Period, p. 94

"Well, Betteredge,' he said, 'how does the atmosphere of mystery and suspicion in which we are all living now, agree with you? Do you remember that morning when I first came here with the Moonstone? I wish to God we had thrown it into the quicksand!'" First Period, p. 155

"That's a wonderful woman,' said Sergeant Cuff, when we were out in the hall again. 'But for her self-control, the mystery that puzzles you, Mr. Betteredge, would have been at an end to-night.'" First Period, p. 172

"Her ladyship has smoothed matters over for the present very cleverly,' said the Sergeant. 'But this family scandal is of the sort that bursts up again when you least expect it. We shall have more detective-business on our hands, sir, before the Moonstone is many months older.'" First Period, p. 218

"The authorities held that a robbery had been planned, on insufficient information received by the thieves. They had been plainly not sure whether Mr. Luker had, or had not, trusted the transmission of his precious gem to another person; and poor polite Mr. Godfrey had paid the penalty of having been seen accidentally speaking to him." Second Period, p. 243

"Have you forgotten what we agreed on, Godfrey, when you spoke to me in the country? We agreed that we were to be cousins, and nothing more." Second Period, p. 277

"Somebody must have taken the Moonstone from Yorkshire to London. And somebody must have raised money on it, or it would never have been in Mr. Luker's possession. Has there been any discovery made of who that person was?" Second Narrative, p. 336

"I am determined to find out the secret of her silence towards her mother, and her enmity towards me. If time, pains, and money can do it, I will lay my hand on the thief who took the Moonstone." Third Narrative, p. 343

"Suspect you!' she exclaimed, her anger rising with mine. 'You villain. I saw you take the Diamond with my own eyes!'" Third Narrative. p. 393

"Mr. Blake,' he said, 'if you read those notes now, by the light which my questions and your answers have thrown on them, you will make two astounding discoveries,



concerning yourself. You will find: - First, that you entered Miss Verinder's sitting-room and took the Diamond, in a state of trance, produced by opium. Secondly, that the opium was given to you by Mr. Candy - without your own knowledge - as a practical refutation of the opinions which you had expressed to him at the birthday dinner." Third Narrative, p. 435

"Your theory is that Franklin Blake hid the Moonstone in his room. My theory is, that the Moonstone is in the possession of Mr. Luker's bankers in London. We won't dispute which of us is right. We will only ask, which of us is in a position to put his theory to the test?" Fourth Narrative, p. 481

"Those lines removed all further doubt, on one point at least. The sailor had been in possession of the Moonstone, when he had left the bank on the previous day." Fifth Narrative, p. 501

"My purpose, in this place, is to state a fact in the history of the family, which has been passed over by everybody, and which I won't allow to be disrespectfully smothered up in that way. The fact to which I allude is - the marriage of Miss Rachel and Mr. Franklin Blake. This interesting event took place at our house in Yorkshire, on Tuesday, October ninth, eighteen hundred and forty-nine." Eighth Narrative, p. 518

"There, raised high on a throne - seated on his typical antelope, with his four arms stretching towards the four corners of the earth - there, soared above us, dark and awful in the mystic light of heaven, the god of the Moon. And there, in the forehead of the deity, gleamed the yellow Diamond, whose splendour had last shone on me in England, from the bosom of a woman's dress!" Epilogue, p. 526



Topics for Discussion

What is the Moonstone? How did it acquire its name? What is the legend that surrounds it?

How did Rosanna's behavior draw the attention of Sergeant Cuff? How does he know of her background?

Who were the three Indians? What was their purpose?

How does Rosanna's letter implicate Franklin? What does Rachel think and why?

How was it possible for Franklin to have stolen the Diamond without knowing it?

What happens at the end of June 1849? How does this contribute to the mystery and suspense of the novel?

How did the Indians retrieve the Moonstone? How did Mr. Bruff find out?