

A Place Called Freedom Study Guide

A Place Called Freedom by Ken Follett

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Plot Summary

The prologue explains when the owner moved into High Glen house he found an iron collar with an inscription from 1767. He uses it as a paperweight on his desk but often looks at it, wondering what story is behind it. This is the story of a Place Called Freedom by Ken Follet, an exciting story about the quest for freedom and happiness.

It begins in the coal mines of Scotland in the eighteenth century. Life is harsh for Mack McAsh, his sister Esther, and the other coal miners in the town of Heugh. They were pledged to the mine owner as part of their Christening ceremony and were the property of Sir George Jamisson for life. Then Mack learns from London lawyer Caspar Gordonson that this isn't true. Their parents can't make decisions for them once they reach the age of twenty-one. If they work a day past their twenty-second birthday, they became the property of the owner. This begins Mack's journey for freedom that takes him to the colonies and the territories before it is over.

Mack is aided in his escape by Lizzie Hallim, a neighbor of the Jamissons. Both Jamisson sons, Robert and Jay, are her suitors. Under British and Scottish law and tradition, only the eldest son can inherit. Jay was born to the second wife of Sir George, Lady Alicia, who has always watched her son slighted in favor of Robert. This causes a great deal of tension in the family. Eventually, Lizzie chooses Jay over Robert and marries him.

All of the main characters end up in London. Jay is finishing his duty with his London regiment while he and Lizzie are waiting to move to the Jamisson Mockjock Hall tobacco plantation in Virginia. Mack is working at a coal heaver and bristling at the corrupt and unfair system of the undertakers. Mack and lower Caspar Gordonson devise a new more efficient system that is fairer to the workers. This leads to a shippers boycott, led by Jamisson and a strike led by Mack. The government wants Mack set up and hanged and almost succeeds but Mack is sentenced to transport to the colonies.

When the ship arrives in Virginia, he is purchased to work seven years on the Jamisson tobacco plantation. Again, freedom has eluded him and he is the property of a Jamisson. But the unhappily married Lizzie is there and they fall in love and eventually run away together to find freedom and happiness.



Prologue, Chapters 1-4

Prologue, Chapters 1-4 Summary

The prologue explains when the owner moved into High Glen house he found an iron collar with an inscription from 1767. He uses it as a paperweight on his desk but often looks at it, wondering what story is behind it. This is the story of a Place Called Freedom by Ken Follet, an exciting story about the quest for freedom and happiness.

The first chapter begins with the twins, Mack and Esther McAsh, walking by High Glen on their way to church. There is a pit on the land where coal is mined. Mack has worked in the mines since the age of seven. He received a reply to a letter he wrote and plans on reading it in church, much to his sister's dismay. They find Sir George Jamisson arriving right before them.

In chapter two, Lizzie Hallim and her mother are getting ready for church. They know that the Jamissons have returned to High Glen in the hopes that Lizzie will marry the older son, Robert, who is the heir to a large fortune. Lizzie rides to church with Robert and his brother Jay. As they ride, Lizzie learns that Jay, Robert's younger brother, wants to go to the colonies. He is hoping that his father will give him the sugar plantation in Barbados as his birthday gift.

In chapter three, Mack looks around the church during the service. He recognizes the Jamissons and Hallims, whom he has not seen for years. Mack decides to speak after the Christening. He confronts Jamisson and the pastor about the issue of slavery. Jimmy Lee also speaks out. He had run away and now wears an iron collar around his neck saying that he was the property of Jamisson. Mack reads the letter from the London lawyer about how the men will be free at the age of twenty-one. Robert Jamisson tears up the letter. Mack is told to leave the church and most of the others leave with him. They stand outside talking when Lizzie comes out and tells Mack he shouldn't have spoken to Jamisson the way he did.

Chapter four opens with Robert telling Jay to stay away from Lizzie. A group of people gather at the Jamissons after the church service. They discuss the problems with Mack and the problem in the colonies. After dinner, Sir George gives Jay his birthday gift, a horse. His mother is enraged and tells George to give him the Barbados property but Sir George says he didn't think that Jay could manage it.

Prologue, Chapters 1-4 Analysis

Mack has worked in the mines since the age of seven. It is a hard life with very little free time or freedom. Like others who are oppressed, he dreams of a better life and is looking for a way of finding one. Under Scottish custom, the coal miners were the property of the mine owner. Mack had received a letter saying that this wasn't true. The men are free when they reached the age of twenty-one. Mack isn't afraid to confront



Jamisson with the letter, even though he knows he will face the consequences. He and the other coal miners don't like the lives they lead and want changes. Now Mack knows that Jamisson is aware of him and that he will be watched.

Under British and Scottish law, the eldest son inherits the family title and estate. The other sons are legally entitled to nothing. Jay had high hopes that his father would give him the Barbados property for his birthday, but his father gave him only a horse. His mother is very angry at Sir George, who doesn't believe his younger son could manage the property. Sir George doesn't see why Jay should receive anything, which increases tensions in the family.

Further tensions exists because of Jay's interest in Lizzie Hallim. Sir George wants Robert to marry her so he can control the Hallim estate, which he feels is rich in coal. Sir George appears to be a rather ruthless man more concerned with money than he is with humans.



Chapters 5-7

Chapters 5-7 Summary

Esther and Mack return to their home after church. Mack says that he can no longer stay in the area. They discuss the situation and the possibility that Jamisson will post guards at the bridge to prevent Mack and others from leaving. Mack says he will go to Edinburgh and board a ship to leave Scotland. He has to leave in the next few days to avoid the year and a day rule. Esther says she wants to go with him. Mack says they don't have enough money but that he will send for her.

In chapter six, Jay is preparing his gun for hunting. He wishes that he could kill his brother. When his mother comes into the room, she tells Jay that she began to hate Sir George when he began to favor Robert over Jay. They go out for a walk. His mother says she will think of some way to get Sir George to change his mind. They meet Lizzie, who is joining them later for hunting.

The hunting group practices their shooting. Lizzie is the best shooter in the group. Jay is still angry at his father and brother.

During the hunt, Jay keeps thinking about killing his brother. As the group sets up to shoot the deer, Sir George kicks the gun from Jay's hands, knowing what he was thinking.

In chapter seven, Jay tells Lizzie he will take her to see the mines. She has to dress as a man. Before the time they are to leave, her mother comes to talk to her. She explains their financial situation to her daughter and that Lizzie's marrying Robert will keep the lender from foreclosing on their property.

At midnight, Lizzie meets Jay. Lizzie is nervous about going down in the mine. He explains the work the miners are performing as she notes the working conditions. She is surprised at the number of women and girls working in the mines. Mack recognizes Lizzie. As Jay and Lizzie are leaving, the firedamp alarm sounds.

Chapters 5-7 Analysis

According to the law, if a man over twenty-one works in the mine for a year and a day, he becomes the property of the owner. Mack has only a few more days before this date occurs and decides to leave Heugh and Scotland. Esther wants to escape also, since she also works in the mines. Mack says he will send for her once he is settled.

