

Outlander Study Guide

Outlander by Diana Gabaldon

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Plot Summary

It is the year 1945. Claire Randall lived for the past six years as an army nurse while her husband, Frank, served in the war. She appears to be somewhat passive on the outside, with her deep brown, untamed hair and pale skin; but internally she is a woman who wants a family and wants to get to know her husband again after his 6 years away. She was left in the care of her uncle after her parents died when she was 5 years old.

Claire and Frank have been married for seven years. They enjoy their lives together in Scotland, living in a Bed and Breakfast. Frank has a deep interest in his Scottish roots and studies his past in the library. Other means of his revelations come from his historian friends. Together, Frank and Claire travel to the standing stones, near the outskirts of town, to secretly view the rituals that the town women perform together. The town refers to these women as witches.

This is where Claire enters the year 1743. After the visit to the standing stones with Frank, she returns alone to retrieve a plant she wanted. Claire so loved herbs and plants. Frank asked her to also look for traces of fire, for it was part of the witch's ritual. When Claire returns, she leans against one of the standing stones and is transported back in time to the brutal and raw Highlands of Scotland. At first she feels as if she's in some sort of movie filming and people are all in costume. She immediately gets caught up in a fight between two local clans of Scots and is whisked off on horseback to be questioned at a nearby castle. They question her attire and her English accent. She realizes very quickly that it really is 1743 and this is no movie. She must keep quiet and fight for her life.

First, Claire is attacked by Jonathan Randall, who is actually Frank's ancestor. He is a rude Captain and tries to force himself upon her. Jamie Fraser enters the picture as her rescuer from Jonathan Randall. In his accompaniment are his uncles, Colum and Dougal, who cautiously take Claire in. Jonathan Randall was one of their mortal enemies, but had a Captain's rank. As the story unfolds, Claire is thought to be some sort of English traitor, because of her accent and attire. Colum takes her in at castle Leoch, but very cautiously, and tries to get her to talk. The members of the clan and the castle slowly take a liking to Claire.

Claire is consumed by thoughts of escaping and going back to the standing stones, so she can get back to her own time and to Frank. Events unfold that make it impossible for her to return. Jamie is a wanted man with a price on his head for a crime he did not commit. As it turns out, the crime was actually committed by Jonathan Randall. Jamie is on the run, because of these crimes and Claire doesn't help matters, due to her 1900's attitude and demeanor. She offends Jonathan, resulting in his jealousy and great hate for her. He has taken it upon himself to make Claire and Jamie suffer (each for their own crimes against him and Scotland). Dougal devises a plan to help both Claire and Jamie by marrying them. Jonathan cannot come after Claire if she is married to Jamie and taken in by his MacKenzie uncles.



At first, the marriage is against the will of both Claire's and Jamie, but slowly they come to not only look out for one another, but also to fall madly in love with each other. As they become closer, Claire finds it necessary to tell Jamie the truth of her past. He listens, but is torn because he is in love with her. He takes her to the standing stones and orders her back to her own time. Claire fights a battle of wills within herself, as it's been months since she left her own time and she has such loyalty to Jamie. She is not sure what to do, but chooses to stay with Jamie. After the choice is made, the two are inseparable. They vow to be together no matter what happens to them.

They return to Lallybroch (Jamie's home) where his sister, Jenny, and her husband, Ian, welcome them. Jenny and Ian have since had a child together, which they named Jamie. They stay at Lallybroch as long as they can; but it is short lived, as the English are after Jamie for the crimes he's accused of. They escape together, only to have Jamie captured and put in Wentworth prison. Claire fights all odds and rescues him. She nurses him back to health after he is brutally raped and beaten at the hands of Jonathan Randall.

In the end Jamie and Claire end up in France at the Abbey. They accept the help of the monks, and Jamie slowly recovers. Their love for one another triumphs; and it is told to Jamie that Jonathan Randall died during his escape at Wentworth. Jonathan dies being trampled by cows. This is of no solace to Jamie; but he and Claire move on. In the last chapter Claire announces to Jamie that she is with child. This is a new beginning for them and a nice end to the book.

Part 1, Chapter 1

Part 1, Chapter 1 Summary

It is the year 1945. Claire Randall lived for the past six years as an army nurse while her husband, Frank, served in the war. She appears to be somewhat passive on the outside, with her deep brown, untamed hair and pale skin; but internally she is a woman who wants a family and wants to get to know her husband again after his 6 years away. She was left in the care of her uncle after her parents died when she was 5 years old.

Claire Randall has been married to Frank for nearly 8 years. Frank spent 6 of those years in the military and Claire spent 4 years as a Royal Army Nurse. Claire and Frank live in Mrs. Baird's Highland Bed and Breakfast in Scotland. Claire is thought of as a Sassenach (Englishman or Outlander). Her hair is naturally curly and worn a bit on the wild side. It is Mrs. Baird who tells Claire to have a permanent put in her hair by a hairdresser.

Claire's parents both died in a car accident when she was 5-years old, leaving her to be raised by her Uncle Lamb (Quentin Lambert Beauchamp). Uncle Lamb tried to put her into a boarding school; but she raised such a fuss that he gave in and decided against the idea. Instead he took her with him to the Middle East and to South America. She learned to read and write from his journals. Claire first met Frank when he came to discuss Egyptian religion with Uncle Lamb.

Now that Frank is home from the war and reunited with Claire, they would like to start a family of their own. Residing at Mrs. Baird's Bed and Breakfast, they await a new house in Oxford. This will be their first real home.

One morning, Frank is scheduled to meet Rev. Dr. Reginald Wakefield, who is Vicar of the local parish. In the meantime Claire goes shopping. She has never owned a vase, so she purchases one. She then meets Frank at a nearby intersection of town. They walk home together and, as they reach the steps of the Bed and Breakfast, they notice a brown stain on the steps. They both think this to be odd, considering how neat and clean Mrs. Baird keeps the steps. Frank bent down and smelled the stain. It smells like blood. Claire wonders if Mrs. Baird had an accident. Frank proceeds to run up the street, noticing that all of the other residences have the same stain on the steps, and there always seems to be no one home. He runs back to the front steps where Claire remained and comes to the realization that it's a ritual sacrifice that has been performed by the inhabitants.

Claire is baffled. Frank explains that the Scottish Highlands is known for its old superstitions and magic. Frank continues by telling her that it is normal practice to kill something and bury it under a newly constructed home's foundation. They used chickens for this. Since the houses on their street are fairly new, and nothing was buried under the foundations, the inhabitants rectified the situation by putting the chicken's



blood on their front steps. This was all according to the Vicar, who also told Frank that the war had originally started due to the fact that people didn't follow such rituals. Frank explains to Claire that the old house at the end of High Street had a workman buried under the foundation, and the workman's ghost now haunts the old house.

Frank and Claire proceed down to the local pub where all of the inhabitants are found, including the Vicar, in celebration of the recently made sacrifice. Frank makes academic conversation straight away with someone; so Claire meets up with Mrs. Baird and an older gentleman, named Mr. Cook. Claire is quite taken with Mr. Cook's knowledge of flowers. He offers her his press, which she is delighted to have. He was going to throw it away. He also offers to meet up with her the following morning, to view the plant life in the Highlands. She delightfully accepts.

Bad weather is coming, and they leave the pub. Frank goes to have Sherry with Mr. Bainbridge, a friend of his. Claire sits with Mrs. Baird for a while in the parlor, then proceeds upstairs. Once Frank returns from his visit with Mr. Bainbridge, he confronts Claire about a man he saw standing outside of the window. Frank claims the man was staring up at Claire through the window. That he would think she was unfaithful during the 6 years he was away at war makes Claire a little angry. She assures him steadfastly that she was indeed very faithful. She goes to sleep that night, now thinking that maybe Frank was the one who was unfaithful.

Part 1, Chapter 1 Analysis

The book begins by informing the reader that it is the Highlands of Scotland in the year 1945. The story starts in a small Bed and Breakfast run by a Mrs. Baird, who is a nosy, but very clean woman. Claire had been without Frank for 6 years, while he was away at war. Claire serves 4 years as a nurse.

Frank returns from the war after 6 years away, so Claire is both excited to see him and anxious to finally start a family. Claire, although described as an "Outlander," had a hard childhood being raised by an uncle who traveled the world and did not expect to be raising a child from the age of five. Claire feels unwanted and unloved until she meets Frank.. She is clearly smart, however, as she has learned to read and write without a proper education.

This story dates from a time and place with very superstitious beliefs. Claire has been isolated from her husband for many years. It is her love of plants got her through those rough years. Now that Frank has returned and questions her fidelity, she will not waver from the truth that she has most certainly been faithful.

Part 1, Chapter 2

Part 1, Chapter 2 Summary

Mr. Cook arrives, as scheduled, to take Claire on an outing to view the plant life among the Highlands. He arrives on a motorbike with the press attached to the sides. Claire is very impressed. They set out for a picnic and Claire wishes she had brought a pen and paper to take notes. She would have to settle for her memory, as Mr. Cook recites all of his knowledge of the local greenery.

Claire, to her excitement, discovers a miniature henge. Frank and Claire had visited Stonehenge not long after they were married; but this is quite special to her, considering it is miniature and off the beaten path. Claire mentions to Mr. Cook that Frank would be thrilled to see this particular henge, as she circles and touches several of the stones. Claire says that she will bring Frank to see the stones at a later time.

Claire goes to meet Frank at the Vicar's house after her afternoon with Mr. Cook. The maid answers the door and leads her to where Frank and the Vicar are talking together. They had been tracing Frank's ancestor, Jack Randall, through the period he was in the army. The two of them are excited to tell Claire the news they discovered from the eighteenth century. Claire enters to sit in a chair and happens upon Roger, the Vicar's great nephew. The Vicar has been raising him as his own son, since the death of Roger's parents during the war.

Claire gets an earful, as the Vicar and Frank fill her in on the findings of Captain Randall's endeavors throughout the past centuries. The Vicar had gathered information from the local historical society. The consensus is that Captain Randall had been someone powerful in the military hierarchy.

The housekeeper, Mrs. Graham, rescues Claire. They sit together and have tea. Claire notices that it is a tea called oolong, in which tea readings are done. Mrs. Graham gives Claire a reading after finishing her tea. Claire is skeptical. It turns out that Claire's leaves say contradictory things. Mrs. Graham proceeds to read Claire's palm, which makes Claire even more skeptical. She read that Claire has somewhat of a double life, with two men.

The Vicar comes into the kitchen and calls both Mrs. Graham and Claire into the room. He announces that he and Frank had made an interesting discovery. In the tattered papers they had gathered, they found that Captain Randall (Black Jack Randall) was an agent of the Duke of Sandringham. Claire stares at the walls as they talk and sees a lineage chart Vicar had prepared for Roger. He had given Roger his last name so as to give him some sort of history.

After the visit, Frank and Claire leave for the Bed and Breakfast. Frank talks during the whole walk home. Claire quietly thinks about Roger, and about having a child of her



own. Frank mentions that he doesn't want to adopt. He wants a child of his own blood. Claire understands and does not press the issue.

The next morning Frank and Claire take a trip to see the Great Glen of Loch Ness. They board a boat that was chartered by a very knowledgeable guide. He foretells all of the bloody, murderous stories the Loch holds, including Mary Grant, whose lover was beheaded by her angry father who forebode their being together. Apparently it was more gentlemanly to be beheaded than to being hanged. Claire asks the guide about the Loch Ness Monster, whereupon he proceeds to tell her another grizzly story.

Frank and Claire are cozily back in their room at the Bed and Breakfast, when Claire mentions the henge she had seen with Mr. Cook. Frank is very excited and sets his alarm so Claire can show him the following morning. He also wants to see the witches. Claire wonders what witches he is talking about. He proceeds to explain the folk story to her, including that the Vicar's housekeeper is one of the witches. Claire doesn't believe him.

They rise early the next morning. Claire is very tired when they reach the henge. Frank thinks it is beautiful. As they make their way toward the stones of the henge. It is almost sunrise. They notice about 15 women gathering around the henge, almost a modern-day Druid. Mrs. Graham is one of them. Frank and Claire hide in the bushes and watch. The women dance among the rocks in a clockwise motion. As the sun rises, they point their faces toward the sky; and as quietly as they arrived, they leave.

Claire and Frank think it very interesting to watch in silence unnoticed. They start to enter the circle after the women have left; but one returns, so they hide again. After the woman retrieves what she came for, they leave. Later, Claire looks in a book to determine what one of the plants is that she had seen about the circle. Frank tells her to go back and get it. Claire asks why she should go back to get the plant, and he mentions that she should also look for traces of fire. The rituals usually include a fire the night before. She obliges him and reaches the henge at almost 11:00 the next morning. She is wet and tired. She takes some clippings of the plant and makes her way around the stones looking for signs of fire. She sees none. However she touches one of the stones, and it makes a noise like a cry. Then she hears other stones moaning, or crying, as well. It startles her. She begins to get dizzy and can hardly stand. She feels very sick and leans against a tree for support. She hears the sounds of conflict by others nearby, but can't make out the voices. She doesn't know what's going on.

Part 1, Chapter 2 Analysis

Claire maintains an optimistic attitude throughout her afternoon with Mr. Cook. Frank and Claire are very curious people and venture out together. It is part of their nature. They treat others as equals, even though some things the others do have them baffled. They respect what others believe in, and try and learn from their experiences.

Frank has had more experience with the townspeople's beliefs than has Claire. Claire has no basis for being interested in these superstitions and beliefs. She tries to have an open mind, though, and Frank appreciates that. Claire starts to be more open-minded as Frank introduces her to the rituals of the town and the reasoning behind them.

Part 1, Chapter 3

Part 1, Chapter 3 Summary

Claire sees and hears men dressed in kilts on horseback. They are yelling to each other in Gaelic. She jumps out of the way as they come toward her, wondering if she is asleep. She thinks this is all a scene in the making of a movie. It couldn't possibly be real. Claire thinks it best to leave, before ruining the film with her up-to-date wardrobe. As she makes her way across the brush toward the car she is taken hostage by two men, one of whom she thinks is Frank playing a joke on her. She soon realizes that he doesn't smell like Frank, although he looks a lot like him. Based on his attire, Claire thinks this man to be one of the actors playing a part in the film.

Claire demands to know who this man is. He tells her he is Captain Jonathan Randall, of His Majesty's Eighth Dragoon. She hears this and runs away at once, only to be quickly caught and pulled to the ground by Mr. Randall. He teases her by thrusting his hips into hers and kissing her hard. She is appalled by his behavior and screams into his ear. He keeps calling her "Chuck," which she does not understand. Claire demands to be released from his captive. Mr. Randall asks who she is. She mentions Frank; and Mr. Randall assumes she is a local whore. This outrages Claire. She continues to demand she be granted passage. She states that she is married. Mr. Randall laughs at the idea a husband would let his wife wonder about half dressed. Claire does not understand, as she is fashionably dressed.

Suddenly another man attacks Mr. Randall. This other man now takes Claire hostage. He carries her via horseback along a narrow path. When she finally has the courage to ask where this man was taking her, they are attacked again. Claire is knocked unconscious from behind. She awakens in a cottage surrounded by strange men, also dressed in kilts. They smell of sweat and alcohol. They ask her name; and she replies with her maiden name (Claire Beauchamp). They think the French name to be peculiar, considering she was in Scotland. The men question as to whether or not she is a whore. One man states he had heard her say she was not (to Mr. Randall). A man named Dougal speaks with another man, named Murtagh. They come to the conclusion that Claire is definitely not a whore, and then focused their attention to one of their wounded men. Claire thinks of slipping once their attention is elsewhere.

The men untie Claire and tend to Jamie, the wounded man. One man slices his shirt open with his knife and discovers Jamie's shoulder to be badly wounded and out of joint. They need to get it fixed before he can mount a horse again. Not wanting to leave Jamie behind, the men try to put his shoulder back into socket. Two men hold him still while another puts pressure on his arm. Claire watches in disbelief. They were pushing his arm in the wrong direction. She can take it no longer and interrupts them. She lodges the man's shoulder back into place and tells him not to use it very much over the next few days, applying compresses when it starts to hurt. The men all looked at her strangely.



She tells them that she is a nurse. They think this to mean a 'wet nurse' and do not understand. Claire tells them that the wound must be disinfected. Again, they do not understand. She tells them it must be disinfected with something sterile like alcohol. They understand, but insist that Jamie and Claire travel with them. They have to keep moving. The 'red coats' would be coming soon. Now it is Claire who does not understand.

The men tell Claire to dress Jamie's wounds in a filthy neck cloth. She looks around for something else, but cannot find anything. She tears the bottom of her skirt and uses that. The men approve of the final outcome. Once outside Claire notices the stars shining so brightly. She is startled by the fact that she should have seen lights from Inverness. There was nothing. She is ordered to mount the horse with Jamie and told that if she tries to get away they will slit her throat. She believes them. Dougal lifts Claire up by her left foot to mount the horse.

They ride for a while. Claire had ridden horses before, but is no expert. After riding for a bit they stop for a rest. Jamie wrestles his plaid loose, with Claire's help, and drapes it around her neck to keep her warm. She asks him where they are going, but he does not know. He tells her they will both find out when they arrive.

As they near a large rock formation, Claire thinks it is familiar. Sounds of muskets suddenly ring out. Jamie quickly drags her off of the horse and into some bushes. Screaming can be heard from behind. They watch, as a horse with no rider passes them from behind. The men vanish and Claire hears more screams. She is alone and trying to find her way out of this place. Jamie startles her by bumping into her. She notices blood on his shirt, but he said it is not his own blood. Apparently it is some Englishmen's blood. The Scotsmen battled and won, so they celebrated with alcohol from their flasks. They offer Claire some, as they mount the horses and head off again. She declines at first, but accepts later as her stomach growls with hunger.

Jamie faints and falls off the horse as they travel on. Claire announces that his gunshot wound is bleeding again, and that he also has a new knife wound. Jamie needs to rest. Dougal informs her that they can only stay long enough for her to tend to his wounds. They have another 7 hours to get where they were going. Claire sets to work mending his wounds as the men pass their flasks around in a circle. Despite her protests, they continue. She swears in anger, as the dressing kept coming apart on Jamie's arm. The men find her foul mouth fascinating and say that her husband should 'tan her.' Nonetheless, she continues mending Jamie in order to again mount the horse for another long journey.

Part 1, Chapter 3 Analysis

True eighteenth century Scotsmen are introduced in this chapter. Claire thinks this to be a movie, or some kind of a prank played by her husband, because of the way the men are dressed. She had spent 4 years as a nurse; yet when she tells the Scotsmen this,

they believe her to be a 'wet nurse.' She doesn't seem to like the way the men treat her, as though she is nothing more than a lowly woman with no skills.

Her treating of Jamie's wounds offers new light to the Scotsmen; and they seem to respect her a little as she travels with them. Claire finds later that the Scotsmen have an honor between them. They cannot leave one of their own behind. They take her along to care for their wounded, hoping that if anything else transpires, she will use her healing abilities to help them through it.

Part 1, Chapter 4

Part 1, Chapter 4 Summary

Claire and the kilted men continue their journey until they reach a castle. It is the castle, Leoch. As they approach the castle, a man calls to Dougal. Dougal gives his horse reins to him and orders him to beckon a Mrs. Fitz to feed them. Dougal, Rupert and Murtagh walk in another direction as they dismount their horses.

Mrs. Fitz finally comes out and hurries some children away that had been staring at them. When she sees Claire, her mouth drops open. Jamie explains who Claire is. Mrs. FitzGibbons (which is her full name) smiles at Claire and offers to take her into the castle for some more appropriate clothing. Claire almost forgets about Jamie. She mentions that she needs to tend to him because he is wounded. Mrs. Fitz asks Claire if she is a charmer or a Beaton. Claire replies with, "something like that." Mrs. Fitz takes Claire and Jamie into a room to care for his wound. Per Claire's request, she brings back garlic, herbs, some fabric and a pot to boil water over the fire. Claire notices that Mrs. Fitz is missing some teeth when she smiles. She asks what else she could do to help Claire. Claire has her boil the water and peel the garlic. Then Mrs. Fitz sets off to do other duties after being thanked by Claire.

Claire proceeds to remove Jamie's dressing and puts the warm cloth from the boiling water onto his wounds. She then notices his back has very large scars. Jamie says the redcoats flogged him. He says it was a man named Randall. Claire is astonished to hear that name. Jamie asks if she knows him. She replies no; but in her shock she drops the wet cloth onto the floor and has to re-boil it for his wounds. Jamie shares with Claire that the flogging was given to him by the English for escaping from Fort William. He was there because of theft and obstruction. Claire probes him further by asking what obstruction was. He explains it was for defending his family and land.

For the next few minutes Jamie tells Claire the story of how Randall and his men came to his home and flog him to the point that his sister is forced to go into the house with some men in order for him to be set free. Although Jamie protests, it is no use. Randall holds a knife inside of Jamie's throat and tells his sister that if she doesn't go with them, he will be killed. They take her inside and then knock Jamie unconscious. He awakes in a wagon with some chickens on his way to Fort William. Claire feels very sad for him after his story. She turns toward the fire and is overtaken by sadness at his story, as well as at being away from her husband for more than 24 hours. She starts to cry. Jamie notices, asking her if she is a widow. She says no, then yes, in a confused state. She continues to cry as he sits her on his lap and comforts her. She stops crying after a few minutes. Jamie asks her if she wants to sleep. She climbs into the bed and he leaves the room.

Part 1, Chapter 4 Analysis

This chapter portrays Claire's first realization that she cannot possibly be anywhere except the eighteenth century. The castle, the people, the landscapes and even the sky are not the same as in 1945. Claire is interested in Jamie and in his story regarding his existence with the other kilted men and why he bares such scars on his body. She connects with him after he shares his story about Randall and the English who came to invade his home and his sister. Claire notices that he is a very nice man and realizes how much she misses Frank and her own home. She cries and Jamie comforts her. Frank and Mr. Randall (from Jamie's story) are nothing alike. Claire cannot imagine the two of them being related.

Connecting with Jamie makes Claire feel safe. She is very interested in the castle, the people, the language and anything else she can learn about. Being versed in the art of healing makes her feel needed in the presence of the kilted men Claire has only read about these eighteenth century times, but never experienced them. She is truly experiencing this world first hand.

Part 1, Chapter 5

Part 1, Chapter 5 Summary

Claire awakens the next day to the voice of Mrs. Fitz, and is startled to realize she is still in the eighteenth century. It is not a dream. Mrs. Fitz brings a yellow dress and bodice for Claire to dress in. She stays as Claire dresses and helps her with her hair, commenting on how short it was cut. After Claire's hair is fixed and she is properly dressed, Mrs. Fitz feeds her some breakfast and then takes her to see MacKenzie. It turns out she is in the realm of clan MacKenzie, which is why the men in kilts traveled so far. They are safe here.

Claire is led up a stone staircase into a room filled with furniture. There is a large cage filled with birds on one side. MacKenzie sits in a large chair in front of her. He asks Claire how she had come to be with his kilted men. She describes the story from a widowed woman trying to get back to France to be with her family after her husband's death. She mentions every detail that had happened since her encounter with Mr. Randall, so the story is traceable. They are interrupted by a knock at the door and MacKenzie momentarily. Pardons himself. Claire takes the opportunity to rummage through his office, books on his shelves and an unfinished letter in his drawer dated April 20, 1743. When he returns she is already sitting, having finished going through his things. He does not believe her entire story, based on the way she was dressed when his men came upon her; but she insists that he believe her story. He leaves it at that, without further question.

Part 1, Chapter 5 Analysis

Claire was compiling a story to tell the MacKenzie as to who she is and how the men came about finding her in the woods that day. MacKenzie is not very trusting of her or her story, although he is very cordial to her. Claire knows that she needs to be very careful with her story and how she came to be at Castle Leoch.

Although MacKenzie is polite in not giving her the third degree, he clearly is suspicious of her story, because of the way she was dressed when captured by his men. He could not believe that Randall would rape a perfect stranger. Claire thinks quickly and tells MacKenzie that anything is possible with such a man as Randall. They leave it at that.

Part 2, Chapter 6

Part 2, Chapter 6 Summary

Servants abound. There is a catered meal for 40-50 people. Claire is led into the dining area by a boy named Alec and is introduced to MacKenzie's wife, Letitia, and his son, Hamish. Dougal sits beside his two daughters, Margaret and Eleanor. After the serving of the food, Claire proceeds to eat and Hamish pipes in with, "Ye've not said grace yet." Claire is embarrassed and asks Hamish to say grace, which he does.

Claire notices that Jamie is not at the dinner table and asks his whereabouts. MacKenzie says he was sent to help at the horse stables. She eats her dinner then excuses herself, as she is tired. Mrs. Fitz wakes her next morning with a new dress and an assortment of toiletries (orrisroot, rice powder and a cup of French rouge). She is to attend "Hall." Claire does not know what "Hall" is. Actually, it is the same place she ate dinner the night before.

A man plays the bagpipes as MacKenzie enters the room, followed by his brother, Dougal. They are formally dressed in green, with plaid draped across their shoulders. The crowd of 40-50 people turn to look at them as they enter. This "Hall" is also a formal hearing of sorts, where MacKenzie and his brother, Dougal, hear cases (like in the American Courts). They take votes and determine outcomes among their people. Claire is number five on their agenda. Dougal stands and tells of his finding of her in the woods. He asks for her safe refuge in Castle Leoch until such Englishmen come for her, wherein they would offer safe passage. Claire does not like the way in which they said "Englishmen."

A man next brings his daughter before the Hall. She has been promiscuous, according to her father, and MacKenzie is passing judgment on her. Right before he hands down his sentence, Jamie steps forth and asks that he take her punishment instead. To Claire's surprise, the crowd accepts. He proceeds to be beaten before her eyes. They punch him in the stomach and in the face. Soon, the punishment is over and Claire watches Jamie leave the Hall.

She follows him and asks why he took the girls punishment. He explains that if she had taken it herself, it would be shameful upon her. Since he took it, she is free of shame. Mrs. Fitz comes along shortly thereafter and notices that Claire is already there to care for his wounds. Claire welcomes her company and they tend to Jamie's wounds together. Mrs. Fitz attaches leeches to Jamie's eye to release some of the blood. Claire watches in amazement. Mrs. Fitz explains that, used at the right moment, leeches can be very helpful in relieving blood loss and blood clots.

A man comes up and thanks Jamie for what he has done. The man states that Laoghaire is his granddaughter. Jamie thanks Claire again for tending to more of his

wounds when, suddenly, Laoghaire approaches. Claire excuses herself and leaves them alone. Laoghaire probably wants to thank him for what he did for her.

The next morning Claire awakes to the strong smell of food. She dresses and finds her way to Mrs. Fitz, who is busy cooking. Claire asks if she can see Jamie and change the dressing on his wounds. Mrs. Fitz sends Alec to find Jamie and bring him to them. In the meantime, Mrs. Fitz puts Claire to work in the garden: planting garlic and picking weeds. Alec returns a little while later without Jamie. A message is sent instead, stating that Jamie is thankful for the attention to his wounds, but it is not necessary at the moment. Mrs. Fitz tells Claire that she will have time to see to Jamie's wounds at lunch. Alec takes Claire to Jamie at noon. The two sit on a blanket, while eating bread and cheese. Jamie tells a story of how one year he and a "group of lads" had to eat grass to survive, because food was so scarce. Claire listens intently and forgets all about his wounds.

Part 2, Chapter 6 Analysis

Having found a way in which to feel wanted by these people of the eighteenth century is great victory for Claire. She has an important purpose, instead of just being an outsider in this land. At least while she remains, she will have something to do. The reader knows her pleasure in medicine and plants, and how it sustains her through her ordeal in the ancient highlands. She has a strong sympathy for Jamie, and sees urgency in taking care of him while he is wounded. She is also fascinated by Mrs. Fitz's way of using the fresh herbs from the garden to help with Jamie.

Part 2, Chapter 7

Part 2, Chapter 7 Summary

Colum calls for Claire to visit him in his office. Colum asks Claire if she is related to the Beatons. Mrs. Fitz had also asked this of Claire when she first arrived. She answers, "no." Colum asks Claire if she would take a look at the late Mr. Beaton's things, because he was a healer himself who, had once stayed at the castle, but died of a fever. Claire obliges and Colum led the way, clearly in pain as he made his way down the stairs. Claire mentions that a massage would help Colum's back. Colum is impressed, because he told her that Angus gave him a massage most evenings to help with the pain.

Claire peers around the old dusty room and finds a book, in which Mr. Beaton took notes of his patients and his prescribed medications. She notices an entry where a 'Sarah' had a hurt thumb and what he had prescribed. She asks Colum if her thumb was better and he tells her it is not. Claire asks if she may take a look at it, but is told that Sarah is dead. He relays to her his hope that she is better at curing the people than Mr. Beaton had been. Colum leaves the room and Claire resumes searching it curiously. There is dust everywhere. She peaks out of the room and thinks that she must be being watched. There has not been a moment she remembers when she was alone in the castle, except when she was sleeping. She sits down on a chest and remembers when she had leaned on the standing stones and had been transported to this time in the eighteenth century. Two young teenaged girls walk into the room. Claire knows they are Mrs. Fitz's girls. They are here to clean. Claire welcomes them and leaves to find something to eat.

Claire brings Jamie lunch again and asks him why he has chosen this way of life. He tells her that there is a reward of 10 pounds sterling for his capture. He explains to her it is for murder. She almost chokes upon hearing this; but he stops her from choking by pounding on her back, then finishes the story. He was at Fort William and was flogged two times. After the second time, some of his friends helped him escape. During the escape the man who first flogged him was shot. Although Jamie was not the man who shot him, he was the wanted man for the murder. He confesses to Claire that his real name is not MacTavish. Claire asks him why his hair was shorter than most of the other men. He tells her his head had been shaved and shows her a deep red scar on the back of his head. She, of course, asks him how it happened. He does not really remember. He only remembers walking through the woods, seeing splatters of blood drip on his hands and waking up in a hospital in France.

A fellow named Alec McMahon MacKenzie interrupts Claire and Jamie. Jamie introduces him as the Master of the Horse of Castle Leoch. Alec sits down and eats with them. Old Alec is what Jamie calls him in order to differentiate from the young Alec. Old Alec and Jamie talk about the horses and slowly ignore Claire. She rests in the sun and falls asleep to their speaking in Gaelic. She wakes later to them raising their voices in

English. She is quiet enough for them not to realize she is awake. Alec is saying something about Jamie making his mind up. Jamie keeps saying he has not made his mind up yet. Alec mentions that he knew Jamie's father, and that Jamie is a lot like him. Alec means to have Jamie stay on as Master of the Horse in his stead, in case the castle gets into a fight. Jamie grunts, as though in appreciation. Alec also mentions that he should marry soon, and says that if Jamie had a Master's job he would attract more women, like the one he had spared from the public beating. Jamie tells him she is young, and he just did it out of sympathy. Alec does not believe him. Claire hears enough and pretends to wake up noisily in front of the two men. She wants to check Jamie's wounds before she leaves, but he insists against it. Claire leaves the two men alone to further discuss their futures.

Once back at the castle, Claire inspects the rest of the contents of Mr. Beaton's room. The room has been cleaned and things are easier to see, now that the dust is gone. After throwing many bottles and potions away, Claire opens a chest to find surgery tools that have not been cleaned. The smell is strong of old blood. She shuts the lid on the chest just in time, before two men to enter the room. One is hurt and bleeding. Claire instructs him to sit down, so she could look at his wound.

Part 2, Chapter 7 Analysis

Claire realizes that there are people watching her every move at the castle. There is no way she is going to walk out on her own or get back to the standing stones, from whence she came. When asked to look through Mr. Beaton's old medicines, she obliges. She is beginning to learn more about Jamie, in that he is not who he claimed to be. He is an outlaw. This worries her, but not enough to scare her away.

She continues to remain interested in his stories of how he came to be at Castle Leoch, and is happy caring for his wounds. Although she wishes to go home, she realizes in this chapter that she must have been transported in time when she leaned on the standing stones. She remembers hearing voices, and now thinks they were voices of the ensuing battle that loomed at the same time she entered the eighteenth century.

Part 2, Chapter 8

Part 2, Chapter 8 Summary

Claire continues to help the sick and wounded people who come to her. She realizes what disease Colum had. She has read it in a textbook, when she worked in the field hospital. It is a disease that slowly disintegrates the bones, causes pale skin and premature wrinkling of the skin. It also causes sterilization, which makes Claire question the existence of Colum's son, Hamish. There is a knock on the door. Two young boys invite Claire to the Hall on Colum's behalf. There will be singing.

Claire enters the Hall. Colum waves her toward him. She sits down. He pours her a glass of wine. It is fruity and tasty, and she tells Colum so. He asks her what part of France her relatives are from, and she answers. She then tells him that she wishes to be on her way back to France as soon as possible. He replies that she should stay at the castle a while longer, and he will send word to her family if she wishes. Claire is caught off guard by this and makes up an excuse to go to the bathroom. When she makes her way back to the Hall, she finds herself on the other side, which is just fine with her. She runs into Laoghaire and tries to talk to the girl. Claire cannot understand what she is saying. Laoghaire notices that Jamie has entered the room. Claire thinks that Laoghaire is quite taken by Jamie, and offers to call him over so they can chat. He comes to Claire and sits between the two women. Jamie entertains the two women by chatting about his earlier years at the castle. Laoghaire mentions that she remembered Jamie from years ago, when he was 15 or 16 years old. Jamie does not remember her, because she would have been only about 8 years old at the time. The musical entertainer is about to tell stories, so they stop talking. He tells stories of the "Wee Folk" that lived near Dundreggan and the house of Balnain. Everyone listens intently. Claire is feeling good from the wine and enjoying the stories. She almost drops her glass of wine.

Jamie catches it before it drops, drinks the rest and proceeds to walk her to her room, telling her that the wine from Colum is of double strength. Jamie gives the glass to Laoghaire to return to the kitchen. She does not look happy. Once in her room, Jamie takes his shirt off for Claire to change the dressing on his wound. She questions him as to why he did not let her do this earlier, in the company of Old Alec. Jamie says that, although Alec knows of his flogging, he had not seen it personally. It is an embarrassing thing for Jamie. Claire understands and continues to dress his wounded shoulder. Jamie invites Claire to have lunch with him again tomorrow. She agrees and Jamie leaves, leaving Claire to collapse on the bed to sleep.

The next morning, Claire explores the higher floors of the castle. She comes across an alcove, and through a window notices Jamie about to kiss a young blonde girl. She doesn't know what to do. Then Jamie notices her and pretended like nothing had happened. At supper that night she sits next to Old Alec, who steps on her foot to keep her from talking about what she had seen. Jamie finishes eating and leaves the table. Alec tells her to keep what she saw to herself, or Jamie would suffer more harm. He

mentions that Jamie needs a wife that is a woman, and not a girl. Jamie has been with Laoghaire, and Claire wonders what Old Alec means by that.

Part 2, Chapter 8 Analysis

All the customs of the kilted men and the women of the eighteenth century overwhelm Claire. This is all too unfamiliar to her. She wants to fit in while she remains in this time; but it becomes increasingly harder for her, as Colum wants her to stay on and heal the sick as Mr. Beaton had done. She finds Jamie to be a very caring person and quite a wonderful person; but what she finds the next morning after the Hall startles her. She wonders why Jamie is kissing Laoghaire in a quiet part of the castle. Did he not say that she was too young for him? What if she tells? If she turns him in, Old Alec says he will be in harms way. What can she do?

Part 2, Chapter 9

Part 2, Chapter 9 Summary

Claire becomes accustomed to being at the castle. She tends to the wounded, as needed, and helps Mrs. Fitz in the garden. It seems that the people are growing used to her, and actually starting to accept her. There is talk of a gathering soon. Claire witnesses many carcasses that hang in the nearby shed for slaughtering; and bags of flour are being delivered to the castle. She is invited to the orchards to pick fresh fruit for the occasion, which she happily accepts in order to get out of the castle for a change. Claire asks Magdalen, a woman she had befriended, how many people attended this gathering. Magdalen says it has been over 20 years since the last one; and there were maybe "ten score of men...might be more this year."

Claire watches as people start arriving for the gathering. The more important guests (she thought to be part of the ceremony) stay in the castle. The others make camp in the fields, outside the castle. Claire thinks the gathering will be a perfect time to escape.

While Claire is picking Ascaria in the orchard a few days later, she meets Geillis Duncan. Claire explains that the heads of the mushrooms (Ascaria) she is gathering can help to prevent bleeding in the wounded. Geillis tells Claire of a medical use for some flowers nearby, and confides in her that some people think her to be a witch of sorts. They will visit her for healing too. Geillis asks if Jamie is Claire's husband, and mentions that she married a man who is not as attractive, but has money set aside and a house so she is comfortable. Claire tells her that Jamie is not her husband, and formally introduces herself to Geillis. They walk together through the orchard, gathering roots and berries to fill their baskets. Geillis seems to know everything about everyone in the town. She even mentions that Hamish is not Colum's son. Claire already suspects as much. Geillis believes Hamish to be Jamie's son.

The next day Claire treats a lot of people for food poisoning, so she doesn't return to the orchard. She finds that it was one of the carcasses that had poisoned the people, so she goes straight to the source. Dougal MacKenzie arrives and offers to take Claire to the fiscal's wife for some needed herbs to heal the food poisoning. She is excited and grateful to get away. Geillie (Geillis) greets them as they arrive and asks a woman named Anne to take Claire to the stillroom.

There is commotion in the street, so Geillie opens the window to see her husband grasping a boy by the ear and about to teach him a lesson. Claire questions Geillie about what would happen to the boy. She replies that if her husband goes easy on him he will be whipped, but if he is harsh it will mean losing an ear or a hand. She thinks he was probably caught stealing. Claire asks Geillie to interfere, so that the boy will not lose a body part. She obliges, but warns that she might be too late.



Geilie returns to Claire with the news she has been successful in saving the boy. His punishment is to be put in the pillory with one ear nailed to it. Claire shudders at the thought; but it is less punishment than having a hand cut off, so she is thankful. A while later there is a knock at the door. Jamie appears, announcing that he is in charge of taking Claire home. Geilie asks if they can stay a while longer, as she has some things for Mrs. Fitz. Jamie agrees. Geilie gives Claire a box to give Mrs. Fitz, and asks her to deliver the bill (a written note sealed with wax) to Colum. Claire agrees. As they are leaving, Claire asks Jamie to free the boy from the pillory. Jamie suggests she create a distraction, so he is not made to be an interference in the punishment. She pretends to faint as Jamie pries the nail loose from the boy's ear. It creates enough of a distraction; and Claire is taken back to Geilie's house for recuperation from her fake fainting. Jamie and Claire leave shortly thereafter to return to the castle. He drops her off upon their arrival in a formal fashion.

Part 2, Chapter 9 Analysis

Finding a way to escape the castle is foremost in Claire's mind when Mrs. Fitz asks her to join the other ladies in the orchard to pick fruit for the gathering. Claire does not expect to meet Geilie, who she very much likes. When they make acquaintance, Claire thinks it important to get to know this woman, for she shares a similar interest in herbs and healing. The reader knows both of their pleasures in gardening, as it is the only thing that keeps them both occupied throughout their long days. Claire has a strong sympathy for the village people and their punishments, after visiting Geilie and witnessing a young boy's fate for stealing. Geilie finds this somewhat entertaining and interferes in the young boy's punishment. Claire is put in front of Jamie again, as he is in charge of bringing her back to the castle from Geilie's house in town. Claire asks Jamie to interfere in the boy's fate by removing a nail from his ear after hours of being nailed to a pillory. They succeed in the freeing of the boy and continue home to the castle.

Part 2, Chapter 10

Part 2, Chapter 10 Summary

Claire is excited about the gathering. Mrs. Fitz tells her that the oaths will be taken by all of the men tonight; so Claire concludes that no one will be watching the stables. She plans to escape. That evening Claire manages to take the little food she has gathered and a bottle of water. She heads for the stables. She fumbles through the dark, only to be startled by Jamie. He asks her what she is doing. Claire is not shy in implying that she wants to escape. He proceeds to tell her why this is the worst night to escape, because of the guards posted around the castle and in the woods. There are also numerous other activities planned that encompass the surrounding grounds outside of the castle. She listens intently.

As Jamie speaks, a man who covers her mouth catches Claire from behind. Jamie is attacked too, but recognizes the assailant as Colum's nephew. A few words are exchanged between the men, and Claire is led back to the castle. Jamie, who thinks he isn't dressed properly, is told that they will dress him once inside the castle for the oath taking. Jamie had not intended to take any oath to MacKenzie, but finds that he has no choice. Upon entering the castle Claire apologizes to Jamie for his being captured and made to take the oath; but he assures her it would happen sooner or later, and it is not her fault. The men find appropriate clothing for Jamie. He tells Claire to leave, as it is "no place for women."

The men dress Jamie in MacKenzie plaid and they proceed to the oath. Colum comes out dressed in blue with gold lacing. Dougal was first to take the oath pledging his loyalty to Colum. Many men take their oath to Colum in the same fashion as Dougal. It is finally Jamie's turn to make his allegiance, however he does his pledged differently. He offers his obedience, friendship and goodwill. Colum accepts, offers his acceptance and thanks Jamie for the gesture. After the oath ceremony Mrs. Fitz tells all the women to go back to their rooms, for the men are drinking heavily and a threat to them. Claire offers her help to Mrs. Fitz, but she refuses, telling her to retreat to her room. She tries, but is stopped by kilted men. Colum approaches to save her from the other men, but forces a kiss upon her. Claire breaks free and run to her room.

The next morning Claire expects the men to be hung over and sleeping in; but that is not the case. They are readily preparing themselves for a big boar hunt. Claire is called a while later to treat one of the men who has been injured by a boar. It is foggy outside, so neither the men nor the bore can see one another until they are upon each other. As Claire sends the wounded man to the castle to see Mrs. Fitz, she hears cries from the woods. There seems to be another wounded man. She follows the sounds until she finds the man surrounded by kilted men. As she approaches she sees the beast. It is wounded by one of the men's weapons. The beast runs away and Claire tends to the man laying flat from his wounds. She hears the beat coming back. Dougal steps up with his spear and jabs it between the beast's shoulders. Before looking to make sure the

beast is dead, he comes to the aid of the wounded man, telling him that the beast will not harm him again.