Jay's anger at being slighted by his father has him thinking of killing his brother. He has the perfect opportunity during the deer hunt, but his father, sensing the situation, kicks the gun from his hands, resulting in another confrontation between them. Jay and his



mother both feel that Sir George has always favored Robert. All of the animosity is now surfacing because of Sir George's refusal to give Jay any property.

Jay is interested in Lizzie and despite his brother's warnings, Jay meets her at midnight and takes her down into the coal mine. Even though she is dressed as a man, Mack recognizes her. Is Jay really interested in Lizzie or is this his way of striking back at his brother and father?



Chapters 9-10

Chapters 9-10 Summary

The firedamp spreads quickly as Mack evaluates the situation. His first priority is to evacuate the miners. He, Esther and their cousin Annie are the last three and he has to burn off the gas. This was to be his last day and he wishes he had left earlier. Annie and Esther help him prepare for the burn and then depart.

On the surface, Lizzie watches as the miners emerge. She recognizes the woman whose child was christened at the church service and then hears her scream. They think their son is still in the mine.

Mack is terrified as he prepares to burn the gas. The leak is different, with a higher concentration of gas. He vows to leave that night if he survives. He hears the voice of a small child. He grabs the child and runs into Jen, the mother, on the way out of the mine. The gas ignites and the child is rendered unconscious. They make it safely out of the mine. On the surface, Mack tells Jay and the others that he quit and is leaving before his year and a day.

Chapter nine has Jay and Lizzie back at the house. Jay can't stop thinking of Lizzie. After bathing, he goes to talk to his mother, who says that he is in love with Lizzie. She tells Jay to ask Lizzie to marry him if he is in love with her. He would become the laird of High Glen and their other properties. He would have to deal with the mortgages. When she asks what happened at the hunt, he tells her that he tried to shoot Robert.

Lady Hallim is angry with Lizzie for going into the mines and angrier yet when she learns that her daughter is interested in Jay. She wants Lizzie to promise that she won't marry Jay, but Lizzie says she loves him and can't make that kind of promise.

Jay talks to his father and brother and says that Mack is planning on leaving. Jamisson and Robert discuss what to do about Mack.

In chapter ten, Mack goes home after the explosion while the other miners return to work. Annie arrives and asks him to stay and marry her. Robert Jamisson and three men burst in on them. Mack tells Annie to run as he is captured by the four men. He is tied up and taken to the larder at Jamison Castle. The next morning they place an iron collar around his neck and took him to the mine and punish him by dragging him behind a horse. Robert then announces that Mack has worked his year and a day.

Chapters 9-10 Analysis

The coal mine work is dangerous because of the build-up of gas called the firedamp. This happens on Mack's last day in the mine and he has to risk his life to burn off the gas. When he reaches the surface, he tells Jay that his father refuses to install



ventilation shafts that would make the situation safer for everyone. When Jay begins to talk about costs, Mack calls them greedy and announces that he quits and that he's leaving before his year and a day arrive. He wants to do more with his life than work in a coal mine and is not concerned about the Jamissons trying to prevent him from leaving.

The situation between Jay and Lizzie is becoming more serious. Lady Hallim is livid when Lizzie says she is in love with Jay and can't promise not to marry him. Lady Jamisson encourages her son into asking Lizzie to marry him if he is in love with her. She says he will acquire the Hallim property and be able to work out the mortgages.

Robert and three of Jamissons' henchmen kidnap Mack. They drag him behind a horse at the mine until Robert announces that Mack has worked his year and a day. Mack should have left the area immediately instead of taking a nap and giving the Jamissons time to react. Now he is considered Jamisson property.



Chapters 11-12

Chapters 11-12 Summary

Jay decides to propose to Lizzie and wonders if she will accept him. He goes out for a ride on Blizzard, the horse his father had given him. At the stable, he meets Robert, who is very angry and goes to the house. Then Lizzie appears angry about what they did to Mack. In the house, Jay tells his father to let Mack go. Sir George says Mack is a born leader and a troublemaker. They decide to let him leave by letting him escape.

Lizzie is proud of Jay and kisses him. They agree to marry and kiss again, right when Robert walks in. They tell him they plan to marry and the two men begin to fight. Their parents and Lady Hallim appear and Jay asks Lady Hallim for permission to marry Lizzie.

The families separate to discuss the situation. Sir George finds that his wife Alicia supports Jay's decision. She tells George that if he were any kind of a father, he would support Jay and congratulate him. She tries to get George to give Jay the Barbados property as a wedding gift. Alicia says George won't have the coal unless he receives something in return. When Jay reminds his mother about Lizzie's opposition to coal mining, she says they'll deal with that problem when they have to.

In chapter twelve, the tension in the house is very high. Robert confronts Lizzie and says no matter what, he will have High Glen. Lizzie is too excited about marrying Jay to think much about Robert's threat.

Lizzie goes out for a walk. She sees Mack swimming across the river. Midway, he is struck by a tree. She helps pull him out of the water. She tries to dry and warm him and gives him her fur coat. She finds the iron collar in his sack and tells him that Jamisson won't come after him when he leaves. Lizzie tells him how the Jamisson's planned to allow him to escape.

Mack begins walking, knowing that he is a free man.

Chapters 11-12 Analysis

Jay decides to ask Lizzie to marry him but finds she says she will marry him before he asks. Lady Alicia tells her husband that Jay will be able to manage the Hallim estates and will learn enough for them to live on. She points out that Sir George made Jay fight for everything and that he had already won Lizzie. Sir George wonders about Alicia's role in the situation, especially when she announces that George will not get the coal on Jay's land. Alicia is very strong in defying her husband and fighting for her son's rights. She wants him to be happy and have his own life.



Alicia is good at dealing with her husband. George is not as enraged about the marriage as one would think, especially when he finds out that his wife supports it. George feels he will be able to secure the coal on the Hallim property if Jay marries Lizzie. She mentions that there are many other entities Jay could deal with, all of whom are George's competitors. If George wants the coal, he has to give Jay something in return and she is pushing for the Barbados property.

Mack finally achieves his freedom. He probably would have drowned in the river if Lizzie had not helped him. She tells him about the Jamisson's discussion and their decision to let him escape. He knows that he finally has the freedom he has always wanted, even though he doesn't know what lies ahead.



Chapter 13-14

Chapter 13-14 Summary

Mack loves London and his freedom. He and Dermot find whatever work they could. Mack is attending a play in London with a man named Dermot Riley.

After the theater, Mack and Dermot visit a sporting venue where spectators can win money by fighting. Mack accepts the challenge and wins. Afterward, the promoter offers Mack a job fighting the next week. Mack accepts the offer for the money.

In chapter fourteen, Lizzie and her mother are in London to meet Jay. They look at a house where they will live and both state that they like it. Sir George is leasing it for them. On the way out, Lizzie shows Jay a flier advertising the fight that Mack is to take part in on Saturday. Lizzie wants Jay to take her to the prizefight. She decides she will attend alone.

On Saturday, Lizzie dresses as a man and slips out of the house. She hires a sedan chair to take her to the Pelican tavern. The attraction for her is Mack McAsh. The fight begins and eventually Mack is knocked unconscious. Lizzie jumps into the ring as others did. She is beside him when he regains consciousness. She pays for a room and helps carry him to it. Lizzie introduces herself to Dermot Riley. Mack recognizes Lizzie.

Chapter 13-14 Analysis

Mack is enjoying his freedom in London. He lives with Dermot Riley and they take whatever jobs they can. He accepts a challenge to take part in a prize fight. Lizzie, in London with her and Jay's mothers to look at a house with Jay, secures a flier advertising the fight. Since Jay won't take her, she dresses as a man and goes on her own.

When Mack is knocked unconscious, she pays for a room and helps move him to it. He recognizes her, even though she is dressed as a man. The two have known each other since childhood. She is concerned about him and also a little fascinated by him and the way he stood up to the Jamissons.



Chapter 15-16

Chapter 15-16 Summary

Mack is battered and bruised. He likes Lizzie and is not in favor of her marrying Jay. Later, Mack and Dermot cannot find work that day. They rescue a girl, called Quick Peg, or Peggy, who is being beaten by a man. Peg introduces them to Cora, who buys the men a drink for rescuing Peg.

The men find work shoveling coal. Even though life is hard, Mack is still earning twice as much as what he earned as a coal miner. He thinks he will have enough to send for Esther in a few weeks. When it is time to get paid, Mack questions the amount and other men begin to do the same. Lennox, the boss, had to pay the men what they were owed. As he walks out, he tells the men that there is no more work for them.

Mack feels guilt on costing the men their jobs. They would not have stood up to Lennox if it hadn't been for him. The next morning, he tells Dermot that they have to find work for the group. They make the rounds and find that no one will have them after their confrontation with Lennox. One of the bosses, Delaney, advises them to leave town for a year or two.

As the men talk about the situation, Mack remembers that Caspar Gordonson, the lawyer he received the letter from, lives in London. He decides to contact him. The men go to the lawyer's house and discuss the situation with him. Gordonson tells them that John Wilkes is running for Parliament and will support the coal heavers.

Chapter sixteen begins with Jay and Lizzie's wedding day. Jay has two days leave from his regiment. His father has been paying the bills and helping out because he wants the coal on the Hallim property. Lennox arrives and they have a drink. Jay owes him a gambling debt, but Lennox leaves without mentioning it. His family and Lizzie arrive and Lizzie says the wedding is off. Jamisson people had been investigating the coal deposits on the Hallim land.

The families separate to discuss the situation. Jay finds that his father has financial difficulties and needs the Hallim coal. Alicia tells George to give Jay and Lizzie the Barbados plantation, but he can't because it belongs to Robert. They decide to give Jay the Mockjack tobacco plantation in Virginia. Lizzie is happy about the Virginia plantation and the wedding proceeds.

In chapter seventeen, Mack and his group find work unloading coal ships without the middleman, called the undertaker. They are paid fairly for the work they have performed. They work on the basis that Gordonson had laid out for them.

Cora is waiting for him when he arrives at home. They go out for dinner and then walk through Mayfair. They see Lizzie and Jay in their wedding carriage.



Chapter 15-16 Analysis

Mack is a person who doesn't like to be cheated. He speaks his mind often without thinking about the consequences. He realizes this tendency too late when he is told that he and the group won't find work on any coal boat. Mack doesn't like the unfairness of the system and he keeps challenging it. He wins the battle but loses the war.

Sir George Jamisson's wealth is not as secure as his family thought. He desperately needs the Hallim coal to save his business empire. When he explains this to his family, they must deceive Lizzie. George gives them a Virginia plantation to get Lizzie out of the country so she won't know about the coal mining. They are all in on the conspiracy. This is how Jay begins his marriage to Lizzie.

Mack's group finds work without the use of a middleman like Lennox. He tries to impress on his men that the money isn't important. It is the terms of their employment that are important.



Chapters 18-20

Chapters 18-20 Summary

Jay and Lizzie lived in the Chapel Street house that his father leased for them. There is a hanging that day and she wants Jay to take her to see it. He agrees and she dresses as a man. Mack and Cora are also at the hanging. After the hanging, the crowd became rowdy. Jay and Lizzie find herself in an alley where two men rob her of her clothing. Mack appears as they are about to rape her and saves her. She kisses him in gratitude just as Jay appears. They explain what happened to him.

In chapter nineteen, Jay's regiment is on duty the day of the John Wilkes trial. He is tried for an old crime because the government is trying to prevent him from taking his seat in Parliament. While he is on duty, Lennox approaches him for the money Jay owes him. He tells him that Mack and Gordonson are causing a lot of trouble.

When the word comes that Wilkes has been sentenced to prison, Jay's regiment is told to stay around the courthouse. Afterward, Jay goes to see his father. He tells him about Wilkes and that Mack is in London. Lennox asks him to speak to his father about Mack and others making their own deals with the shippers. There is a knock at the door and a man tells them to put candles in the widow in support of Wilkes. When they refuse, the crowd begins throwing rocks through the windows.

In chapter twenty, Mack is popular among the workers because of the increased wages he was able to obtain for them. He suddenly finds that the shippers begin refusing his services. He learns that he and the others have been named troublemakers and none will hire them now. Mack returns to the coffee house to take over the situation with Cora, Dermot and the others. They talk about organizing a strike against the boycott.

They discuss the situation with Gordonson, who tells them that government is worried about all the talk of freedom. If they decide to strike, Mack must control the men to prevent violence.

Chapters 18-20 Analysis

Lizzie likes to experience new things out of curiosity. She has always been that way and that was why she wanted to see the hanging. Her path crosses again with Mack, who is there with Cora. Jay didn't want to go to the hanging because he was aware of the problems that occur. He was right. When he and Lizzie are separated by the unruly crowd, Lizzie is robbed and would have been raped if Mack hadn't appeared and rescued her.

Lennox is having trouble with the coal heavers because Mack is negotiating directly with the ships and cutting out the middlemen. Since Jay owes him money, he asks Jay to

Speak to his father, who is in the shipping business. The result is a boycott and the workers talking about striking.



Chapters 21-23

Chapters 21-23 Summary

Jay's gambling debts are forgiven by Lennox in exchange for the shipper's boycott. Jay is now afraid that his father will find out about the deal. The Jamissons receive a visit from Sir Philip Armstrong from the Secretary of State's office. They know the Jamissons started the shipper's boycott and they want the strike stopped. Jay identifies Mack as a leader of the strike. Armstrong wants Mack arrested.

During the strike, Mack and the men meet in a different place everyday. So far, there has been no violence. Mack maintains a low profile and cannot be found, which upsets Jay, who had told Armstrong that he could find him. Jay and Lennox sit in a bar until they find Cora. While Jay is with Cora, Quick Peg picks his pockets. They are brought before Sir George, who functions as a magistrate. He sentences Cora and Peg to Newgate Prison. In exchange for being sent to America instead of being hanged, Peg tells Jamisson where Mack lives.