Claire notices that the man has a cut in his leg. It is pretty deep, with a lot of blood loss. His stomach is also cut open and his intestines are hanging out. She knows this will be fatal for him. Dougal asks Claire if he will live, and she shakes her head. So the two of them talk soothingly to the man as he dies in the woods. On the way back to the castle later, Dougal asks Claire if she had seen men die before in violence. She replies, "yes...many."

There is a funeral for the dead man, Geordie, later that afternoon and the games begin the next morning. Because of the mishaps during the games Claire has many injured men to see. She has children to see also, due to the many sweets they had eaten and their upset stomachs. Later Claire decides to go to the stables to escape and wonders upon Dougal and Jamie talking together. She hadn't meant to interrupt them. They invite her to come in and sit down, so she does. Dougal announces that he will be taking Jamie and Claire with him to visit the people who could not attend the gathering. He also tells Claire that Colum said she could try to find her family from France, while she is away. Claire is excited by this and accepts Dougal's invitation.

Part 2, Chapter 10 Analysis

Claire is overwhelmed by all the preparedness for the oaths and the games about to take place. She loves the fact that she is asked to go to the orchards with the other ladies and pick fruit. She desperately wants to escape and thinks the gathering would be the perfect opportunity; but Jamie catches her when she attempts to take a horse from the stable, telling her that it was the wrong time to try and escape. The reader feels her desperation at wanting to get away. She befriends a few women and gets to go into town the next day, where she is stunned to find that Jamie is sent to escort her home in the evening.

Throughout the games and the oath ceremony, Colum and the inhabitants of the castle utilize Claire for her healing skills. She even helps the men after their boar hunt, in which one man dies. Claire is later asked to accompany Dougal to visit the village people who were not able to attend the gathering. She is told that Jamie will also accompany them to tend to the horses. She obliges, hoping that this will finally be her escape from this century and a return to her own.

Part 3, Chapter 11

Part 3, Chapter 11 Summary

In two days time Claire is on her way out of the castle. Claire rides alongside Mr. Ned Gowan. He is a scribe who works in Colum's hall. As it turns out, this trip is to collect rent money for Colum; and Mr. Gowan has a sack in which to accept payment. Mr. Gowan tells Claire the story of how he met Jacob MacKenzie (Colum and Dougal's father) years ago, and how it changed his life. Jacob robs Mr. Gowan, and Mr. Gowan insists on following him by foot. He then tells Claire the story of how Colum became Laird of the castle and Dougal vowed to be his legs and strength in battle once Jacob had died. Together they would rule the castle. He continues to tell Claire of how he had pledged his loyalty to Colum, but was faithful to the entire MacKenzie clan. Claire mentions that Colum is wasting his time trying to find out any hidden secrets about her. She is an English lady, and that is all.

They make camp that evening and arrive at their first stop the next afternoon. The inhabitants of this village live in small huts. Mr. Gowan sits on a tree stump and uses a wooden board as a table to write on. The men come over one by one to pay their rent. Some pay with sacks of flour or material, others with a bag of coins. They receive their receipt from Mr. Gowan and won't see him for another year. This is repeated at each village they visit. In some of the villages Claire speaks with the other women while Mr. Gowan conducts his business.

At one of the towns, Dougal holds a hearing at the local tavern. Everyone is drinking ale and suddenly Dougal, during his speech, turns his attention toward Jamie. He grabs Jamie by his throat and tears his shirt off so that the villagers can see the scars on his back. Claire cannot make out what he is saying in Gaelic. Jamie is very upset at what has happened, but does not raise his hand to Dougal. Instead, he stands, tears the rest of his shirt off, throws it on the ground and walks out of the tavern. After Dougal finishes his speech, the villagers throw coins on the table for him. She realizes that his speech must be to collect money in defense against the English. Claire stands after everyone has left and voices her objection as to how Dougal went about exposing Jamie's back.

That evening they all sleep at a crofter's cottage. Claire tries to sleep inside, while all of the men are outside. She can't sleep, so she takes her blanket and goes outside. She finds a comfortable place between some rocks and lays down to look up at the moon. She is startled by the sounds of two men arguing. It is Jamie and Dougal. Jamie is not happy about what Dougal did earlier. Claire tries to be as quiet as possible, so they don't know she can hear them. Dougal leaves and Jamie commands Claire to come out. He knows she is there. She comes out and sits near him in the dark. Jamie has his shirt on, which he mended himself. Claire tells Jamie that if he hits something he will feel better, at which he walks over to a cherry tree and hits it several times with his fist. He states that he might sleep better because of it. He then proceeds to show Claire how he fights in battle, being a left-handed fighter. He uses both hands at different times. Claire

asks him how he learned to fight so well. He replies that he learned from Dougal. She is a little surprised.

They continue their journey and, if there is a tavern located in a village, Dougal makes his speech again, revealing Jamie's back to the villagers. At one of their stops, at a town called Tunnaig, Jamie has had enough and punches a man in the stomach for some remark he made in Gaelic. A fight ensues and Claire is backed into a corner with Ned Gowan and Murtagh. It is three men against Jamie, yet Jamie wins. The crowd cheers and Claire tends to Jamie's wounds after it is over. He has some bruised ribs, a cracked lip and some scraped knuckles, among other things. She ties his ribs tightly with a shawl he received from one of the women. Murtagh arrives as Claire is finishing and gives Jamie a sack of coins (his share of the villager's wagers). Jamie protests; but Murtagh insists, since Jamie did the fighting.

Part 3, Chapter 11 Analysis

Claire is completely thrilled to be out of the castle and on her way to other towns and villages. She feels entranced by the beauty of the highlands. Claire has learned to lay low, due to her sudden appearance in this time. She perceives Mr. Gowan to be a spy, sent by Colum to retrieve any secrets Claire has to hide. There are no secrets, which she openly explains to Mr. Gowan. She also thinks that Dougal is too manipulative with Jamie and should not be advertising his wounds to the local villagers. Nevertheless, she wishes to continue on her journey so that somehow, in some way, she can manage to escape the watchful eye of the clansmen and make her way back to the stones from where she came.

Part 3, Chapter 12

Part 3, Chapter 12 Summary

As Claire and the men travel closer to Fort William, Claire can't help but wonder what the Garrison Commander will think of her. They come upon another inn at the next town. Claire sleeps in a tiny attic, while the men sleep downstairs together. Just as Claire is about to fall asleep she hears a noise outside of her door. She grabs for her candle and flint. She is frightened and stands by the door for a few minutes wondering what to do. She finally opens the door and steps out into the hall to see who it is. She trips over Jamie, who is lying on the floor outside her door. She accusingly asks what he is doing. He replies there are some men that arrived and are drinking heavily. His aim is to protect her in case they venture upstairs for company. She apologizes and thanks him for protecting her. He opens her door and tells her to go back to bed. She tells him he should sleep inside her room on the floor, to which he immediately says no. Her reputation would be ruined. She makes him take some blankets from her room, and he proceeds to sleep on a cot she made for him in the hall.

The next morning Claire goes down to breakfast. Jamie is gone from the hallway outside of her door. Dougal spots her and told her to eat fast, because he is taking her on a journey. She eats and they are on their way. She finally asks Dougal where they are going. He tells her they are going to meet the garrison commander. She is shocked, because she thought she had a few more days until she is to meet him. The men that showed up the night before had brought word to Dougal that the commander is in Brockton, so they are to meet up there.

Upon there arrival Claire is left downstairs while Dougal goes up to meet the commander. After a few minutes Dougal calls to Claire to come up. Dougal is dismissed and Claire meets with Captain Jonathan Randall of His Majesty's Eighth Dragoons. They sit down at a table and a woman comes in to pour them some ale. Randall asks Claire who she is and where she comes from. Claire recites the same story she gave Colum. Randall refutes her story, saying that he knows of no Beauchamps in Oxfordshire. She asks him, "How would you know? You're from Sussex." He is not happy by this remark and asks how she knows that. Claire catches herself and tells him his accent gives him away. He then proceeds to have one of his men say something, for Claire to tell where he is from. The man recites something from memory and Claire guesses. She is very close, so Randall accepts her guess. He then asks her maiden name. Claire argues that she has been given this third-degree long enough. She wants to start her journey home.

He is becoming angry that she avoids his question. He recounts his story of how he encountered her a month prior, half dressed in the woods. His men found no remnants of her story (no torn dress, no baggage, no dead escort). Randall simply does not believe her. He continues that Colum believes her to be a spy working for Randall. He grows increasingly angry and tells her that he will eventually find out whom she is. He

outlines the steps he will take. Claire questions exactly what they are. Randall, with the help of one of his men, punches Claire right in the stomach.

Part 3, Chapter 12 Analysis

Claire goes with Dougal to meet the garrison commander, thinking that her plan is now ruined. She wonders what he will ask her and how she will now escape. She does not expect to see Captain Jonathan Randall. He is exactly who the commander turns out to be. In his opinion, she is not who she says; and he is determined to find out.

Throughout her interrogation with Randall, he uses his power of threat. She cannot believe he actually punched her in the stomach. Her wits are still about her as he asks if there is anything else she has to say. She simply says, "You're wig is crooked." This clearly angers Randall more, but the reader is quickly taken to the next chapter.

Part 3, Chapter 13

Part 3, Chapter 13 Summary

Dougal sees Claire's face as she comes down the stairs. He goes into the room with Randall, and Claire hears loud voices. Dougal comes down at once and pays the bill. They leave at once. They travel quickly by horseback, and then suddenly halt. Dougal takes Claire through the woods to a small pool of water. He puts some water in his hand, and Claire does too. She drinks some, and then washes her face with more. Dougal asks her how well she knows Randall, to which she says she met him once. He wonders if she knows it was Randall who made the marks on Jamie's back. She admits to knowing, stating that Jamie had shared a little of his past with her.

Dougal proceeds to tell the grim story of how Jamie got his flogging after he attempted an escape from Fort William. Dougal witnessed the entire thing. Claire wonders why he is telling her the whole story, but doesn't stop him. In the middle of Jamie's flogging, he passed out. They woke him up with water and proceeded with the flogging. Randall came near the end. He said that, since Jamie had cheese and bread on him when he tried to escape, he should be flogged another hundred times for theft. The sergeant major would not allow it to happen immediately, for it would kill him. They agreed to let Jamie rest for a week before the second flogging.

During that week Dougal went to see Randall. He offered him money to spare Jamie a second flogging. Randall declined. Dougal returned again for Jamie's second flogging out of respect. Randall played with Jamie, taunting him prior to actually flogging him. Jamie survived it, and walked away bloody and bruised. Dougal says Jamie's eyes locked with Randall's for a while prior to his exit. Claire asks why Dougal is telling her the story. He replies that it is sort of a description of Jamie's character, for her to know.

Dougal confesses to Claire that he has orders to take her to Fort William on Monday for questioning. He tells her that there was a way out. She asks him to take her to the way out. He tells her that through conversations with Mr. Gowan, he learned that if she were to marry a Scotsman, she could not be taken. So, he says she should marry Jamie. She says she can't marry Jamie, to which he offers Rupert. She doesn't know what to do. She asks him why he believes her now, and not before her visit with Randall. He says it was the spring from the water. She drank it prior to him asking her.

As they again reach the inn, Claire goes to her room and ponders the situation. She concludes that, by marrying Jamie, she won't be guarded any longer and can ultimately achieve her escape. A short time later Dougal comes to her room with Mr. Gowan and Rupert. They lay the paperwork out for Claire to sign; yet she is still skeptical. She asks about the possibility of Jamie not wanting to marry her. Dougal says he is a soldier and will do as ordered. She insists on speaking to Jamie before signing the paperwork; so Dougal brings Jamie in. After a few words between Claire and Jamie it is agreed. She

and Jamie sign the paperwork. Claire proceeds to the tavern and orders a whiskey, then has another. Two men later carry her to her room. She is definitely drunk

Part 3, Chapter 13 Analysis

All this time, Claire has been living amongst the clansmen, doing what she is told in hopes of gaining an escape route home. She lives under the same roof with the MacKenzie's, works in the gardens and aided the sick and wounded. She learns very quickly that this matters not. Under the current circumstances she is to either be questioned at Fort William (and possibly punished severely) or she is to marry a Scot. Those two choices hit home very firmly. She fights at first, demanding not to be married. Finally, she comes to her senses and realizes she has no choice. Randall will question her and cast severe punishment for sure.

The reader feels remorse for Claire, as she only wants to return home. Yet she is thrown into the will of the highlands and its customs. Randall is a mirror in which Claire sees her husband, Frank. Yet, Randall has deep rooted hatred that she sees in his eyes. When she looks back at her time in 1945 just a mother earlier, she cannot imagine Frank being related to such a monster.

Part 3, Chapter 14

Part 3, Chapter 14 Summary

Claire awakes the next morning with her head pounding. Murtagh comes to her door first; but she closes her eyes again and he leaves. Later a woman comes in and prepares her for her wedding. She bathes her with a wet cloth and pulls her hair up in a bun. Ned Gowan and Murtagh come in later, and both give her looks of disappointment. She does not care. She only lays back on the bed and falls asleep, once everyone leaves the room.

The entrance of the innkeeper, his son, his wife, Murtagh and Gowan, awakens Claire again. Flowers in abundance are brought to her room, as well as a dress for her to wear to the wedding. The town seamstress is there to sew the dress to make it fit. Once Claire is all dressed and properly fitting the gown, she feels better. She still doesn't want to get married, but she at least feels dressed for the part. She comes down the stairs as Dougal stares. She is thankful he made arrangements for the dress she is wearing. By the look in his eyes, he is happy with the way she looks. Jamie comes in later; and Claire is pleasantly surprised at how handsome he looks. She cannot stop staring at him. He is in full highland uniform; and Claire thinks he looks absolutely breathtaking. Jamie ties a string of pearls that belonged to his mother around Claire's neck.

They ride by horseback for quite a while to get to where the wedding is to be performed. As they approach the building, Claire realizes it is the same building in which she married Frank. She tries to say no, but is hushed by the others. It seems strange to Claire to be married in the same church two hundred years earlier than when she had originally married. She tells Jamie she doesn't even know his last name, to which he replies, "James Alexander Malcolm MacKenzie Fraser."

The ceremony ensues as Jamie says his vows and Claire says hers. Jamie kisses the bride and Dougal slices each of their wrists and binds them together with cloth. They are then legally married. Jamie later explains to Claire that the cutting of the wrists is a blood vow; and the words they repeated together in Gaelic were, "Ye are Blood of my Blood, and Bone of my Bone. I give ye my Body, that we Two might be One. I give ye my Spirit, 'til our Life shall be Done."

As they lie under a tree together, Claire notices that they are alone. She asks Jamie where everyone has gone. He says they are not far away; and they will not leave them alone until the marriage is official. Claire thought it was, but Jamie says not until it is consummated. Claire remembers that Jamie is a virgin, but she is not. She takes Jamie to the inn to get something to eat.

Part 3, Chapter 14 Analysis

Claire knows how similar she and Jamie are. They are both outlaws now. She has been transformed into a Scot, now that she has married Jamie. She should feel safer now, but she does not. She is just hungry. In the meantime, the highlanders are waiting for them to come back to the inn, so they can celebrate the marriage. The ceremony is the same catholic ritual that she remembers. It has not changed through the years. The undetermined future fills her with wonder. She knows not what to expect from this point forward, and cannot help noticing Jamie's quiet excitement about the whole thing.

Part 3, Chapter 15

Part 3, Chapter 15 Summary

Back at the inn a wedding feast is waiting. There is roast beef, fresh bread and wine. As Claire goes upstairs to freshen up, Dougal stops her on the stairs and tells her she needs to consummate the wedding. There should be no misunderstandings, and she knows this. Jamie comes to her room a few minutes later. She invites him to sit down beside her. Jamie asks Claire about her late husband (so he thought to be late). She changes the subject. Jamie explains to her that they have several days together at this inn. So it will be easier and more comfortable to get to know one another before actually consummating the marriage. Claire agrees and Jamie takes her hand in his. Jamie tells her that he will honor her, and she can talk about Frank any time she likes. Claire appreciates that, and then asks Jamie why he wed her. Jamie first makes her promise to always be honest with him. He knows she has things she cannot tell him. She agrees to always be honest. He tells her that he wed her for a few reasons. He cannot tell her some of them; but one is the same as hers, in that they are protected from Randall. He vows to never let Randall touch her as long as he lives.

There are whiskey glasses and wine left in the room for them, so Jamie pours them each a glass. He then asks Claire why she wed him. She teases him by saying that she wanted to marry him to sleep with him. He smiles, pours another glass of wine and tells her he could have taken her if he wanted to. She assures him that he has been nothing short of a gentleman thus far. They drink in silence for a little while. Then Claire invites him to sit beside her on the bed and asks about his family. Jamie tells the story of Dougal and Colum being his uncles, and who his aunts are and about their children. His father was a Fraser and his mother was a MacKenzie (Dougal and Colum's sister). The MacKenzie's were not fond of the fact that his mother married a Fraser. The land he was raised on is rightfully his, he explains to Claire. The only problem is the price on his head. He cannot return because of that.

Jamie tells her that after his ordeal at Fort William, he recuperated in Colum's castle. The only reasons Colum and Dougal took him in were because they thought he would die and they had an English visitor at the time. They later sent him to the Abbey of Ste. Anne de Beaupre on the French coast. It is when Jamie returned to Scotland that he ran into Claire (literally). He was with Dougal and the other men stealing cattle when Claire entered the picture. Jamie then asks about Claire's childhood. She indulges him, leaving out little things like airplanes, automobiles and things he would not understand.

It is late, so Jamie offers to unbutton Claire's dress. Then, she offers to assist him out of his attire. Slowly they kiss and sink into the bed together. They consummate the marriage. Jamie asks Claire if she liked it, and she says she did. He confesses that the men told him to make it quick, for the women don't care for it very much. Claire assures him that is not the case, at least with her. She asks what else the men had shared with

him, but he is too embarrassed to say. Jamie asks her if they could make love again. She is delighted to do so. Later, they both grow hungry.

Claire pulls on a shawl and proceeds to get something for them to eat. She is surprised by approximately fifteen men cheering as she opens the door. They all make comments to the fact that if Jamie has not worn her out yet, they would like to have a turn. They are drunk and joyous by the occasion of the marriage. Claire withdraws back into the room and closes the door. Jamie laughs and offers to go. He returns with food and more wine. They make love over and over throughout the night until they fall asleep in each other's arms.

Part 3, Chapter 15 Analysis

Claire's new life is beginning. Jamie has opened up to her, and she feels as though he is someone she can feel safe with. Claire welcomes the newness of Jamie's naivety when it comes to love and marriage. She is happy to teach him and is sympathetic to his past. They will make a good pair together to maneuver Randall's plots. She sees no reason to hold back Jamie's pleasure for her and succumbs to his whims at making love. Claire knows there are substantial differences between Jamie and Frank, and welcomes the change. It has been a long time since she was in the company of a man in that manner.

Part 3, Chapter 16

Part 3, Chapter 16 Summary

The next morning at breakfast is a little awkward for Jamie and Claire, but they get through it. They go outside and sit on a tree stump together, trying to be close again. Claire asks Jamie about the day they initially met, and why he came back to Scotland to meet up with Dougal instead of returning to the Fraser home. He tells her the sad story of how he heard that his sister was pregnant with Randall's child, so he could not return. There was talk of a man who killed the sergeant general and could clear Jamie's name of having done so; and through the family connections Jamie was connected with the MacKenzie clan. Once reunited with Dougal, Jamie encounters Claire in the woods for the first time. Claire realizes that if Colum were to die, Dougal would take his place. Jamie says that many men would not follow Dougal, but would follow him instead. Claire now understands at the oath taking ceremony why Jamie had not fully pledged his loyalty to Colum, for if he had it would have meant certain death soon after the ceremony. Pledging loyalty to the clan meant taking office upon the death of another officer. Dougal means to have that office and will do anything to stop Jamie from having it.

Some men suddenly approach on horseback. Jamie and Claire hide in the bushes. Claire asks Jamie if he knows who they are. He says they are the "Watch." Claire asks if they are after him, to which he replies no. Claire and Jamie climb their way up the hill and hide in the darkness. Jamie further explains to Claire that the reason Dougal had chosen her to marry him is because she is Sassenach. Therefore she will never become lady to the Leoch castle. It would not be accepted. They find their way to a fishing hole and Jamie catches a 14-inch fish with his hands, giving it to Claire. He thinks it will make a nice breakfast. Jamie recites a song to Claire as they soak their feet in the water together.

They become quiet once again, and Jamie asks her if she was thinking of Frank. She can't help but think of him and does not lie about it. Jamie reassures her that he is understanding of the situation, which makes Claire feel a little easier. They find their way to a nearby tree and make love beneath it. They later go back to the inn and notice that two horses are missing: Dougal's and Gowan's. They are hungry for dinner. When they approach the hall they are greeted with cheers from the villagers. They ask where the two had been all day, and make jokes about the night before. Jamie entertains them and Claire plays along with a smile.

A fiddler starts playing and everyone dances. Jamie is feeling generous, so he tosses a sack of coins to the landlord and tells him to serve whiskey as long as the money lasts. Everyone cheers again. Rupert enters and tosses a sack of coins at Jamie's feet, saying it was a wedding gift. Jamie is about to say something and Rupert motions for him to just take the money and not say anything. Once upstairs, Claire is combing her hair. Jamie tells her how beautiful her curly brown hair is. She is shocked, because she does

not think it so. Jamie calls her, "mo duinne," which means 'my brown one.' She finds it flattering, but still thinks her hair is nothing special. She asks about his sister, Jenny's hair. Jamie explains that Jenny has his father's black hair and he has his mother's red hair. Jamie confesses to her that he believes her not to be a native from France, because of her language. He believes French to be a second language to her. He definitely does not believe her to be a spy. She teases him and says she could be, and that she could slice him in his sleep. He tells her he will die happy.

Part 3, Chapter 16 Analysis

The union between Jamie and Claire is becoming more comfortable. In the beginning of the day it feels a little awkward to both of them, but as they get close to each other and share their memories and histories, they feel more like one. Claire, from her first meeting with Jamie, had felt sympathy; but she is now feeling more empathy for him and what he has gone through. The reasons Dougal wanted her to marry Jamie are becoming clearer. As Jamie shares the story of how he came to be at castle Leoch, Claire realizes that by her marrying Jamie he can never reign as leader. He is all right with this. She cannot understand why Randall has such hatred toward Jamie, and is relieved by the fact that together as a unit they are more protected against his wrath. She also thinks Dougal has been manipulative with his intentions toward her and Jamie, but realizes there is nothing she can do about it. She will make the best of the situation and see where it takes her.

Part 3, Chapter 17

Part 3, Chapter 17 Summary

The next morning the men are nowhere to be found. Jamie tells Claire that, since the Watch from the previous night headed west, he thinks the men have traveled east to steal cattle. Dougal, he says, is very good at stealing cattle. Claire asks about Horrocks. Jamie was supposed to meet him in Lag Cruime, but he could not go due to the Watch being close by. He will have Murtagh go for him. Jamie and Claire walk for a while, and then climb up a hill, for Jamie wanted to show her something. Along the way he picks up a bird, lost from its nest. It is a mother bird. He talks softly to it in Gaelic. Claire just watches in amazement. It is a bird called a Plover; and Jamie was told at a young age that they had the souls of dead mothers. So he talks soothingly to them. He has since childhood.

They walk for an hour, and then rest for a while, as Jamie asks Claire what it is like between a woman and a man. He tells her that he feels differently toward her; and she confirms that she also does for him. Normally, Claire tells him, there are strong attachments between man and woman, but not as strong as they are feeling. Jamie is happy that Claire feels the same way. After they rest, they move on to a place where there are large rocks. Jamie points to a staircase where they are headed. Once at the top of the rocky stairs Claire takes in the breathtaking view. Jamie is pleased by the look on her face. They sit together, hanging their legs over the edge. Suddenly Jamie tells Claire to duck, as an arrow flies through the air toward them. They move just in time. Jamie recognizes the arrow as one from a friend. He calls out to him. The friend (Hugh Munro) appears over the hill with a smile.

Munroe is a deaf mute. He makes gestures that Jamie interprets for Claire. Munroe congratulates Jamie and Claire on their marriage, and then makes more gestures with his hands. Jamie tells Claire that Munroe is also newly married. Munroe gives them a rabbit carcass, hanging from his belt, as a gift. Jamie then gives Munroe a bottle of ale that he smuggled out of the inn earlier as a gift. They all sit together and talk as best they can. Jamie talks, Munroe makes gestures and Claire watches. She learns that Munroe was a beggar. There is a rule that there could be only one per parish. His past includes being captured by the Turks when he worked on a boat at sea. He was later made a slave in Algiers where they cut his tongue out and broke both his leg and back. The Turks had boiled his feet in punishment. Claire is shocked by the story. As the two men continue their conversation, Claire busies herself looking at the wild flowers around her. Munroe leaves as quickly as he came. Jamie explains to Claire that he will carry a message to Horrocks to change their meeting place.

Jamie and Claire return to the inn and see that Dougal and the men are back. They do not stop for dinner. They go upstairs. As they lay in bed together, Jamie asks Claire if the yearning to make love to her will ever end. She laughs at him. He then tries to take her again and decides to put his face between her legs. She doesn't want him to do this

and confesses her concerned about her freshness down there. Jamie laughs and continues anyway.

Part 3, Chapter 17 Analysis

Jamie grows incredibly close to Claire in the short period of time they have been married. Claire feels the same way, but is hesitant to totally open up to Jamie. Claire is unprepared for the surprise encounter with Munroe, but feels comforted by Jamie being there to protect her. Munroe has been a deaf mute since his capture years ago by the Turks, and then the Algiers. Claire and Jamie become inseparable during the first few days and explore one another quite efficiently. The reader is aware of how their love is growing stronger.



Part 3, Chapter 18

Part 3, Chapter 18 Summary

Claire questions Dougal and Jamie regarding the outcome of their visit to Randall. Dougal says that Randall is not pleased that he cannot question Claire at Fort William. Dougal does not think he will pursue it further.

They travel a few more days, then make camp. It has been a while since they had a hot meal. The cook is preparing a freshly killed deer on the fire. Claire tries to help, but is refused. They all eat, sing songs and tell stories around the fire. Claire notices that Murtagh has a nice voice. Rupert tells several stories. One story is about waterhorses, that inhabit bodies of water. They come out in the shape of a horse, yet once mounted they turn into a fish and carry the rider to the depths of the water.

As Rupert tells his story, Jamie stiffens. Claire wonders what is wrong as she watches the men (one by one) get up casually, walk around the fire and retrieve their weapons. They each sit back down in the same casual nature, as Rupert keeps telling his story. They are nodding to one another. Jamie whispers to Claire that the horses are restless. There must be an intruder nearby. He tells her to hide near some rocks when he gives the signal. Suddenly, there are screaming men jumping over the edge toward them. They are highlanders. Claire runs to the rocks and takes out the dirk that Jamie had given her a few days ago. She hides and watches. Jamie and Dougal are back-to-back, fighting 5 or 6 men. The fighting ensues for a while. Claire notices that although some of the attackers have pistols, they aren't firing them. Suddenly Claire hears a pistol. It is fired at the attackers, so she realizes it must be Murtagh's. The attackers start running away, one by one.

After the damage is assessed, Claire cleans up the men's wounds. One man has been kidnapped; so they will have to pay a ransom to have him returned. Dougal is not happy about it, though. Claire stitches up a large cut on Dougal's arm, drinks some whiskey and settles in for bed. Jamie wants her. At first she objects, because of the other men surrounding them in sleeping piles. She soon knows it was fruitless to try and deny him, so she submits.

The next morning they travel to a place not far from where they were, so the horses can drink water from the pond and rest for a while. Claire had dropped the dirk Jamie gave her; and it was found by one of the men. She tells the men that she doesn't know how to use it anyway. They then all started teaching her how to fight with it. Rupert is the best, so he takes over the lessons. He pulls his shirt up and shows Claire where to stick a man, between the ribs in the front. He uses Murtagh's back to show her where to stick them from behind. The men make a wool dummy for Claire to practice on. Claire practices for a while. Then, when the men think she has it down pretty well, they all sit to dinner.

Part 3, Chapter 18 Analysis

This is the first time Claire sees actual fighting among the men. As they fight the highlanders that surprised them at their camp, she watches wide-eyed. The appearance of pure respect and shock is written on her face. She hides and watches Jamie and Dougal fight back-to-back against the other men. It is time to get Claire acquainted with a knife, so she can protect herself. Claire realizes it is all too clear that she needs training to survive in this time. She welcomes the teachings of the men, even though they laugh at her while she's learning. It is clear to the reader that Claire fits in well with the men. Even though they accept her, it is hard for Claire to accept some of the old chauvinistic ways about them.

Part 3, Chapter 19

Part 3, Chapter 19 Summary

The next night they camp near the Loch. Claire washes her face and hands in the water before supper. As she stands by the water's edge she witnesses a great monster come out of the Loch. She describes its beauty and feels connected to it in some way. The monster is somehow "out of its time", just like her. Once the monster recedes back into the Loch, she notices that Peter was watching the whole thing. He is one of the men they are traveling with. She approaches him and he drops to his knees in front of her. She hasn't a clue what he is doing, but rescues the bucket from his hands and fills it with water. They return to camp, eat dinner and go to sleep.

Part 3, Chapter 19 Analysis

Claire's realization of the superstitions of these men becomes very clear to her. Peter's behavior toward her astonishes Claire, yet she does not understand his behavior. They don't say a word to the others, but Claire feels Peter's stares.

Part 3, Chapter 20

Part 3, Chapter 20 Summary

Another few days pass by, and Claire awakens to find a package by her bedroll. She opens it and finds a piece of amber with a dragonfly imbedded in it. It is from Munroe. It is inscribed with "Then let amorous kisses dwell. On our lips, begin and tell. A thousand and a hundred score. A hundred and a thousand more." Claire likes it. Jamie tells her that Munroe set up the meeting for him with Horrocks. It will be in about 4 days. Jamie explains to Claire more of the qualms that went on between the Fraser family and the MacKenzie family. He's a threat to Hamish's chieftainship in one interpretation, in which they would want him dead, and in the other interpretation they wanted Lallybroch (his land), because it's in a good spot.

Jamie and Claire decide to venture down a hill to gather water and make love by the pond. In the middle of their lovemaking two Redcoat deserters come upon them. One puts a gun to Jamie's head, as he dismounts Claire. The men intend to rape Claire and make Jamie watch. Claire remembers the knife in her pocket. As one man tries to enter her she grabs his head with one arm and jabs him in the back with the other. She has to do it twice, because the first jab hit his ribs. Jamie finishes off the other man and they then quickly make love to each other, before returning with the water.

The men joke with Jamie and Claire for taking so long to get the water. One of them mentions that they could have been snuck up on and had a gun held to their head. Claire can't help but laugh at the comment. Jamie takes Dougal aside and tells him what happened. A few days later Jamie has to travel for the meeting with Horrocks. Claire is not happy that she must stay behind with some of the men. Jamie insists. Claire still puts up a fight, so Jamie threatens to tie her to a tree. She finally gives in and rides into the bushes with her horse to wait for his return.

As Claire makes her way through the bushes to the other side, she realizes where she is. She is about 4 miles from the stones, from which she first came into this time, and she is alone. She thinks she must certainly try to escape. Thoughts of hurting Jamie come into her head and make her cry. She wipes the tears away, decides to leave the horse behind, to make it look like she was taken against her will, and start on foot. She crosses some rocks on the pond, but they are slippery. She takes her shoes and stockings off. She slips on a rock and falls into the water. As she makes her way back to the surface a hand grabs her. It is a Corporal Hawkins, with red hair.

Part 3, Chapter 20 Analysis

Claire, having been almost raped by the pond, feels very afraid to be alone. When Jamie announces that he must meet Horrock, Claire's insides fill with fear at being left behind. Claire's determination gets her nowhere, as Jamie's authority as her husband is

made clear. Once alone, Claire's heart fills with joy at discovering her whereabouts and realizing she is so close to the rocks from whence she came. She is torn, though, with thoughts of hurting Jamie. The reader realizes that she truly loves this man, although she had not intended this to happen.

Part 3, Chapter 21

Part 3, Chapter 21 Summary

Claire sits at a table waiting for the Captain to come into the room she was in. He enters, pulls a chair up next to Claire and sits down. He offers her a drink and congratulates her on her marriage. He wonders aloud why she is alone. He comments on the way the clansmen take bad care of their women, then comes to the realization that maybe she escaped. Claire doesn't know what to say. Randall continues talking, saying that Claire must be a spy working for the French if she escaped the MacKenzie's. He asks her. She replies that since he was doing so well on his own, he should continue talking. He is irritated. She finally questions his tactics. She asks if he was trying a new ploy by giving her drinks until she needed to use the chamber pot, then allowing her to go - only once she confessed. He laughs at this and Claire is surprised.

Claire is escorted out of Randall's chamber and put in a small room until later. When she is returned to him she asks him what he was going to do with her. He tells her "nothing." He continues by telling her that even though he wasn't going to do anything with her, he is sending her to Edinburgh. The Tolbooth of Edinburgh is known for being one of the harshest prisons around. Claire knows she has to do or say something quickly. She uses a name she had remembers from previous conversations. She asks Randall what he thinks will happen when the Duke of Sandringham finds out that he has sent her to Edinburgh. Randall spills his tea with surprise at the announcement. Randall does not entirely believe her. He leans toward her. She moves out of the way, grabbing the teapot and throws it at him. The orderly peeks in and Randall orders him to tie her up with rope. He then orders him out of the room and tells him not to return. Randall takes out a knife and starts stroking it across Claire's breasts.

She is truly scared. He then throws her back on the table and orders her to tell him everything she knows about the Duke. She screams, but this doesn't matter to Randall. He slaps her in the face. Then out of nowhere, Jamie appears in the window. He demands that Randall take his hands off Claire. He is holding a pistol at Randall. Randall lets go of Claire, grabs a knife and turns toward Jamie. He laughs at Jamie and comments on how his back must have healed since the flogging he had given him. He then tells Jamie that Claire is tasty, like his sister. Randall then turns the knife to Claire's throat and makes Jamie drop his pistol. Claire is going to be raped by Randall in front of Jamie, as it appears. Randall holds the pistol at Jamie, but Jamie jumps toward Randall anyway. The pistol is empty and Randall fires. Jamie then punches him in the stomach and in the nose, as Randall falls to the floor. Claire is relieved.

They jump out the window together as footsteps approach the door. They make their way around the grounds until they come to a ladder. Jamie makes an explosive distraction as Claire heads up the ladder. He is behind her in minutes. They cross a catwalk and slide down a flagpole that Jamie knocked loose. Rupert is waiting for them



with the horses. As they ride away she asked Jamie how he found her. He explains he felt guilty, so he sent a man back to stay with her. The man witnessed her struggle and saw her being taken to Randall. Jamie had to see for himself. He told Claire she was very lucky that he witnessed their activity through the window, for Dougal would have just left her there. She can tell that Jamie is upset, so she asks him what is wrong. He stops his horse, dismounts, drags her off of her horse and motions to the men to leave them alone for a minute.

Jamie is blindly furious with her. He blames her for purposely being caught by his worst enemy in repayment for him not being able to prevent the attack of the Redcoats that day by the water. She can't believe her ears. It is a battle of the wills, as she blames him for not taking her with him to his meeting. He blames her for not staying put in the bushes where he told her to stay. Claire keeps yelling at him and accusing him of treating her like an object that he owned. He says he does own her. She replies she feels like nothing more than something he forces himself upon whenever he feels like pleasuring himself. This stuns Jamie. He tells her she has a foul mouth. Once the heated argument cools a bit, he tells her that he would have fought many, many men to get to her. He had killed a guard and took his gun that had already been fired as protection. He knew he could have been caught or killed at any moment, but his need to help her was stronger. As he speaks these words, Claire doesn't say anything. After he is finished, she simply apologizes; and so does Jamie. They mount their horses again and head off with the other men, in silence again, but a nicer silence.

Part 3, Chapter 21 Analysis

This chapter leaves the reader knowing all too well how close Claire comes to being raped and killed, and by Jamie's most mortal enemy. When Claire comes face to face with Randall again she is terrified, but tries very hard not to show it. Her attempts at sarcasm fall on deaf ears. Randall is clearly not one to toy with. Claire goes from feeling guilty and sad about escaping from Jamie, to being thankful to him for saving her life again.

To hear Jamie pour his heart out after Claire's rescue is something Claire does not suspect. Yet she is still bitter toward him and sarcastic. One thinks she will not give in, yet the surprise comes at the end when she does truly feel sorry for her sour words. They both apologize, and then embrace one another again.

Part 3, Chapter 22

Part 3, Chapter 22 Summary

They arrive at the next town. It has an inn; and Dougal has to pay a hefty fee for their concealment of Jamie and Claire. They eat dinner quietly. Jamie hardly recognizes Claire and the men do not even look at her. After dinner they go upstairs to bed. Jamie isn't finished with Claire, though she thinks he will just let her sleep. He scolds Claire once again for what she did. He tells her that if it had only been him it would have been different, but she put all the men in danger by her actions. She feels very badly and tells him she is sorry. She did not fully realize the consequences and Jamie knows it. Jamie takes his belt off and tells her he will have to punish her. She objects and draws back into a corner. He persists in telling her that he has to spank her with his belt. She did wrong by the other men too, and it is Jamie's job to punish her. She is outraged, but has no choice in the end.

The next morning Jamie tells her not to worry. The men are still a little mad, but they will get over it. He is right. Claire serves them breakfast while recalling the night before where she received lashes against her bottom, but was still able to get a few punches in to Jamie between lashes. The men invite Claire to sit down and she declines. This sets them into laughter together. Dougal comes up to Claire and is kind in saying that he hoped Jamie hasn't punished her too harshly. She does not appreciate the way they are looking at her, but she can see that they have lightened up on her quite a bit since then. She is so mad at Jamie that she closes the door on him when she retires to bed.

The following afternoon they leave. They find Claire another horse. She names him Thistle. The men are, in their own way, sympathetic to her condition. They want to stop more often than before, saying they had to relieve themselves or that they needed water. Claire knows they are stopping to let her bottom have a rest. Claire even lies about the horse having a stone in its foot, so that she can stop for a minute. The men ride ahead and leave Jamie with her. They need to be at the next location by dawn, to which Jamie promises they will be and waves goodbye. Jamie then tells Claire about all of the whippings he received as a child. His father, and sometimes his schoolteacher mostly did it. He says he deserved it though: sometimes for lying, sometimes for setting something on fire, and so on. Claire laughs and thinks the stories humorous.

Jamie tells her of a time, when he was a boy, the teacher punished him for writing with his left hand (he was, of course, left handed). He was whipped on his hand numerous times. Jamie got brave and told the teacher that he would not make him cry. The teacher then proceeded to whip his hand trying to make him cry, which Jamie did not. Jamie tells Claire that was a lesson learned in keeping his mouth shut, if nothing else.

He notices something in the woods and orders Claire to be quiet. They lie side by side together and watch a pack of wolves milling around. When the wolves leave he continues telling Claire more about his childhood and his upbringing. He fostered with

Dougal when he was a teenager, then went to the castle. He made fun of Mrs. Fitz one time, and was punished by lashes to the bottom. He didn't know Mrs. Fitz could hear him when he was making fun of her. The boys he was with laughed. His punishment also included that he be lashed in front of everyone; and he was made to crawl backwards on his hands and knees, giving Mrs. Fitz an apology. The worst was that he had to go to the bathroom and everyone seemed to notice. He was too stubborn to ask if he could relieve himself; so in the end Colum released him and he ran to take care of business.

Claire cannot help but laugh and roll around in the grass. Jamie is baffled. He says that Murtagh is right about women. Jamie tells Claire that he is confused. He tells her he risked his life for her, steals, is almost murdered, she swears at him, he punishes her and yet she tells him that she loves him. They mount their horses and start traveling again. Jamie tells Claire the story of how his father died. His father came to the place where Jamie was flogged and tried to get him freed prior to the second flogging. Randall told his father he would need permission from the Duke of Argyll. Randall took Jamie into a private room and basically told him if he gave his body to Dougal, he would spare him the second flogging. Jamie felt sick about it, but did consider it briefly. Jamie turned him down and was taken back to a small private cell to wait for the next flogging. The doctor came to take a look at his wounds and gave him a small bible. Jamie still has it and hands it to Claire. She examines it and notices the name on the cover "Alexander William Roderick MacGregory, 1733." Claire asks him why he still has it. He explains he means to collect a debt from MacGregory some day. He continues his story. His father witnessed the second flogging, which Jamie hadn't known at the time. When Jamie passed out during the flogging, his father grabbed his head and fell to the ground. They didn't tell Jamie that his father had died until a month later.

After the story he asks Claire if she understands more why he beat her like he did. She confirms that she does understand. He then asks if he can share her bed again with him. She nodded approvingly.

Part 3, Chapter 22 Analysis

Lovers always need to have that one good fight or argument. Jamie and Claire certainly have theirs, and they lay everything on the line. Jamie bears his soul to Claire and explains everything between him and Randall. Claire has a deeper understanding of the relationship between the two men. As horrific story and the numerous deaths that are a direct result of Randall's actions show clearly on Jamie's face. What poor Jamie has been through, to again to risk his very life and the lives of his men to rescue her. She has a new respect for him. She understands why he had to punish her.

Slowly Claire is learning the ways of these people and how different they are from where she comes from.

Part 3, Chapter 23

Part 3, Chapter 23 Summary

They catch up with the other men and Dougal is waiting for them. He tells Claire she can go to the room, which she is thankful for. Jamie and Dougal tie up the horses and Jamie comes up later. Claire wakes up in the middle of her sleep, startles Jamie and asks him about Horrocks. Jamie tells her that the meeting went well, and that the information he received was that Randall actually killed the sergeant general, for which Jamie is being blamed. It will certainly be hard to prove his innocence, considering Randall did it. As they sit on the bed together, they contemplate their options for the future (stay in Scotland, travel to France or even America, and so on). Jamie prefers to stay in Scotland, clear his name and live on his own land.