In chapter twenty-two, Mack is looking for Cora and Peg the next day. That night, there is a commotion in the street, with people throwing lumps of coal. Mack, not wanting violence, goes out to try to calm the crowd. Lennox is in charge of the incident. A justice of the peace declares the incident to be a riot. Mack knows that the event had been planned and is a set-up. When Mack is attacked, the fighting begins. Jay and his guard troops arrive and fire on the crowd. Jay has promised to arrest Mack.

In chapter twenty-three, Jay arrives home and tells Lizzie what has happened. He says he hopes they hang Mack and then tells her about the set-up. Lizzie cannot sleep after hearing the story.

Lizzie and Jay are to leave for Virginia in a month, and the next day her mother arrives to help her pack. Caspar Gordonson arrives to see Lizzie. He wants her to speak on Mack's behalf to try to save his life, even though her husband is involved in the prosecution. Lizzie says she can't.

Mack awakens in prison. Cora comes into his ward and tells him what happened.

Chapters 21-23 Analysis

The Jamissons are under pressure to end the coal strike, since the government knows they began the shipper's boycott. Jay had promised that he could deliver Mack to the government but then couldn't find him. He and Lennox resort to the low tactics of setting up Cora and Peg on pickpocketing charges, with Sir George acting as magistrate and sentencing them to prison. Peg tells Sir George where Mack is living to be saved from hanging. Sir George abuses his position and powers for his own personal reasons when he does this.



The incident was behind the riot which Lennox instigated to arrest Mack. Lennox set up the situation that caused the commotion. They had a justice of the peace there to declare a riot and Jay leading the troops to arrest Mack. Mack knew it was a set up but stayed and fought instead of fleeing. Mack will probably be hanged unless someone influential speaks for him. Gordonson asks Lizzie to speak for Mack, which creates a difficult situation for her. Mack is an old childhood friend, but her husband is acting for the prosecution.



Chapters 24-25

Chapters 24-25 Summary

The day of the trial, Cora, Peg and Mack are taken to the courthouse. Gordonson meets them there. When Cora and Peg go before the judge, Sir George appears and asks for them to be transported to the colonies instead of hanged. When it is Mack's turn, the government has a special prosecutor, Augustus Pym, but Gordonson is not allowed to speak for Mack. Mack has to handle his own defense. Mack is found guilty.

Reverend York, the pastor of the church in Heugh, was supposed to appear as a character witness for Mack. He goes to Lizzie's house and tells her about the coal mining accident at High Glen. Esther is among the dead. Finding out that she had been lied to about the mining at High Glen causes Lizzie to accompany Reverend York to the courthouse. Lady Hallim goes with them.

At the courthouse, they meet Jay and Sir George and have an angry confrontation. Lizzie, angry about the High Glen situation, says that she will not live with Jay anymore and will testify on Mack's behalf to save the family embarrassment. Sir George says that Jay can do it only if Lizzie remains his proper wife. Lizzie finally agrees.

When the judge pronounced the sentences, Peg, Cora and Mack are reprieved and recommended for transportation. After the verdict, Gordonson tells Mack about Esther's death.

In chapter twenty-five, the prisoners who are sentenced to transport are chained and taken to the ship. Lennox is among those being transported since he had been turned in for receiving stolen goods. The prisoners are marched to the ship, the Rosebud. They do not know that Jay and Lizzie are sailing on the same ship. Before sailing, Lizzie goes to the convict hold and finds Mack. She promises to visit them and make sure they have enough food and water. Jay orders special accommodations for Lennox.

Chapters 24-25 Analysis

The government had a special prosecutor to try Mark. Sir George adhered to his part of the deal, recommending that the lives of Cora and Peg be spared and that they be transported. Mack did not have anyone to testify on his behalf until Lizzie learned of the mining accident at High Glen and found that she had been betrayed and lied to by everyone around her about the mining at High Glen. She tells Sir George and Jay that she will testify for Mack and won't live with Jay. To save the family from public humiliation, Gordonson and Sir George work out a deal where Jay testifies for Mack and Lizzie will continue to be Jay's wife. Lizzie doesn't like this, but has to go along with it because she is pregnant. She feels trapped by the situation, but the lives of Mack, Cora and Peg are spared.

The convicts are transported to the colonies on the same ship that Jay and Lizzie are sailing on. Jay orders special accommodations for Lennox, but there is not much that Lizzie can do to help Mack, Cora and Peg.

Lizzie's relationship with Jay has been affected by the High Glen situation. She tries to be an accommodating wife but does not feel the same about him. She decides that she will dedicate her life to her child, which will be born in Virginia.



Chapters 26-28

Chapters 26-28 Summary

Mack, Peg and Cora survive the journey to the colonies. Mack tells Peg that they will be sold as workers when they reach shore. They have to work for whomever buys them for seven years. It takes them eight weeks to reach Fredricksburg. Mack is sold with a group of other men and has a tearful parting with Cora and Peg.

On the march, Mack learns that Jay selected the group to work at Mockjack Hall. He learns this from the slave, Toby Tambala. The other man is the overseer, Bill Sowerby. Mack is not happy about being the property of a Jamisson again. When they reach Mockjack Hall, their fetters are removed. Mack thinks of running away, but he is too weak and has to make plans for Cora and Peg. Toby explains what happens to those who run away.

The next day, the group begins to work on the plantation. He sees Lennox being shown around by Sowerby. The day after, he sees Lizzie riding a horse. He realizes that she is pregnant.

In chapter twenty-seven, Jay is looking around the plantations as the servants tend to the unpacking. He is planning to be active in Virginia society and politics. Lizzie tells him that Mack is among the convict workers. Jay had not known that Mack was on the ship.

The next month, the Jamissons give a party for fifty guests. While talking to some of the guests, it becomes obvious that Jay's views are very pro-British and not in vogue in the colonies. The next day, Lizzie accuses him of offending their guests with his talk of politics.

In chapter twenty-eight, while Jay is in Williamsburg arranging for a mortgage, Lizzie learns of her mother's new situation. Robert had asked her to leave High Glen and she married the Reverend York. She is happy and living in Aberdeen.

After reading the letter, Lizzie walks around the grounds and sees Mack bathing in the river. She tells him she plans to hold a party for the field hands and they discuss the menu. He tells her that Bill Sowerby left two days ago. He owed money to Lennox and the belief is that Lennox forced Sowerby out. Lizzie doesn't want Lennox as overseer. She decides to learn more about running a plantation and assigns Mack to work in the house.

When the day for the party comes, no field hands appear. Lennox had taken them to work more than ten miles away where they are camping. He did it intentionally to defy her.



Chapters 26-28 Analysis

Mack, Cora and Peg survive the ocean crossing. They are separated at Fredricksburg. The services of convicts are purchased by people and the convict must work for seven years. Mack ends up at the Jamissons' Mockjack Hall plantation. He is upset at being separated from Cora and Peg and angry at being the property of a Jamisson again. Mack wants his freedom, which was why he left the coal mines and Heugh. Now he is back in the same situation.

Jay wants to impress his neighbors with his knowledge of politics, but his pro-British views actually offend them. Lizzie realizes this even though Jay doesn't. Jay, who has always lived in the shadow of his brother Robert, want the colonist to think that he is important.

While Jay is away, Lizzie has problems with Lennox. He has forced Sowerby out and taken over as overseer. He refuses to accept orders from Lizzie and goes out of his way to defy her. It is obvious that a confrontation is coming when Jay returns, since Lizzie wants Lennox off of the plantation.



Chapters 29-31

Chapters 29-31 Summary

Mack goes to Fredricksburg with Pepper Jones. They talk about how runaways are treated. Pepper explains about going outside of the colonies. At the Ordinary, which is a tavern, Mack learns that Cora was spotted boarding a ferry for Falmouth. Mack leave to look for her and finds her at the church. She introduces him to a tobacco broker, Alexander Rowley, who is her husband.

In chapter thirty, Jay is in Williamsburg. He meets Hamish Drome, a relative of Sir George and his first wife Olive. Jay learns more of the family history from Hamish.

Jay receives the loan that Matthew Murchman arranged for him. He takes a hundred pounds to gamble with that night and had spent most of the loan money by the time he returned home.

Lizzie tells him about Sowerby learning. She wants Jay to fire Lennox. She says that they could function as overseer together, but Jay has no interest in the role. They then have words over Mack working in the house. There is a letter from his mother saying that Robert has gone to Barbados and she fears that Robert is plotting against him.

In chapter thirty-one, Mack finds a map of Virginia while working on the nursery. He studies the map, looking for a way to escape. He wishes that he could find Peg. He plans to take her with him if she has a cruel owner.

One of the servant girls, Bess, is hurt. Lizzie and Mack take her to the doctor in Fredricksburg. On the way back to Mockjack Hall, Lizzie goes into labor and Mack has to deliver the baby, a girl. The baby is stillborn.

Chapters 29-31 Analysis

Mack's search for Cora ends in Falmouth when he finds her married to a tobacco broker. She had done well for herself and is now respectable. There is no word of Peg.

Mack wants to be free. He is starting to ask questions of how to escape and where to go. He learns about the territories outside of the colonies and is interested in them.

Jay and Lizzie disagree over keeping Lennox as overseer and Jay is not happy about having Mack work in the house. Jay wants to play the role of the wealthy and important landowner, but he is neither wealthy nor important.

Mack and Lizzie share another crisis together. While returning from taking a servant to the doctor in Fredricksburg, Lizzie goes into labor. Mack has to deliver the baby, a girl who is stillborn.



Chapter 32-34

Chapter 32-34 Summary

Lizzie withdraws after the baby's death. Mack basically takes charge of the household staff. She blames herself for the baby's death, along with others. Mack comforts her more than Jay does. Mack asks her to run away to the frontier with him. She slaps him in the face.

Jay shows no interest in Lizzie and Lizzie begins to suspect that Jay seeing another woman. One night she follows Jay to see where he goes. He goes to the vacant cottage where Sowerby had lived. Lizzie finds Jay with one of the slaves. She walks out. Lizzie returns to the house and takes a pistol to her room.

In chapter thirty-three, Mack still wants Lizzie to run off to the frontier with him but doesn't think it will happen. While he is thinking, Cora arrives with Peg. Cora tells him that the farmer who bought Peg tried to rape her and she stabbed him with a knife. The sheriff is now looking for her. The group from the boat discusses where to hide her.

Mack takes Peg to Lizzie. They hide Peg in Lizzie's room while the sheriff searches the grounds. The sheriff talks to Jay and then goes to Lizzie's room where they search. They do not find Peg hidden in the bed.

In chapter thirty-four, Mack is examining his survival kit, the items he was storing for escape. He keeps them in the nursery. He plans to steal a rifle and ammunition when he departs. Peg is being hidden in one of the slave huts. Now that Peg had returned, Mack is making plans for their escape. The only thing that prevents him from leaving is that he is in love with Lizzie.

Mack walks in to repair a tile while Lizzie is examining her naked body. He had been told that she was at the stables. They end up in bed.

After the first tobacco harvest, the Jamissons find out that their tobacco has been branded as cowpen and burned. They didn't listen to Lizzie about the manure. Jay is ruined financially.

When Lizzie won't let Jay into her room that night, he breaks down the door with an axe. She fires a pistol at him and tells him the next shot would be through his heart. He punches her until she passes out.

Chapter 32-34 Analysis

Lizzie is very unhappy after the death of her baby. Mack tries to snap her out of it by telling her to do something. He tells her to be a wife to Jay and have another baby or to



run away to the frontier with him. For this he gets slapped in the face. He is still interested in Lizzie, especially now that Cora is married.

Lizzie finds that her husband has no interest in her physically. He is seeing the slave girls in the cabin where Sowerby used to live. Lizzie locks herself in her room with pistols after finding Jay with the slave girl.

Cora appears with Peg, who killed the farmer who bought her when he tried to rape her. Lizzie helps hide Peg from the sheriff. Mack can't believe how much Cora has changed. She has a rich husband and respectability and does not want Peg on her property.

Mack finally goes to bed with Lizzie. He was all ready to escape now that Peg was there but he was in love with Lizzie. Lizzie will not let Jay touch her now. He breaks down the door to her room and beats her unconscious after she fires a shot at him.

It turns out that Lizzie was right about the tobacco. They shouldn't have done it Lennox's way. Their tobacco was rejected as cowpen and burned by the authorities. If they had done it Lizzie's way, they would have had money and Jay wouldn't be facing financial ruin.



Chapters 35-37

Chapters 35-37 Summary

The next day, Mack brings the doctor for Lizzie. After the doctor leaves, Mack tells her that he and Peg are going to run away. He wants Lizzie to come with. He shows her the map and explains his plans. As Lizzie begins to pack, Lady Alicia arrives. Sir George has died. His will contained generous provisions for grandchildren. Alicia then learns that Lizzie's baby died.

Lizzie still decides to leave with Mack and Peg that night.

In chapter thirty-six, Jay is in Williamsburg to borrow more money, but the solicitor is out of town. He watches a session at the House of Burgess. He feels many of the members' statements border on treason.

When Murchman returns, Jay learns he is to meet his creditor. His creditor turns out to be his brother, Robert, who tells him that his father is dead. Robert plans to foreclose on the plantation.

Alicia arrives and Jay tells her what has happened. Alicia tells him that any grandchild born within a year of Sir George's death receive a quarter of the state. She tells him to get Lizzie pregnant quickly, except that Lizzie has away with Mack. She tells him where they went and to follow with Lennox. The only way he can inherit if he has a child with another woman is if Lizzie is dead.

Chapter thirty-seven finds the trio traveling. Lizzie is very happy. They know that Alicia will alert Jay because he needs Lizzie to produce an heir. They travel as quickly as they can, trying to avoid places where they could be remembered. Talking to Peg, Lizzie finds that Peg loves Mack, and not as a father.