He tells Claire that word has been sent for Dougal to return to Leoch and leave Mr. Gowan to continue collecting the rent. Dougal suggests that Claire and Jamie accompany him. Later that day they leave together for Leoch. They arrive quickly, as Dougal makes them rush along with few stops. Mrs. Fitz meets them at the castle gate. Claire is so tired she can hardly stand. Jamie informs Mrs. Fitz that Claire is so tired, because she has married him. As Jamie carries her through the castle everyone gathers around. Mrs. Fitz announces to everyone that they are married and tells Colum to give them his blessing while she prepares a room for them. Claire and Jamie sleep for a while. Later, Jamie awakes and gets dressed to run an errand. Claire wonders if he is going to tell Laoghaire of his marriage to Claire. She grows jealous, but brushes the feeling off as she washes and dresses herself in fresh clothing provided by Mrs. Fitz.

Claire lays her head against the stone window, trying to remember Frank's face. She wonders again what it would do to Jamie if she abruptly leaves and is never found again. Jamie returns and is shocked that she is not still asleep. She accuses him of going to see the Laoghaire girl. He yells at her, saying they have only been back a few hours and already she is accusing him of straying on her. She catches herself and tells Jamie she truly has no claim on him. If he wishes to be with other women she will not care. He grows angry and reminds her of her wedding vows. They are, in fact, a claim to each other and no one else. Jamie intends to show her that by throwing her into the bed and making love to her. She fights back, telling him he is a brute and no better than Randall if he is to rape her. He says she can leave then. She declines, promising not to run from the situation.

As they both calm down somewhat, Jamie explains that he did not marry her for the measly money he receives from the collected rents now that he is married to her. He says it can barely buy half a cow. He throws a package in her lap and informs her that his errand earlier was to buy her a wedding ring. She feels really sorry and tells him so. He asks her to open the package. The ring is beautiful, with a wide silver band. Claire cries and Jamie asks if she will wear it. She puts out her right hand and he slips it onto her finger. Her left finger has the ring Frank gave her. They make love intensely. It is as

though neither can bare it a moment longer. They have to take one another with brute force. Claire is sore all over her body the next morning; but Jamie insists on making love again. He is gentle this time.

Part 3, Chapter 23 Analysis

Jamie is a thoughtful man of great determination. Claire tells him what she thinks about going on an errand not even two hours after their return to Leoch. She is furious with jealousy and tries to keep a cool head. She believes he has met up with the blond girl, Laoghaire. Yet, all he has done was to go to buy her a wedding ring. She feels utterly ridiculous at her behavior when he presents her with the ring and tells her that he wanted her to have it and wear it. The reader feels the bond between them grow much stronger as she cries and let's Jamie put the ring on her finger.

All this time Claire wants nothing more than to do whatever she had to, in order to make her way back to the standing stones, so she can return to Frank. She is now wondering if that is, in fact, the best thing for her.

Part 4, Chapter 24

Part 4, Chapter 24 Summary

There are many toasts at supper in celebration of Jamie and Claire's marriage. Claire asks Jamie if he is drunk from all of the toasts. He says he is not. Geilie is there with her husband, Arthur, and she sits next to Claire. Claire notices that Geilie had a bit to drink also. She questions Claire about her new husband. Claire says it is nothing more than a business arrangement, but Geilie sees the bite marks on his neck and knows better. She asks Claire about his thumbs, to which Claire looks baffled. Apparently, Geilie thinks you can tell the size of a man's unit by his thumbs. Claire almost laughs at the thought.

A man suddenly enters the castle and tells Jamie some bad news. Claire can tell it is serious by the look on Jamie's face. Jamie approaches to Colum and Dougal and whispers into their ears. The news is that Dougal's wife has died. Jamie tells Claire that it was an arranged marriage for both Dougal and Colum. Jamie's parents married each other against the wishes of others; and even though he and Claire have an arranged marriage he hopes that things will be different between them. Claire cannot bear to tell him the truth, that it is definitely different between them.

Old Alec Mahomet enters the castle and approaches Jamie. He needs Jamie's assistance. Jamie tells Claire he'll be back for her as soon as he finishes his work with Mahomet. Jamie leans over and whispers into Claire's ear, "The stables when the sun's mid-sky." Claire meets him at the stables where they lay together for a while. Hamish comes in later and startles them. They quietly observe what he is doing as they hide in the stable. Instead of wanting to ride his own horse, Hamish wants to ride a horse called Donas, or "Demon". Jamie stops Hamish before he lets Donas out, asking him why he wants to ride this mean horse. Hamish, after some coercing on Jamie's part, confesses that he and some of the boys are competing with their horses; and Hamish's small, fat horse threw him off during the competition. Jamie feels bad for the boy. He tells him he will help him train on another horse, but not on Donas.

Jamie takes Hamish over to Cobhar, a larger animal than Hamish's small, fat horse. Hamish gives the horse an apple and Jamie suggests they get acquainted. Jamie grabs a pitchfork and starts with the hay. Hamish cannot help but question Jamie, regarding the latest developments with his marriage. He tells Jamie that he heard from Rupert that Jamie had to get married. Jamie reassures him that he wanted to get married. Hamish states that the girls he knows are skinny and don't smell very nice. Jamie smiles and says Claire smells just fine. Hamish is very curious about how a man knows which woman he should marry. Jamie tells him that he will just know. They sit on the hay together and talk about it. It is hard for Jamie to keep a straight face, explaining to the boy about going to bed with a woman. It is even harder for Claire not to laugh, as she listens from above them.

The married women are more welcoming of Claire, now that she is married to Jamie. They accept her in the little room upstairs they all share to sew and tend to their babies. Claire has her monthly cycle, and is thankful that she is not pregnant. She doesn't think it would be very good timing if she were. Jamie, in tending to the horses, has to chase Cobhar out of the loch. Hamish leaves the gate open and the horse gets out. Jamie is not pleased, because he misses dinner trying to get the horse back to the stable. He tells Claire he will not tell Colum, but he is going to teach Hamish a lesson. They lie down in bed that evening and smell something strange. There is a couple of pulled plants, tied with a black bow, under her pillow. Jamie throws it out the window and tells Claire someone must be playing a joke on them. He says it means something mean, but doesn't say exactly what.

The next morning Jamie dresses to go to the stables. Claire asks if he could tell Old Alec he is sick and stay home. He can't. He goes to work and Claire sets about her day, gathering herbs and tending to the sick. Suddenly Jamie comes in with two men holding him up. Claire runs immediately to him. Jamie tried to ride Donas. Donas was stung by a bee and went crazy jumping the fence with Jamie on his back. Jamie fell and strained his ankle. Claire dresses it for him. Old Alec tells him to stay in bed for the next day or so. Claire tends to Jamie through the next morning, and then they go for a walk. Jamie takes her to the roof, where he can see the direction of Lallybroch. He points it out, prompting the question of whether he wants to go home to Lallybroch.

Jamie tells her he would like to wait for the Duke to arrive. There may be a possibility the Duke will pardon him and then he'll be a free man. Claire looks into Jamie's eyes and asks him, "If I tell you something do you promise not to ask how I know?" He agrees and they sit down. She instructs him not to trust the Duke. She surely can't tell Jamie that she learned this in 1945 from her husband Frank. She states she isn't sure why, but has strong suspicions of him being linked to the Jacobite somehow. Jamie already knows this and laughs.

There are increasing sounds surrounding the castle. The local priest is being chased by the same pack of dogs that chased Cobhar into the loch. The priest trips and falls. The dogs bark and bite at him as Jamie knocks them off with his stick. Claire offers to mend the priest's wounds, but he is offended and turned her down. He explains it is not proper for a priest to show any of his bodily parts to a woman. Claire and Jamie have lunch. Claire then cares for more wounded while she sends Jamie to bed. Old Alec visits her. He has rheumatism. She feels his hand then recommends whiskey and a massage. He smiles and thinks it is good advice. As she massages him, Old Alec tells Claire the story of how Jamie's parents came to be married. Ellen (Jamie's mother) had snuck away in the night with a fellow by the name of Brian. They waited at the Fraser lands, living in the cottage until Ellen was pregnant. They thought Colum would have to bless the marriage, but he did not. It wasn't until a week before Ellen gave birth, and several nasty letters later that Colum finally gave in and they were married in the doorway of Lallybroch.

Old Alec falls asleep after his story and in the middle of Claire's massage. Claire puts a blanket over him and retires to her room, only to find Jamie asleep also. She decides to

borrow a book from Colum to read for a while. As Claire nears Colum's suite she hears the voices of Colum and Dougal arguing. She quietly steps away from the door, so as not to be heard. They are discussing sending Jamie to hunt with the Duke, so they can bond; and maybe Jamie will be pardoned. As Claire tries to sneak away Laoghaire approaches. Claire hides and the men talk more. Laoghaire listens outside the door. Suddenly Laoghaire drops a cup from her tray and the men hear it. Laoghaire drops the tray and run down the stairs. It was too late for Claire to get away, so she picks up the cup as Dougal opens the door. Colum asks Claire to come inside and sit, while he takes the tray. It was something from Mrs. Fitz for his throat. Claire looks over Colum's books and hears a noise outside the window. Hamish and a few other boys are jumping the castle wall with their horses; and Hamish's horse falls, pinning him to the ground. Colum is there in minutes. Hamish frees himself, and then throws up by the wall. Claire tells Colum that Hamish is O.K. and says, "You care for him as though he is your own." Colum was shocked, but replied simply, "Yes."

Later Jamie and Claire go to dinner. Claire tells Jamie of Colum's intentions to send him and Dougal hunting with the Duke. Jamie thinks it is be a good idea. As they sit to dinner, the men all joke of the Duke liking young boys. They tease Jamie, because when Jamie was sixteen the Duke took a liking to him. Jamie just laughs at them. They keep teasing him, and one man says he saw Jamie going to his chamber late one night. Jamie laughs harder and everyone wants to hear the story. So, Jamie relates the story.

The Duke saw Jamie washing by the river and offered to help. When the Duke reached under Jamie's kilt, Jamie jumped into the water and the Duke did not follow. Jamie tried to avoid him from that point on. The Duke cornered Jamie in the stable later, while Jamie was bending over to fetch something, and lifted his kilt up. Luckily, one of the horses went a little crazy at the sound of the Duke's voice and pinned him against the wall. Jamie got away; but the Duke ordered Jamie to his chamber the next day to help him dress. That's why he was seen going to the Duke's chamber. Prior to going to the chamber he drank a whole bottle of syrup made from figs. This gave him diarrhea. That kept the Duke away from him. The men all laugh at his story and warn him that he might have to drink another before the Duke arrives in a couple of days.

The next day, as Claire is in the surgery room, Jamie and Old Alec come in, snatch her away from her patient and inspect her arm. There is a horse giving birth and having a hard time. Claire's arm would fit inside the horse to assist with the delivery; but the men's arms are too big. Claire is led to the stall and she assists, knowing it will be hard work. After a while she manages to grab hold of the horses foot and ease it out with the contractions of the mother. The men are very excited. They had doubts that Claire is strong enough to do it. The men are very proud of her; and she feels elated at helping them.

The next day Geilie comes to visit and borrow some moss. Claire shows her the bundle of small plants gathered by a black ribbon that she found under her pillow. (After Jamie threw them out the window, Claire picked them up later.) Geilie suggests Claire to bring it to her house the next day, and they will find out who left it. As the two women search for moss on the hillside, Claire hears a small voice and follows it. To her astonishment



someone left a baby at the top of the hill. She calls for Geilie, but Geilie tells her to leave the child alone. It is a changeling and the family won't be far away. Claire tries to get the baby, because it is clearly sick; but Geilie insists. Claire leaves the baby and follows Geilie. Geilie relates the story of how people believe that if you leave a changeling overnight on the Fairie's hill, the Fairie's will return the human child and take the changeling. Geilie said the child will definitely be dead by morning. Claire then insists on returning to get the child and Geilie becomes, throwing her down in the water and warning her if she did, the villagers will blame Claire for the child's death and she will never be forgiven. Claire tells her she will be very careful and walks back toward the hill. As she climbs the hill she runs into Jamie, who takes her by the arm and leads her away. He informs her that the child is already dead; and they walk back to the castle together. The Duke has arrived.

Jamie introduces Claire to the Duke and the men are talked into hunting together. Jamie and Dougal will go with the Duke. The Duke is pleased and accepts the offer of the hunt. Colum asks Jamie to go and invite Geilie and Arthur to the castle to greet the Duke. Claire rides along with him, hoping to talk privately with Geilie and find out who had put the plants under her pillow. Upstairs in Geilie's room Claire notices a book of magic and realizes that Geilie is, in deed, a witch. Geilie assures her she practices white magic only. The two women place water into a silver pan and light a candle. She explains to Claire that a vision of whoever put the plants under Claire's pillow will appear in the water. As they light the candle Geilie begins to chant in a deep voice. Claire feels hypnotized and is being asked questions as to who she is and how she came to be in the highlands. She answers that she cannot tell, for no one would believe her. A noise breaks Claire's trance. Arthur tells Geilie to dress, because they need to get going. Claire realizes that Geilie hadn't even tried to find out who sent her the plants.

They arrive at the castle and eat dinner. Claire is presented a gift from Colum for helping the horse with her childbirth. It is a rosary with a silver crucifix. No sooner do they arrive back at the castle, than Arthur collapses within the crowd of people and dies. Claire and Geilie try everything they can, but nothing works. Talk of Geilie's witchcraft grows stronger after Arthur's death. When it is time for Jamie's hunt with the Duke, he makes her promise to stay away from Geilie. Claire promises. They go to bed, make love, and then Jamie departs in the morning. This leaves Claire to be bored in the castle and waits longingly for his return. After two weeks, word is sent to Claire that Geilie is ill; that she requests Claire's presence. Claire goes to her, disregarding Jamie's wishes. When Claire arrives, Geilie is drunk. Geilie did not send for her as Claire had thought.

Part 4, Chapter 24 Analysis

The lives of the people at Castle Leoch are increasingly becoming more interesting to Claire. She battles thoughts in her mind between leaving Jamie and returning to 1945. How would Jamie feel? How badly would she hurt him? Jamie and Claire have come so far together. They have learned to trust one another. The old Jamie she initially saw in the woods is gone. She came to know him for the first time, and now she sees only love in his eyes. She knows he will always be there for her, no matter what happens.

This saddens Claire, but also elates her, as her feelings for him have grown tremendously since their marriage to one another.

Claire sees a side to Jamie she had not seen before during his encounter with Hamish. She also crosses over with Colum when she brings to his attention that she knows Hamish is not his son. Colum does not deny this to Claire's face. It is a big step for her and the reader feels this.

This chapter also brings to light Geilie's intentions for Claire. When offering to find out who is sending Claire ill wishes, she actually performs a ceremony to find out who Claire really is. It's a trick; and Claire becomes leery of Geilie. After Geilie's husband dies, Claire realizes that Geilie is slipping into a rut and goes to aid her, only to find out that this is also a trick to lure Claire back to Geilie's home.

Part 4, Chapter 25

Part 4, Chapter 25 Summary

Claire and Geilie are scooped up and thrown into a hole in the ground. They are to be tried as witches at the next town trial. Claire is accidentally taken, because she is with Geilie. It is the cause of the Laoghaire girl. Geilie tells Claire that Laoghaire purchased the ill wish that was under Claire's pillow. Claire is appalled and tells Geilie that the girl was pregnant by Dougal. Geilie confesses that she is the one pregnant by Dougal, not Laoghaire. Claire is getting confused.

So, Laoghaire wants Claire out of the picture and tells her that Geilie needs her, Dougal has committed adultery with Geilie and doesn't know what to do now that she's pregnant, and Claire is just caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. Geilie admits to Claire that she poisoned her husband, and that she would have poisoned Dougal's wife, but she had died first. Colum and Dougal were talking about Geilie, not Laoghaire, the day Claire overheard them in the hallway. After further conversations with Geilie in the dark hole, Claire realizes that Geilie is actually a Jacobite. She laid her life on the line for her country. As they sit together in the darkness of the hole Geilie asks Claire if she loves Jamie. She says she does.

The trials begin the next day. Colum stands in judgment as Claire and Geilie stand helplessly in front of the villagers. They make many accusations toward Geilie, and only a few toward Claire. The mother of the baby on the fairy hill comes forward and tells everyone that she believes the two women chanted over the changeling child, and her healthy child was never returned to her. More superstitions are mentioned, such as the water horse. They claim Claire summoned it out of the water herself. The priest steps forward and accuses Claire of summoning the pack of dogs on him, then trying to lure him into the castle to mend his wounds. She looks at him in disbelief.

Claire notices that, by the look of his leg, he has blood poisoning. So she cried out to him that if he didn't get it taken care of at once, he would die. The priest turns to the crowd and says, "The tremority of the woman kens nae bounds. She curses me wi' death, a man of God, before the judgment seat of the kirk itself!" Claire can't believe her eyes.

Ned Gowan appears through the crowd. He speaks on Claire's behalf for a long time about how knowledgeable she is with healing people and medicine. As the evening sets in Gowan is able to have Claire tried separately from Geilie. Claire is also taken into the inn, whereas Geilie is led back to the dark hole. Gowan talks to Claire for a few moments. It's all he is allowed. He brings her meat, bread and wine and tells her she can sleep at the inn overnight. He asks her why she touched the child on the hill. He refers to that occurrence as the one that can possibly hurt Claire's chances against the court. She asks him if Colum sent him, to which he tells her he came on his own

accord. Column had nothing to do with him being there. Gowan leaves and Claire eats her meat and bread, then tries to sleep.

The next morning the courts decide that there is not enough evidence to condemn the two women, so they are taken down to the river where they will have one thumb tied to one toe and the other thumb tied to the other toe, tossed into the water and if they float, they are witches. If they sink to the bottom, they are innocent. Claire screams and fights at this, saying that it is ridiculous. If she is innocent, she will die, and if she lives they will kill her because she is a witch. Because Claire fights and refuses, the judge say to "skelp" her. They tie both Claire and Geilie to two separate trees, strip most of their clothes off and proceed to whip them. Claire can't believe the pain. Suddenly Jamie appears through the crowd screaming at them to cut her loose. His brute force makes them obey. Some of the judges say he is intruding in God's work. Jamie puts a rosary around Claire's neck and tells the crowd to look upon her, for if she is a witch the rosary will burn her skin. It did not. He goes on to mention his own oath he took before God to protect her. Just as the crowd starts to settle down Geilie steps forward and tells them that Claire is innocent. She confesses to being a witch and killing Arthur. She also confesses to casting a spell on the baby on the hill. Geilie starts to turn in circles in front of the crowd, tearing her dress off revealing her pregnancy and looks toward Claire and mouths the word "run" to her. As Claire turns to leave she notices on one of Geilie's arms a small pox vaccination scar just like the one Claire had on her own arm. That wasn't possible in this time.

When Jamie and Claire make it down the road a ways Jamie stops to cleanse Claire's wounded back with chewed grass. Claire can't stop crying and Jamie tells her he had the same feelings after he was flogged. He cried and shook, then thanked God for the pain, because it meant he was alive. Old Alec had watched over Claire for Jamie and when Claire was taken he rode to find Jamie. When they found a spot to hide in, Jamie tells Claire to sleep. He goes to find food for them, because he left the hunt in a hurry to save her from the judges. She sleeps and is awakened later smelling meat on the fire. Jamie is cooking two rabbits on an open fire. They eat and Claire throws up. She can't stop thinking about Geilie saving her life that morning. They move to a clearing in the forest and Jamie makes another fire for them to sit by. Jamie looks at her very seriously and asks if she is a witch. He pleads with her to tell the truth, even if this is the first time she is honest. She can't help herself. She runs toward a tree, wraps her arms around it and laughs loudly. She finally turns to him and yells that she is a witch. She says, "To you I must be a witch. I've never had small pox. I can walk through a room full of dying men and never catch it. I can nurse the sick, breathe their air and touch their bodies, and the sickness can't touch me." She continues to tell Jamie that she knows about Jonathan Randall because she was told about him. She knows when he was born and when he will die. Through her ranting and raving she tells Jamie that she is not born yet. She isn't to be born until 1918. He believes her. He doesn't know why, but he does. She shares the standing stone entry she had made into this century and reaffirms her complete honesty to him. He tells her they will talk more later and he will believe her then too.



Jamie later asks Claire more questions and she answers every one he asks. She asks him if he truly believes her and he said although he does, it would have been easier if she had been a witch. Jamie is quiet as they travel and Claire is too tired to ask where they are going. She is comforted by the fact that she is with him and he believes her. A few days later they are nearing Craigh na Dun and Claire is shocked that Jamie is taking her to the standing stones. She asks Jamie why he is taking her there. Once there, he takes her right up to the circle of rocks and asks her about that day. She tries to remember, but is shaking with fear. He makes her do exactly the same things she had done when she was last there. She listens for the noises and he presses her hands to the split stone. As she lay against the stone his voice begins to fade in her mind. Jamie thinks she is dying, so he shakes her and she comes back to him. Claire realizes that the stones still work. Jamie apologizes as he realizes he stopped her from returning to her time. He looks into her face for a while, then turns and tells her to go. He will wait in a cottage down the hill to make sure she gets back o.k. As he walks away Claire yells to him and tells him of a time to come. She tells him about the rising when Prince Charlie is to come and that Colum is right and Dougal is wrong. If Jamie sets foot on Culloden he will die. Hundreds and hundreds of clansmen will die. She tells him to go to the Americas, but not to France. Jamie listens, then leaves her to the stones as he walks to the cottage at the bottom of the hill.