They stop at a tavern and one of the men recognizes Peg as the man who killed Burgo Marler. They try to hold them for the sheriff but Peg and Lizzie walk out. They have to go back the way they came to avoid the sheriff.

Mack had ridden on ahead to Charlotteville to buy oats. He sees Jay with two other men, one of whom was Lennox. Jay returns to Lizzie and Peg and tells them about Jay. They decided to abandon the wagon and most of their belongings to make better time.

Chapters 35-37 Analysis

Lizzie decides to run away with Mack and Peg despite Alicia's arrival. She has no children to benefit from Sir George's will and she loves Mack and not Jay. They discuss the possible repercussions but decide to take the risk.



Alicia finds Jay in Williamsburg, not knowing that Robert is there. She tells him the terms of Sir George's will and that unless he has a legitimate child, Robert will inherit everything. Alicia basically tells Jay to kill Lizzie if she refuses him. That way he could quickly marry someone else and produce an heir. She is cold and calculating when it comes to her son inheriting a share of Sir George's estate.

Jay, Lennox and a third man follow the trail. Luckily Mack sees them in Charlottesville. They know that Jay will come after Lizzie because of the inheritance. They also have the additional problem of Peg being identified. They take the only chance they have by abandoning the wagon so they can travel quickly.



Chapters 38-40

Chapters 38-40 Summary

Mack, Lizzie and Peg travel for four days before they reach the James River. Peg sees them making love and she runs away. They search for her but can't find her.

In chapter thirty-nine, Jay and his group reach the James River. They know that Mack and Lizzie turned off the trail. They offered a reward to them. At Lynch's Ferry, Jay is disappointed that no one had seen them. Jay is beginning to believe that things would be easier if Lizzie dies.

The men find Peg. The third man, Dobbs tries to get information from her, but she won't talk. They know that she is separated from Mack and Lizzie. The men figure that Mack and Lizzie will cross over Cumberland Pass for the territories.

In chapter forty, Mack and Lizzie reach the Holston River. They realize that they are being watched by two Indians. In exchange for a knife, the Indians agree to act as their guide. The Indians take them around a mountain to a valley and then leave them.

Chapters 38-40 Analysis

Mack and Lizzie have a problem with Peg. She sees them making love and runs off. They tried to find her but they couldn't. They were trying to escape from Jamisson and his men. They didn't know that the men had captured Peg, who wouldn't talk to them. Mack and Lizzie trade a knife with the Indians in return for their guide services but the Indians didn't take them as far as they had hoped. All they could do was hope to avoid Jay.



Chapters 40-42

Chapters 40-42 Summary

Jay and his group reach the Holston River, confident that they will find Lizzie. They still have Peg with them. Dobbs wants to turn back rather than risk getting lost in the mountains. Jay awakens in the middle of the night and sees the face of an Indian. Lennox tackles the Indian before he can free Peg. They find he has a Jamisson knife. They pull out his nails until he pointed the way to the pass.

In chapter forty-two, Jay finds Mack and Lizzie. He is in the water when Jay and Lennox point guns at him. Dobbs appears with Peg, who is tied up. The Indian is also tied up and bloody.

Lizzie is hunting. A herd of deer appear. She aims and fires. The shot is heard by Jay and the others. Dobbs tells Jamisson not to shoot Mack, or Lizzie will hear the shot and flee. Mack decides he has to somehow make one of them fire to warn Lizzie. He runs to force them to fire and then stops.

When Jay finds Lizzie, he tells her that he needs a child. When she says she rather die, he tells her that that is the alternative.

The Indian attacks Dobbs and rides the horse, dragging Dobbs behind it. That leaves Mack and Lennox, who has a knife. As he is pounding Lennox, Jay appears with a gun at Lizzie's head. As Jay aims at Mack, Jay is hit by arrows. The Indian boy arrived with Peg and other Indians. They cut off Lennox's hand with a hatchet for what he had done to the Indian boy and then hang him upside down from a tree. Both Jay and Lennox die.

The Indian boy, Fish Boy, is taken with Peg and stays with them. They find a place where they decide to stay and decided to call it High Glen.

Chapters 40-42 Analysis

The Indian, Fish Boy, stumbled into Jamison's camp and was jumped by Lennox when he tried to free Peg. Lennox tortured him by pulling out his nails until he pointed out the direction Mack and Lizzie went. The other Indian went for help, which is what saved the lives of Mack, Lizzie and Peg.

The Indian was taken with Peg and decided to remain with them. He led them to a valley where they decided to make their home. After all they have been through in their lives, Mack and Lizzie are free and with the one they love.



Characters

Malachi McAsh

Malachi McAsh is a child at the beginning of the book. He has a twin sister named Esther and lives in Heugh where High Glen is located. He began working in the mines at the age of seven and consulted a lawyer to learn the rights of the miners, an act which brings him into conflict with mine owner, Sir George Jamisson. Mack decides to leave before he reaches the year and a day anniversary that will make him a slave in the coal mines. He finally manages to escape and goes to London. He lives with Dermot and Bridget Riley and saves money to send for Esther. Mack is easily upset about situations in which he and others are unfairly treated. He sees lawyer Caspar Gordonson because of the working conditions in London. They formulate a new system for coal heavers which results in higher wages for the workers, which makes him popular with the workers. Mack lives with Cora while the strike is in progress since Gordonson told him to hide. But he is set up by the Jamissons and the government and faces trial. His life is spared because Lizzie found out about the coal mining at High Glen. Jay had to testify on Mack's behalf to keep Lizzie from testifying. Mack is recommended for transport. In the colonies, he ends up working on the Jamisson plantation, Mockjack Hill and again is the property of a Jamisson. He vows to run away when he finds Peg because Cora is married now, but he falls in love with Lizzie. He and Lizzie run away to the territories. Jay and Lennox follow and are killed by Indians.

Lizzie Hallim

Lizzie Hallim is the daughter of Lady Hallim, the laird of High Glen. She was raised by her mother since her father died when she was young. She is outspoken and very independent. Lizzie is twenty years old at the opening of the book. Sir George wants his son Robert to marry Lizzie so he can control the Hallim estate. Her mother favors the marriage for financial reasons. Lizzie, however, decides to marry Jay. They live in the Chapel Street house leased by Sir George after their marriage. Lizzie is unaware of the deal Sir George made with Jay regarding the coal on the Hallim property. She is happy to be moving to Virginia to the Mockjack tobacco plantation that Sir George gave them but doesn't know that he gave it to them because he needed the coal on the Hallim property. Lizzie is adventurous and likes to try new things. When Mack is set up by the Jamissons and government, she is the only one who can save her childhood friend from hanging. She learns of the coal mining at High Glen and appears at the courthouse to testify. Jay testifies to save his marriage since Lizzie is pregnant. Jay and Lizzie move to Mockjack Hall, a tobacco plantation given them by Sir George. Lizzie's baby is stillborn in Virginia. She finally realizes that she is in love with Mack, after she finds that Jay is messing around with the servants. She runs says with Mack to the territories. Jay follows but is killed by Indians when he tries to kill them.



James Jamisson

James Jamisson is the younger son of Sir George Jamisson. It is his twenty first birthday at the opening of the book. He is in the Army service in London. Jay's father always favored his brother over him. He marries Lizzie Hallim. His father needs the Hallim coal to save the family financially and gives them a Virginia tobacco plantation as a wedding gift. The real purpose is to get Lizzie out of the country so she won't know about the coal mining. Jay lies to her about this so she would marry him. When Lizzie learns of the mining accident at High Glen, Jay is forced to testify on Mack's behalf to spare the family the humiliation of Lizzie testifying. When they move to Virginia, Lizzie finds him messing around with the slave girls. He follows Lizzie when she runs away with Mack because he needs a legitimate heir in order to inherit one quarter of Sir George's estate. He is killed by the Indians.

Cora Higgins

Cora Higgins is a prostitute that Mack met in London. He lives with her during the coal heavers strike. She is set up by Lennox and Jamisson for pick pocketing. As part of the deal, Sir George testifies on her behalf and she is given a reprieve and recommended for transport. In the colonies, Cora is sold to a Falmouth tobacco broker, Alexander Rawley, whom she marries.

Sidney Lennox

Sidney Lennox was a tavern owner and undertaker in London. He ran the system that cheated the coal heavers and was instrumental in setting up Mack. After his activities in the strike, he was turned in for receiving stolen property and sentenced to transport. Jay Jamisson made special accommodations for him. He accompanies Jay to find Lizzie and is killed by the Indians.

Peg Knapp

Peg Knapp is a young girl who robs men with Cora. She is set up with Cora and tells Sir Jamisson where Mack is living in exchange for transport to the colonies. She is sold to a farmer who she kills when he tries to rape her. Mack and Lizzie hid her and take her with when they run away. She is with the Indian Fish Boy at the end of the book.

Alicia Jamisson

Alicia Jamisson is the second wife of Sir George Jamisson. Her son, Jay, was always slighted by his father so she was always fighting for him. She comes to Virginia to tell Jay of the terms of Sir George's will and says he needs an heir in the next year. If Lizzie won't come back to him, she suggests he kill her.



Robert Jamisson

Robert Jamisson is the older son and heir of Sir George. He is the son of first wife Olive and was always favored by Sir George. Sir George wanted him to marry Lizzie but she married his brother Jay.

Sir George Jamisson

Sir George Jamisson is a wealthy businessman. He inherited his wealth. He is married to Alicia and has two sons, Robert and Jay. He is always favored Robert, who was born of his first wife, Olive, and this always caused problems in the family. He dies of heart failure after Jay and Lizzie move to Virginia.

Dermot Riley

Dermot Riley is a friend of Mack's in London. He is in his thirties and married to Bridget. Mack lives with them and they work at whatever jobs they can find.



Objects/Places

Heugh

Heugh is the area of Scotland where High Glen, the home of the Hallim's and the home of the Jamisson's are located.

Jamisson Castle

Jamisson Castle is located in Heugh and is the family estate of Sir George Jamisson.

London

London is the capitol of England and is where the Jamissons have a house.

Chapel Street

Chapel Street is the house in London that Sir George leased for Jay and Lizzie.

Grosvenor Square

Grosvenor Square is the area of London where the Jamisson house is located.

Fredicksburg

Fredicksburg is the city in Virginia where the Rosebud sailed to.

Mockjack Hall

Mockjack Hall is the Jamisson tobacco plantation in Virginia, about ten miles from Fredericksburg.

Falmouth

Falmouth is a Virginia town located near Fredericksburg where Cora lives.

Williamsburg

Williamsburg is the colonial capitol of Virginia.

Charlottesville

Charlottesville is a city in Virginia that Mack and Lizzie passed through.



Themes

Desire for Freedom

The dominant theme of the book is the desire for freedom and happiness. The Scottish coal miners live a harsh life of misery at subsistence wages. They are basically the property of the mine owner if they work a year and a day past their twenty-first birthday. If they try to run they are captured and returned to the owner and an iron collar is placed around their neck. This is the kind of life that Mack McAsh escaped from, with the help of Lizzie Hallim. He goes to London where he enjoys the freedom he has to come and go and do what he wants. But the labor system there was also unfair and he rebelled against it, developing a system that was fair to the workers. The coal ship owners responded with a shippers' boycott and Mack organized a strike in response. This resulted in a set up by the government that landed him in Newgate Prison. He again lost his freedom, but instead of being hanged, he is transported to the colonies, where he must work seven years for whomever purchases him. In Virginia, he again finds himself the property of the Jamissons and begins to plan his escape. He falls in love with Lizzie Jamisson. The two had been childhood friends and fate kept throwing them together. She, too, is looking for freedom and happiness and they eventually run away together to being a new life.

Greed

Greed is another dominant theme of the novel and it is basically the greed of the upper class Jamissons. The greed makes them cold and calculating. The coal miners are forced to work in very dangerous life-threatening conditions because Jamisson won't spend the money for ventilation shafts. Greed has also twisted the entire Jamisson family. Robert, the eldest son by Sir George's first wife Olive, stands to inherit the entire Jamisson fortune and title under British law. The younger son, Jay, by second wife Alicia, is entitled to nothing except what is given as a gift by his father. Alicia has watched Jay slighted his entire life and is enraged when Sir George gives him a horse instead of property for his twenty-first birthday. She has to manipulate George into giving Jay the tobacco plantation when Jay married Lizzie. They make a deal for the coal on the Hallim property without telling Lizzie. The greed of the brothers has made them rivals throughout their lives, with Alicia always taking Jay's side. This was a source of constant tension in the family. Jay's lie to Lizzie and his infidelity wrecked their marriage. Robert's greed led him to foreclose on his brother's Virginia tobacco plantation instead of helping him during a difficult financial time. The greed of both Alicia and Jay led to Jay's plot against Lizzie when she ran away with Mack. He needed a legitimate heir in order to inherit under the terms of the will. Greed basically wrecked all of their family relationship.



Relationships

Relationships are also a dominant theme of the novel. Sir George and Lady Hallim have decided that Robert should marry Lizzie Hallim, which is the reason why they returned to the castle in Heugh. But Lizzie preferred Jay to Robert and married him instead. She didn't know that their marriage was based on a lie about the Jamisson's mining the coal on the Hallim property, which she said she would never allow. Their happy marriage fell apart when she found out about the coal operation and a mining accident. This caused her to defy her husband and father-in-law by saying she would testify in Mack's behalf at his London trial. She also told Jay that she would be his wife in name only. To save the family from public humiliation, Jay had to testify for Mark to save him from hanging.

Mack and Lizzie had been childhood friends and were constantly thrown together by fate, once they left Heugh. In Virginia, when Lizzie learned of Jay's infidelity with slaves, Lizzie turned to Mack for support. It was Mack who snapped her out of her depression following the death of the baby, which Mack had delivered. Both Mack and Lizzie were trapped in unhappy situations and found comfort with one another. Lizzie finally realizes that she is in love with Mack and runs away with him. Both were looking for freedom and happiness.