Claire sits for a long while contemplating what she should do. She thinks about Frank, then about Jamie. Before she knows it she is walking down the hill toward the cottage. Jamie is asleep, so she cuddles next to him. It surprises him to find her there and he awakens so suddenly that they both fall to the floor. He asks her why she didn't go back to her time. She tells him that she just couldn't live without him. They hug each other for a long time and in the morning Jamie says he is taking her home. He says that letting her go is the hardest thing he had done and is now going back to Lallybroch.

Part 4, Chapter 25 Analysis

This chapter brings out true enlightenment. Geilie is pronounced a witch by the villagers and Claire almost gets drowned in the river. Claire gets a glimpse of the small pox scar on Geilie's arm, which cannot possibly be there in the 1700's. Claire has one too. She is shocked by the display Geilie creates in front of the people, which creates a distraction so that Jamie and Claire can escape.

Further enlightenment comes when Claire finally tells Jamie everything about herself and how she came to be there. For six months Claire tries to get back to the stones and return to Frank, yet Jamie brings her directly there and she cannot leave. She chooses Jamie over her old life. The reader is captured by the affection they share and how close they came to being without one another. Although Jamie doesn't come out and say he loves Claire, it is apparent how he feels toward her.

Part 5, Chapter 26

Part 5, Chapter 26 Summary

Jamie and Claire ride toward Lallybroch on the back of Donas, the big strong horse. They are quiet at first, then Jamie shares information on the hunt he is on with the Duke. He isn't sure if he can trust the Duke, so he doesn't tell him his entire story. He only tells him of his wrongful charge and that it will be hard for Jamie to prove his innocence. Claire teases Jamie and asks if the Duke made any advances toward him. Jamie said he had not. Murtagh had left the same time Jamie did when they heard the news of Claire in the village with Geilie. Donas is a faster horse, so Murtagh can't keep up. Jamie tells Claire not to worry about him. He is sure he made it back to the castle.

They stop for a bit and Claire tells Jamie of the small pox scar on Geilie's arm. She shows him her own scar and says that Geilie might be of her time. Claire fears for Geilie's life and Jamie tells her they will not burn a pregnant woman. They will wait until she gives birth. He still thinks she is a very mean woman, if not a witch for killing her own husband. Claire agrees. Jamie asks why she would kill her husband like that. Claire says they should eat and she tells him what she has learned. When they finished, they return to their traveling. A man is coming up the road and Jamie recognizes him as Jock Graham. He recognizes Jamie. Jamie introduces Claire as "my lady Lallybrock," and the man welcomes them home.

As they approach the large stone home a pack of dogs startle Donas and Claire falls off the horse. Jamie yells their names and they stop. Claire leads the horse away and Jamie tends to the dogs. He introduces them to Claire as Luke, Elphin, Mars and Bran. Bran is a staghound. They make their way to the front door of the house and enter. Jamie finds his sister Jenny inside. When they see each other Jenny runs and hugs Jamie tightly. A little boy that looks just like Jenny comes near and Jenny introduces him as 'wee' Jamie, named after her brother. Jamie is upset. He thinks it is inappropriate for his sister to name her son Jamie. She is raped by Randall and now names her son after Jamie, so he will not forget. Jamie goes to leave and Jenny makes him sit down to hear the truth about Captain Randall. He doesn't want to hear it and turns his back to her, so she reaches under his kilt, grabs and twists. He shrieks in pain and she tells him to sit and listen to her. He obliges, of course. He wants to know why she disobeyed his orders and shamed the family. Jenny is furious by Jamie's accusations and slaps him in the face. Claire watches as they are eye to eye screaming at one another.

Claire leaves them to argue alone. A man with a peg for a leg enters the house and notices Claire. He comes over and introduces himself as Ian Murray, Jenny's husband. He hears Jamie and Jenny's voices and asks Claire if Jamie is home. She shakes her head and Ian tells Claire that the news of their marriage had spread throughout the highlands, so Jenny wondered what Claire was like. News is that Dougal made Jamie wed, but they thought it would take more than that to make Jamie do something he didn't want to do. Claire and Ian decide it is quiet enough to enter the room again where

Jamie and Jenny are arguing. Jamie keeps calling Jenny a whore and asks her who the father is of this next child (inside her belly). Ian speaks up and says it is his child. Jamie is shocked and notices the significant similarities in Ian and wee Jamie. Ian tells Jamie that they are married and Jamie tells Jenny that he had seen her and Randall entering the house together. His assumption is that she was raped, then as time went on she continued to have relations with Randall. Jenny tells him that is not the truth. Jamie finally realizes the truth and apologizes to his sister. He removes his shirt so she can see the scars from his flogging. She tells him that she cried every day that he had been gone. Claire leaves the room once again, so they can be alone together.

Part 5, Chapter 26 Analysis

Jamie's homecoming is an explosive one, as brother and sister argue almost immediately. Claire is introduced to Ian, Jenny's husband and they spend quite a time listening to brother and sister yell at each other. Jamie comes to the realization that Jenny was not raped by Randall. She is married to Ian and wee Jamie is their child.

Claire feels like an outsider as she sits and waits for Jamie and Jenny to conclude their argument. She notices that Jenny has the same stubbornness as Jamie. She finds the company of Ian nice and leaves the brother and sister to reacquaint themselves.

Part 5, Chapter 27

Part 5, Chapter 27 Summary

The men go out and take wee Jamie with them. The women are left alone to get to know one another. Jenny is sewing and Claire is helping with the thread. They talk casually like strangers. Jamie's wife and Jamie's sister, it is awkward for both of them. The cook comes in around five o'clock looking for wee Jamie. He apparently got away from her. Claire and Jenny go to look for him. They find him in the dovecote with Jamie. Jamie is teaching him how to urinate standing up. The boy is trying not to get any on his foot. The women watch, then they all go into the house for dinner. Jamie shows Claire around the house. It is large and fairly modern for the time.

As Jamie leads her through the house Claire admires paintings on the wall that his mother had painted. One of Jenny playing with the birds and another of Jamie with his older brother, Willie. Willie had died when he was 10. Jamie had told Claire about it previously. He then went on to tell her that he married her for yet, another reason. He explains that his father had told him that when you meet the woman you are supposed to marry, you just 'know.' When Jamie met Claire upon her entrance into this time, he just 'knew' she was the one. Claire thinks this to be comical and they laughed together.

Several days go by and Claire busies herself with the other women while the men work in the town. When Claire finds a free moment she admires the view of the field. Jamie comes to give her a warm wool throw and she teases him about why he hadn't revealed his true feelings to her about how he felt. He says he felt like she only married him because she had to. They kiss and go to find a haystack together.

Part 5, Chapter 27, Analysis

Jamie is the center point between Jenny and Claire. They bond somewhat in this chapter. Claire wants to be helpful to Jenny, because of Jenny's very pregnant condition. As Jenny and Claire talk, Claire wants to make it perfectly clear to Jenny that she had no idea when she initially married Jamie that he had land or a home. She merely married him because she wanted to.

The two women find Jamie bonding with wee Jamie one day and find it quite comical that Jamie is teaching him how to pee without wetting his feet. As Jamie reveals to Claire that he knew she was the woman he was supposed to marry, the reader feels the bond between them and feels Claire's love for him as he pours his confession out.

Part 5, Chapter 28

Part 5, Chapter 28 Summary

Jamie and Claire stay very busy, for they are to leave soon and Jamie wants everything running smoothly while he is away again. Claire and Jamie explain this to Jenny and Ian and say they have to leave before the winter. They will head to Beauuly, seat of clan Fraser and hope they will be granted passage to France. Jenny's eyes look sad.

Claire walks with Jamie and Ian to look at a wheel at the mill. Ian says it is stuck and needs Jamie's help. Jamie tells Claire the story of how when he was fourteen years old he went to live with Dougal at Beannachd and Dougal's daughter (Tibby) was the first girl he kissed. Tibby's mother caught them the second time they kissed and Dougal threatened him to slice his privates with a knife. Jamie didn't kiss her any more. The next girl he kissed was when he was sixteen. When the miller arrives he explain to Jamie and Ian the problem and Jamie decides he will need to get into the water and see what is stopping the wheel from turning. Claire is startled to see his undergarment. It is made of red flannel and Jamie tells her it used to belong to his father.

Claire leaves the men to their work and takes her basket to collect herbs and plants. An old woman walks toward her and introduces herself as Grannie MacNab. She rummages through Claire's basket and throws out a few herbs that she feels are not necessary, then proceeds to tell Claire that she needs a word with Jamie. As Jamie is busy she decides to tell Claire that her grandson is being beaten by his father, so she wants to know if Jamie can use the boy as a stable lad. She thinks this will help get him away from a lot of the beatings. If he is busy working, he will not be in his father's way. She notices that Claire is not pregnant, so she offers her wisdom. She says to eat raspberry leaves. Claire just smiles and thanks her.

Redcoats come upon them suddenly and Grannie McNab motions to Claire to be quiet so they will not hear her English accent. She understands. The men ask if they can buy some meal, but the old lady tells them about the wheel being stuck. Toward the mill the men go to see what the problem is. The old lady warns them to be careful, when one man asks if Claire can go speak to the miller, because the miller apparently speaks no English. The old lady speaks up and tells the Redcoats that Claire is her daughter and does not speak. She hadn't spoken since her child was stillborn. The old lady goes on to say that she can't be left alone either, for fear that she will throw herself into the river from grief. One of the Redcoats starts taking off his clothing to jump into the water to find out what is making the wheel stop turning. Jamie is hiding somewhere in the water, so Claire becomes frightened. Just as the Redcoat is about to jump in, the wheel starts to turn and Jamie's undergarment comes into view as the apparent mechanism that had caused the problem. The Redcoats think it is not significant enough to cause the problem, but let it go. One of the men takes the undergarment with him to use as a polishing cloth. The men leave and everyone is quite relieved.

Jamie comes out of the water freezing and naked. Grannie McNab has his shirt, but has forgotten about it as she starts to ask her favor to Jamie. Jamie respectfully looks at her and tells her he will do whatever she wants, if he can only get his shirt back.

Part 5, Chapter 28 Analysis

This chapter brings out the Scottish respect for the laird of the land, Jamie. The people welcome his return and also come to him when in need of help. Claire is also respected as lady of the land. By the same token, it is not forgot to either Jamie or Claire of Jamie's wanted status. The Redcoats scared them when they arrived to purchase meal. Claire must wonder if they were actually searching for Jamie and not just looking to buy food.

Part 5, Chapter 29

Part 5, Chapter 29 Summary

That night after dinner Claire tells the story of the Redcoats to Jenny. She is imitating Grannie McNab's voice and they all laugh. It is revealed during the story telling that Jamie and Ian grew up together. Ian tells more stories about how they are whipped by their fathers while bending over the fence. More stories followed and when the stories wound down Ian asks Jamie if he is mad that he and Jenny married without Jamie's consent. Jamie assures him and Jenny that it is understandable considering Jamie's circumstances at the time. They aren't even sure if Jamie would ever return when he left. Jamie goes on to tell Ian that his sister picked a very fine husband. This makes Ian happy.

Jamie asks how they met and Ian tells him the story of how Jenny discovers him in a field covered in mud and kisses him. The next thing he knows, a while later, they are married. Ian tells Jamie how he looks at her sometimes and how very fond of her he is.

After Claire and Jenny serve refreshments the men reminisce about one time when Ian's father, who had passed away while Jamie was away, makes them go to town with him and the boys squirmed the whole way there, because they had toads in their shirts. Jenny laughs out loud at remembering this story.

Jenny shares the story of how she laughed at Randall the day he came to take Jamie and cause her harm when he took her into the house. She is meant to be raped, but blames herself for Jamie being taken away. She says if she had not laughed at Randall, Jamie never would have been taken. She says that Randall rubbed himself furiously trying to get his manhood ready to take her, but could not make it work. She laughed in his face and told him he is not a man, and went on to say he is smaller than what she had seen (her brother she had seen bath once). This infuriated Randall and he slapped her hard. Jamie reassures her that it is not her fault. It would have happened regardless of her actions. He is thankful that she is not harmed by Randall. Claire and Jamie leave the room as Jenny turns to Ian to explain why she had kept the story from him for all these years. She didn't want to hurt him.

Claire and Jamie go up to bed and Jamie tells more stories of his father and of his last beating from his father. Claire listens while Jamie holds her in his arms. She had wished to know his father and Jamie reassures her that his father would have liked her very much.

Part 5, Chapter 29 Analysis

When Claire and Jamie are almost discovered by the Redcoats, it brings to light to the reader how much danger they could be in if they were caught. Grannie McNab's help in keeping them hidden is both admirable and funny (especially when told by Claire to

Jenny later). Jamie and Ian have time later to reminisce their boyhood days and the women listen and enjoy the stories. Claire goes from feeling like a stranger to one of the family.

Part 5, Chapter 30

Part 5, Chapter 30 Summary

The next evening after dinner Claire sits next to Jenny and watches her sew a garment for the unborn baby. Jenny places Claire's hand on her belly so she can feel the baby kick. Jamie comes over later and asks how it feels to have something growing inside of her. She tries to explain as best she can, considering he is a man. Jamie begins to rub her feet as she explains to Claire what it is like to have a child inside her belly. They all listen intently, Jamie, Ian and Claire as Jenny talks about how her skin feels things and her belly swells with a kicking child inside. Toward the end Jenny looks squarely at Ian and she speaks of her body being sensitive to every touch. Ian and Jenny go to bed and leave Claire and Jamie in front of the fire with wee Jamie sleeping near them. Jamie explains to Claire that as soon as Ian and Jenny are finished being together upstairs they will come back for wee Jamie.

Part 5, Chapter 30 Analysis

Claire is completely thrilled to feel Jenny's stomach and the baby kicking within. She feels entranced by the beauty of childbirth. Jamie learns a lot from listening to his sister explain to Claire all the feelings that encompass her during her pregnancy. She sees Jenny in a different light and Ian too. They have shared the intimacy of another offspring being formed and now about to come into the world.

Part 5, Chapter 31

Part 5, Chapter 31 Summary

The next morning Jenny is set in her goals of making Jamie and Claire look like laird's of the land. She first brushes the leaves and sticks out of Jamie's hair and then proceeds to Claire's. Jenny and Mrs. Crook had made two dresses for Claire, one for every day and one for special occasions. Claire is to wear the special occasion dress today.

Jamie and Claire sit together as Jamie empties the contents of his Sporrán so that she might have some jewelry to wear. The pears Jamie had given her after their wedding came pouring out. Claire thought she had forgotten them. Claire notices the bible again inscribed with Alexander William Roderick MacGregor and asks again how Jamie is to repay some debt in relation to this bible. He tells her the story of how he had been given this bible months after the owner, Alexander William Roderick MacGregor, had died. He died at the hands of Randall and one day Jamie meant to have Randall die at his hand and he would mention Alexander to Randall at the end of Randall's life. It would be revenge for Alexander and Jamie would be proud to do it. He would then return the bible to Alexander's mother with news of his revenge.

Jenny and Claire go through an old box of Jenny's looking for some jewelry for Claire to wear. They settle on a set of bracelets that used to belong to Jamie and Jenny's mother. Jenny tells Claire that her mother would never reveal who had given the bracelets to her. There is a set of earrings that go with the bracelets. Claire puts them on and she and Jenny proceed downstairs with the others.

Once downstairs, Claire sees Murtagh eating at the table. She asks about Mrs. Fitz and what she must have felt at Claire's disappearance. Murtagh says that she scoured every inch of the castle, and then asked Colum to send men to look for Claire. It was a fight between the two and Mrs. Fitz knew something was not right. Murtagh then finishes eating and excuses himself.

Jamie and Claire settle in to entertain the locals that came to pay their rents and discuss the next quarter's crops and so forth. Mrs. Crook prepares cakes, desserts and punch for the guests. Grannie MacNab's son and grandson arrive and Claire looks at Jamie. There is communication through their eyes only. Jenny and Claire take the boy, Rabbie, to the kitchen to feed him and take his shirt off, because it is dirty. They want to clean it a little and notice the horrific scars on his back. Jamie asks Mr. MacNab if the boy can help in the stables and he says no. Jamie persists by offering payment and Mr. MacNab comments that his mother must have spoken to Jamie. He adamantly says no.

A little while later Jamie takes Ronald MacNab outside behind the shed. They reappear a few minutes later and Jamie announces that young Rabbie will be staying to help with the horses. Jamie says goodbye to Ronald as he rides off on his horse and tells Rabbie

to stay for supper. Jamie tells Claire that he threatened Ronald bodily harm in order to keep Rabbie. He isn't sure it is the right thing, but Claire reassures him that it is.

Part 5, Chapter 31 Analysis

Claire is now lady of Lallybroch. She takes her place beside Jamie as the townspeople come to pay their rents and discuss the next quarter's crops. Claire feels very comfortable at the home and in the time she is currently in. She knows now why Jamie wanted to come home. She wishes it could last longer, but is coming to the realization that she is meant for this lifetime and this husband.

Part 5, Chapter 32

Part 5, Chapter 32 Summary

Jamie helps Ian with the harvesting. It is November. Jamie tells Claire that they will need to leave within the next day or two. Harvesting is very hard work and the men usually fall asleep right after supper. Jenny jokes that there are no babies born in July due to lack of men being awake to make them in November.

That night after Claire goes to bed she and Jamie are awakened by Ian. Jenny is in labor and asks Claire if she knows how to deliver a baby. She tells him she does not, and he should get the midwife. Jamie goes to get the midwife, Ian tells Mrs. Crook to prepare something to eat and Claire sits with Jenny as she battles labor pains. When the midwife arrives she prepares for the arrival of the baby. Claire watches in amazement as Jenny's contractions grow stronger and stronger. It seems as though the baby will never come. Jenny's labor seems so intense, her hair is stuck to her head with sweat, yet no baby. Claire asks the midwife if the baby could be backwards, to which the midwife set about to turn the baby within Jenny's belly. It works and little Margaret Ellen Murray is born. Claire goes downstairs to tell Ian and Jamie.

Part 5, Chapter 32 Analysis

This chapter portrays childbirth in the 1700's and to Claire, having not witnessed anything like it before, the pain comes as quite a shock to her. Jenny feels as though she will die at one point and the midwife tells Claire this is quite normal. Claire witnesses the extraordinary birth of little Margaret and deep inside wishes she could bear children as well.

Part 5, Chapter 33

Part 5, Chapter 33 Summary

Jamie and Claire stay at Lallybroch over the next couple of days as Jenny recuperates. One afternoon as Claire works in the garden and Jenny leans on the fence with the baby, Ian rides up on horseback. It is too early for Jamie and Ian to return, so it alarms the women to see him. The men have encountered the watch. They had taken Ian's wooden leg, his horse and Jamie.

Jenny orders Claire to fix Ian's wounds as quickly as possible, for he has bruises on his face. Her intent is to leave the children with Mrs. Crook and head off with Claire to save Jamie from the English. Claire can't believe her ears, but follows anyway. They leave at once and make camp that night. Their intention is to head the English off on a side road. Jenny cannot be away from the baby for long, so they need to hurry. As they make camp, Jenny empties her full breasts into a cup. She will need to get back to nurse the baby before long. Jenny knows the trails well and the next day they find the English by the river.

Jenny watches them depart one by one on horseback, then steps in front of the last rider. The two women hit him in the head with a branch, then a rock and tie him to a tree to question him about Jamie's whereabouts. The man confesses that Jamie had drown in the river after throwing himself off of one of the horses. His arms were tied behind his back and the river carried him away. The women did not believe him to be dead.

The women set off to search the river. They find the rope that had been tied around Jamie's hands floating in the river and Claire sees some dried blood on a nearby tree. They come to the conclusion that he was hurt, but is still alive. As they make camp that night Murtagh arrives to their surprise. Ian has sent him. He tells the women that MacNab had died in a fire earlier. Jenny and Claire then realize that it was Ronald MacNab that had told the watch about Jamie. Jenny leaves to go home now that Murtagh has arrived. Claire will be safe with him.

Claire walks Jenny to the hill before her departure. Jamie has told Jenny that there are things Claire might tell Jenny and for Jenny to do exactly as Claire says. Jenny asks Claire if there is anything that she needs to know and Claire tells her to plant potatoes, sell any unwanted land she can for gold and build a hole in the house for hiding. She shares with her that there will be war and famine in approximately two years time. Jenny nods her head and gives Claire some money and they bid each other goodbye and Jenny goes on her way.

Part 5, Chapter 33 Analysis

This is Claire's first realization of Jenny and Jamie's relationship. Claire is thankful that Jenny trusts her brother so much that she would follow his instruction so willingly. The

fact that Jamie told her to follow any of Claire's instruction without question was amazing to her. And, the fact that Jamie thought enough of Claire to know that she will use her knowledge to help him and his family is astounding to her. The fact is, that they will all get through whatever will come their way together as a strong family unit. Claire is thankful to have this.

Part 6, Chapter 34

Part 6, Chapter 34 Summary

Murtagh decides that he and Claire should not waste time in trying to find Jamie, for they will not. He hid well. They will wait for him to find them. Murtagh gives Claire her bag of medicines and they ride from town to town treating the sick people in hopes that somewhere along the line there will be word of Jamie. Possibly Jamie will catch wind of them traveling from town to town. Murtagh even has Claire sing in one of the towns and asks if she can do fortune telling. She laughs, but does it so that word of them will spread.

They meet a band of gypsies on their travels and are invited to dinner. Claire and Murtagh sing after dinner and ask about Jamie. No one seems to have seen him. It is hard to communicate with the gypsies, because they speak very little English or Gaelic. Hand gestures are used and they seem to understand one another. Murtagh and the leader of the gypsies agree that if they find Jamie they will send word to Murtagh and Murtagh will reward them with money. Claire and Murtagh do not stay the night, but leave shortly thereafter swiftly for Murtagh thinks they will be followed by the gypsies.

They find a barn to sleep in that night and a few days later they receive word about Jamie. A gypsy appears and leads Claire to a cave to meet Jamie. Murtagh is made to stay where he is, but he follows quietly behind them. It is MacKenzie that is waiting for Claire in the cave. Claire is very upset. MacKenzie proceeds to tell her that Jamie has been caught and sent to Wentworth prison. He is sentenced to hang, although he doesn't know exactly when. Claire begs him to gather his men and rescue Jamie, to which he says he cannot. It cannot be accomplished, he assures Claire. She just cries relentlessly. He says he will escort her back to his house for safe keeping.

Claire suddenly realizes that she might be in danger. MacKenzie might be luring her away from Jamie in the way he lured Jamie into believing that his sister is raped. She confronts him with accusations, to which he denies. He creeps closer to her and tries to seduce her and tells her how much he has always wanted her. She quietly reaches for her dagger tucked beneath her cloak. She tests the waters by telling him she knows he is Hamish's father and that he also fathered at least one more child. As Claire keeps accusing Dougal the truth comes out that Colum and Dougal both planned for Dougal to have Hamish. Colum asks Dougal to sleep with his wife and it takes three months for Hamish to be conceived.

Dougal keeps moving toward Claire telling her that he is going to have her next when Murtagh suddenly appears. With pistol drawn, Murtagh tells Dougal to give him the money he has on his person and then proceeds to think of a plan to free Jamie. Claire says they need men, to which Dougal does not oblige. Claire says that if she talks to the men and they agree to go on their own accord, would they go. Dougal says she can ask the men and he will not stop them. Five men choose to go with them. In parting ways,

Dougal tells Claire of his last encounter with Geilie. She has a message for Claire. She wants her to know that, "It might be possible and one, nine, six and seven." Claire takes this to mean that it might be possible to return to her own time and that Geilie has come through the stones in the year of nineteen sixty seven. They arrive at the prison two days later.

Part 6, Chapter 34 Analysis

Claire knows how dangerous it will be to rescue Jamie from Wentworth Prison, but she cannot even entertain the thought of not rescuing him. She is shocked to find out all of the family information on Colum and Dougal. This is truly an accomplishment she is proud of. She is also thankful that Dougal shared Geilie's last words with her. She now knows that Geilie is like her and had come from another period of time to this land.

Claire's last thought as they arrive at the prison is if they can actually accomplish rescuing Jamie. She has no choice but to try.

Part 7, Chapter 35

Part 7, Chapter 35 Summary

Claire enters the prison and introduces herself as a friend of the Fraser family. They tell her that Jamie is still alive and will be hanged in two days. She is relieved, but tries not to show her feelings. She asks if she may talk to the prisoner or get a letter from him that she can present to the family. They tell her they cannot permit her to visit him, but if she comes back tomorrow they will have him write a letter. Claire left the prison with Jamie's box. Every possession he owned was in it and she knew them all.

The men derive a plan to visit the local pub and question some of the guards that work at the prison. The next day they will be prepared with information on what time Sir Fletcher (who runs the prison) eats his lunch and takes a nap. The next day Murtagh goes first and Claire follows him to the prison. Murtagh is already inside when she arrives. She uses a story that Murtagh is supposed to bring a gift for Sir Fletcher, but forgot it. Claire follows him to bring it. The guard lets her pass and follows her. Murtagh knocks one guard out to retrieve his keys and Claire drops her package to distract him. As the guard cleans up the mess on the floor from Claire's dropping of a box with peach brandy in it, Murtagh and Claire meet behind a quiet door. Claire takes the keys from Murtagh and tells him she will have to be the one to go to Jamie. Murtagh protests, but to no avail.

Claire finds the west wing and the door in which Jamie is supposed to be behind. Crowds of men look at her as she opens the door with the key. They tell her that Captain Randall has taken Jamie, then they proceed to leave the unlocked cell. Claire can't believe it. She hurries out of the cell and through the prison to find Jamie. She has one encounter with a Redcoat, but in his surprise to see a woman, she seizes the moment and kills him with her dagger. She finds Jamie in the dungeon below. He is alone, but a mess. His hand and fingers are broken and disfigured. He has been beaten already.

As Claire tries to unlock Jamie's chains Randall comes in with a large, dirty man named Marley. He threatens Claire with Marley, saying he will take Claire to his room after Randall is finished talking to her. He tells her that if she confesses who she is and why she came he would take her to Sir Fletcher instead. Claire knows he cannot do this. She tells him she cannot tell him anything. He wakes Jamie with water from a nearby bucket getting him to sit up in a chair as Claire watches. Jamie pretends to be dreary and when Randall looks away for a moment, Jamie grabs him by the throat with his good hand. He proceeds to knock Randall away and attacks Marley with a chair knocking him out. In the end, Randall had Claire held captive with his knife and tells Jamie to succumb or he will kill Claire.

Jamie makes a deal with Randall that if he lets Claire go safely out of the prison, he will do whatever Randall wants. As it stands, he is to be hanged the next day anyway. Claire



protests, but in the end Randall is elated at the thought of having his sexual way with Jamie finally. Claire is permitted to say goodbye to Jamie, then is led out of the prison by Randall. At the exit Claire turns to Randall. He had always believed her to be a witch and it is now that she confesses that she is in fact a witch and proceeds to put a curse on him. He believes her. Claire didn't finish cursing him completely when he throws her out of the prison door and slams it in her face.

She lands in a ditch amongst hanged dead men and scrambles to her feet, only to be attacked by wolves moments later. She manages to escape by talking firmly to them and then throws rocks and sticks at them. After tiring of this, she turns and shockingly lands in the arms of a stranger. He is a Scot based on his attire.

Part 7, Chapter 35 Analysis

Claire maintains an optimistic attitude toward rescuing Jamie. She is very frightened, but her love is stronger than her fear. Jamie's rescue is an explosive one, as Claire opens the prison door to find dozens of men, but no Jamie. When Claire finds Jamie enslaved by Randall in the dungeon of the prison she can only think of getting him freed. The reader realizes that her love is so strong, it holds no bounds.

Even at the last moment when Randall leads her out of the prison and she curses him, she has hope, but it's fading fast as she is confronted by three wolves.

Part 7, Chapter 36

Part 7, Chapter 36 Summary

The kind Scot who rescued Claire from the wolves takes her to a cottage where she meets another Scot named MacRannoch. Claire explains the whole story to him, how she gains access to the prison, finds Jamie, what Randall plans to do to Jamie and how she is escorted out the door by Randall to confront the wolves. MacRannoch hears her out, then wonders out loud how he can possibly help her with a story like this. He isn't sure Sir Fletcher will believe him.

Moments later Murtagh is brought into the cottage by another Scot. Murtagh recognizes MacRannoch. They know each other from a gathering thirty years ago. Murtagh had killed a boar and was given the tusses (Claire realized that's where the bracelets had come from that were given to Jamie's mother). Claire reached for her pearls and tells MacRannoch she will pay him if his men will help rescue Jamie. MacRannoch asks Murtagh if Jamie is Ellen's son, to which he tells him yes. MacRannoch tells Claire that he gave them to Ellen and for Claire to keep them. He will help her get Jamie out. As it turns out MacRannoch has sent a boy to fetch his 40 head of cattle from the snow. He only came back with 15. Rupert has the rest. MacRannoch is persuaded by the thought of getting his cattle back too.

The plan is to push the cattle into the prison yard and blame Fletcher for hiding them. It works. Jamie is rescued and brought back to MacRannoch's house where Mrs. MacRannoch examines him along with Claire. He has broken ribs, bruised eyes and Randall has scored him with a hot poker in the chest and neck. Claire needs to set the bones in Jamie's broken hand, so she tells him to drink some opiate. He refuses saying he just wants a little more whiskey and something to bite down on.

Claire is furious that he wants her to set nine bones while he is awake, so she yells at him for not drinking the opiate. He reminds her that there will be a search soon, and he doesn't want to be unconscious and helpless if they come for him. She realizes he is right and goes to work as he bites down on a piece of leather given to him by MacRannoch. Marcus MacRannoch sits beside Jamie and offers a hand to squeeze. When everything is done, Mrs. MacRannoch brings Claire a warm cup of tea with whiskey in it. She sleeps afterwards while Marcus finishes wiping down Jamie's wounds. Jamie starts to fall asleep also, until Marcus touches his bottom reaching for another rag. He notices oil and realizes that Jamie has been raped by Randall. Marcus tells him that Randall is dead. Randall was trampled to death by the cows.

Jamie and Claire lay together holding one another and Claire asks if he is alright, meaning from the rape. He laughs and it hurts his ribs. He needs to talk about it to Claire, so she listens while he lay his head in her lap. He tells her of how Randall makes him beg and crawl on the ground until he wants to die. He cries and falls asleep in Claire's arms.

Part 7, Chapter 36 Analysis

This chapter brings out the true challenge that Claire undergoes to rescue Jamie. Randall is told to be dead, which is no consolation to Jamie, considering what he was made to do by Randall's hand. Claire is stronger than she has ever been and performs her doctoring skills magnificently in mending Jamie's wounds.

Jamie brings further enlightenment to Claire when sharing the details of his encounter with Randall. The reader truly feels remorseful for Jamie and gratified by the news of Randall being trampled by the cows. Jamie remembers a time years ago when he thought he was going to die, but in the hands of Randall he confesses that he really did welcome death. Claire realizes he is hurt more than she thought.

Part 7, Chapter 37

Part 7, Chapter 37 Summary

They depart on horseback the next day knowing there will be a search soon. They make it past the prison and rest the horses. Redcoats appear. Murtagh goes to meet the Redcoats and pretends to be lost. Not believing him, the Redcoats come closer and Jamie shoots one. The other two flee and Claire catches one and Murtagh the other.

They board a boat for the next part of their journey and Jamie is seasick the whole way. Claire and Murtagh think he will die because he throws up so much that his ribs ache and blood is coming out with the vomit. Murtagh asks Claire if she has any opiate left, to which she says yes. They make Jamie drink it, so he can finish the journey. They finally arrive at the Abbey of Ste. Anne de Beaupry of France.

Part 7, Chapter 37 Analysis

Finding a way to escape the Redcoats and reach the French shores is foremost in all of their minds. Jamie had not expected to escape, let alone be where he is at the present. He feels very fortunate. Claire and Murtagh take charge, as Jamie succumbs to their direction on his well being. He has no choice in the matter, as he is too weak to argue.

Part 7, Chapter 38

Part 7, Chapter 38 Summary

At the Abbey, the next morning they are to meet the abbot. The abbot is very nice and tells Claire that the monks took Jamie to be washed. Brother Ambrose is sent to tend to Jamie's wounds. Claire goes to sleep that night and wakes to Jamie screaming. He is on the other side of the wall from her, so she rushes over to him. He had a nightmare and one of the monks is with him. Claire takes Jamie into her arms and he wakes telling her to rid the room of the smell of lavender. It is a scent that he recognized from the dungeon at the prison, and Randall wore it also. The monk diligently takes the jar of oil out of the room and comes back with wine and an opiate. Jamie chooses the wine and drinks as Claire and the monk rewrap Jamie's wounds and lay him back down to sleep. Claire thanks him for his help. He says he was passing by and heard the screaming, so he stopped to help.

Jamie is irritated the next morning and asks Claire to stop checking his wounds. Then, he apologizes. Claire goes outside and runs into the Father that helped her with Jamie the night before. She thanks him again and asks his name. He replies, "Französischer Anselm Mericoeur d'Armagnac," better known as Father Anselm. He is a visiting scholar to the Abbey. Father Anselm shows Claire the library then they walk for a while. He tells her a bit about why he is at the Abbey and his religious beliefs.

At supper, Jamie still cannot eat. His stomach remains upset from the seasickness. Claire tells him of her day with the Father, the library and the herb garden. Jamie smiles at her. He says he is going to read before going to sleep, then mentions his dream to her. He hadn't explained it to her earlier. He dreamed of being flogged so hard that the flesh fell away from his bones, yet the flogging kept on and on. It wouldn't stop. Claire begins to worry about him. She offers to stay with him while he sleeps, but he refuses. He doesn't want to disturb her sleep.

Father Anselm invites Claire to join him in watching the cross at two o'clock in the morning, which he does every night. It is his 'shift' and he very much enjoys it. He knows that neither Claire nor Jamie have been sleeping very well, so Claire joins him the next morning. They both enter the chapel to relieve Brother Bartolome of his watch over the Sacrament. As Claire sits quietly and comfortably time passes by so quickly, that when it is time to go she didn't realize how long she had been there. She finds the time to be comforting and thanks the Father for inviting her. As she passes by Jamie's door, he is still awake.

Part 7, Chapter 38 Analysis

Jamie's ordeal takes more of a toll on him than Claire anticipates. The monks are helping her mend herself, but what of Jamie? She isn't sure. He is not sleeping or eating

and what little he eats, he throws up. Claire is becoming increasingly worried about his condition.

Part 7, Chapter 39

Part 7, Chapter 39 Summary

Claire goes to check on Jamie and finds Murtagh in the hallway. He tells her that Jamie isn't ready to see her just yet. He says that Jamie wished her to go back to Scotland without him, and Murtagh takes Claire's arm to lead her away from his room. Claire is furious and goes into Jamie's room to confront him. He breaks down and finishes telling her the story of what Randall put him through. He gives Jamie a glass of brandy, strips Jamie of his clothes and leads him to the bed. He slashes Jamie's chest with a knife and licks the blood off. Jamie promises not to fight, so he doesn't. He makes Jamie provide sexual favors with his mouth, then asks him about Claire. Over and over Randall thrusts himself into Jamie, then tortures him, then he is nice for a few minutes. However, the constant is the mention of Claire, and whether Claire can provide the same feelings Randall is feeling at the moment. Jamie cannot separate the thoughts of Claire from the torture he is being made to feel. He cannot look at Claire the same way again. He is sick within himself and doesn't know how to escape.

He begs Claire to leave him and go to the standing stones so she may return to Frank. He is going to get sick again, and asks her to leave the room, so she does against her better judgment. She tries to understand what he is feeling. Jamie asks God to help him, so Claire goes to the chapel at two in the morning again and sits beside Father Anselm. She doesn't know what else to do.

Claire sits in the chapel and asks God for help. She sits and reads the bible, flipping from page to page looking for something to comfort Jamie with. She finds what she is looking for in the book of Job. "But his flesh upon him shall have pain and his soul within him shall mourn. He is chastened also with pain upon his bed, and the multitude of his bones with strong pain...His flesh is consumed away, that is cannot be seen, and his bones that were not seen stick out. Yea, his should draweth near unto the grave, and his life to the destroyers. If there be a messenger with him, an interpreter, one among a thousand, to shew unto man his uprightness: Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Delivery him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom. His flesh shall be fresher than a child's" he shall return to the days of his youth." Claire leaves the chapel feeling as if she has an answer.

The next day Claire is led into Jamie's room by a monk. He has a high fever that will not break. The veins in the arm of his wounded hand are bright red with infection. Claire has the monks bring in snow from outside to break the fever. This goes on relentlessly for a couple of days, when finally the monks come in to do a final anointing. Claire recognizes it as an anointment before someone dies. Father Anselm reassures Claire that it has two parts, one to cleanse the body of illness and the other to rid him of all sins. This did not make Claire feel any better about it. Jamie is roused enough to denounce the devil and all of his sins, then when finished he lay in a sleeplike state. Father Polydore tells

Claire to get some sleep and tells her he will watch over Jamie and wake her if anything happens. She agrees warily.

Having not been able to sleep Claire goes to Jamie. She tells him that she can't sleep and wants to be alone with Jamie. He obliges and goes to the chapel. Claire proceeds to reenact the situation with Randall with the help of an opium pellet and places it on a candle. She wants to make Jamie fight back, and he does in his feverish state not knowing it is Claire. She has gotten too close and Jamie is violently trying to kill her thinking she is Randall. Claire breaths the opium pellet as well as Jamie and they fight around and around the room. Through the delirium toward the end Jamie thinks Claire to be his mother and lays his head on her chest and falls asleep.

Brother William opens the door the next morning to find Claire and Jamie laying amongst broken furniture and a room in full disarray. Jamie says he is hungry, to which Claire is elated. He tells her he isn't sure if he dreamed all of the previous night or if it is true in parts. She doesn't care, because his fever is obviously broken and he is hungry.

Part 7, Chapter 39 Analysis

The thought of losing or leaving Jamie is incomprehensible to Claire. She must find an alternate means to make him right, to make things right again. She is lost, and finds Father Anselm. He answers a lot of her questions until ultimately she finds solace in God. She feels a sense of togetherness in the chapel with the spirit of the Lord. She utilizes this strength to free her love. He cannot do it alone, and no one feels that more than Claire. Her sheer determination in this chapter rings through and she is triumphant in the end at bringing Jamie from near death to fully coherent and ready to rejoin the world.

Part 7, Chapter 40

Part 7, Chapter 40 Summary

Claire awakens the next morning in her own bed, not knowing how she got there. Father Anselm is at her bedside. She asks for Jamie, to which the Father tells her immediately that he is o.k. and is sleeping in his room. The Father brought wine, which Claire drinks sitting upright suddenly and it makes her dizzy. She asks the Father if he will hear her confession, to which he offers to get another more experienced monk to hear it. Claire refuses saying she wants him and no one else. She pours her soul to him, the entire truth on how she is from 1945 and the things she has done since her arrival. The Father seems amazed at the story, and to Claire's surprise, he believes her. He can't, however, give her any advice at the moment. He tells her that he will think about what she has said and will tell her what to do in the morning. He wants to wait until after his two in the morning watch to see what should be done.

Claire keeps tending to Jamie. After two days in bed he is hungry for regular food. Claire offers him broth and he gets angry. She tells him to stay in bed, yet he keeps trying to get up. Finally, she furiously tells him that she will order meat and bread and if he throws it up he will have to clean it up himself. She leaves the room and finds Father Anselm. They walk near the ponds and feed the fish as the Father explains what his thoughts are on her confession. He thinks it could be a blessing of sorts, in that it has given her a brand new life, which may be more fruitful. Father Anselm goes on to tell her that she should not feel as though she committed a crime in killing two men. It was in self-defense that she killed them. And, in regard to her two marriages, she is not committing a sin, because Frank isn't even born yet.

When Claire returns to check on Jamie he has eaten the meat and bread, has thrown up and cleaned it up himself. Claire notices a plate of meat and bread for her, so she takes it to her room to eat. Waking the next morning she finds Murtagh in Jamie's room and Jamie gone. Murtagh tells her that Jamie went for a walk. He tries to stop him, but Jamie climbs out the window. Claire takes a horse and goes looking for him. She finds him sitting by the roadside barely clothed. He walks a little further by himself, then they proceed back to the church together. Jamie tells Claire that he loves her and proceeds to tell her that Randall loves him too. And, through his ordeal with Randall there is a breaking point in which Randall demands that Jamie say "I love you," to him. Jamie refuses. Randall cries saying over and over that he loves Jamie.

Claire thinks about what she and Jamie are to do. They can't stay at the Abbey forever. They will have to stay in France. Claire knows that in approximately one year Prince Charlie will leave France and go to Scotland to take the throne. War and death will follow in his wake. Claire wonders what she can do about it. That evening Jamie comes to her and makes love to her. She is afraid, and so is he, but they let it happen naturally.

Part 7, Chapter 40 Analysis

Despite the fact that the story dates from a time and place with very superstitious beliefs, Claire's attempt to bring Jamie out of his severe depression and near death work like a charm. This brings them together unlike any other Chapter. Jamie had been isolated from her and the rest of the world, beaten near death and raped at the hands of his mortal enemy.

The healing power of faith is also prominent to the reader in this chapter as Claire, Murgagh and Jamie land at the Abbey and house their while Jamie's wounds heal. Claire has a revelation and confesses everything to a monk, who is enlightened by her story and believes her wholeheartedly. The feeling of new beginnings leads the reader to the next chapter.

Part 7, Chapter 41

Part 7, Chapter 41 Summary

Jamie continues to heal and sits in the corner of his little room inspecting his injured hand. The fingers are definitely not the same, considering the damage that had been done. Claire apologizes for not being able to set his fingers so that they will be perfect. She didn't have to apologize, but did anyway. Jamie tells her that he is thankful to God that he still has two hands and is a whole man because of Claire. She suddenly remembers that in this year they would amputate a man's limb to save from infection. It had completely evaded her mind at the time, so she never considers it. She shares with him that in her time they use medicine to stop the infections, not amputation.