Style

Point of View

A Place Called Freedom is written in the third person point of view with the author, Ken Follett, acting as the narrator. This point of view allows the author to provide the reader with background and other information that is necessary to the story. The third person point of view is broader in scope than the first person point of view for just this reason. A story told in the first person point of view limits the knowledge of the reader to events that take place in the presence of the narrator. This problem is avoided by writing in the third person point of view. This allows the author to provide details about the setting, characters, background and other information that the reader wouldn't otherwise have. It also allows the reader to learn the nature of the different characters. In addition to the dialogue between the characters, there are also the descriptions provided by the author. The use of the third person point of view is appropriate for a novel of the type. It adds to the richness of the story.

Setting

There are numerous settings for the action of the novel as the characters move around to different places. The action begins in Heugh, Scotland. This is the location of the Jamisson Castle and the Hallim estate. This is the location of the coal mine and there are scenes in all of these locations, including the surrounding area. Then the action moves to London, England. The Jamissons live in an estate in Grosvenor Square. There is a guesthouse where Lady Hallim and Lizzie live until Lizzie's wedding. After the marriage, Jay and Lizzie move to a leased house on Chapel Street. There are scenes at Dermot Riley's house and also at Cora's apartment. There are also scenes at various taverns and other places, including the Newgate Prison, as the characters move around. After traveling to Virginia on the Rosebud, the setting is provided at various places in Virginia and the colonies. Fredricksburg is the closest town to Mockjack Hall, the Jamisson tobacco plantation. Cora lives in Falmouth, a few miles away. There are scenes in Williamsburg, the colonial capitol when Jay travels there. And finally, there are scenes in Charlottesville and the wilderness when Mack, Lizzie and Peg run away.

Language and Meaning

A Place Called Freedom is an easy to read novel. The book is written in simple everyday language that is easy to read, without any difficult terms or words or phrases with hidden meaning. The novel is written in an exciting style that results in interesting reading for the reader. The suspense builds throughout the course of the novel, from the beginnings in Heugh and the confrontation between Mack and Jamisson to the escape to the wilderness as Mack and Lizzie make their final bid for freedom and happiness. The style of writing keeps the reader interested in what is going to happen next. There



are no boring spots in the novel as Follett's writing style keeps the action going. This is why it is difficult for the reader to put the novel down. There are few lulls in the action since Follett keeps the action going. The language and meaning and the style of writing are appropriate to the novel. They keep the action moving and make the novel quick and easy reading for the author.

Structure

The structure of the novel is simple. There is a Prologue and forty-two chapters. The Prologue sets the scene for the rest of the novel. There is a place called High Glen where the owner has found an iron collar with an inscription on it. The owner uses it as a paperweight on his desk and wonders about the story behind the iron collar. The story is then told in the forty-two chapters of the novel.

The structure of the novel is divided into three parts, with each part being a different setting. The first part takes place in Scotland; the second part takes place in London; and Virginia is the setting for the third part of the novel. Each part contains chapters denoted only by a number, without any title. There is a map at the beginning of the book which corresponds to the one that Mack found in the nursery. It is very difficult to read. There is no Table of Contents.

The book is well structured for quick and easy reading, which makes it enjoyable for the reader. There is little to slow down the reader.



Quotes

"It's here on my desk, beside the computer. I use it as a paperweight. I often pick it up and turn it in my hands, rereading that inscription. If the iron collar could talk, I think to myself, what kind of story would it tell?"

Prologue, p. x

"I've got to go away. I can't stay here, after all that. My pride won't let me. I'd be a constant reminder, to every young man in the glen, that the Jamissons cannot be defied. I must leave."

Chap. 5, p. 39

"It was evilly bad luck that this should happen today. It was his birthday: he was leaving. Now he wished he had thrown caution to the winds and left the glen on Sunday night."

Chap. 8, pp. 71-72

"If you want Jay's coal, you have to give him something for it. And what he wants is the plantation. If you don't give it to him, you won't have the coal. It's a simple choice, and you have plenty of time to think about it."

Chap. 11, p. 105

"He had defied the Jamissons, he had succeeded in escaping from Scotland - something few miners achieved - and he had made it all the way to London. Now he was a prizefighter. What would he do next?"

Chap. 14, p. 132

"Caspar Gordonson lived in London, of course. Mack could get hold of him. He could let him know what legal rights were worth - but perhaps he could do better than that. Perhaps Gordonson would be the coal heavers' advocate. He was a lawyer, and he wrote constantly about English liberty: he ought to help.

Chap. 15, p. 157

"But the government could not go on appeasing the mob forever. Sooner or later they would try to clamp down. Then there would be action."

Chap. 19, p. 197

"It seemed to him they wanted to provoke a riot that would discredit the coal heavers and give them a pretext to hang the ringleaders. And that meant him."

Chap. 21, p. 227

"Mack put his arms around Cora and Peg, and the three of them stood in a mutual embrace. Their lives had been spared."

Chap. 24, p. 260

"Mack lay in the hold of the Rosebud, shaking with fever. He felt like an animal: filthy, nearly naked, chained and helpless. He could hardly stand upright but his mind was



clear enough. He vowed he would never again allow anyone to put iron fetters on him. He would fight, try to escape, and hope they killed him rather than suffer this degradation again."

Chap. 26, p. 273

"Slowly he began to understand it better. Thin lines were rivers, thicker lines were the borders between one colony and the next, and the very thick lines were mountain ranges. He pored over it, fascinated and thrilled: this was his passport to freedom."

Chap. 31, p. 337

"Mack hated Lizzie for that slap. Every time he thought of it he felt enraged. She gave him false signals then punished him when he responded. She was a bitch, he told himself; a heartless upper-class flirt who toyed with his feelings."

Chap. 33, p. 356

"She tried to think of a reason why she should stay. Her husband did not love her. They had no children and it seemed they never would. Their home was almost certainly forget. There was nothing to keep her."

Chap. 35, p. 369

"He had lost her. She had outwitted him and cheated him of his inheritance. If ever I see her again, by God I'll shoot her in the head, he thought."

Chap. 38, p. 414

"She game him a look of hatred. 'Why couldn't you just let me go?' she said. 'You don't love me.'

'No, but I need a grandchild,' he said.

She looked scornful. 'I'd rather die.'

'That's the alternative,' he said."

Chap. 42, p. 431



Topics for Discussion

How do the Scottish laws on inheritance work? Why did this cause problems in the Jamisson family?

Why does Mack want to leave Heugh? What is the significance of a year and a day? How does Mack secure his freedom?

What financial problems was Sir George having? Why did he need the Hallim coal? What deal was made before Jay's marriage to Lizzie, without Lizzie's knowledge?

How did Mack become involved in the labor movement in London? What did it lead to?

How did Lizzie learn about the coal mining at High Glen? What happened as a result of it? How did this change her marriage?

Why did Lizzie decide to go with Mack? What about her husband?

Why did Jay set out to kill Lizzie? What made him do it? How did it end?