One of the monks knocks on the door and brings a package from MacRannoch. It contains pearls and a wolf skin. Claire tells Jamie that the pearls match the necklace that belonged to his mother. Jamie doesn't know they were a gift from MacRannoch. Jamie tells Claire to undress and put a robe around her. He said he has a small gift for her and leads her down several flights of stairs to a hot spring that lay beneath the cellar of the abbey. Father Anselm mentioned to Claire earlier that the hot spring had healing power. They get in together and make love in the warm water. Claire pronounces that she has a gift for Jamie also. She is pregnant.

Part 7, Chapter 41 Analysis

Claire and Jamie maintain an optimistic attitude toward their future together. They've been through the worst of it and Claire decides they should live in Rome. Jamie will live wherever Claire wants to. He owes her his life and she also owes him hers. They will be happy together and will have a child.

Claire and Jamie would remember the moments together in the hot spring at the bottom of the Abbey and cherish them always.

Characters

Claire Randall

Claire is the novel's main character. The story is about how Claire - through the standing stones at the Highlands of Scotland - is transported back in time from 1945 to 1743. She finds her sanity and her nursing skills put to the test as she survives this time trying to return to the standing stones so that she may return to her own time. The world around her is completely different than she is used to and she has to find a means of survival. Through her nursing skills she makes a place for herself amongst the clans and townspeople of Scotland.

Claire is left in her Uncle's care at the age of 5 after her parents die in an automobile accident. Claire was raised abroad as her Uncle traveled. He home taught her, so her knowledge was worldly for a child. She enjoys gardening, especially herbal gardening and takes pleasure every time she can.

Claire learns to adapt to the clans and townspeople. They, in turn, start to warm up to her. She is a very kind and nurturing person by nature and welcomes any opportunity to nurse the sick. She finds that in helping them, it provides her with a reason for being there. Jamie, in constant need of mending through his numerous battles, finds Claire to be very useful. He also starts to fall in love with her. Claire becomes quite taken with Jamie and her character evolves more as she is thrown into his family world.

Jamie Fraser

Jamie Fraser appears in the story almost from the beginning. He is one of the first clansmen that Claire encounters upon coming through the standing stones. Jamie is a strong, young Scottish man. His hair is flaming red and his eyes are very blue. He is a virgin, although he has kissed a few girls in his day. Claire is the first woman he has ever been with. Jamie is very close to his sister, Jenny whom he has not seen in many years due to a confrontation he had with Jonathan Randall. Jamie was an outlaw, on the run and wrongfully accused of a murder he did not commit.

Jamie spent many years with his Uncles, Colum and Dougal, at castle Leoch, which is where Jamie brings Claire upon finding her in the woods and rescuing her from the grips of Randall. Jamie's mother and father had died years before, so he was almost raised by his Uncles. Jamie resembled his mother very much, especially the red hair and blue eyes. Jamie had a way about him since his birth. His mother or sister would stroke his hair while he was sleeping and a smile would curl across his face. Claire loved to do this to him to see him smile.

Jamie's father had been a strong man. He would beat (spank on the bottom) Jamie when necessary and shared many stories with him on being a husband and knowing when the right woman came along. Jamie's father died during a flogging given to Jamie



by Randall. His father was watching amongst the crowd and had a heart attack. Jamie didn't find out until days later and this made him feel very responsible for his father's death.

When he's with Claire he's a different man, happy and content. He was, to everyone else, very thick headed and had a bad temper.

Frank Randall

Frank is only in the first two chapters of the novel. He is completely fascinated by his family history and the tales of Jonathan, Black Jack, Randall. The stories told of him were of an honored Captain of the Dragoons in 1745. Frank served in the war for 6 years, and then returned home to Claire. They were going to start a family. Frank kept meetings with scholars and historians to learn more of his heritage. The second Jacobite Rising between 1744 and 1745 that was of particular interest to Frank.

Anytime there were discussions of history or superstitions of the people centuries past, Frank could hardly be budged. He would stay and listen as long as they would talk. Frank would share this information with Claire too. They visited places of the past together and made this part of their lives.

Although Frank was a very quiet man, he was very loyal to Claire and got jealous if a man looked at her for too long. Altogether, they had a solid marriage, which withstood the testing of time and war.

Jonathan Randall

Randall was Frank's great, great, great, great grandfather. Randall and Frank resembled each other quite well. He was known as Jonathan Randall, Esquire, Captain of His Majesty's Eighth Dragoons. He was not well liked by Jamie, Colum, Dougal, Claire or the townspeople. He was known for liking the male species better than the female species and was a horribly mean man.

Randall was a murderer, a rapist and a coward. He had murdered men and put the blame on Jamie. He was also the man who flogged Jamie nearing him to death, at which Jamie's father died of a heart attack in the crowd watching this unfold. The problem with Randall was that although he was a wicked man, he had connections. People tended to do as he wished, rather than get into worse trouble at his hands. So, this gave the little man a lot of power over the people.

Colum MacKenzie

Colum is the laird of castle Leoch. He is married to Letitia and they have one son, Hamish. Colum is very ill. Claire realized that Colum had a disease that disintegrated



the bones (slowly), caused pale skin and premature wrinkling of the skin. It also caused sterilization, which made Claire question the existence of Colum's son Hamish.

Column later made a pact with his brother Dougal. Dougal would bed his wife and make a son. Colum would take the son for his own. Dougal would be Colum's legs and strength in the battles that would ensue over the years and Colum would be the brains of their relationship. They would rule together.

Dougal MacKenzie

Dougal has a wife and two girls of his own, yet he helps his brother, Colum in every way possible. Prior to Claire's arrival the townspeople had to make a decision on who would rule when Colum and Dougal's father passed on. They wanted Colum for his smarts, yet Dougal had the strength. Colum was the first born, but he was sickly. This started the relationship between the two brothers. They would rule in unison.

Mrs. FitzGibbons

Mrs. Fitz took care of Castle Leoch. She was in charge of the cooking staff, cleaning staff and made sure things ran smoothly. She was also quite capable of using the herbs and lotions for healing. Claire learned quite a bit from her.

Mrs. FitzGibbons tended to Claire upon her first arrival to Castle Leoch. She made sure Claire had a chamber to sleep in, food to eat and appropriate clothing to wear. She slowly became quite fond of Claire and let her help with the cooking and gardening. Claire enjoyed the gardening when it came to the herbs and healing things. She learned quite a bit from Mrs. Fitz.

Mrs. Fitz helped with the healing of Jamie's wounds on several occasions. Per Claire's request she brought back garlic, herbs, some fabric and a pot to boil some water over the fire. Mrs. Fitz, despite all of her wonderful qualities, was missing some teeth. Claire noticed it when she smiled.

Jenny Fraser

Jenny is Jamie's beloved sister. Her flaming red hair and feisty temper equal her to Jamie. The two have severe words with one another upon Jamie's return to Lallybroch. Jamie believes his sister to be impregnated by his arch enemy, Jonathan Randall. And, when Jamie returns he sees that she has named the child Jamie, after him. He is infuriated, yet soon realizes that Jonathan is not the father, yet his good friend Ian is the father.

Jenny and Jamie adore one another. With Claire married to Jamie, and Jenny being pregnant for the second time, their return to Lallybroch is quite heart warming. Jamie

gets to know his sister all over again and they rekindle the strong love they have for one another.

Murtagh

Mr. Murtagh is a small, stout Scotsman with somewhat of a weasel face. He's one of Jamie's most loyal friends. Claire stands a full foot above him in height. He has dark hair and dark whiskers about his face. He is skeptical of her at first, but comes to love her in the end. His obedience to Jamie and the MacKenzie's is unparalleled. On numerous occasions he and Jamie would ride off together, only for him to return and watch over Claire in Jamie's absence.

Murtagh enters the novel in the first few chapters and remains throughout. He travels with Jamie on different tasks given to him by Colum and Dougal. When they are approached during the night while camping in the woods, they fight together and maintain a tight relationship. In the end, there is nothing that he wouldn't do for Claire or Jamie.

Geillis Duncan (Geilie)

A small framed woman whom Claire meets while searching for herbs in the moor of the highlands. Geilie is married to a man who seems to have stomach problems. He is not attractive, but has money set aside and a house so she is comfortable. Geillis seemed to know everything about everyone in the town. She even mentioned that Hamish was not Colum's son. Geillis originally believed Hamish to be Jamie's son.

Geilie is believed by some of the townspeople to be a witch and when her husband dies suddenly she finds herself in the town square being tried as a witch. Since Claire is from the future and knows a lot about healing people, it is assumed that she is a witch as well. Claire is saved, yet Geilie is not.

Geilie is a unique character in the novel, because the reader finds out just before Geilie is to be killed that she is also from the future (1967). Claire realizes it, but it's too late for her to do anything about it.

Objects/Places

Highland Bed and Breakfast

Mrs. Baird runs the Highland Bed and Breakfast in Scotland. This is where Claire and Frank reside after Frank's return from the war. It is a cozy, but somewhat dirty place. It's large enough for both Claire and Frank, but it would be too small to raise children in. There are several residents and they are all friendly and happy living there.

Craigh na Dun

Circle of the standing stones, also known as Craigh na Dun is where Claire is transported back in time to the year 1743. This place is absolutely beautiful, standing on the outskirts of the highlands. There are several stones that stand close to one another. There is green grass around the outside of the stones, yet plain earth inside the circle of the stones. It is said to be where the witches performed their rituals in past and present.

The Scottish Moor

The moor is a large piece of land many miles across, covered with low bushes, heather, gorse and moss, and in this story is in the highlands of Scotland. It looks green and plush in the spring filled with plant and herb life, yet barren in the winter. Birds can be heard chirping amongst the trees and the wind whistles between the bushes.

Claire and Jamie love the Moor, but as Jamie has a price on his head it's hard for them to run free in the Moor. He may be seen and caught by the English.

Castle Leoch

Castle Leoch is a large stone castle with many residents. The Laird of Castle Leoch is Colum MacKenzie who lives with his wife and son. His brother, Dougal also lives there with his wife and two daughters. Mrs. Fitz is the main housekeeper, cook, etc. She also has a staff of girls that help her cook and clean. There is a large stable on the castle grounds where stable boys help and Jamie tends to the horses with their help. This is Claire's home for most of the story. She and Jamie travel somewhat, yet return to Castle Leoch often.

The Abbey

A large Catholic Church on the outskirts of France. This is where Jamie heals after being rescued from Wentworth prison. Jamie's uncle is a monk at the Abbey and with the help of the other monks, Jamie is back to being healthy within a month or so.



Jamie and Claire reside at the Abbey at the end of the story. It houses the many monks and is surrounded by a large garden, which Claire comes to know and love. At the bottom of the Abbey lies a hot spring, which Jamie and Claire swim in after Jamie has healed somewhat.

Wentworth Prison

An enormous stone house where prisoners are housed in large cells. The cells are occupied by numerous prisoners at the same time. They are thrown in together by the 20's and 30's. It is cramped and it smells of urine and feces. At the bottom, deep in the dungeon of the prison is a stone cell with chains hung on the wall. There is a secret door that leads to the outside world from this cell. This is where Jamie spent the majority of his time while he was in the prison. This is also where he was raped repeatedly by Randall near the end of the novel.

Lallybroch

This is Jamie's homeland. He is Laird of Lallybroch, yet cannot return because of the price on his head for crimes he did not commit. After Jamie's life was in danger, he fled Lallybroch and didn't come back until years later (and after he married Claire). His sister, Jenny, and her husband and child still resided there.

Lallybroch is a small village where the people are hardworking and harvest together every year. Jamie collects rents from the villagers on a yearly basis (Jenny in his absence). The house they reside in is fairly contemporary for the time and has a stable for the horses, which Jamie loves.

The Abbey's Hot Spring

A warm spring of water sits in the basement of the Abbey. It is said to have healing power for the weak and sick. It lies in the very depths of the Abbey and you have to take a steep set of rock-like stairs to get down to it. The floor around the spring is earth and there are no windows on the walls of the basement, so it is very dark. Once in the water, it is very warm and bubbles somewhat from the earth.

The Waterhorse

There is a myth amongst the villagers in Scotland, particularly in the 1700's. There is tell of a horse that resides in the water and will snatch you up if you stand on the waters edge for too long. There are tales of a young woman who was once taken by the waterhorse and brought down to where he lived in the water. She was very sad living with him, as she was not of the sea, so he returned to the waters edge and took a lone man when he saw one by the edge. The man was meant to bring peace to the woman under the water.

The villagers are afraid that if the young ladies of their village stood by the edge of the water for too long, they would be taken by this waterhorse.

The MacRannoch Cottage

Before Jamie's rescue from Wentworth prison, the MacRannoch's run into Claire. She was thrown out of the secret door at the base of the prison and found there by the MacRannoch's. Their cottage is small with a hearth for a fire, small bedrooms upstairs and a kitchen and table downstairs. The men all sit on a wooden bench near the hearth to warm themselves as they talk of how to get Jamie out of the prison.

Themes

Disappearances Happen

The central image and conceit of this story is that things are not always as they seem. People disappear from time to time, almost in thin air. No one knows what happens to them. No matter when people live their lives, whether it be in the 1900's or the 1700's, they are skeptical about things they cannot explain. Time travel would be one of the hardest things to explain.

Claire doesn't believe she is traveling through time at her first entrance in 1743. She finds it hard to believe that she's not involved in some sort of movie filming as she watches the Highland men on horseback dressed in kilts run about. It takes her a few days for the realization to set in and then she isn't even sure how she will return to her own time. She imagines that she came through the standing stones, but how can she really be sure how it happened.

1945 vs. 1743

The earth and landscaping of 1743 and 1945 tend to be the same in this novel. When Claire travels back in time she notices the same standing stones, the same grassy moor and very similar trees. The difference is in the city lights. There are none in 1743. She is used to looking across the skyline and seeing lights from the nearby city. The people in 1743 have no idea what a city is. They have their villages and towns, which are quiet and not crowded at all.

When it comes to the people of each time, they are in two different worlds. They eat different food and dressed differently. In 1743 they are less educated than the people of 1945. The clansmen of 1743 worked very hard with their hands from dawn until dusk, whereas the men from 1945 had choices in their employment. They could work manual labor if they wanted to or hold jobs as teachers and doctors.

The ladies are very different in each time also. The women of 1743 wear more clothing and are treated truly as property to their husbands. They cook and clean and tend to the children. If they are married to the Laird of the town they are expected to be at their husbands side as he meets with the townspeople and collects their rents for the year. In 1945 a woman was not made to wear garments to her ankles and made to cook and clean. She had more leverage in the outside world. She could be a teacher or a doctor just like her husband if she worked for it. For Claire, these two worlds came crashing together. This made things even more difficult for her survival.

The Way of the Clansmen

Clansmen historically devote themselves to their Lairds. They hold annual parties in which each kilted man approach the Laird and proclaim their loyalty through whatever means they can. Some offer their life and their sword in battle. Others offer their knowledge to the leadership of the clansmen.

Respect was notable throughout the highlands and this respect was passed down from generation to generation. Children learned to work the land like their forefathers. They held onto the values taught to them by their relatives and fellow townspeople. They truly were like one big family. There were numerous families living in each castle and they tended to one another's needs with what skills they had to offer.

The poor villagers who could not afford money for rent would offer wool or food from their crops. It was a much simpler time than today, in that they worked together as a unit instead of each man for his own. If they succeeded, they succeeded together.

Style

Point of View

This story is told from the point of view of Claire Randall. She speaks to herself throughout the novel, commenting on her feelings toward each subject, the characters and development of the people in her story. One knows that she is quite taken by the 1700's. She finds their ways intriguing and interesting, although archaic. She is sympathetic to the wounded men and does her best to mend their wounds with her nursing skills.

This story is fiction, a work in which one timeframe is interrupted by another. The people in the earlier timeframe are depicted as more loyal, compassionate and noble than people from the latter timeframe. Love conquers all, the author shows us. Claire, the main character, is thrown into a relationship with a man she barely knows, yet grows to love him absolutely with everything in her soul. As it turns out, they are perfect for one another. In the end, they not only rescue one another from absolute death, but they start a family together.

Setting

The novel opens in the highlands of Scotland in the year 1945 and stays there just long enough to paint a general picture of the life of Claire and Frank Randall living in a modest bed and breakfast. The setting shifts quickly to the year 1743 when Claire is transported back in time by touching a standing stone near the outskirts of the city. The story is set predominately in the year 1743 and the Castle Leoch, which is where Claire resides during her stay with the clansmen. The castle is run by the MacKenzie brothers, who take Claire in hesitantly at first. The castle is large and grand, but also gloomy, filled with dark rooms and a musky air about it.

Jamie is surrounded by a series of crimes which he did not commit and that starts a snowball effect as the MacKenzie brothers try to find out who Claire really is and send Jamie on several errands to find out. "The Outlander" is Claire Randall who is out of her time and out of her league when dealing with the people and the surroundings of 1743 Scotland.

Language and Meaning

Although this story was written in the 1990's, there is a distinct knowledge the author portrays when writing about the clansmen of the 1700's. The language is rich and full of original Gaelic folklore and stories. This is a story told in a plain, clear way. The language is simple and easy to read, even in the Gaelic tongue of the clansmen.

The people of Scotland speak in a regional dialect called "Gaelic." All of the clansmen speak it. Claire is portrayed to be of English ancestry, so her dialect tends to have English slang throughout the story. Claire slowly learns to understand the Gaelic language. She has a harder time trying to speak it than knowing what is being said. She picks it up from the villagers and the clansmen.

The story is filled with descriptions of the moor and the gardens that Claire gets her herbs and plants from. The love between Claire and Jamie, in particular, is described throughout each chapter and gets stronger throughout the story.

Structure

The story is told in seven parts and forty-one chapters, each named for a part of the story that unfolds. The progress of the story is linear once Claire enters the 1700's. It starts with her in 1945 Scotland and ends with her in 1743 Scotland.

Quotes

"Eh, a bonny one, Sassenach or no," said the man, a fat, greasy-looking sort, seated by the fire. He was holding a chunk of bread and didn't bother to set it down as he rose and came over to me. Chapter 3, p.59

"Claire....Claire Beauchamp, I said, deciding on the spur of the moment to use my maiden name. If it was ransom they had in mind, I didn't want to help them by giving a name that could lead to Frank." Chapter 3, p. 59

"But if he'd care to give me the names of your kin in France, I might manage to send word ahead - so they'll be fettled against your coming, eh?"Chapter 7, p. 146

"Yon's no job to be making heavy weather of. A wee snatch o' the head and it's over. Here, shall I help ye?" Chapter 9, p.176

"Floggings were done right after assembly, so as to start everyone off in the proper frame of mind for the day." Chapter 13, p. 244

"The whole roiling, grunting, cursing mess was staggering toward me." Chapter 18, p. 339

"Rotten teeth laughed. I bain't so bloody particular. Kill 'im, then, and get on wi' it."

Chapter 20, p. 359

"Hah? Jamie, startled out of a sound sleep, shot sideways out of bed, ending on the floor in a crouch, hand on the dirk he had left on top of his piled clothes." Chapter 23, p. 419

"Shall I fetch home some apples from the orchard, Jenny" Twould save ye walking so far." Chapter 27, p. 590

"Och, well you're no no to blame then. Led astray by an older man. And a bloody heathen, no less." Chapter 28, p. 605

"Have ye no sense, gille? Look at ye! There's your shirt'll have to go and be washed again! And look what ye've done to your auntie's skirt, ye wee heathen!" Chapter 33, p. 662

"Jamie, he said, had been mounted double, arms bound with a leather strap, behind one of the Watch, riding between two other men. He had seemed docile enough." Chapter 33, p. 666

"Jamie and I had discussed the necessity for preparing Lallybroch and its inhabitants against the coming disasters of the Rising. But we had thought then that there was time.

Now I had no time, or most a few minutes, in which to give this new sister I held dear enough information to guard Lallybroch against the coming storm. Chapter 33, p.671

"May I see him, Sir Fletcher? Just for a moment, in case he....he might wish me to convey a message to his family?" Chapter 35, p.697

"You asked me, Captain, if I were a witch, I said, my voice low and steady. I'll answer you now. Witch I am. Witch, and I curse you." Chapter 35, p.723

"At the hour when time began to slow, I genuflected in the aisle of the chapel of St. Giles. Anselm was there, elegant shoulders straight beneath his habit, but no other. He neither moved nor looked around, but the living silence of the chapel embraced me." Chapter 39, p.795

Topics for Discussion

How could Claire have been transported back in time to an entirely different century simply by touching a standing stone? Is this something that is believable or is it simply impossible?

How could men like Jamie be tried for crimes they did not commit? Did men like Randall truly have that much control in the 1700's?

Jamie and Claire do fairly well on the run through the highlands of Scotland. Is this realistic? Would you have liked to live like them?

What does love need to grow into a strong and solid thing between two people?

What is the magic in the standing stones? Is it just nature, or is it something more?

Would you have liked to see Claire go back and forth between the two time periods rather than being transported to 1743 and staying there? How would that have affected the story?

How do you think the book would be different if Claire had traveled in an opposite direction (from 1743 to 1945)?